

The Delray Democrat

February 2022

From Each According to His Gullibility

Michael K. Cantwell

Most Americans reject the so-called communist creed: “from each according to his ability; to each according to his needs.” Many of us also reject, but are powerless to reform, the “crony capitalist creed” that defines our current economic system: “from each according to his gullibility; to each according to his greed.”

Crony capitalism is why billionaire CEOs are taxed at a lower rate than their secretaries and why huge corporations pay little or no tax. It’s all “perfectly legal” because they own the Republican Party and rent key Democrats.

Americans weren’t always so accepting and powerless. When FDR’s New Deal took aim at the crony capitalism that had caused the Great Depression, it infuriated the plutocrats, banksters, and business magnates of the day. They denounced him as a “socialist” without understanding that he was actually saving capitalism. He defiantly responded that he “welcomed” their hatred, and the American people elected him three more times.

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The Real Danger of January 6

Rob Resnick

On January 6, 2021, a large armed mob attacked the US Capitol and the police officers entrusted with its security. The amount of violence, the serious weaponry (including chemicals), communications, planning, and of course the motivation all clearly point to this as an insurrection, perhaps even an attempted coup. Whatever you call it, this was a carefully planned attempt to interfere with the Constitutional functioning of Congress, to overthrow the 2020 Election, and to ignore the will of the people. What makes it worse is that members of the Trump administration and certain Congressional Republicans openly supported this vile attack on government and democracy.

This is not the most serious challenge stemming from the events of January 6. A major threat is the complacency of the American people. Large numbers of Americans fail to acknowledge how close Donald Trump and the insurrectionists came to overthrowing our government. They fail to understand that our democracy remains under attack, and they oppose the investigations and prosecutions of the most serious offenders as well as ongoing efforts to protect democracy, our institutions, and

our elections. In fact, they simply do not realize or recognize the significance of the election laws passed in many states designed to suppress the vote of low income and communities of color.

What is extremely disturbing and highly unsettling is something designed to truly destabilize and threaten democracy and safe elections. Many of these extremists, including those who directly participated in the January 6 insurrection, are running for the House of Representatives and various state wide offices. If elected to Secretary of State positions or appointed as elections officials, they have plainly signaled their intent to reject otherwise bona fide results where their chosen candidates do not win. Sounds crazy, even conspiracy theory crazy, yet all one has to do is listen to their own words and take them at face value.

After 2020, Republican state and election officials stood fast and did their sworn duty to facilitate and uphold valid elections across the nation. They did so despite tremendous pressure from Trump forces, including death threats. That is what is at stake with

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Had he not died at the relatively young age of 63, FDR might have presided over the creation of a *second* Bill of Rights, one that would have addressed economic inequality. As he explained in his final State of the Union [address](#), the "political rights" provided by our Bill of Rights guaranteed "rights to life and liberty" but are "inadequate to assure us equality in the pursuit of happiness."

Many of the economic rights he proposed are today part of the social safety net provided in most European countries but remain mere pipe dreams here. Perhaps that's why America ranked No. 19 in the 2022 "[World Happiness Index](#)," behind all of Scandinavia and most of Europe.

Of course, FDR did preside over the creation of an American middle class that was the envy of the world and lasted for nearly four decades. Then crony capitalism resurfaced with the election of the man Bette Davis once called "little Ronnie Reagan." She added that "little" referred not to his height but "his acting talent." One cringes at the thought that – had he not refused the role – Reagan and not Bogey might have been Rick in Casablanca.

That said, a grade B actor is still a far better actor than your average politician. Aided by dog whistle appeals to racism, Reagan divided American workers and managed to deceive a generation of Americans into believing that "government was the problem and not the solution."

Four decades later, "Reagan Democrats" continue to vote against their economic interests, waiting in vain for the "trickle down" from Republican tax "cuts" that overwhelmingly benefit the wealthiest Americans and the largest corporations. And today many are voting against their very lives as well.

Florida's Republican governors and legislatures have refused federal funding to expand Medicaid to the 800,000 Floridians who earn too little to afford insurance but too much to qualify for Medicaid. As a consequence, a recent [study](#) estimated that 2,776 Floridians had died prematurely and unnecessarily over the prior four years.

They died, and Rick Scott [reportedly](#) took advantage of a tax loophole to escape estate and gift taxes. He wasn't alone, and it's all perfectly legal. It's crony capitalism: "from each according to his gullibility, to each according to his greed."

