

The Delray Democrat

Yer Mama's a Socialist!¹

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H.L. Mencken famously wrote that “no one ever went broke underestimating the intelligence of the American people.” It’s not a lack of intelligence that led 70 million people to vote for Donald Trump, however. It’s lack of information, lack of education, and lack of a nose for a carnival barker.

Trump won Florida in large measure because substantial numbers of people believed the claptrap that Joe Biden is a socialist or controlled by socialists. Anyone who is not a credulous fool is aware that, at its [core](#), socialism involves “collective or governmental ownership and administration of the means of production and distribution of goods,” and no Democrat – not Bernie Sanders, not Alexandria Ocasio Cortez, not Kamala Harris, and certainly not Joe Biden – is advocating that.

What he, indeed the Democratic Party as a whole, advocates is a government that works for the governed rather than a select few, and that seeks to care for the most vulnerable among us, rather than leave them to a life that is nasty, brutish, and short. Every time Democrats have attempted to better the lives of Americans, they have been accused of every imagined sin under the sun, beginning with socialism and extending to slavery. Here are two choice [selections](#) from the 1935 debate over Social Security:

“Never in the history of the world has any measure been brought here so insidiously designed as to prevent business recovery, to enslave workers and to prevent any possibility of the employers providing work for the people,” Rep. John Taber (R-NY).

“The lash of the dictator will be felt and 25 million free American citizens will for the first time submit themselves to a fingerprint test.” Rep. Daniel Reed (R-NY)

And who can forget [Ronald Reagan](#) telling Americans that if Medicare passed, “We are going to spend our sunset years telling our children and our children's children, what it once was like in America when men were free”? He was shilling for the AMA then, which today (like the overwhelming majority of Americans) supports Medicare.

Closer to the present is the vitriol with which the Affordable Care Act was met. [Ben Carson](#) abjectly compared it to slavery, cementing his place in history as a shameless toady only too happy to desecrate the graves of his ancestors: “You know Obamacare is really I think the worst thing that has happened in this nation since slavery.” Worse than lynchings, Ben? Worse than the KKK?

And let’s not forget former conservative darling Sarah Palin’s obscene, Orwellian claim that the Affordable Care Act, which has insured tens of millions of Americans and saved tens of thousands of lives, had created “death panels.” A [clear majority](#) of Americans now favor the ACA while Ms. Palin has been reduced to [appearing](#) on The Masked Singer dressed in a purple and pink furry bear

¹ *The Delray Democrat*, November 2020, p. 7.

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Significantly but unsurprisingly, pollsters found that Americans' attitudes towards the ACA depended on whether it was identified as "Obamacare" or the "Affordable Care Act." Indeed, there are actually voters who don't know that Medicare is a government program.

During the "Hillary-care" battle in 1994, an elderly woman [accosted](#) then-Sen. John Breaux in an airport, urging "Now don't you let the government get a hold of my Medicare." And at a town hall meeting during the debate over the Affordable Care Act, a [man](#) told Rep. Robert Inglis (R-S.C.) to "keep your government hands off my Medicare."

The key is educating voters to the reality that the programs on which they and their families depend were all created by Democrats, and that we are saving lives while Republicans are sacrificing them.

Explain that Ron DeSantis is denying Medicaid to 800,000 uninsured Floridians who otherwise qualify under the ACA, thus condemning thousands of them to premature, preventable deaths. Explain to anyone enrolled in Medicare, Medicaid, or Social Security that they're just as much a socialist as Joe Biden.

It won't work on Trump troglodytes, like those who drove past our rallies screaming "socialist." Just yell back, "Yer mama's a Socialist." They won't know what the hell you're saying, but you'll feel better.