01:00:03

Construction worker: That’s a good question, and I ask myself that too. Why can’t I be rich? Look at me, I’m dirty, I work 10-12 hours a day, I’m gonna take care of my family. At the– and– at the end of the week, I’m broke. People don’t even realize that we’re at war right now. We’re in a social war, a spiritual war, a economical war. We’re supposed to be workin’ together, you know. This is the United States of America.

[Rosemary Clooney “Get Happy”]

01:00:38

News commentator: This is such an American talking point.

Fox News commentator: Half of millennials favor socialism over capitalism. Jonathan, what is going on here?

Pence: Socialism

Hillary Clinton: Capitalism

MSNBC host: Socialism

Alex Jones: Capitalism

01:00:49

Mitch McConnell: I never thought that we’d be debating the virtues of capitalism in America.

Vox pop hat man: Capitalism is American. You work hard, you be rewarded. Do nothing and don’t be rewarded.

01:01:03

Vox pop sunglasses man: Socialism doesn’t work. It’s a proven fact.

Vox pop blue jacket girl: It’s kinda like a more mediocre version of communism, I think?

Pelosi town hall attendee: Do you think we could make a more stark contrast to right-wing economics?

Nancy Pelosi: Well I thank you for your question, uh, but I have to say, we’re capitalist.

01:01:31

News commentator: We’ve seen this increase in candidates identifying as democratic socialists this year.

AOC: In a modern society, people should have access to healthcare, education, housing.

News commentator: Americans are most likely to define it as meaning equality for everyone.

01:01:50

Vox pop white shirt guy: Socialism is evil. Definitely.

Vox pop black jacket girl: That’s a word I definitely hear a lot. I think it’s good?

Vox pop blue shirt guy: It saps people’s potential.

01:02:02

Tucker Carlson: What happened in Venezuela? They call that democratic socialism, but they don’t have socialism.

Summer Lee: People talk about socialism, they always say look at Venezuela. But when we talk about the failures of capitalism, no one ever says look at Braddock, look at Detroit.

01:02:17

Dan Bongino: Socialism is death, it’s despair, it’s starvation.

Sebastian Gorka: It’s like those zombies in those horror movies. It’s coming back.

Donny Deutsch: A socialist candidate is more dangerous to this country as far as the strength and wellbeing of our country than Donald Trump.

Trump: America will never be a socialist country.

01:03:04

Adaner VO: When we’re trying to think about the society that we think is a good society, we should imagine that we know nothing about who we would be. Whether we would be born rich or poor, black or white, man or woman. Whether we would be born of, say, above-average intelligence or maybe not so smart. We wouldn’t know anything about who we were.

01:03:33

Adaner VO: And a good society is a society that could meet the test that in that situation where we knew nothing about who we were, we would sign off on that society and say that is the kind of society that we would like to live in. I think what’s very clear to many of us now, increasingly, is that this society that we live in can’t pass that test.

Adaner on Camera: And the way I like to think about socialism is that socialism is a society that could pass that test.

01:04:02

Harry Truman: Socialism is a scare-word they’ve hurled at every advance that people have made in the past 20 years. Socialism is what they call the growth of free and independent labor organizations. Socialism is their name for almost anything that helps all the people.

01:04:21

Foner: Most socialists begin with a critique of inequality.

Foner: And the premise that this is not just an accident, but something that is essential to the nature of capitalism. And if you want to create more justice, more equality, you’re gonna have to fundamentally change the system in some way.

01:04:39

MLK: The problem is that we all too often have socialism for the rich and rugged, free-enterprise capitalism for the poor.

Keeanga: I think about socialism as the vast majority of people who work for a living in a given society ultimately making decisions about the direction of that society.

01:05:04

Bernie Sanders Archival: We believe in democracy. I mean, the problem with socialism is that very often it’s been equated with what happens in the Soviet Union which is authoritarianism and totalitarianism.

Cornel: The major socialist experiments for me have been failures. But I would argue that the major examples of capitalist civilizations have been failures too. Especially for poor people. Especially for black people, indigenous people, and others.

01:05:29

Vivek: On the other hand, all the taming and civilizing of capitalism that we’ve seen, through welfare state, through social democracy, things like the minimum wage, like free education, all of this has come from movements inspired by the socialist vision.