2022 Membership

Char Lane

If you're not a member of the Democratic Club of Delray Beach, please consider joining. If you're already a member of the Club and haven't yet renewed, please renew for 2022.

Membership is on a calendar year basis and your dues help provide funding for operational projects, such as *The Delray Democrat*, our meetings, other working supplies and signage for our sign waving events. Our meetings are on the second Thursday of each month, currently via zoom but we're looking forward to resuming live meetings as soon as it's safe to do so.

Our goal is to educate people as to why they should vote Democratic and use Vote-by-Mail as a critical tool in support of this goal. We'll need your help

with our sign-waving, phone calling, postcard writing, canvassing and participating in other projects. We'll have to work hard to help keep our Democracy intact and protect it from the manifesting lunacy.

We plan to help turn Florida BLUE by electing a Democratic governor (*to replace DeSantis*) and a Democratic U.S. Senator (*to replace Rubio*) in 2022.

Please visit our website at www.demclubofdelray.org, read current and previous issues of our newsletter *The Delray Democrat* at www.thedelraydemocrat.com and join our Facebook Group at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/992741928168620>

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Editorial Board: Michael K. Cantwell (Editor), Sandra Elaisen, David Kulick, Char Lane, June Neal, and Rob Resnick.

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these extremists winning and taking over those posts. Can you imagine Congress with an entire caucus full of Marjorie Taylor Greenes? One of the leading candidates for Arizona Secretary of State is one of the leaders of the Oath Keepers, an extremist militia, also fairly described as domestic terrorists, especially after their leading role in the January 6 insurrection and other violence. Voters should consider him per

forward without creating an accurate factual record of what occurred and holding accountable those meriting such action? How do we strive to prevent future attacks on our democracy and elections, ones better planned and executed that could succeed if people refuse to acknowledge reality? If this were only the extremists, perhaps we could write them off, but we are talking about a larger subset of Americans encompassing far more than the political extreme. If we do not figure out how to address this challenge,

This more than anything is the existential threat to our future. They want us to ignore what happened and just move on. How can there be any moving forward without creating an accurate factual record of what occurred and holding accountable those meriting such action?

se disqualified as a candidate, but instead he has a good chance to win. In a normal, civil society he would not have any chance to win.

It is one thing to debate what should be done about preserving democratic institutions, voting rights, Electoral College procedures, and myriad other matters of governance. When it comes to the gross visual images of January 6, the brutal attack on and injuries to law enforcement, the destruction of Capitol property and government documents, and blatant threats to harm, even kill elected officials, there is no debate. Call it whatever you like, but at a minimum it was violent criminality. Yet, millions of Americans reject the plain and compelling, even uncontroverted, evidence.

This more than anything is the existential threat to our future. They want us to ignore what happened and just move on. How can there be any moving

all else is for nothing.

Although there is no magic panacea to accomplish this, there are some logical prerogatives. First, take extreme measures to prevent perceptions, and certainly any realities, of political agendas or goals in addressing this situation. The preservation of democracy and holding individuals accountable for criminality is not political. Second, these investigations must continue to be thorough, proper, and without suspicion to the greatest degree. They must be able to support prosecution and conviction or whatever the appropriate disposition is for the given case. The ensuing criminal trials must be done without hyperbole. Apply the provable facts to the existing law and seek reasonable outcomes. The American people need to see results and they must perceive these results as fair and just. We must get this done.

Never Trump. Never Republican*

Michael K. Cantwell

According to the Republican National Committee, storming the U.S. Capitol, smashing windows, beating people with flagpoles and fire extinguishers and threatening the lives of public officials is "legitimate political discourse." It is not.

