

“As American as the US Marine Corps, Social Security, and Apple Pie”

by Marilú Carter

Economic conservatives often ridicule US state and federal agencies as big, bad government. But government-run programs—paid for by the law-abiding taxpayers among us—are socialist, by definition. US voters urgently and fiercely defend their democratic socialist benefits—Medicare, Social Security, Workers’ Compensation, and the EDD—their checks often delivered in the mail by the socialist US Postal Service (USPS).

Corporate elites, too, aggressively protect their state and federal billion-dollar socialist price-supports and contracts to finance industry, agriculture, infrastructure, banking, markets, and commerce, to manufacture aircraft, defense weapons, vehicles of transport, etc.

Yet, at the same time, corporate elites rail against taxpayer-financed socialistic services to benefit unemployed gig-workers, disinvested communities, the unsheltered, unhoused, schools, colleges, rural and urban laborers, single-parents, asylum-refugees, elder care, paid leave for illness, child-care, childbirth, care for physically and mentally challenged, etc.

Our socialist National Institute of Health (NIH) and Centers for Disease Control (CDC) save millions of lives, doing R&D to test vaccines to prevent dreaded communicable diseases—polio, measles, small pox, mosquito-borne Zika, Dengue, West Nile viruses—and now a virulent new coronavirus, COVID-19.

Even with Obama’s Affordable Care Act (ACA), some 227,000 died, some 9,000,000 cases, often lack access to preventative care; some forced to sell a home to pay for catastrophic illness, as our obsolete employer-based insurance industry peddles highly profitable loopholes: “co-pays,” “deductibles,” denial by “precondition,” and rapacious pharmaceuticals, etc.

As COVID-19 wreaks suffocating deaths upon thousands, and havoc on our economy, other nations prevent its worst ravages under universal, single-payer healthcare. We suffer far more while Canada, Taiwan, and advanced nations spend far less with universal coverage.

If you think America is not chock-full of socialist “abomination”—think again. There’s our socialist HHS, VA, NASA, HUD, DOJ, DOD, DOE, IRS, FBI, CIA, NOAA, POTUS, SCOTUS, Congress, Treasury, Federal Reserve, Armed Forces, Secret Service, Pentagon, etc.

Government-run, taxpayer-financed socialism is as American as the US Marine Corps, Social Security, and apple pie. We can include cost-effective, universal, preventative healthcare. We have the funding to save and embrace lives—if not, quite yet, the will to do so.