Nichols: One of the biggest mistakes that people make in America, when you talk about American socialism, is to imagine that you’ve gotta recreate something that happened in another country. Of course American socialism will be distinct. It will have its– its own characteristics.

AOC: To me, democratic socialism is the value that in a modern, moral, and wealthy society, no person in America should be too poor to live.

01:06:13

Stephanie: Hey Chayse? Hey, I need you to get Charlie some food, ok?

Stephanie: I’m a single mom and I have to work two jobs. And not really making enough to cover my basic expenses sometimes, with medications and everything else for him, it’s– it’s difficult.

Chayse: Please. Thank you!

01:06:43

Stephanie: I have national certification and a master’s degree. I worked so hard to walk across the stage with a degree. And sometimes I feel like I don’t have much to show for it.

Chayse: This way.

Stephanie: Mhmm.

Stephanie: It’s frustrating to have to make decisions between paying this bill right now or paying the other bill right now.

01:07:16

Stephanie: I work for an elementary school. I love it. I love what I do. I love the relationships that I get to build with, not just my students, the people that I work with, but the families of the students. Teachers are buying supplies out of our own pockets. We are teaching from textbooks that are too old. We are sitting in classrooms where our students are overcrowded, and we don’t have enough desks. Our government is not funding education.

01:07:51

On Screen: Oklahoma has severely cut public school funding in the past 10 years and ranks 48th in per-pupil spending.

On Screen: In 2018, Stephanie voted with 90% of Oklahoma teachers to strike for additional funding.

Stephanie: Are you nervous? I’m nervous. I’m excited, too. I’ve never participated in a strike before. We are fed up. We have to work together, we have to be united. If we can walk out and stay strong, then I’m hopeful.

01:08:34

CBS commentator: Hundreds of schools were closed today in Oklahoma and Kentucky.

CBS This Morning commentator: An estimated 36,000 teachers flooded the state capitol in Oklahoma city.

CBS: commentator: –and marched to the state capitol vowing to fight for better wages and more funding for their classrooms.

01:08:49

Rae: Whoo! Thank you!

01:09:20

Kshama: If you look at the world around us and you look at what could be possible with human ingenuity, and you compare it to what you have today, it is such a chasm that it, uh, it cannot be put into words. We know that five individuals own more wealth than the entire bottom half of the human population. More wealth than three and a half billion people. I don’t think people can even comprehend what that means.

01:10:05

Keeanga: Everything that the human race needs to perpetuate itself and thrive is becoming increasingly inaccessible to most people. Rents are rising at, like, 3% a year, far outpacing the rate of inflation. Jobs that are not just a living wage but allow people to live well are in short supply.

01:10:36

Karp: There is a tendency to think about my own place in the economy as just a solitary person. I make this much money and I have this many expenses. Maybe I’ll get rich, maybe I’ll become poor. And to the extent that we think economically as individuals, we don’t really understand how the economy works, we don’t really understand where power resides.

01:10:59

Blanc: It’s egregious in the United States that there’s so much wealth and that that’s not going towards types of services that, to be honest, in a lot of other capitalist countries, they provide for everybody. This isn’t pie in the sky to say that you provide a good public education, universal healthcare. These types of basic human rights need to be provided for.

01:11:15

Klein: The bargain has just been broken on so many levels. We live in this time of absolutely obscene private wealth. When it comes to getting lead out of pipes in public schools, when it comes to fixing public transit, when it comes to responding to the existential crisis of our time that is climate change, there’s just no money, no capacity.

01:11:36

Kshama: Capitalism is working just fine for capitalism. It’s not working for us if our goal is to create a humane society which harnesses the incredible productivity, resources, and technology to the benefit of all of humankind.

01:11:56

Nichols: There’s an awful lot of people who think that socialism sort of popped on the scene, you know, in the late 19th century around the time of Karl Marx. In fact, socialism was a live political ideology that was, at one of its most popular moments in American history, in the 1840s. And the people who settled here were a part of that.

01:12:24

Nichols: Back around 1843 a group of immigrants started having meetings in which they wanted to form a communal society where wealth was shared. They came and built communal houses, and they would argue about religion and politics and socialism. They believed in free-thought, many of them were vegetarians among other things, but at the core of it they literally argued for a democratic socialist vision, which was, everybody get involved in politics, take over the government, and then redistribute the land so that poor people had farms. And Ripon became a big deal.