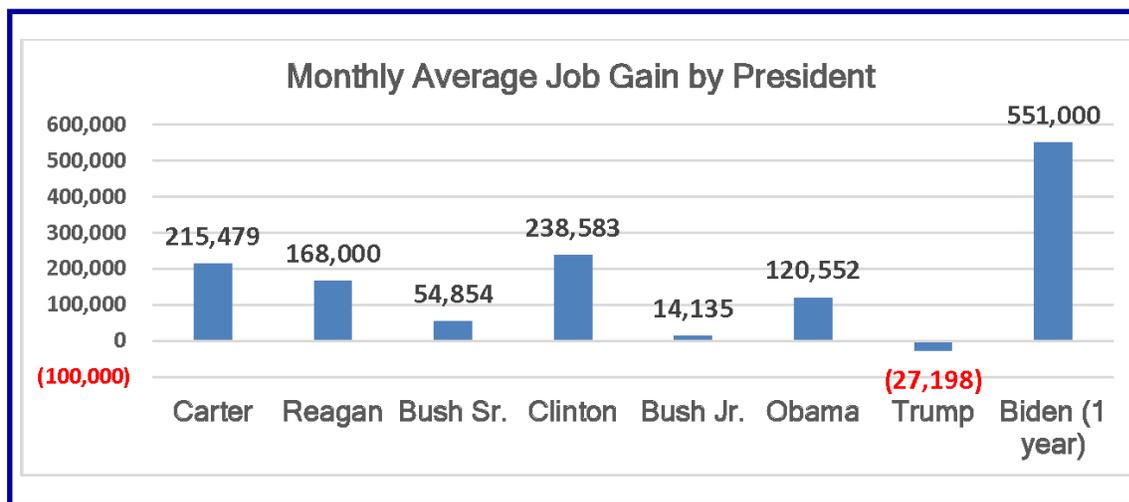
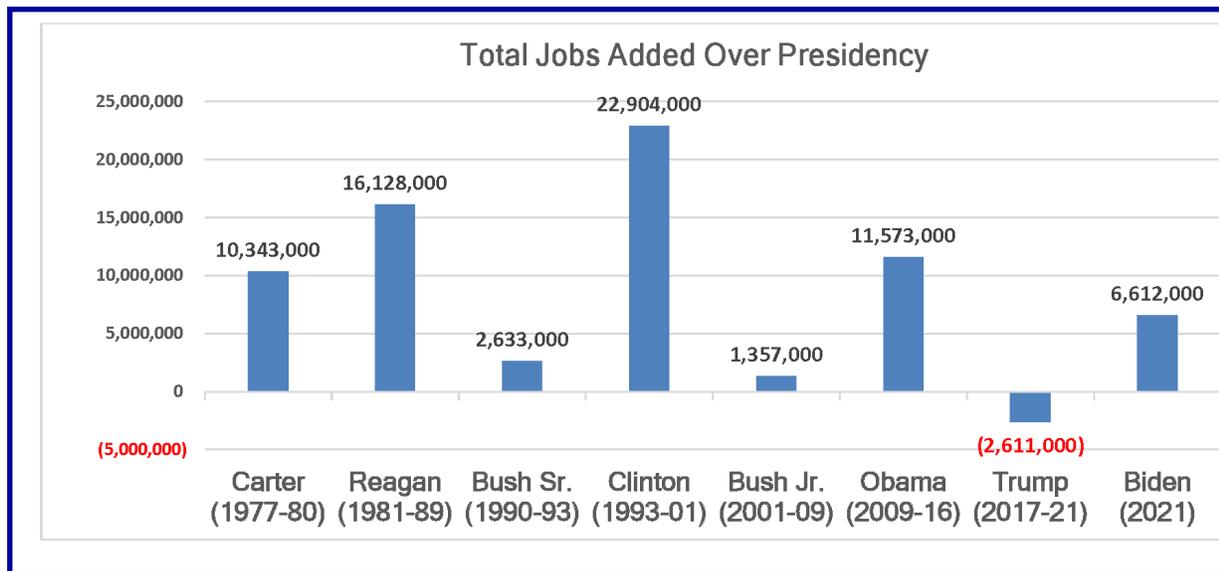
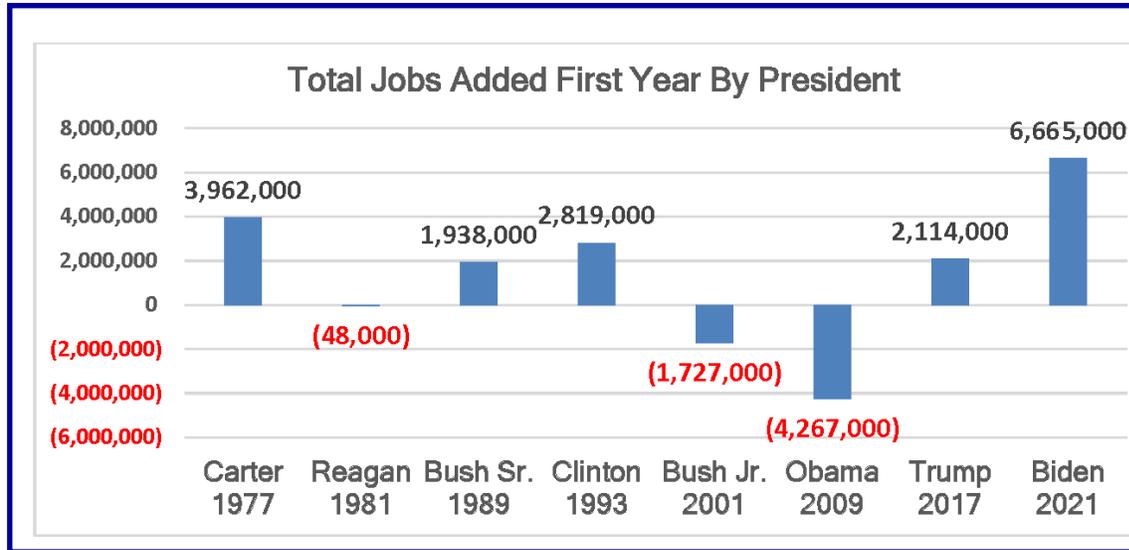
Donald Trump was overwhelmingly defeated in 2020. He filed more than 60 lawsuits challenging the results. All were dismissed and many were deemed frivolous by Republican and Democratic judges, and

