



South Florida Progressive bulletin



RESIST !

EVENTS AND ACTIVISM CALENDAR:

One of the most valuable services this bulletin can offer our community is a comprehensive calendar of events sponsored by various activist groups so that we can unite our voices and grow our strength as a movement. Please keep us informed so that we can post your events. United We Stand! Resist! Email your event to fritziethemusic@gmail.com

- Feb 3 Cornel West 1 pm, North Miami High 13110 NE 8th Ave, 33161 (sold out)
- Feb 3 Tim Canova of Progress for All; PDA Broward; 6:30 pm Grind Coffee Project 599 SW 2nd Ave, FLL
- Feb 4 Labor Community Roundtable/United Front Against Trump 2:30 pm; CLC 4349 NW 36th St, Miami

FRONT PAGE NEWS

Miami-Dade County's Mayor Gimenez has decided to acquiesce to Trump's No Sanctuary City demands and now declares that Miami will comply with his orders to detain in jails immigrants under arrest who are in the country illegally. Trump greeted the news with "Strong" but Miami rallied almost immediately and over 100 activists showed up on the doorsteps and shut down Stephen P. Clark Center: 'County Hall'. DNC Chair candidate Keith Ellison was present at the action rallying with the protesters. Other cities are more progressive and have pledged to remain as sanctuary cities, even though it means losing federal dollars and possibly facing lawsuits.

FROM THE FRONT LINES - SABAL TRAIL

About 20 of us showed up at Senator Bill Nelson's office in Coral Gables on Thursday morning to let our senator know we care about our water supply, our delicate geology and the impact on climate change that this pipeline poses, and that we want him to take a stand. He stood up for Nebraska against the Keystone Pipeline, but is silent on the Sabal Trail pipeline coming into Florida.

The event was endorsed by Water Protectors Alliance, 350Miami, Progress for All, Progressive Alliance, and the Green Party, and members from each were there with signs, props, or photos to make their point, taking time off from work or between other obligations. The event was started by a mother, there with her toddler, who first posted the event to facebook only a few days before.

One woman told us that she'd been talking with N. Florida residents along Sabal Trail and how most are completely unaware of what is going on. Many think the busy trucks near their homes are working on building a road or repairing a sewer pipe. We brought photos of the potential dangers - of pipeline explosions, fires, of sinkholes prompted by dredging the limestone, and photos of the water we want to protect, the underwater caverns and tunnels, beautiful giving springs, rivers of fresh water. Our aquifer can not be recreated if we contaminate it. We showed photos of people holding signs. They and their future children will suffer the consequences of the climate we provoke by dumping more methane into the air.

We explained that this fracked gas was for export for the profit of Spectra, Duke and NextEra (FPL's parent company), yet in their brief coverage, NBC posed the battle between domestic energy needs vs. the environment. They did not report that by laying infrastructure for potential future domestic needs, these pipelines will stall solar energy which is cheaper, safer and employs more jobs per dollar than does fossil fuel. Senator Nelson's constituents want clean water, clean air, clean energy. Most people are opposed to the ugly poisonous industry of fracking and their pipelines. We don't want to sacrifice our water and future for the financial gains of FPL, Duke and Spectra who simply want to frack and export as much as they can, regardless of the cost to the rest of us. But the fracking industry wants to frack while they can and I'm sure the senator is hearing from them.

Standing outside after our visit upstairs, but not blocking the entrance, a security guard asked that we move down the sidewalk, as this was a private building. They did not want to permit a second round to go up for a visit. When we replied (politely) that we were here to exercise our right to address a public issue to a public official, he sympathized, reporting that he was told explicitly by Nelson's office staff, "We don't want to see them here." ~Cathy Gilbert

Update from DAPL:

Arrests are happening frequently again and National Guard and law enforcement troops have been using tear gas and bean bag rounds against peaceful protesters standing for their water. The National Guard has deployed an Avenger Missile Launcher, for 'observation and to protect property' at DAPL site. (Ed note: Is this deployment an indication that the law enforcement in place anticipates the Trump administration will halt the Corps of Engineers study so that they can proceed with the pipeline and are willing to use this to 'get 'er done?')

