Dreaming of a Takeover By Mothers and Their Children!

Wouldn’t be wonderful if those mothers and their children, who make up a majority of those asylum seekers coming to the USA from south of the USA border, were allowed into the nation. Trump’s nightmare of chaos and destruction at the hands of impoverished immigrants could come true!

Think of the atrocities many of them as leaving behind and the bitterness and desperation in their hearts. If they came and were able to takeover our society, think of the changes they might seek. The USA could become a real model for social justice. Employers would no longer be able to enslave their employees. Who knows, maybe the employers would have to take order from the employees.

Guns and other weapons might be banned to protect children and other frequent victims of stupid violent crimes! Police would be responsible for protecting all citizens not just enforcing laws that protect the most fortunate!

While the anti-immigrant sentiment tends to be primarily based on bigotry and fueled by jealousy and competition, for Trump and other political and economic elites, it is probably the fear of socialism that is the driving force. For SOCIALISTS treating all people as humans with equal rights and abilities, thus deserving of a right to a helping hand when needed and the right to contribute equally to bettering society. DS

Don’t These Refugees Look Dangerous, Real Menaces To Society?

Who Would You Trust To Govern?

Trump

or

These Refugees

Words for thought

“In capitalism, the progressive is the one who slows down the rate at which you get poorer.”

- Ted Rall
More Words For Thought!

*Populists have tapped into this pool of resentment. They sneer at elites, even if they themselves are rich and powerful; they thrive on, and nurture, anger and division.*  
- *The Economist*
Complacency On the Left!
Populism Goes to the Right!

Populism refers to a range of political stances with the emphasis on the idea of “the people” and often juxtapose this group against “the elite”. The term developed in the 19th century and has been applied to various politicians, parties, and movements since that time, although it has rarely been chosen as a self-description. (Wikipedia) The media has chosen to label Trump as a leader and spokesperson for a “populist” movement. From the Wikipedia definition (shared by most other dictionary definitions) is general and thus somewhat vague.

Populist history in the SA began as a leftist agrarian movement which led to the establishment of a third party that featured William Jennings Bryan as a fusion presidential candidate with the Democratic Party in 1896. In the 1892 election the ticket of James B. Weaver and James G. Field won 8.5% of the popular vote and won a few electoral college votes. Socialist Eugene Debs supported the Populist movement. It remained a leftist organization until the 1950s when, partly under the influence of Wisconsin Senator Joseph McCarthy, a Republican and famous for his anti-communist campaign, populism began being identified as a right-wing/conservative effort.

Why did this shift take place? It was not only in the USA, but in much of Europe and the more liberal parts of Asia. The reasons are many and not necessarily the same in each country, though there are several underlying similarities. In the late 19- and early 20- Centuries, there was strong socialist and workers movements. These included small farmers, who were feeling pressure from the evolution of corporate farming, which focused on efficiency and cash crops at the expense of farm workers and small farmers. This was all part of the industrialization process. Agribusiness was largely ignored as an economic trend, thus small farmers well-being went largely ignored. Urban populist movements became the focus and workers’ rights became the rallying call for the workers movements, which included demand for socialism. The early labor movement was nearly synonymous with socialism. In Milwaukee and in many other urban cities, labor leaders were often reds. In the more successful socialist efforts (and there were many in 1910 and 1912), the Socialists as champions of working people gained control of city governments. The Socialists’ takeovers resulted in the Dems and GOP leaders working together to undermine the new 3rd Party. In some places, particularly Wisconsin, the GOP was divided between business groups who wanted to compete with the big city political machines of the Democratic Party which focused on exploiting newly arriving European immigrants). Another segment of the GOP consisted of reformers, Progressives, who were appalled by the influx of immigrants and the wasteful spending created by the spoils system. Especially in Wisconsin, the Progressives calling for good government, which included a merit system for selecting government workers, found an ally in the Socialists who wanted a clean democracy that would support workers. This merger of interests between Progressives, business men seeking cleaner more efficient government, and Socialists, seeking government efficiency as a way of financing benefits and protections for working people, worked well to provide for better working conditions and what many called a strong and large middle-class which became very obvious in the 1950s.

The focus was then on the vitality of America’s working class and the belief that the American dream of social mobility was a reality. This idea was shaken by the Civil Rights movement, and ignored the poor in rural communities.

In much of Europe, especially after WWII, the Democratic Socialists became very influential, getting elected in many countries. The prosperity provided by the Socialist and Labor Movements in the USA extended to Western European social democracies (as well as Japan and later South Korea).

The success of the democratic socialist movements allowed many socialist leaders to enter the class of political elites. This created a complacency, especially in the USA where labor leaders became more willing to work within the Democratic Party than look after the peoply were supposed to represent!

