

A Nightmare Reborn

By Pete Clark

President Donald J. Trump appears to be very good at changing Right Wing dreams into reality, dreams such as a Supreme Court which will allow the negation of the forty-hour work week, work place safety and the destruction of our environment for more profits. With the Trump Party controlling Congress, he was able to cut taxes mostly for the ultra-rich and corporations, for unlike Tax-and-Spend Democrats, he is a Borrow-and-Spend Republican. Under Donald Trump the national debt has gone through the ionosphere and continues to soar.

To alleviate the magnification of the national debt, the Republican Party, as it was called before the era of Trump, wishes to eliminate entitlements such as Social Security, which I have paid into since I began working, and Medicare, which I have paid into since its inception. They call these moves *privatization*, a code-word for destruction through legalized robbery and fraud. Medicaid also will be targeted.

Although the agricultural industry receives tens of billions of dollars each year in mostly unwarranted subsidies, Trump and his congress are contemplating discontinuing the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, known as SNAP, which is included in the annual Farm Bill, and putting an end to housing assistance for the working poor.

President Trump appears to be totally lacking in empathy and to be striving for the Right Wing's greatest desire, converting our society from the Rule of Law to the Rule of Greed. By initiating a trade war, the President has provided for the collection of funds from tariffs to help replace revenue lost through tax cuts for the wealthy and in doing so, is able to stick the average citizen with the bill.

In the international arena Trump has repudiated the U.S. positions of leadership in all areas of endeavor except Bullying. He has trashed trade treaties and nuclear weapons agreements and is trying to twist immigration agreements and protocols to match his particular world view. He has derided the value of NATO, giving the United States an appearance of extreme unreliability as an ally, thereby sowing the seeds that could bring a 1950's Right Wing conspiracy theory nightmare to fruition.

During the late 1940's my mother began listening to an assortment of radio evangelists. One evangelist concentrated on UFO covers up by the Federal Government, another concentrated on attacking supposed communists in Hollywood. In the early 1950's a radio evangelist sent his son to Europe to investigate the possibility of a feared United States of Europe forming with military forces that would challenge the dominance of the United States. The son reported that with the success of the Marshall Plan in restarting European economies, a formidable military machine was possible if the countries could put aside their differences and unite, bearing in mind that it took the three strongest world powers and their satellites to defeat one European country and its satellites during World War II. The countries have united and President Trump's insincerity and bullying may provide the incentive for building a European Force totally independent of America. President Emmanuel Macron of France has already suggested that

possibility to his continental counterparts.