In North Dakota a bill has been introduced to allow motorists to accidentally injure or kill protesters interfering with their right of way on the roads. There are reports that immediately after this bill was introduced, a snowmobile was used to attack and injure a water protector near the Backwater bridge, although Morton Country Sheriff's Officers say there is no evidence. The eye witness said it did happen and reminded the media that the Sheriffs also said there was no water cannon deployed and they did not injure Sophia Wilansky's arm, which clearly happened.

DAPL has petitioned a judge to stop the Corps of Engineers from publishing their order for a study of the environmental impact of DAPL. And 2 dozen landowners who settled previously with DAPL are suing for fraud and unfair negotiations utilized during their settlement process. And lest we forget our new president is personally invested in DAPL and will benefit financially from its completion!

Now that Trump has officially supported completion of the DAPL, the Tribal Chairman has ordered the camps closed by February 19th. For the 600 peaceful water protectors arrested to date, the judge has denied a change of venue for their trials. They have suffered abuse as they were attacked while peacefully protesting the armed force defending the oil company, and after their arrests. The justice system promises to be equally biased against them.

Citizen activists are removing their accounts from DAPL invested banks and urging corporations and groups to do the same. Leaders hope to broaden opposition against DAPL and new oil-infrastructure, by organizing a "national stop work day" supporting the pipeline. to convince the Trump administration to focus more on expanding America's clean energy economy.



Veteran's Stand has started a new gofundme page for Standing Rock. They are NOT abandoning the fight!

<https://www.gofundme.com/VetStand4-StandingRock>

Moral Mondays Movement

Reverend William Barber started the Moral Mondays movement in North Carolina. Basically, he organized citizens to protest in the chamber of state legislature there on issues of concern, including voting rights, changes to Medicaid, school vouchers, tax reform, and abortion rights. At the first protest in April of 2013, seventeen were arrested. Since then 900 have been arrested peacefully occupying the chamber to demand the attention of the legislature to issues which affect them adversely. Now Moral Mondays have spread to Georgia, Truthful Tuesdays in South Carolina, and also to Florida, Illinois, Alabama, Missouri and Indiana. The tactic garners attention to the concerns of the people from the legislators, and some media exposure.

Reverend Barber says it is not time to despair and give up. We have beat back slavery, Jim Crow laws, women's right to vote and we can win if we focus on our movement based on resistance, hope, justice and love. He says we need to change the language from one which divides us between left and right into one which unifies us around issues of economic justice using legal strategy at the local and state levels. The issues transcend language that divides us into issues behind which we can unite.

DT and the Doomsday Clock

Keith Sidner

After an orgy of Executive Orders, his fingers dripping with the slime and stink of excess money, power and privilege, Donald the Trump smugly, ominously walked the world a few minutes closer to Doomsday. This morning the blood thirsty among the sons of Ishmael woke up to realize that America indeed has a President just as crazy if not crazier than them.

Gorbachev is practical if not a prophet when he says: "The focus should once again be on preventing war, phasing out the arms race, and reducing weapons arsenals. The goal should be to agree, not just on nuclear weapons levels and ceilings, but also on missile defense and strategic stability. In modern world, wars must be outlawed, because none of the global problems we are facing can be resolved by war — not poverty, nor the environment, migration, population growth, or shortages of resources."

Unless women and men of reason intervene, unless rational leadership prevails, it is just a matter of time. We have seen in the last 60 years an incredible array of human achievements and human atrocities but the final atrocity is now just a Tweet away. God help us all.

