

Socialist Vanguard

July 2019 Newsletter

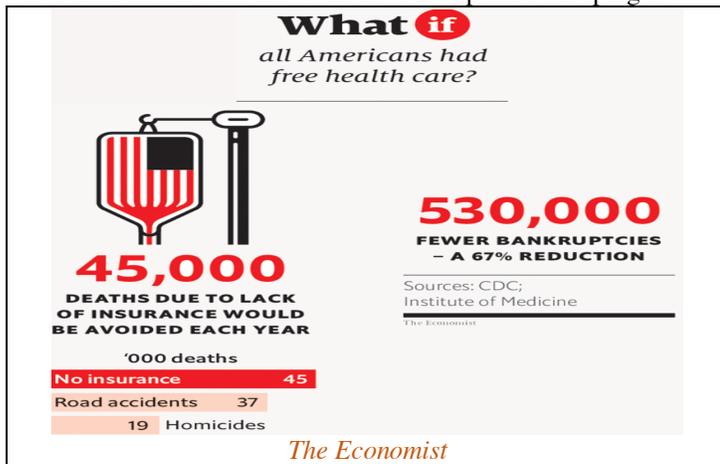
Issue # 106

Edited by Dave Schall

Presenting Democratic Socialist Viewpoints

Why is Socialized Health Care So Radical?

Follow the money! After the first 2-day debate of most Democratic presidential candidates, major media establishments are declaring the Party as being bent on self-destruction. Why, well most candidates said something to the effect that they favor socializing the US health care system. The more moderate ones call for a private insurance option, enabling those who allegedly love their health insurance will have the option of keeping it.



Critics of socialized health care point out that many other nations with universal coverage and more affordable health care (which is almost all nations) have private health insurers as the financiers of health care. What they frequently overlook is the fact that the insurers are controlled by the government. Governments set the standards (providing not only universal coverage, but a universal array of services covered).

In Japan, the health insurers are all non-profits organizations, people can select their health insurers. This results in competition

for customers and incentives for providing efficiency. However, the policies and services offered are the same. Japanese citizens choose based on customer service and customer satisfaction. An insurer can go out of business if it loses too many customers.

Realistically, will the US health insurers give up so much power and profit? Given the corruption of money in the US political system, the insurers would continue to lobby public officials and quickly corrupt the system. Bernie Sanders and those calling for Medicare for all, without a private option, are right in their concerns about the power and influence of the current privatized health care system and its corrupting influence.

Americans, even those who “love” their private health insurer, would quickly embrace a system where they did not have to evaluate their health care needs each year. Even those on Medicare Part D (prescription drugs) would be thrilled to know that what ever medication they might need would be covered without any “donut holes”. Currently if one signs up for Part D, one signs up for some drugs but not for others. For many of us we do not know what drugs we need or will need. Those covered by the Affordable Care Act need to look through changes offered each year and often also at the changes in costs of each insurer. Doctors are expected to know who is part of a network of care providers when referring a patient to a specialist or what medications may be covered by each insurance provider. Realistically, we go to doctors to use their expertise as medical doctors, not as specialists on hundreds of health care plans.

A socialized health care system would be cheaper and easier to understand! Almost all other countries have eliminated or greatly restricted the power and influence of private interests in their health care systems. Why is such a thing “radical” in the USA? DS

Trump The Unifier!

Just when it appeared that there was some serious fissures in the Democratic Party, it's Trump to the Rescue!

New York Times' columnist Maureen Dowd recently interviewed House Speaker Nancy Pelosi. Pelosi expressed some dismay over the outspoken “Squad”, a quartet of newly elected female representatives. The “Squad” refused to vote for a \$6 billion border aid package saying that it legitimized Trump's immigration stance. The four members of the “Squad” identify themselves as democratic socialists and have been vocal in proposing programs that favor working people.

Pelosi, who has been a frequent critic of Trump, feels she is politically more astute, has taken more moderate positions on impeachment and other issues for fear of alienating centrists, who she feels will be keys to getting rid of Trump in 2020. The *Squad* has been able to dominate discussions of policy, thus pushing the Democratic Party to the left. The DSA has

persisted, but it has never succeeded as “lesser of two evil” politics have prevailed thanks to the 2-party system.

Just as the Democrats appeared to be unraveling, Trump called the *Squad* unamerican and suggested the four women (all duly elected and US citizens) go back where they came from (three were born in the USA, one was born in Somalia, a country torn apart thanks to an invasion by George H.W. Bush).