Jan. 6, 2021 was a failed attempt by a violent mob to overthrow our democracy.

The Republican Party is no longer the Party of Lincoln; it is the Party of Trump. All those worried about our failing democracy should pledge never to vote for the cowards, sycophants, and proto-fascists who comprise the modern Republican Party until they disavow their endorsement of violence. Never Trump, never Republican.

*Originally published February 13, 2020, *Sun-Sentinel*, p. 45.

Joe Biden's Historic First Year Compared with the Last Seven Presidents

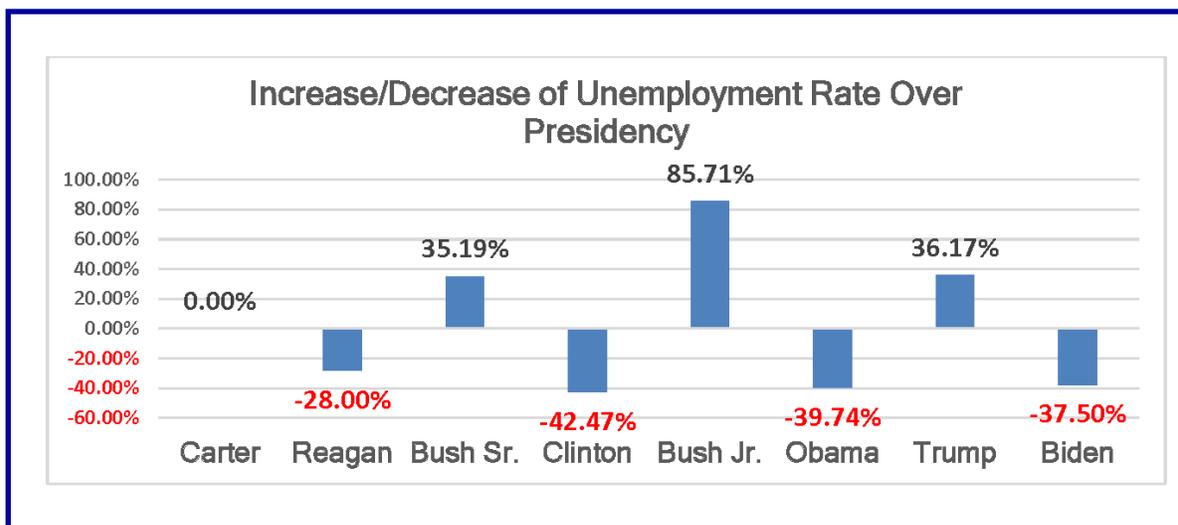
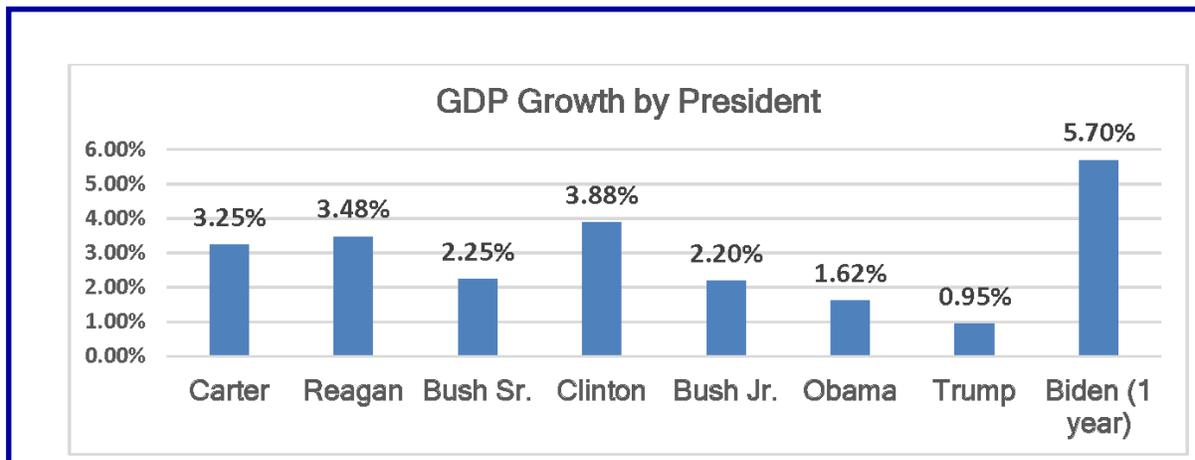
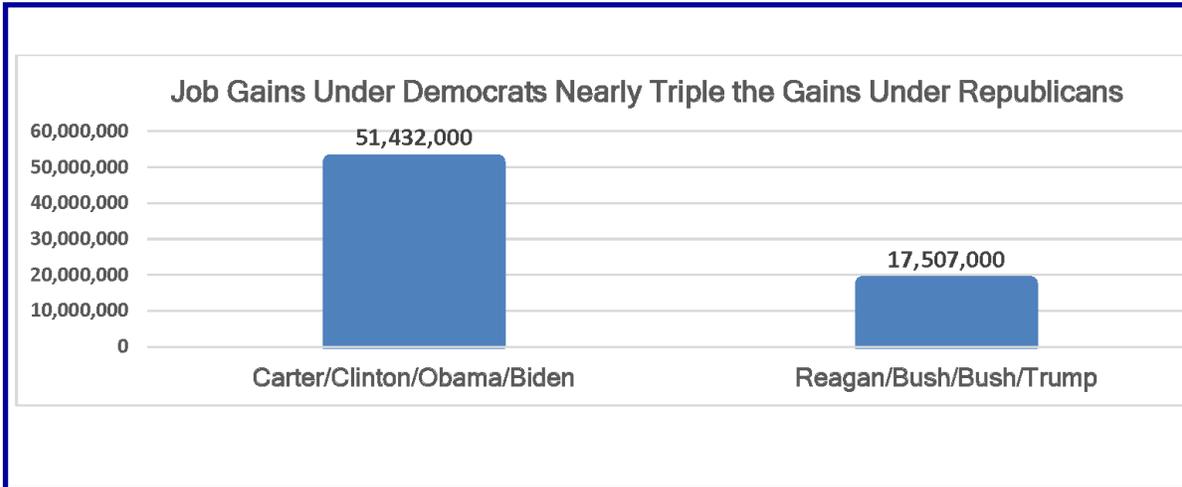


Biden's numbers in the first two slides differ because the "first year" is a calendar year and thus included the BLS numbers for January 2021 (even though Biden was not president until January 20, 2021). For calculating jobs added during a presidency the starting point is the job report for February of the inaugural year.

A broken clock is right twice a day, and Donald Trump was right when he [said](#), “it just seems that the economy does better under the Democrats than the Republicans.”

Since Reagan, Democrats have been in the Oval Office a total of 252 months and Republicans for 288 months. Yet job growth under Democrats is almost triple that under Republicans; unemployment fell substantially under three Democrats (and was flat under Carter), whereas it rose under every Republican except Reagan, whose numbers trail the last three Democratic presidents.

By every economic measure with the exception of inflation, Biden’s record is far and away the strongest.



