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As Usual, Bernie Sanders Doesn't Know What He's Talking About

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Ideology: Socialist senator and presidential candidate Bernie Sanders tweets that Americans shouldn't have to work overtime to feed their families. In so doing, he shows why tweeting without thinking is a bad idea.

Last week, Sanders, the self-identified socialist who is running for president as — quite appropriately — a Democrat, took to Twitter to say that "in the richest country in the history of the world, people shouldn't have to be working 50 or 60 hours a week to put food on the table."

Just who does he suppose is putting in the time?

According to data put out a few years back by the left-wing Center for American Progress, professional men are the most overworked. Almost 40% of them toil more than 50 hours a week. Then come middle-income men, almost 25% of whom put in more than 50 hours.

And if Sanders were to look around, he might notice that those who put in the longest hours are the doers, the builders, the producers. CEOs and executives who start and run successful companies. Dreamers putting rockets into space. Tech pros who are changing the world daily. Managers and salesmen who increase company values. Doctors who keep us healthy so we can stay productive.

This isn't to say low-wage laborers aren't working as much as possible to keep their families fed. But as a nation, we're all working less than we once did and have more free time on our hands than in the past.

"The gruelingly long workweek described by Sanders is not the norm," writes Chelsea German at the [Cato Institute's At Liberty blog](#). Citing Conference Board data, German says that in 1950, the average U.S. worker was on the job about 38 hours a week. In 2015, that same American worker put in about 34.

"That means that the average U.S. worker had 217 more hours for leisure or other pursuits in 2015 than in 1950. That is about nine days of extra time," she writes.

As it turns out, the Obama era has produced more Americans than ever who have nothing but leisure time. But it's time they'd rather not have. Labor force participation is in a rut not seen since the Carter administration. Roughly 100 million Americans want to work but can't find jobs.

Clearly Sanders doesn't understand what's going on. He doesn't even know what the problem is. Anyone who's as mixed up as he is should never be handed the levers of power.