01:12:59

Nichols: Radicals from around the country started to pay attention to it. One of them was a guy named Alvan Bovay, and he came to Ripon. It was Bovay who called the meeting at Little Schoolhouse here in town.

Museum guide Brian: We are in the Little White Schoolhouse museum in Ripon, Wisconsin. The people in Ripon decided that they would form a new political party that would outright oppose the expansion of slavery.

01:13:30

Nichols: People in places like Ripon had seen slavery, not in the context of the plantations of the south, but they had experience of the people who were fleeing from it and who were telling the stories of the– the horrific conditions on those plantations, the brutality of slavery, the racism that underpinned it, but also the economic injustice that underpinned it.

01:13:53

Nichols: So the people who gathered here had a deep moral sense that this had to end, that this had to change. That was the founding meeting of the Republican Party. When we talk about the history of socialism in America, uh, we certainly would say that the Socialist Party was founded by socialists. But we should also say that the Republican Party was founded by socialists.

01:14:19

Siri: In a quarter mile, turn right onto Hastings drive.

Lee: Number four with a coffee, cream, and sugar.

Drive-thru teller: Will that be all?

Lee: Uh yeah, that’ll be it.

01:14:40

Lee: In Virginia there are essentially 4 professions that dominate the legislature, or at least that did until the 2017 election. You’ve got doctors, lawyers, realtors, and retirees, because they’re the ones who have the money and the flexibility to be in Richmond for two months every year, um, and basically not get paid. The schedule for this was set back in 1619 when it was just tobacco plantation owners. It limits the involvement of working people. And so yeah, driving for Lyft is the only thing where I can just sort of pick it up when I can, you know, whenever the political schedule allows.

01:15:32

Lee: I decided to run for office after I got hurt at work. I saw really the– the worst of what can happen when the systems that are designed to protect working people fail us. I couldn’t walk more than about 50 feet at a stretch for two and a half months, had to deal with the workers’ compensation commission, and the treatment that I got from the workers’ comp commission and from my former employer, it just, you know, I was so angry at the end of it that I decided I have to– I have to run for something, I have to fix this. Well, I mean, first I tried to find someone else to fix it, no one was really interested, and then I decided I have to– I have to step forward and be the one to fix it myself. The first step is you google how to run for office [laughs]. Um, I’m not even kidding.

01:16:19

Lee ad: I’m running this campaign on a promise to not take a single dime of money from for-profit corporations or industry interest-groups. My name is Lee Carter and I’m in the Democratic Party’s nominee for the 50th District in the Virginia House of Delegates.

01:16:32

Lee: I campaigned really heavily on the influence of big money in politics, and I was able to tie that into just about every issue. I’m a proponent of single-payer healthcare. Talked about utility regulation, ‘cause that’s always a big topic in Virginia.

01:16:48

Amy Goodman: We’re joined by Lee Carter, a socialist veteran of the US Marine Corps, who unseated the majority whip of the Virginia House. How did you do it?

Lee: Yeah, so we knew from day one that going up against a member of Republican Party leadership in the South was going to be, uh, an uphill battle. So we knew that there was no way we were gonna be able to spend more money than him. So we tried intentionally to avoid a fundraising arms race.

01:17:19

Lee: C’mon in. This is our campaign office, as you can see, bare patches on the wall, exposed wiring, like it’s not– it’s not fancy at all. It was what we needed, and what we needed was just a space where we could have people come in and we could organize canvasses. Break room in here with a thrift store couch and a thrift store fridge and a thrift store microwave. This is Tom, my legislative aid, say hi Tom.

Tom: Hi.

01:17:42

Lee: On the weekends, that’s when the army of volunteers would come in here and we had DSA, we had the local Democratic Party, we had Sierra Club, Indivisible, Let America Vote which is an anti-gerrymandering group, and Planned Parenthood, and NARAL, and, you know, so on down the line.

01:17:59

Lee: This is the mailer that my opponent sent out to, as best as I can tell, around 11 thousand homes in the district. It’s Marx, Engels, Lenin, Stalin, Mao, and me. It’s from another era entirely. For people of a certain age, that stuck, and uh, but, you know, I’m 30, I was born in ‘87. I don’t remember the Berlin Wall falling. So, you know, that– the red scare, you know, anybody who uses the big scary s-word is automatically Stalin, just doesn’t work. It doesn’t work anymore.