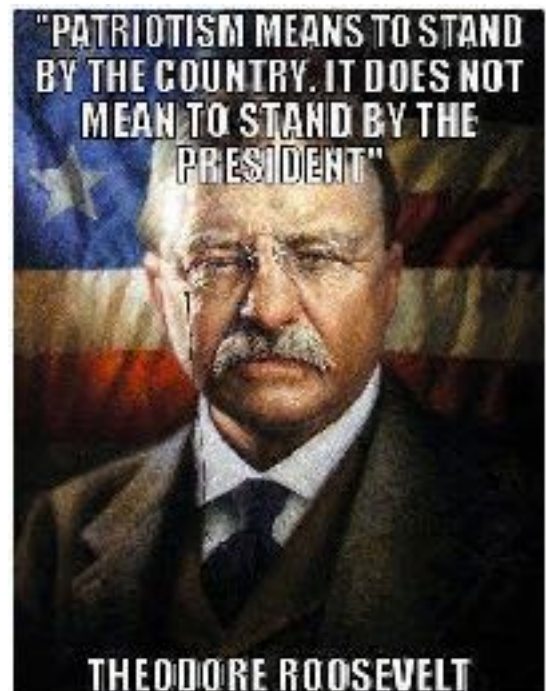


BRAND NEW CONGRESS

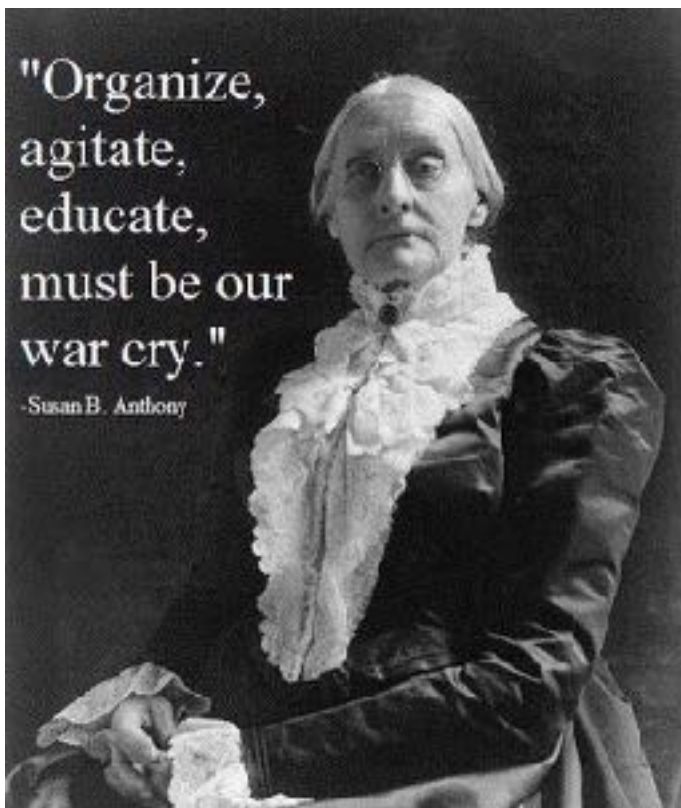
We're getting closer every day. **Brand New Congress** staff and volunteers have been working to put together a slate and a plan to inspire the American people. To date, we have identified more than 60 potential candidates -- amazing people from all walks of life. Many of them are ready to run and to fight for us -- we'll need to draft the rest. We have received nearly 5,000 nominations and [raised more than \\$300,000 in donations](#). As of today, we have more than 380 potential candidates to contact in the second round of our vetting process. And get this: We have identified 56 districts where there are more Bernie Sanders voters than what we'd need to defeat the incumbent in their own primary! We are adding to these numbers every single day. This moonshot idea is looking more and more possible. We need you, your friends, your neighbors, and your family members. The best way for this idea to succeed is for more people to be aware of it. Go to:

<https://brandnewcongress.org>

The 2018 midterms may seem far away but, in terms of setting up a revolutionary campaign, they are right around the corner. Together we will build the America of our dreams!