Populism has always been by definition disdained by economic and political elites. Calling the groups of people who are reacting against globalism and the current liberal elites are being lumped together as Populists, worthless people by the standards of political and social elites who want to undermine their credibility.

While the bigotry and irrational nationalism cannot be tolerated, the plight of the “populists” must be recognized and every effort to bring them into the mainstream of society must be made. Credit must go to the new group of democratic socialists in Congress who are reaching out as part of their Green New Deal. While we need to remove their demagogues, like Donald Trump, from power, we must work to include the “populist” followers and alleviate their fears that make them dangers to overall society! DS
Socialist Vanguard

Milwaukee Debates Sales Tax or Other Forms of Taxation

To be fair, local governments in Wisconsin have had to struggle with property tax caps imposed by GOP controlled state legislatures since 2011. In many local communities’ potholes have been an increasing problem along with other forms of deferred maintenance. Schools (especially public schools) throughout Wisconsin have suffered. To try to compensate for state imposed austerity, Milwaukee political leaders (mostly Democrats) have petitioned the State Legislature for permission to increase local sales taxes in Milwaukee County by 1%.

The proposal is led by Democrats, who usually claim to be for the poor and working people. If the Dems really cared about working people, they would not experience such severe ups and downs in the voting turnouts of lower-income groups, that the Dems usually take for granted and thus do not have to do much more than wag their tongue with platitudes of support for the disadvantaged in society!

Getting back to the issue of taxation, it is difficult to predict how the GOP will position itself. Will they oppose the tax increases in order to minimize government programs and relying private efforts to supply such services, as they do with school vouchers and protecting health insurance companies and pharmaceutical corporations. Or will they support the sales tax because it is one of the most regressive taxes.

Wealth taxes have been proposed by many leftist (Presidential candidates Elizabeth Warren and Bernie Sanders) have suggested a wealth tax as a way of raising funds without hurting anyone. Progressive wealth taxes tax people’s wealth rather than income. The distribution of wealth is far more unfair than income distribution, thus the top 1% (or 10% or .01%) of the wealthiest would pay considerably more than they do now, while those with minimal economic assets would pay very little. The Brookings Institute reported that the top 20% of held 77% of household wealth in 2016 and the top 1% owned $25 trillion of the nation’s wealth compared to $18 trillion owned by the middle class. There is a lot of money that could be raised by wealth taxes to pay for infrastructure and other public services.

Sales taxes are one of the least dependable forms of raising income. With the increase of on-line buying, the normal fluctuations in the business cycle and the ease many would find by heading to Waukesha, Washington, Ozaukee and Racine counties to save on the Milwaukee sales taxes. Those who cannot afford transportation outside Milwaukee County or cannot afford a computer would be forced to pay the taxes! In a word, NOT FAIR!

Let’s hope and pressure the current political leaders to be more creative and less cruel! DS

How many times do we here the sentence, thank you for your service directed at a military member or military veteran. With the exception of members of the Coast Guard, who patrol our borders and are responsible for water rescues and other safety measures, what freedoms and protections does the military industrial complex (this includes the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines) provide? Who are they serving?

Military recruiters visit our high schools and other places with young adults too poor for college, but eager to acquire technical skills and/or funds to go to a place of high learning. This usually means the poor and disadvantaged in society. For some who are fortunate to survive intact, the recruiter’s promises come true. Unfortunately for many it means being placed in harms way in a foreign land. Maybe being assigned to a base in Germany and being ready to protect Germans or other Europeans. Some might be in more remote of less developed lands and have to cope with tropical diseases or people who see American GIs as targets for some form of crime or corruption. Lessons learned are to never trust foreigners, which often reinforces bigotry and hatred. The most unfortunate are assigned to one of the “hot” spots where some US soldiers become casualties defending dictators or multinational corporations.

In the 21st Century, with the armaments and global commerce, there are few real threats to USA’s sovereignty or freedoms. The major threats are to our freedoms, which come from our own stupidity as we continuously embrace fascist reactions based on fear mongering.

For those who finish their tour of duty with an injury or other disability, the US Government should behave like a good employer and deliver on the promises made during recruitment and should provide the necessary support required by the soldier and his/her family. We should not need extra cries for help for injured veterans. (Incidentally, all employers should be required and be willing to take care of their injured employees who have served them!)

We live in a global world and if someone served in the military let the corporate interests, who the soldier was serving, say thank you for your service, we civilians should not be saying it for them! DS

SP-Wisconsin Meeting: Saturday, Oct. 5 at 1:30 p.m. at the Eastside Library, 2320 N. Cramer St., 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