01:18:35

Vivek: Capitalism is an economic system. It’s a way to organize the production of goods and services. Now, capitalism has not always been around. It’s actually a pretty recent mutation.

VO: Through most of human history you’d wake up on land you had free access to, where you’d produce, hunt, or gather whatever you needed to survive. The longest, most stable form of social organization has been small bands, hunter-gatherer societies. And they were fundamentally egalitarian. They tended to share everything. No one privately owned the land. As hunter-gatherers accumulated surpluses, they became more hierarchical. That is, those with more food and goods had more power. And they settled into more permanent places, taking up farming.

01:19:26

VO: But even as these societies flourished, there wasn’t an immediate shift to private ownership of land. That emerged thousands and thousands of years later. Under Feudalism, farmers had rights to the land but had to give up a part of their produce in exchange for military protection. Think of this as kind of a rent, handed over to the people above them. This new class of landlords were aristocrats, emperors, nobles, priests. People who did very little physical labor, and lived off what other people produced for them.

01:20:02

VO: To further consolidate power, in the 1500s northern Europe, the landowning class began evicting people who worked on the land. They claimed the right not just to their produce but also to the land itself. Once that happened, the farmers could no longer produce their own food or live independently. They had now to work for others. That’s how you get capitalism.

01:20:25

VO: From there, you get the modern economic system, in which a small group, the capitalists, now employ the vast majority of people, the working class. Because this capitalist minority owns the factories, the tools, and the land necessary to produce whatever people need to survive, everyone else has to end up offering their labor to earn a wage. This is all to say that capitalism is far from being inevitable. It’s a product of human endeavor, and a relatively recent one. So maybe we can endeavor to produce a better system.

01:21:01

Aronoff: Capitalism is an operating system for society which says that we need to accumulate as much as possible so that we can continue producing things. To continue generating profits and to reinvest those profits into making more profits. That has meant, historically, that those profits flow inordinately to a very small group of people, because they are the folks who we sort of trust to make these investment decisions, to continue sort of growing the economy.

01:21:30

Cornel West: Capitalism will mobilize anything in order to maximize its profits. Modern capitalist civilizations are predicated on the dispossession of the land of indigenous peoples and the enslavement of precious Africans.

Keeanga: We live in a country that was built on slave labor. The U.S. would not exist without slave labor in any meaningful way.

01:22:02

Karp: On the eve of the Civil War there was more money invested in Southern slaves, in the ownership of 4 million human beings, than in all of the banks, factories, and railroads in the North combined. The people who controlled the economy were merchants who were directly connected to the cotton economy – an economic aristocracy both North and South that had a vested interest in maintaining this system that rested on the exploited labor of slaves. When you have a ruling class that occupies something like 1% of the population, which slaveholders did in the 1850s, and they can bend the economy to their own purposes, in order to challenge that power, significant economic transformation has to be involved.

01:22:47

Karp: Marx was very interested in American politics. Marx contributed hundreds of columns to the New York Tribune, ‘cause I mean the Tribune was the largest newspaper and circulated widely.

Foner: Karl Marx wrote to Lincoln during the war and said that working class people all around the world support the Union, support the abolition of slavery.

01:23:10

Foner: So Lincoln wrote back about the bond between working people. He, I think, appreciated the expression of support from a working man’s organization. Marx felt the abolition of slavery was a major step forward for society and towards socialism. Among other reasons, it w– it showed you could actually abolish a major form of property, you know, with no compensation, no monetary compensation to the owners.

01:23:39

Karp: During the Civil War, the emancipation of 4 million American slaves represented probably the largest transfer of wealth in human history at that point. You don’t have to go searching for radical revolutions all around the history of the world when, you know, we had one of the most radical right here in the United States.

01:23:58

Adaner: The reason that society changes is not because ideas are good or ideas are bad. The reason society changes is because powerful people are forced to make concessions when people who otherwise don’t have power stand up.

01:24:13

Crowd: We’re not going to take it–

01:24:48

Stephanie: This list shows us people who have voted against public ed. Basically vouchers, expanding charters, cutting income taxes, consolidation, um, decreasing the GPT. So all of this is in one place for us to figure out who we need to talk to about changing that.