South Florida Progressive Bulletin is an online newsletter released on the 1st and 15th of each month. **SFPB** chronicles and analyzes events and issues relevant to progressives locally, and at the state and national levels. It began about five years ago as a publication of the **Progressive Democrats of America** Miami chapter. In 2016 it became the **South Florida Progressive Bulletin** and a regular schedule was adopted. The editorial board consists of Fritzie (the editor), Lorenzo Canizares (l.canizares@aol.com), Elizabeth Lee Beck, Victor Nieto, Cathy Gilbert, Sandy Davies, Audrey Bomse, Ed Wujciak, Kevin O'Keefe, Gayle Martin and Monica Kozma. We welcome contributions from our community and are attempting to be an umbrella forum for all local progressive organizations: environmental, political, the social, racial and economic justice movements, labor organizers, anti-war and others. Our purpose is to inform, unify and grow local progressive activism, organization and resistance. To submit an idea, photo, and/or article please email fritziethemusic@gmail.com. We limit articles to six hundred words or less generally with longer pieces to be edited at your approval with a link provided to the longer message. To add your email address to our distribution please email fritziethemusic@gmail.com as well. We have a Facebook page to visit for updates as well (**South Florida Progressive Bulletin**.)



What Progressives Should Be Doing:

There are two things that all progressives should be doing all the time right now, and they're by far the most important things.

1. GO: The best thing you can do to be heard and get your congressperson to pay attention is to have face-to-face time - if they have townhalls, go to them. Go to their local offices. If you're in DC, try to find a way to go to an event of theirs. Go to the "mobile offices" that their staff hold periodically (all these times are located on each congressperson's website). When you go, ask questions. A lot of them. And push for answers. The louder and more vocal and present you can be at those the better. Be prepared.

2. CALL: You should make 6 calls a day: Call your two Senators' DC office and their nearest local office every day. Call your Congresspersons' DC office and nearest local office every day. Every single day, the Senior Staff and the Senator get a report of the 3 most-called-about topics for that day at each of their offices (in DC and local offices), and exactly how many people said what about each of those topics. They're also sorted by zip code.

A) When calling the DC office, ask for the Staff member in charge of whatever you're calling about ("Hi, I'd like to speak with the staffer in charge of Healthcare, please") - local offices won't always have specific ones, but they might. If you get transferred to that person, awesome. If you don't, that's ok: ask for their name, and then just keep talking to whoever answered the phone.

B) Give them your zip code.

C) If you can make it personal, make it personal. "I voted for you in the last election and I'm worried/happy/whatever" or "I'm a teacher, and I am appalled by Betsy DeVos," or "as a single mother" or "as a white, middle class woman," or whatever.

D) FOCUS: Pick 1-2 specific things per day to focus on. Ideally call on something that will be voted on/taken up in the next few days. It's important that they just keep getting calls.

E) Be clear on what you want - Don't leave any ambiguity.

F) USE A SCRIPT IF YOU NEED ONE: If you hate being on the phone & feel awkward (which is a lot of people) don't worry about it - write out for yourself what you want to say; this is the most natural. After a few days of calling, it becomes easy.