It's the Republicans, Stupid

Rob Resnick

Voting Rights legislation is critically important, so much so that it likely should have been the first issue the new administration and Democratic Congress addressed. With years of blatant efforts by Republicans to subvert elections and prevent citizens from casting their lawful ballots and the January 6 Insurrection to overturn a valid election, our very democracy rests on the ability of the federal government to preserve the most sacred of rights – the vote.

Regardless of whether this should have been addressed earlier, and to be fair, there is little basis to believe the outcome would have been different, it is extremely pressing now. Democrats have spent so much time and energy focusing on recriminations of Senators Manchin and Sinema over their opposition to eliminating the filibuster they have lost sight of the real objection and the real fight. The issue is passing at least one of the two major voting rights bills passed by the House and waiting for Senate action.

Because of the spectacle of Democratic infighting over the filibuster, this is the narrative covered by

something we need to accept as likely, without the filibuster rule and 60 vote requirement imagine the extremely damaging legislation they can jam through, including more dangerous tax cuts, health care cuts, elimination of critical environmental protections, etc. Anything Democrats pass now; they will quickly eliminate. In any event, this is not the fight Democrats need to be having. The focus must be on the actual Voting Rights legislation.

Ultimately 50 Democrats would vote for the legislation (Manchin, Sinema, et al, proposed minor changes to one bill) and 50 Republicans would vote against both bills. THAT is the real issue and THAT needs to be the narrative covered by the media and perceived by the American people. 16 current Republican Senators voted in 2006 for the previous iteration of Voting Rights, but now they plan to vote against what is essentially similar protections. What has changed is obvious – they are incredibly afraid that if they vote to support voting rights, they will be successfully primaried. Before we say “good riddance,” keep in mind these primary challengers will assuredly be extremist candidates committed to Republican plans to undermine our democracy.

There are certainly valid criticisms about how Manchin and Sinema have conducted themselves, but without them Republicans own the Senate.

the media and what the American people see. Rightly or wrongly, it not only fosters perceptions of incompetence in governance, but at a minimum makes the Democrats look bad, not all of which is undeserved. There are certainly valid criticisms about how Manchin and Sinema have conducted themselves, but without them Mitch McConnell and the Republicans own the Senate. If Democrats want to win and maintain control of the Senate, especially to have any ability to pass legislation, they are going to need to win more Senate races in red states. To do that, they must welcome more Manchins and Sinemas, because that is who can win in those states. Chasing them away is throwing away any chance to have a majority.

Manchin and Sinema have consistently supported voting rights legislation. What they do not support is eliminating the filibuster, a wholly different issue. They actually have some strong arguments as to why. If and when Republicans win control of the Senate, which is historically and practically

Although that should be disqualifying to voters, it is more likely that most of these candidates will win their general election.

In any case, Democrats need to be pressing the narrative of Republican political cowardice in not supporting basic voting rights for all citizens. These bills do not promote democratic voters, they protect all voters. Anyone who thinks it is an appropriate strategy to disenfranchise millions of lawful voters for the sole reason of lowering their opponents' vote counts in upcoming elections is unqualified and unfit to serve in government. I am not sure enough Republican Senators have the capacity to feel shame anymore, but at least 10 must be pressured to support basic voting rights for all American citizens and they should be willing to negotiate meaningful legislation to accomplish this rather than lining up lock step with all 50 vowing to vote against it. Manchin and Sinema are allies, Republicans are the ones opposing our most fundamental right.

Was Marco's Mama a Socialist?

Michael K. Cantwell

Socialism is defined as “collective or governmental ownership and administration of the means of production and distribution of goods.” Nothing *ever* advocated by *any* Democrat fits that definition.

That doesn't mean that Marco Rubio was displaying appalling ignorance when he claimed, “The \$3.5 trillion Biden plan isn't socialism, it's Marxism.” The actual meaning of a word becomes irrelevant if an audience has been trained to accept the speaker's meaning. The mere mention of “socialism” causes Republicans to lose what little reason they still possess and can also unnerve independents.

As Humpty Dumpty pompously expounded to Alice in *Through the Looking Glass* (itself an apt metaphor for the Republican perception of reality): “when I use a word, it means just what I choose it to mean—neither more nor less.”

That's why Republicans become so unhinged when Democrats propose legislation that would improve the lives of average Americans rather than the bank balances of the top 0.01% of Americans. And that's what was behind Rubio's embarrassingly over-the-top attack on the Build Back Better Act (BBBA).