01:25:10

Capitol speaker: Welcome to Oklahoma.

Teachers: [cheering]

Capitol speaker 2: Guests in the gallery, please maintain order as we are able to conduct the business.

01:25:25

Scott Inman: We’ve got thousands of teachers who’ve come to this building demanding answers. They saw what happened last Monday. They wanted to know what the solution was to address the nearly $200 million worth of budget cuts over the last decade. And so today I come to you asking you to honor the commitment that you made to many of those teachers when they stood in your office over the last 4 or 5 hours. When you told them, “I’ll do anything I can.” Well you had your chance to take care of it and you didn’t do that.

01:25:56

Stephanie: Seeing you guys stand up for us was amazing because I feel like that’s not–

Scott Inman: Yeah.

Stephanie: It’s– we shouldn’t have to fight this hard.

Scott Inman: You shouldn’t. The fight’s gotta continue, and now’s the time. We’ve gotta strike while the iron’s hot.

Stephanie: We’ll be here every day.

Scott Inman: But you got– you gotta keep the foot on because–

Stephanie: No we will be here every day until it stops. I’m tired of it. Thank you.

Scott Inman: Nice to meet you–

Stephanie: I appreciate your time.

Scott Inman: Thanks for coming.

01:26:21

Blanc: Withholding your labor is the single most effective way to create a crisis for the bosses you work for or the government. Because when you don’t go to work, the system doesn’t function. And so that ability to create a crisis, to create leverage to force your employers to meet your demands is what the strike does.

Protester: When healthcare justice is under attack, what do we do?

Marching protesters: Stand up, fight back!

01:26:45

Foner: Unions give workers a voice. They give them a voice about their working conditions, about pay, about discrimination, about sexual harrassment, all sorts of things. No individual worker has any standing at all when it comes to corporate employers.

01:27:06

Ricardo: Conventional businesses, they are legally required to maximize shareholder return. And if they are not doing that, then the shareholders can sue the board of directors or the CEO to get their profit. We need an entire shift of our economy, but a fundamental part of that is worker-ownership. Once we have workers in control of the businesses that they are in every day, then they can start making different decisions about how those businesses are run.

01:27:35

Wolff: The central feature of socialism and its difference from capitalism is you could organize the workplace democratically. We vote for mayors and governors and presidents, but we go to work 5 days a week, we cross the threshold in the factory, the office, or the store, and we cede all power to a tiny group of people whose names we often don’t even know, who make the decisions that are in every way more crucial to our lives.

01:28:04

Ricardo: In the United States, there’s somewhere between 400 and 600 worker cooperatives. There’s a large proportion of worker cooperatives in the retail industry, so cafes, grocery stores. There’s construction cooperatives, there’s home-care cooperatives, house cleaning cooperatives, research and design cooperatives. More participation from workers actually benefits the bottom line.

01:28:42

DiCarlo: Every morning, about 30 minutes, no matter if I’m off or not, every day, just kinda get the wrinkles out, crease the arms, make sure the collar is crisp. I’m a worker-owner, so I am an employee, but I’m also an owner. It makes me more excited to work because I’m involved.

01:29:24

DiCarlo: At my previous job before coming to work for Evergreen, I couldn’t see a beginning and end to it. It was just come, do a specific job and go home. Here if you do so much work, you could drive up the profit. If you have so much profit at the end of your fiscal year, you get a check.

01:29:49

McMicken: The genesis of Evergeen started with an economic development strategy, initially to just create jobs. It was part of an attempt to lean on large enterprises who spend a lot of money each year on goods and services, who are here to stay.

McMicken: There was something north of $2 billion a year being spent outside the state of Ohio, and in some cases outside the country. And so Evergreen was designed to give these larger businesses options to buy local.

01:30:22

Brett Jones: Here a coop is, it’s a collective of people who democratically and collectively own our operating companies. Everybody has a share, everybody has one vote.

DiCarlo: Most jobs wouldn’t just share their financials with their employee. Here is, you see it from the top to the bottom.

Brett: Working in coops absolutely changes culture, it changes lives. Because you’re sharing profits, you sort of share workload, you share responsibility. The culture shift is, hey, how can I be more helpful to this person working on the other side of me.

