

# THE ROANOKE TIMES

## Letter: The Roanoke Times uses a balanced approach

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### In response to a couple of items in the March 25 edition:

The first is William Adams' letter "The Roanoke Times is Socialist." If Mr. Adams truly believes that the mainstream press is spreading fake news and propaganda for the Left, or that Rush Limbaugh and Fox News are the *real* thing, then he is right in tune with our president, who is increasingly considered to be one of the most untruthful, disingenuous and untrustworthy leaders in our nation's history.

The Roanoke Times' more balanced approach is evidenced by the long op-ed from Angela Rachidi, who is a research fellow at the American Enterprise Institute. This "institute", along with other organizations like The Cato Institute, Americans for Prosperity, The Competitive Enterprise Institute, The Heritage Foundation, The Free Enterprise Institute, Freedom Works, The National Taxpayers Union and about 40 other high-sounding "institutions", including the Tea Party Movement, are all front organizations and propaganda outlets for the multibillionaire Koch brothers and their radical libertarian colleagues.

Koch industries are some of the worst polluters on the planet and David and Charles Koch are among the strongest deniers of climate change. Their goal is to replace our constitutional democracy with an oligarchy run by and for the major corporations in America. Along with the NRA, the Kochs virtually "own" the Republican Party and now have a very strong influence in the U.S. Supreme Court. The full story of how this came about and how serious is the threat to our nation can be read in a well-researched recent book "Democracy in Chains" by Nancy Maclean. Every thinking American should read it, especially its concluding chapter: "Get Ready."

I'll finish with an appropriate quote from President Harry Truman: "Something happens to Republican leaders when they get control of the Government. Republicans in Washington have a habit of becoming curiously deaf to the voices of the people. . . but they have no trouble at all hearing what Wall Street is saying. They are able to catch the slightest whisper from big business and the special interests."