



Written by [Staff](#) on May 9, 2016

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## Letters to the Editor

### Suckers for Socialism

The article “Can Some Socialism Be a Good Thing?” by Charles Scaliger (February 8 issue) was truly a superb article, which I will keep, and is highly educational.

However, in the analysis on Denmark and Sweden, he leaves out an incredibly important fact, a very important reason why Denmark and Sweden are somewhat successful using socialistic models, as highlighted by Bernie Sanders.

We all understand Scandinavian high “individual tax rates” — they are highly advertised. But what doesn’t get mentioned by Bernie Sanders and others is the level of corporate tax rates in Scandinavian countries! Denmark’s corporate tax rate is 24.5 percent, and Sweden’s is 22 percent. The U.S. corporate tax rate is 39 percent (it averages 39.3 percent), the highest in the world, and this number does not include state and city taxes, which Denmark and Sweden don’t have.

What exists in these high “individual tax” countries, and Bernie never mentions, is the Benito Mussolini concept of “Fascism,” which is socialism with a twist, a.k.a. “corporatism.” Instead of *owning* the means of production, Fascism controls them without ownership. We see this every day in the United States, with government agency regulators doing the controlling.

In Scandinavian countries, most of the people who fall in the top tax rate as individuals switch to the corporate legal structure, and cut their tax rate by up to 60 percent, from 55 percent to 22 percent in Sweden’s case. This is the game, and it allows for the success. In America, it is what we generally call crony capitalism. Without getting into the weeds, many gimmicks allow successful people to become corporate insiders, and take benefits from their legal structure.

Bernie always attacks corporations as “not paying their fair share,” but his models include very low corporate taxes which if increased to 39 percent would kill Denmark and Sweden!

Without low corporate taxes, these mini countries — smaller than Los Angeles — would go into depression within 180 days.

Again I thank you for the great article.

Victor Sperandeo

*Sent via e-mail*

### The Decay of Morals

Selwyn Duke has done it again. What he has brought to light is subject matter that is seldom addressed. The article entitled “Where Have You Gone, George Washington?” (April 4 issue) raised strong emotions in me. The article clearly indicates what we are faced with in this society and why our morals are in serious decay.

As I read the article, it occurred to me that so much has been written about, “We are what we eat.” It is clear that our society realizes that what we consume affects our body. Yet we do not seem to grasp the thought that what we see, hear, and experience affects our emotional being, and we become what we ingest through those senses. We are bombarded by degradation and violence in printed material, radio,



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television, film, Internet, and video games. It has become the norm and has created a society that to a great degree no longer identifies with moral standards.

While we expend significant time in addressing the importance of what pollutants can do to the body, there seems to be little or no significance placed on mind pollution. That same young body that has difficulty fighting off the physical pollutants has a greater weakness to the mental pollutants.

What is even worse is that although we are finding cures for the physical ills caused by pollution, we are seeing that mental distortions are life-long and, in many instances, incurable. With physical pollution, only the victim is affected. Those whose mental standards have been tainted often create conditions where numerous innocent by-standers become victims.

Media bias is not the only problem. The same parent who will make significant efforts and endure great expense to remove lead paint from their child's bedroom will go out and buy a video game for them where violence is graphic and whose message is, "The more you kill the higher your score." We question why there are so many violent acts, and the answer is screaming at us.

Bob Lagasse

*Sent via e-mail*



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