Pelosi, leading the Democratic Party defense of the four women, united the Democratic Party with a scathing attack on Trump. Trump's bully instincts fail to see that his bluster often unites the opposition. This has been a hallmark of Trump's foreign policies. **As we head toward presidential elections, let's hope he continues to unite the opposition! DS**

Words for thought

“For any policy to be sustainable, voters need to demand that their leaders not only make health care more accessible, but also that they make it less burdensome.” - Pamela Herd and Donald Moynihan

Limitations of the Mueller Report

By Michael Zeidler

On the TV news at 5:30 pm on March 22, 2019, it was announced that the Mueller Report about the investigation of Russian collusion in the 2016 elections was terminated. The investigation went on for 22 months. A number of people were indicted and seven pleaded guilty. Some are imprisoned. But the President was not charged. There are no new recommendations for charging anyone with a crime.

I printed the 448 pages of the Justice Department paper titled "Report on the Investigation into Russian Interference in the 2016 Presidential Election", drafted under the leadership of Special Counsel Robert S. Mueller, III. I have been getting the impression that the Russian leaders have a good theoretical and working understanding of how political leaders are chosen in the United States. They seem to understand the process better than most Americans. That surprises me.

Needless to say, the investigation says much about how both the Russian leaders and the U.S. leaders view how the U.S. government works. The Russians seem to believe that the execution of foreign policy is under complete control by the President. Consistent with that belief, the way to influence foreign policy implementation would be to have a President, who is gullible to Russian propaganda messages. Of those vying for the office of President, the candidate with the poorest academic knowledge of Russia and contemporary international affairs would be considered most favorable to try to influence using propaganda messages. A plus would be an

American leader, who has the appearance of conflicting interests that intersect with the Russian state.

The Mueller Report is more of a "he said, she said" dissertation than a deep analysis of how the Russians view the United States as a player in international affairs. Consequently, it focuses on the squabbles of many players. Not on clarifying motivations

The way a President is chosen comes down to comparing vote totals. These votes are cast in response to salient propaganda messages. The voting choice is rarely related to any profound thoughts. The leader becomes the person broadcasting the most carefully crafted persuasion messages. Since persuasion messages beget persuasion message, the array of media generators are persuaded to take one side or the other thereby reaching pools of voters.

The Russians understood the theory. They chose to put their theory to work. The outcome is what we have now. Extrication will take time. The Mueller Report did not cover everything that needed to be addressed about the current crop of actors. That will be the job of historians in the future if the elected representatives refuse to engage in hearings that are part of the impeachment process.

The weakening of the U.S. in all international affairs stemming from the Russian meddling is probably permanent.

Michael Zeidler is the son of the most recent Socialist Mayor of Milwaukee.

Picnic Time

This year the annual picnic will be a little different. First instead of holding the picnic outdoors in a park, the picnic will be in doors. This removes the fear that is always present that a thunderstorm will destroy the event. Another factor is the continued decline in park maintenance by Milwaukee County.

However, the chance to mix and discuss stuff with each other remains. The Wisconsin Injured Workers will provide some delicious Mexican food to go along with provisions supplied by individual picnickers. There will be sodas and bottled water. We hope to have a speaker to inform and motivate.

The event will be held on August 17 between 1 pm and 5 pm. It will be held in the basement of Our Saviors' Lutheran Church 3022 W. Wisconsin (enter from W. Wells St.).

The church has a policy prohibiting smoking, drinking alcohol and using Styrofoam cups or tableware.

This is an opportunity to mingle and have great conversations. **Mark your calendars!** As usual it is free and open to the public!

VOTE!

It is better to vote for what you want and not get it than to vote for what you don't want and get it. Eugene V. Debs

Recently an edition of Milwaukee magazine featured an article on socialism in Milwaukee. The writer chose to interview members of the local Democratic Socialists of America (DSA) in Milwaukee, rather than anyone from the Socialist Party. The current DSA has lots of youthful members, who share many of the ideals of the longstanding SP-Wisconsin (founded in 1897). One of the concerns expressed is a long-standing problem presented by the lesser-of-two-evil 2-party political system, namely that elections come around and people are force to vote based on fear rather than positively expressing their preferences.

Many of the DSA members said that if the Democratic Party ignores them, they will sit out the election. **THIS IS A SELF-DESTRUCTIVE ACTION!** Voting is one of the few powers we have. Refusing to vote gives more power to those who vote.

Trump was elected because two groups in Wisconsin that supported Obama, sat out the 2016 elections (young voters and minorities. That gave Trump a slight edge over Hillary Clinton. **VOTES COUNT, NOT VOTING ALSO COUNTS!** Ethically, not voters do not have a right to complain!

SP-Wisconsin Meeting: Saturday, August 3at 1:30 p.m. at the **Washington Park Library, 2121 N. Sherman Blvd., Milwaukee**

Socialist Party of Wisconsin

**2025 N. Martin Luther King Dr #305– Milwaukee, WI 53212 – Phone: 414-332-0654
Email: demsocvanguard@gmail.com Website: <http://www.socialistpartyofwisconsin.org>**