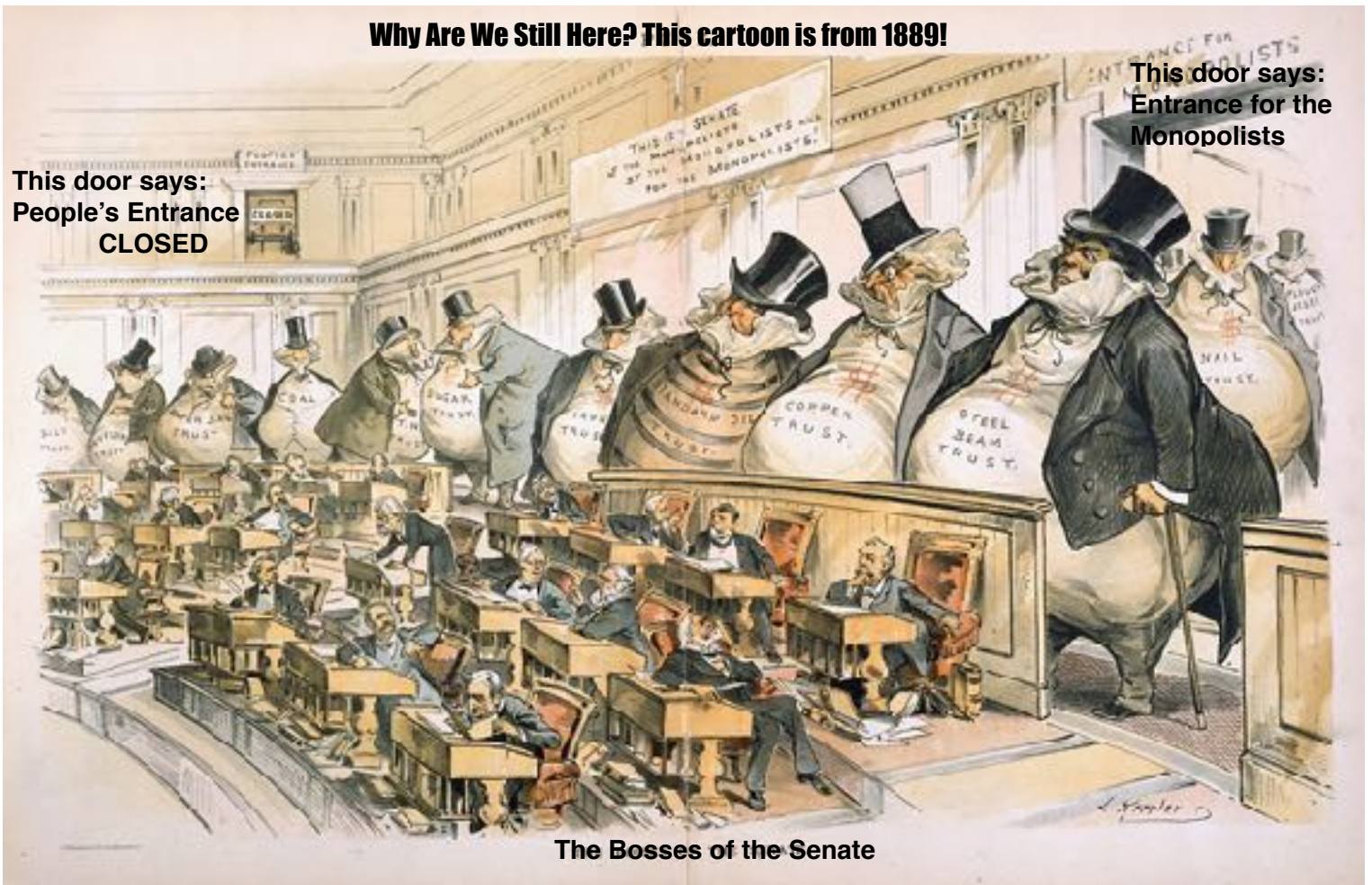
Put the 6 numbers in your phone, or tape them to your desk; do whatever will keep you making these calls every day.

- condensed from multiple sources - Ed

Why Are We Still Here? This cartoon is from 1889!

**This door says:
People's Entrance
CLOSED**

**This door says:
Entrance for the
Monopolists**

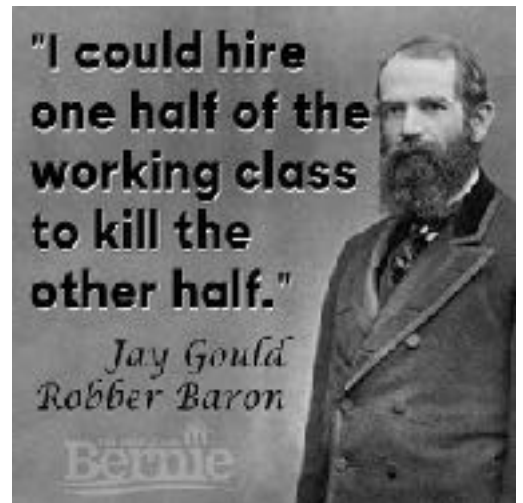


The Bosses of the Senate

The Bosses of the Senate: Historic cartoon by Joseph Keppler from Puck magazine in 1889 depicts the Senate chamber. The bosses of the Senate include the 'Steel Beam Trust, Coal, Copper Trust, Standard Oil Trust, etc...filing into the back row through a door which said 'Entrance for Monopolists.' Sitting at desks are the faces readily identifiable in its day of the Senators who are influenced to vote according to the wishes of the monopolists...Upper left a door which says 'People's entrance' which is CLOSED.

