

# Socialist Vanguard

March 2020 Newsletter

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Edited by Dave Schall

Presenting Democratic Socialist Viewpoints

## As the Presidential Primaries Move Along

Well “Super Tuesday” has come and gone. As expected the large number of Democratic candidates has dwindled. It appears that only 2 remain. One a “centrist” who claims to be most capable of beating Trump. He is typical of the many candidates who have preceded him. He is a great actor who will say what he thinks the people will want to hear, but with little real conviction to pushing the changes that are much needed in society. He is a victory for the health insurance companies and many other big corporations. Whatever improvements are made to health care, the USA’s system will remain the most expensive in the world while producing only mediocre results. Very little will be done to reduce the inequality that plagues society, education will continue to suffer as we debate how much to invest in private vouchers rather than investing in better curricula and teacher training.

Rather than following the example set in a Charlton Heston movie, *The Agony and the Ecstasy*, by a tavern owner, who when confronted with selling tainted wine, smashes the barrel and exclaimed “*When the wine is rotten, throw it out.*” Instead of continuing to sell it to the inebriated patrons. The USA’s health care system has been broken for years, public transportation is deteriorating, roads and bridges are in disrepair, our tax system rewards those who need to least in need. All we have had are minor repairs rather than systematic and transformative improvements. Trump had a point when he campaigned to “Make America Great Again”, but like all of our recent politicians, he adopted a great slogan to hide his constant deceptions as he has consistently tried to further damage the health care system, created trade wars that raise prices

In Wisconsin there is a State Supreme Court justice running for reelection. His name is Daniel Kelly. He was appointed by then Governor Scott Walker to fill a court vacancy. He has a TV commercial featuring his cute daughter bragging about what a great dad he is, though dull because he loves to read. There is a picture of him looking at the *US Constitution*.

Too bad he either has not read or cannot read the *Wisconsin Constitution*. In late 2018 after the elections for Governor and State Attorney General were held and won by a couple of Democrats, the GOP controlled legislature met in a special session, called by legislative leaders, and passed a number of bills reducing the power of the

and reduce employment, terrorize immigrants, who work hard to make America great!

Our country and much of the rest of the world needs some radical changes to make this planet a great place to live. We have the technology to make everyone’s life much more meaningful and worthwhile.

The arguments of winnability are absurd. Almost all of the Democratic candidates lead Trump! The self-proclaimed “Democratic Socialist” candidate often leads by the largest margins!



*Funny Times*

As we head toward the final stages of the presidential primaries, it looks like the do-nothing branch of the Democratic Party will triumph and nominate one of their own. **Do not skip voting in the primaries!** While the establishment politicians like to do very little, they are influenced by shows of strength. Large vote totals for a candidate representing real change will push “moderates” to push for some needed change! **VOTING IS ONE OF THE MOST EFFECTIVE WAYS OF PROMOTING IDEAS AND PRESSURING POLITICIANS!** To borrow a sports cliché; **QUITTERS NEVER WIN!**

## Can He Really Read??

Governor and Attorney General, thus enhancing the control of the GOP controlled legislature. In the *Wisconsin Constitution*, a clause was inserted to maintain the checks and balances between the branches of government. The clause states that special sessions of the legislature can only be called by the governor. It is very clear and seemingly indisputable! Kelly, along with the other conservative leaning justices, ignored the *Wisconsin Constitution* and supported the new laws enacted by an illegal session of the legislature.

Courts are supposed to enforce the rule of law not ignoring it. **Let’s hope that Kelly, and his disregard for written law, does not win another term on the Wisconsin Supreme Court!**

*Words for thought*

*“ Rules should strengthen through cooperation, not wither through imposition” - Stephen Wertheim*

**April Events Cancelled**

Thanks to the COVID-19 and the shutting down of society by the various governments, The Socialist Party of Wisconsin April meetings are cancelled. We were planning to show a movie on April 18 on the early activities of the Socialist Movement in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> Centuries. That too had to be cancelled. The Milwaukee Public Library system has closed rooms where meetings could take place.

