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Unequal opportunity

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Re Marshall Harmon's guest column on income equality, representing the Arkansas Policy Foundation: This foundation claims on its website to be nonpartisan. However, it lists as its links other right-wing think tanks and front organizations such as Cato Institute, American Enterprise Institute, Heritage Foundation, Hoover Institute, and the Koch brothers' Americans for Prosperity.

All these organizations are extremely capable lobbyists for the billionaires who helped found them. I believe these groups have helped, along with complicit legislators, mostly Republican, to bring about our current income inequality through moving American jobs overseas, super-high wages for CEOs and top brass of corporations, huge tax breaks for the rich, piling on dozens of taxes on the rest of us, and greatly lowering the amount of good-paying manufacturing jobs.

The New Deal/Fair Deal increased opportunities for union and non-union industrial workers and expanded educational and housing opportunities for many Americans. But there remained many pockets of white poverty, and the majority of minorities did not benefit from Roosevelt's and Truman's numerous chances to get ahead. But just as the civil rights laws and *Brown v. the Board of Education* broadened the opportunities of minorities, it seems the right-wingers took advantage of white voter backlash to eliminate wage improvements for the majority of Americans.

Some who have unequal opportunities today: people who have inherited millions/billions and can invest on Wall Street, and CEOs who practice crony capitalism and get their boards to give them gigantic wages and stock options regardless of their performance.