After the Civil War when the United States was recovering from devastation and destruction, westward expansion was encouraged by the construction of railroads. The 'robber barons,' a pejorative name for the late nineteenth century industrialists, are still among our economic elite: the Rockefellers, Vanderbilts, Carnegies. They squeezed out their rivals for industrial dominance while ignoring our democracy. They would send lackeys with bags of money to place on the desks of legislators they influenced. 48 of the 73 men in Cabinet posts in the late 1800s had railroad connections. In **1873** Edward Ryan, Chief Justice of the Wisconsin Supreme Court said: "**Which shall rule, wealth or man; which shall lead - money or intellect; who shall fill public stations - educated, patriotic and free men or the feudal serfs of corporate capital.**"

The Sherman Anti-Trust Act passed in 1890. By 1901 it had begun to be an effective tool and in the first decades of the twentieth century corporations such as Northern Securities Company, DuPont, American Tobacco Company, and Standard Oil had their influence diminished. However, the Crash of 1929 redirected focus from limiting corporate influence on government. In recent decades anti-trust legislation has been used rarely - for example in the break-up of Bell in 1984 - ostensibly to protect consumers from price increases.



Why Are We Still Here? ..Con'd

The fact that our anti-trust laws are not being utilized does NOT indicate that we have no monopolies. It does indicate, however, that the corporations have effected control over many legislators to such an extent there is rarely legislation or votes against corporate 'owners.' The recent Senate vote against allowing Americans to buy drugs from Canada (and save money!) was supported by thirteen corporate democrats and voted **for** by twelve Republicans! This bill truly had bipartisan support but the donations from big pharma to these Democratic Senators kept them from properly voting the people's interests. Instead big pharma, captured their votes at the expense of the American people. Americans pay more for medicines than any other country because our elected officials are captured by corporate interests.

A widely quoted study from 2014 by Gilens and Page, "Testing Theories of American Politics" investigating the influence of various groups on public policy, says "our evidence indicates that the responsiveness of the U.S. political system when the general public wants government action is severely limited."














Their study also finds that "the preferences of the average American appear to have only a minuscule, near-zero, statistically non-significant impact upon public policy." Their study measured these preferences more directly than other policy influencers, but still, the outcome is 'statistically insignificant impact.'

However, there is some good news in their study. They report ORGANIZED INTEREST GROUPS have significant independent impact on public policy.

Unfortunately progressives are disorganized; they are managed effectively by the elites, the democratic party, media, and corporations who control the national agenda. We have less impact than we could have if we were more organized. The election of Trump has given a laser focus to the necessity of effective organizing techniques which will allow us to return to a participatory democracy.

These are the Democrats in the Senate who voted against Bernie Sander's bill to allow drugs to be imported from Canada and the contributions they received since 2011 from big pharma (LOW estimates!)

DEMOCRATIC SENATORS WHO VOTED AGAINST CHEAPER MEDICINES

 COREY BOOKER, NEW JERSEY	\$385,000
 BOB MENENDEZ, NEW JERSEY	\$296,000
 MICHAEL BENNET, COLORADO	\$396,000
 TOM CARPER, DELAWARE	\$225,000
 JOE DONNELLY, INDIANA	\$245,000
 MARTIN HEINRICH, NEW MEXICO	\$150,000
 HEIDI HEITKAMP, NORTH DAKOTA	\$69,000
 PATTY MURRAY, WASHINGTON	\$477,000
 JON TESTER, MONTANA	\$135,000
 MARK WARNER, VIRGINIA	\$168,000
 BOB CASEY, JR., PENNSYLVANIA	\$470,000
 CHRIS COONS, DELAWARE	\$229,000
 MARIA CANTWELL, WASHINGTON	\$59,000

...AND MONEY THEY TOOK FROM BIG PHARMA SINCE 2011

People who were content with the status quo are suddenly aroused and desperate to express their dissatisfaction with Trump's Cabinet choices, his executive orders, his priorities, and with him. He has no mandate to govern, and neither has Mitch McConnell nor Paul Ryan.