Assuming things return to normal, we will resume our monthly meetings on May 2 at Milwaukee’s Eastside Library.

We hope to resume meetings in May. We plan to meet on May 2. Please check our website or call us to be sure we are meeting.

**Coronavirus: A Gift To Tyrants**

**By Dave Schall, editor**

Recently many events have been cancelled. State and local governments cite the dangers presented by the Coronavirus Pandemic or COVID-1. Thanks to Trump’s vacillations and his propensity to brag and lie, many question the seriousness of the reactions to the virus.

While statistics are continuously being generated, A recent report was that the worldwide mortality rate was less than 4% of those who have contracted the virus. Over 50% of those infected have survived and the remaining are undergoing treatment. Should we be concerned, yes, the disease is spreading fast. Should we be afraid! In most cases **NO**. Contracting the disease is rarely a death sentence.

When I was younger, I served as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Nigeria, about 150 miles from my school an epidemic broke out (It was later given the name Lassa Fever). Contracting the disease was being condemned to death. Neither the cause nor a cure was known. Treatment was an experiment. Doctors tried different medications, while trying to make the patients as comfortable as possible. The head doctor, while treating a patient, accidentally punctured herself immediately after administering a needle to a patient. She knew that she had just committed suicide. She died a week later. Since then health care experts have discovered ways of curing Lassa Fever, so when there is an outbreak, it is often cured.

COVID-19 is not as scary as Lassa Fever was. We should take precautions. However, the fear being generated is reminiscent of actions by tyrannical regimes to control people! While we rightfully may blame Trump for mishandling the COVID-19 virus in the USA, who is most

likely to benefit from failing to have test kits, failing to provide good advice on how to avoid contracting the virus or how to treat it if one contracts it? Is shutting down society warranted or just a method to discourage protests?

Should we be scared into not voting? This smacks of voter suppression! Should elections be postponed or cancelled? Who benefits from such actions? The greatest danger of COVID-19 spreading is urban areas where we live close together. There are some changes that must be made to insure that people’s voices can be heard. One of these is already in use, namely using mail-in ballots for elections. Five states (Colorado, Hawaii, Oregon, Washington and Utah) use mail ballots. The result is an increase voter turnout. Washington, which has been hardest stricken with COVID-19, had a 35% turnout for its presidential primary, very high for a primary!

COVID-19 has shown us the importance of having universal and affordable health care, so that people will seek treatment before the virus progresses through their bodies! Shutting down society by closing schools and other municipal services, banning travel between places is a waste of time and resources, the virus has already made inroads into the global society. The main beneficiaries are the wealthiest, who can afford ways to access the vital services, while the middle and lower classes bear the burden and are frightened into submission. We should all be concerned and careful, but should not stop living! **Let’s use COVID-19 to promote universal health care and mail-in ballots for elections!**

**What is Socialism in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century?**

**A View of Bruce Andrews**

Democratic Socialism is just another lie told by the ruling class. It allows the working class to believe that things will improve. Instead the corporations and Military Industrial Complex will be allowed to prosper. Endless wars will continue. Meanwhile workers standard of living crumble. In reality it is no change as the same fascists remain in control no matter what they say.

The only choice is a Marxian Republic. Tax the rich, disband 90% of the military, tear down the walls and protect the working class, protect the environment. A radical change is required no matter the cost to obtain it. These

reasons are why I despise the phony Socialists such as DSA and Bernie Sanders. They offer no hope for a just Workers Society. *Bruce Andrews Was recently elected Vice-Chairperson of the Socialist Party of Wisconsin.*



**SP-Wisconsin Meeting: Saturday, May 2 at 1:30 p.m. at the Eastside Library, 2320 N. Cramer St., Milwaukee**

**Socialist Party of Wisconsin**

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