

extending political democracy but to demanding democratic empowerment in the economy, in gender relations, and in culture. Democracy is not simply one of our political values but our means of restructuring society. Our vision is of a society in which people have a real voice in the choices and relationships that affect the entirety of our lives. We call this vision democratic socialism—a vision of a more free, democratic and humane society.

In this web site you can find out about DSA, its politics, structure and program. DSA's political perspective is called Where We Stand. It says, in part:

We are socialists because we reject an international economic order sustained by private profit, alienated labor, race and gender discrimination, environmental destruction, and brutality and violence in defense of the status quo.

We are socialists because we share a vision of a humane international social order based both on democratic planning and market mechanisms to achieve equitable distribution of resources, meaningful work, a healthy environment, sustainable growth, gender and racial equality, and non-oppressive relationships.

DSA has a youth section, Young Democratic Socialists (YDS). Made up of students from colleges and high schools and young people in the work force, the Youth Section works on economic justice and democracy and prison justice projects. It is a member of the International Union of Socialist Youth, an affiliate of the Socialist International. The Youth Section meets several times during the year. More information is available from YDS staff.

This web site also includes an extensive set of resources, including bibliographies, pamphlets and links to information on socialism and U.S. politics in general.

Please join DSA as we work to help build a better and more just world for all.

#### WHERE WE STAND: THE POLITICAL PERSPECTIVE OF THE DEMOCRATIC SOCIALISTS OF AMERICA

##### PREAMBLE

At the beginning of the 20th century, a young and vibrant socialist movement anticipated decades of great advances on the road to a world free from capitalist exploitation—a socialist society built on the enduring principles of equality, justice and solidarity among peoples.

At the end of the 20th century, such hope and vision seem all but lost. The unbridled power of transnational corporations, unwritten by the major capitalist nations, has created a world economy where the wealth and power of a few is coupled with insecurity and downward mobility for the vast majority of working people in both the Northern and Southern hemispheres. Traditional left prescriptions have failed on both sides of the Communist/socialist divide. Global economic integration has rendered obsolete both the social democratic solution of independent national economies sustaining a strong social welfare state and the Communist solution of state-owned national economies fostering social development.

The globalization of capital requires a renewed vision and tactics. But the essence of the socialist vision—that people can freely and democratically control their community and society—remains central to the movement for radical democracy. Those who the collapse of communist regimes, for which the rhetoric of socialism became a cover for authoritarian rule, as proof that capitalism is the foundation of democracy, commit fraud on history. The struggle for mass democracy has always been led by the ex-

cluded—workers, minorities, and women. The wealthy almost never join in unless their own economic freedom appears at stake. The equation of capitalism with democracy cannot survive scrutiny in a world where untrammeled capitalism means unrelenting poverty, disease, and unemployment.

Today powerful corporate and political elites tell us that environmental standards are too high, unemployment is too low, and workers earn too much for America to prosper in the next century. Their vision is too close for comfort: inequality of wealth and income has grown worse in the last 15 years: one percent of America now owns 60 percent of our wealth, up from 50 percent before Ronald Reagan became president. Nearly three decades after the “War on Poverty” was declared and then quickly abandoned, one-fifth of our society subsists in poverty, living in substandard housing, attending underfunded, overcrowded schools, and receiving inadequate health care.

#### TOWARDS FREEDOM: DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST THEORY AND PRACTICE

[By Joseph Schwartz and Jason Schulman ]

##### THE DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST VISION

Democratic socialists believe that the individuality of each human being can only be developed in a society embodying the values of liberty, equality, and solidarity. These beliefs do not entail a crude conception of equality that conceives of human beings as equal in all respects. Rather, if human beings are to develop their distinct capacities they must be accorded equal respect and opportunities denied them by the inequalities of capitalist society, in which the life opportunities of a child born in the inner city are starkly less than that of a child born in an affluent suburb. A democratic community committed to the equal moral worth of each citizen will socially provide the cultural and economic necessities—food, housing, quality education, healthcare, childcare—for the development of human individuality.

Achieving this diversity and opportunity necessitates a fundamental restructuring of our socio-economic order. While the freedoms that exist under democratic capitalism are gains of popular struggle to be cherished, democratic socialists argue that the values of liberal democracy can only be fulfilled when the economy as well as the government is democratically controlled.

We cannot accept capitalism's conception of economic relations as “free and private,” because contracts are not made among economic equals and because they give rise to social structures which undemocratically confer power upon some over others. Such relationships are undemocratic in that the citizens involved have not freely deliberated upon the structure of those institutions and how social roles should be distributed within them (e.g., the relationship between capital and labor in the workplace or men and women in child rearing). We do not imagine that all institutional relations would wither away under socialism, but we do believe that the basic contours of society must be democratically constructed by the free deliberation of its members.

The democratic socialist vision does not rest upon one sole tradition; it draws upon Marxism, religious and ethical socialism, feminism, and other theories that critique human domination. Nor does it contend that any laws of history preordain the achievement of socialism. The choice for socialism is both moral and political, and the fullness of its vision will never be permanently secured.

#### REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2918, LEGISLATIVE BRANCH APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2010

Mr. ARCURI, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 111-266) on the resolution (H. Res. 772) providing for consideration of the conference report to accompany the bill (H.R. 2918) making appropriations for the Legislative Branch for the Fiscal Year ending September 30, 2010, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

#### HEALTH CARE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DRIEHAUS). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, the gentlewoman from Minnesota (Mrs. BACHMANN) is recognized for 60 minutes.

Mrs. BACHMANN. Mr. Speaker, the focus of my remarks over the next hour will be on the issue of health care. This is the issue that has really captured the attention of the American people over these summer months, and well it should. This for many States is one of the top spending priorities in their States and here for the Federal Government as well.

We have learned, as we've looked through the budget this year, since President Obama has assumed the Presidency, under his leadership we have seen the Federal budget increase 22 percent at a time when the American economy is contracting. In one quarter alone we saw a 5 percent contraction rate. The private sector is contracting in this current economy, and yet what's government's response? Government is on a party. It is growing. Growing to the tune of 22 percent. That's almost a one-fourth level of increase.

Imagine if any of us, Mr. Speaker, in our own lives, in our own businesses, in our family situation would increase our spending 22 percent when our income had fallen 6 percent. None of us would ever consider treating our own finances in that way. No business could consider treating its own finances in that way. It's only a government that looks to our pockets and to our resources to finance its party, only a government that's out of control, that has capitulated to practically fiscal hedonism, fiscal hedonism, to run up bills that are unconscionable for the next generation.

I think we are looking at a time, Mr. Speaker, unlike any other in the history of the United States. That's why this health care debate plays into the center of where our economy is at.

Mr. Speaker, I'm a former Federal tax litigation attorney, and I had done a study when I was in my post-doctorate program at William and Mary Law School down in Williamsburg, Virginia, back in the late 1980s. And at