The recent Senate vote on prescription drugs - and the Democratic defectors above who voted against the interests of our citizens - deserve some of the focus of our discontent. Their phone numbers are posted on the next page. Call them, call them often.

The people should be the Bosses of the Senate. It is time we make that happen. All the money involved - salaries, contributions - it all comes from us. The monies corporations give to the legislators come from the fees and the mark up of their prices we pay them. It is ALL our money. They are our Senators. Remind them, now!~

WE ARE THE MEDIA

DEMOCRATIC BLACKLIST

THESE SENATORS VOTED AGAINST HELPING AMERICANS GET AFFORDABLE MEDICATION

<p>CORY BOOKER <small>NY</small></p> <p>(202) 224-3224 (856) 338-8922 (873) 638-8700 @CORVBOOKER</p>	<p>HEIDI HETKAMP <small>MO</small></p> <p>(202) 224-2043 (701) 258-4648 (701) 232-8030 @SENATORHETKAMP</p>	<p>BOB CASEY <small>PA</small></p> <p>(202) 224-6324 (215) 435-9660 (412) 603-7370 @SENBOBCASEY</p>
<p>JON TESTER <small>MT</small></p> <p>(202) 224-2644 (406) 448-5401 (406) 723-3277 @SENATORTESTER</p>	<p>PATTY MURRAY <small>WA</small></p> <p>(202) 224-2621 (206) 553-5545 (509) 824-8515 @PATTYMURRAY</p>	<p>CHRIS COONS <small>OR</small></p> <p>(302) 573-6345 (302) 736-5601 (202) 224-5042 @CHRISCOONS</p>
<p>MICHAEL BENNET <small>CO</small></p> <p>(202) 224-5852 (719) 567-0036 (303) 455-7800 @SENBENNETCO</p>	<p>MARTIN HEINRICH <small>NH</small></p> <p>(202) 224-5521 (603) 346-6901 (603) 824-6947 @MARTINHEINRICH</p>	<p>MARIA CANTWELL <small>WA</small></p> <p>(206) 220-6400 (509) 353-2507 (202) 224-3441 @SENATORCANTWELL</p>
<p>TOM CARPER <small>DE</small></p> <p>(202) 224-2441 (302) 573-8281 (302) 573-3308 @SENATORCARPER</p>	<p>MARK WARNER <small>VA</small></p> <p>(202) 224-2023 (540) 857-2676 (804) 775-2314 @SENATORCARPER</p>	<p>JOE DONNELLY <small>IN</small></p> <p>(202) 224-4814 (317) 228-5555 (574) 268-2780 @SENDONNELLY</p>

Why Are We Still Here? ..Con'd

If you are challenged when calling a Congressman or Senator from another district or state, remind them that their votes affect you even though you live elsewhere, we are the United States of America and they work for US!

~Fritzie

The Republican plan:

- 30 million lose insurance
- 36,000 die each year
- 7 million see \$4,800 tax increase
- 5 million see drug prices go up \$1,000 a year
- \$200,000 tax break for top one-tenth of 1%

U.S. SEN. BERNIE SANDERS

A study released by the Congressional Research Service (a non partisan arm of the Library of Congress) in 2012 about taxation rates relative to economic growth and suppressed by Republican Senators says that: *"The reduction in the top tax rates appears to be uncorrelated with saving, investment and productivity growth. The top tax rates appear to have little or no relation to the size of the economic pie. However, the top tax rate reductions appear to be associated with the increasing concentration of income at the top of the income distribution."*