A key component of BBBA was reauthorization of the Child Tax Credit that had been part of Biden's America Rescue Plan Act but was expiring at the end of last year.

The Child Tax Credit was estimated to have cut childhood poverty by 30%, and it is likely to be included in a stripped-down version of BBBA to be introduced within the next few months. At that point, expect to see Marco once again trot out the socialist bogeyman, designed to whip the wingnuts into a frenzy as we move into the midterms.

So what do Republicans mean when they attack Democratic legislation as “socialism”? If Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, and Obamacare are examples of “socialism,” Americans seem to like it.

So what *do* Republicans mean by “socialism”? Do they mean programs like Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, and Obamacare? If we take them at their word, they do.

After all, that's the label Republicans applied to these life-saving programs when they were first proposed by Democrats. Of course, once the programs became popular, Republicans stopped calling them socialism and stopped attacking them directly.

Instead, Republicans floated proposals to “save” or “improve” these programs (by starving or hobbling them). Their efforts failed because most Americans don't want to privatize Social Security or turn Medicare into a voucher system or “fix” Obamacare by allowing insurers to once again refuse coverage of pre-existing conditions. *If these programs are examples of socialism, Americans seem to like it.*

Whether their strategy succeeds (and childhood poverty returns to the shockingly high levels seen in 2020) depends on whether we Democrats expose Republicans for their habitual abuse of language.

When Alice challenged Humpty Dumpty's arbitrary use of words, he dismissively responded that it all depended on who “is to be master.” *Democrats simply cannot allow Republicans to make socialism mean whatever they choose it to mean whenever it suits them.*

If the dictionary is to be master, then Republican cries of “socialism” are patently absurd.

And if socialism is to be defined by the programs Republicans have labeled as such, then Marco Rubio's parents were socialists, and he'll be one too, once he qualifies for Medicare and Social Security.

Democratic Club of Delray Beach Officers and Directors

Michael Cantwell, President; Char Lane, Vice-President; Sandra Elaisse-Cantwell, Secretary; David Kulick, Treasurer; Robert Resnick, Parliamentarian, Robert Averack, Mary Fader, Charlie Holbrook, June Neal, and Cheryl Perry, Directors; Patricia O'Hearne and John Ramos, Directors Emeritus.

VOLUNTEERS—WE NEED YOUR HELP

Char Lane, DCDB Membership Chair

There's lots of work to do before the primaries on Tuesday, August 23, 2022, and the midterm and state elections on Tuesday, November 8, 2022.

Our current project is making telephone calls. The goal is to contact Democratic voters who have previously voted by mail but whose VbM's have expired and encourage them to renew their vote-by-mail status. If you'd like to make some calls and aren't on my email distribution of previous callers, please send an email with your contact information to membership@dcdbe.us.

Telephone calling will be an ongoing project. We will be contacting registered Democrats who have not voted by mail to encourage them to sign up for VbM ballots. We'll also be registering voters, delivering door hangers with a variety of information and general canvassing. We may also be doing some postcard mailings. Any help you can provide will be appreciated. To volunteer, send an email with your contact information to membership@dcdbe.us.

We will soon be organizing sign wave activities. Please send an email to membership@dcdbe.us if you've not waved with us in the past and would like to join us. I'll add your email address to our email distribution of sign wavers and you'll be notified whenever we are planning to do a wave.

We look forward to any help you can provide. You don't have to be a DCDB member to help with these activities, but we always welcome new members.

Democratic Club of Delray Beach 2022 Membership Application and Renewal

Date _____ New _____ Renewal _____

Name/names of household members _____

Address _____

Community/Condo Name _____

E-mail Address _____ Phone number _____

(E-mail addresses are shared with the Palm Beach County Democratic Party so our members will be kept abreast of the latest County Democratic Activity. If you do not wish to receive this information, please initial here _____ and we will not share your E-mail address.).

Preferred method of contact: E-mail _____ Phone _____ Text _____

Send newsletter by: E-mail _____ Hand delivery _____

I/we are in South Florida from _____ to _____ each year or are a permanent resident _____.

Payment: Individual \$25 _____ Household \$35 _____ Donation _____

Please make checks payable to Democratic Club of Delray Beach and mail to P.O. Box 8224, Delray Beach, FL 33484. Thank you and welcome to our Club.

