

In Defense Of Socialism

by [Vegas Dave](#)

Thu Sep 17, 2009 at 02:18:17 PM PDT



At all these Birther/Bircher/Tea-Bagger parties, one theme crops up repeatedly. Well, more than one, but most of the attendees can't explain the difference between Socialism, Fascism, Communism, or numerous other "ism's" they have determined represent the Presidents position.

My beef is with all the protesters yelling about the dreaded **socialism**.

The fact that most of them got there aboard government subsidized trains and transit systems, FAA inspected aircraft monitored by government air traffic controllers, or automobiles with government mandated air-bags and seat belts on government built super-highways and local roads, the irony just seems to pass them by.

So let's ask what would happen in an ideal Libertarian world where one of the government services we all take for granted was a subscription only service like today's health insurance.

Follow me below the fold.....

Vegas Dave's diary :: ::

What if your homes fire insurance was handled like your health insurance. Instead of today's socialist system where local government provides fire protection as a public service, suppose you had to subscribe to a fire insurance plan with a for-profit company. How would that company treat you to maximize its profits?

XYZ Fire Service Customer Support: (recorded message) "Thank you for calling XYZ Fire Service. If this is a fire emergency, please press one, if this is a medical emergency, please press two."

Caller/Subscriber: (presses one)

XYZ: "Thank you, please wait why we connect you."

Caller: (listening to bad elevator music while call gets re-routed to call center in Mumbai, India.)

XYZ: (recorded message) "We're sorry, due to the unexpected high volume of calls, please stand by for the next available operator."

Caller: (listens to more bad elevator music while watching flames spread. 30 seconds later....)

XYZ: "XYZ Insurance, how can I help you?"

Caller: "My house is on fire and I need help now."

XYZ: "Yes sir, can I have your account number please?"

Caller: "My account number, my house is burning to the ground."

XYZ: "I understand sir, but I need to confirm you're a valid XYZ subscriber."

Caller: "Very well, it's 123-XXX-XXXX-XXXX."

XYZ: "Thank you sir, now where did the fire start?"

Caller: "In my kitchen, are you sending fire trucks yet?"

XYZ: "One moment sir. Did you say it started in the kitchen? Was this a stove fire?"

Caller: "Yes, my wife was cooking dinner when it started. It spread into the exhaust duct and into the attic."

XYZ: "Sir, XYZ Insurance considers stove fires to be consumer negligence. We also consider the fire in the duct work to be caused by a pre-existing condition, namely grease, and as a

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result we must rescind your policy at this time."

Caller: "What do you mean rescind? I've been paying you for over 15 years without a claim."

XYZ: "I do apologize sir, but if you check the fine print in your subscription contract, it's all spelled out there. If you feel you are being treated badly, here's our 800 number to register a complaint. 1-800-XXX-XXXX."

The house is now completely engulfed in flames.

Caller: "I can't believe you're cancelling my insurance just when I need it."

XYZ: XYZ deeply regrets your loss, but that is our policy. If there is nothing else, thank you for being a loyal XYZ Fire Insurance customer for all these years."

Caller: "Bastards!" (as he watches his home turn into ash.)

Meanwhile, the department gets a bonus for helping increase the insurance companies bottom line. The CEO received a \$10 million dollar bonus. The stock price keeps rising, and the company just bought a new jet to fly the Execs to the corporate retreat in the Cayman Islands.

The next time someone you know has been brain-washed by FOX (Faux News Channel) into railing against socialism, ask them how they would like to be the caller in our little story. Sound far fetched? This is exactly how the health insurance companies treat their customers.

If all else fails, suggest they visit the one country with no taxes, no government regulation, no government paid for infrastructure, and no limits on what a person can do. Welcome to the Libertarian paradise of Somalia. Armed street gangs, Warlords, Pirates, and no central government. The **Cato Institute** must be so proud.

Personally, I like socialistic programs like police, fire, roads and highways, and zoning. Not to mention government regulation for such socialistic ideals as clean air and water, safe transportation, food and drugs that don't kill you or make you sick. And when I finally retire, I will appreciate the two biggest socialism programs we have, namely Social Security and Medicare.

On a personal note: I visited with a friend of mine yesterday. His girlfriend (in her 50's) recently changed jobs. As a bridge until her health benefits kicked in with her new employer, she signed up for COBRA benefits. Yesterday, she received a letter in the mail from the COBRA provider canceling her benefits. It seems she screwed up on her first payment and was short \$0.02. That's right, TWO-CENTS!

Socialized Single Payer Health Care Now!

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Tip Jar (14+ / 0-)by [Vegas Dave](#) on [Thu Sep 17, 2009 at 02:18:20 PM PDT](#)**I think yo ubetter move (0+ / 0-)**

to a country that has socialism. not being mean but you may like it better there :-)

by [SABCT](#) on [Thu Sep 17, 2009 at 02:21:29 PM PDT](#)**You're kidding right? (6+ / 0-)**

Do you not get it? We are a socialized country. Police, fire, highways, government regulation to keep us safe. It's all socialism. Maybe you need to wake up or move to Somalia.

by [Vegas Dave](#) on [Thu Sep 17, 2009 at 02:26:06 PM PDT](#)[[Parent](#)]**me? (0+ / 0-)**

you are the one who is wanting socialism.??????

by [SABCT](#) on [Thu Sep 17, 2009 at 02:31:46 PM PDT](#)[[Parent](#)]**Is "socialism" a dirty word on Dkos now? (nt) (5+ / 0-)**by [kuronekoyama](#) on [Thu Sep 17, 2009 at 02:36:42 PM PDT](#)[[Parent](#)]**When it means NO private ownership? ABSOLUTELY... (1+ / 0-)**

Sorry, but what the vast majority of Kossacks advocates is, by definition, NOTHING close to what socialism actually is.

by [Thomas Paine Redux](#) on [Thu Sep 17, 2009 at 02:39:14 PM PDT](#)[[Parent](#)]**I think you need to take a trip across the pond. (7+ / 0-)**

I can honestly say that I've never met a single self-identified socialist who wants to abolish all private property. Sorry bud, but the definitions in the Merriam-Webster dictionary are not the be-all end-all meanings of political terminology.

If you're not talking about Medicare for All, you're not serious about health care reform.

by [New Deal Dem](#) on [Thu Sep 17, 2009 at 02:48:52 PM PDT](#)[[Parent](#)]**It's not just Merriam-Webster... (0+ / 0-)**

I studied under a federal judge and triple Ph.D. at IU - and both defined it the exact same way.

by [Thomas Paine Redux](#) on [Thu Sep 17, 2009 at 02:50:33 PM PDT](#)[[Parent](#)]**Terrific. (9+ / 0-)**

How about we just let the socialists tell us what they believe, OK? Check out the website of [Parti Socialiste](#), and let me know when you find the part about where they want to abolish all private property (I won't be holding my breath).

If you're not talking about Medicare for All, you're not serious about health care

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