*Message to the American people from the Syrian people via Tulsi Gabbard from her recent tour of Aleppo and Damascus, speaking with displaced Syrians from all across their country: **There is no difference between "moderate" rebels and al-Qaeda (al-Nusra) or ISIS — they are all the same. This is a war between terrorists under the command of groups like ISIS and al-Qaeda and the Syrian government. They cry out for the U.S. and other countries to stop supporting those who are destroying Syria and her people.***

Excerpt "It's Going to be a Wild Ride America" by Bruce Gagnon of Global Network Against Weapons and Nuclear Power in Space...<https://www.transcend.org/tms/2017/01/usa-its-going-to-be-a-wild-ride/>

3 Tenets of Trump's America: 1) Christian fundamentalism (We are now the American Taliban; let that sink in!) 2) Economic Expansion with no limits: no environmental concerns, no human rights or safety concerns, no war weariness to stop the maximization of profits from corporate seizure 3) No military ethic - We are Puritan evangelicals and our greatness equals DOMINATION.

The key to organizing on an international level now is to reject American leadership on every issue; climate change, NATO, international treaties, we are now a rogue state. People of the world must demand that their leaders reject American leadership. They must utilize the classic tools of non violence and civil resistance that worked for Gandhi, for Martin Luther King, and for Dorothy Day. We are now entering the classic definition of fascism which is corporate governance for all. It would have been the same under HRC, but served with a smile. Single issue agendas will not work to unite the peoples of the world. We must all work together to convert the military infrastructure to build renewable energy systems, commuter trains, water systems, labor intensive farming rather than chemical intensive farming... We have the numbers to overwhelm their attempts to dominate us.

The People's Corner

~Lorenzo Canizares

Alternative Facts: We shouldn't be surprised by this new term of the Republican lexicon. In reality the concept as expressed by Kellyanne Conway is not a new reality for Republicans at all. But, what's disturbing is that now this practice of playing with the truth is going to become an accepted part of public discourse.

Here in Florida, where we are at ground zero of climate change, we have a Governor that refuses to even acknowledge climate change because he is not a scientist, a position also adopted by Senator "mental sail boat" Marco Rubio. These people do not need any more mental gymnastics or cute phraseology to be able to excuse their position with their new accepted cover - Alternate Facts.

The truth is now devoid of any need for objectivity. Truth will be accepted according to the dictates of the most powerful. Put this concept together with the attacks on the press regarding high "principled" issues like the size of a crowd and we can see the beginnings of the erosion of our free press. Totalitarian societies follow a very similar roadmap to achieve control of their respective nations. Totalitarian leaders can't stand a "free press" expressing opinions that don't concur with their view of what they want to project as facts. And let's be clear, there is no such thing as a "free press"; everybody has a particular viewpoint. What is not allowed in totalitarian societies are different viewpoints.

Republicans has had their followers already indoctrinated even before they took total control of our nation. As Nobel Prize economist Paul Krugman mentions in his column in the New York Times (1/23/17) the Republicans false narrative has led two-thirds of Trump voters to believe that the unemployment rate rose under Obama. Three quarters of them believe that George Soros is paying people to protest Mr. Trump. Only 17 percent of self-identified Republicans are aware that the number of the uninsured is at an historic low. Most people thought crime was rising even when it was falling.

The point is that a campaign dedicated to confuse the people with lies is able to succeed if it can have access to the people and people are open to believing them. Now that Republicans have control of the halls of power in our nation it will make it even easier to spread their Alternate Facts around especially if the opportunity arises to suppress contradictory viewpoints.

We need to move fast and implement a program of involvement in our respective communities to be able to share the truth. It's important to act from principle toward each other. Not doing so breaks the unity among the people. We need to keep our eyes focused on defeating those in possession of the roadmap to fascism. The best way to fight Alternate Facts is to be a principled spokesman of the people. Never lie. If a mistake is stated recognize promptly the mistake. Serve the people. Leave aside disagreements and concentrate on what there is in common. Remember, only 20 percent of the American people voted for Trump.