01:31:09

Ricardo: By flattening out systems of accountability and management and governance, we can start to see a transformation in both the workplace itself and also the individuals themselves.

DiCarlo: The foundation of the coop’s mission statement is to build wealth and, you know, financial stabilities. I’m a first-time homeowner thanks to Evergreen and last month, I just paid off the house so I don’t– I don’t owe a mortgage anymore. I just pay yearly taxes.

Ricardo: When you’re talking about the benefits of owning a business and creating more opportunity for more people to own businesses and to have control over their lives, if that’s not American I don’t know what is.

01:32:07

Cornel: There’s a long tradition of American socialists. We can begin with I pledge allegiance to the flag, every American child says it. Written by a democratic socialist. America the Beautiful written by Katherine Lee Bates, democratic socialist. Helen Keller. Walt Whitman. John Dewey. Martin Luther King, Jr. James Baldwin called himself a socialist. W.E.B. Du Bois. Albert Einstein. Socialist to the core. We can go on and on and on. Socialism is as American as apple pie.

Nichols: If you look at the history of socialism in America, what you will find is that every time things got a little bit tough and unpredictable, suddenly people start to think seriously about socialism. The railroad has arrived, or new models for industrialization. All sorts of changes.

01:33:01

Donna Haverty-Stacke: An organized labor movement in the United States really began in the latter part of the 19th century, largely in response to intense and widespread changes that were happening. 35,000 people a year dying in workplace accidents in the 1890s. There are no workplace safety standards, there’s no government regulation, and there’s experimentation with new machinery and new equipment and trying to speed it up. That great leap in American manufacturing is, yes, due to the brains and the ingenuity of captains of industry, but it’s also on the backs and out of the blood and sweat of a lot of these workers. Many of them joined these industrial unions but those unions become close allies with what becomes the Socialist Party of the United States in 1901, the party of Eugene Debs.

01:33:54

Foner: Well Eugene Debs was the most prominent American socialist of the early 20th century. Labor union activists even who were not socialists respected Debs for his labor militancy and his reputation as a great labor leader. He ran for president a number of times as a socialist. He felt that the emerging industrial order was simply wrong, it was intolerable, it was un-Christian and it needed to be changed. He somehow united– all the different factions and groups that became socialist all loved Debs. He spoke the language of American society.

01:34:43

Foner: Debs received 900,000 votes when he ran for president in 1912. But the configuration of the electorate was much more radical than just Debs’ vote would show. Roosevelt’s platform was to the left of Bernie Sanders. He didn’t call himself a socialist. But he was calling for everything from unemployment insurance to a national health service, to real controls over the corporations. And then you had Wilson running as a liberal on the left. Not– not quite as radical as Theodore Roosevelt but cer– again, running against the corporations. Socialism was sort of a left-wing of progressivism. I–it was an umbrella for all sorts of groups.

01:35:34

DHS: These socialists very much saw their political ideology of socialism as connecting with their understanding of Americanism. They didn’t see a disconnect. The language of liberty, of freedom, of self-rule expressed in the Declaration of Independence they see really only being fully realized when it is brought to the economic sector.

01:36:03

Nichols: This country’s had socialism in corners of power, politically, winning elections, but also giving counsel and advice and ideas throughout our history. Many people are surprised to know that a whole bunch of places across America had socialist mayors. And a disproportional number of them were in the upper midwest.

01:36:34

Nichols: This is Garden Homes Park, and we’re in the kind of near Northwest side of Milwaukee, Wisconsin. At least one of the American models of socialism came from this place. It was the first municipally sponsored housing project in– in the US. If you look around this park, you’ll see dozens of really lovely homes. And these are homes that were built almost a hundred years ago. And they were built by socialists. In the midst of WWI, a guy named Dan Hoan was elected mayor of Milwaukee. He was a true socialist, a very dedicated socialist. It was about clean water, clean air, good housing, parks.

01:37:18

Anita: In Wisconsin, they called the socialism sewer socialism. And they called it that because when the socialists here were in office, they were very practical. They were, um, prudent, they were planners.

Nichols: Hoan’s vision was so successful that in the 1930s, Milwaukee was regularly rated the best-run city in America, the healthiest city in America.

Aims:  People in Milwaukee for most of the 20th century had an extraordinary faith in the possibilities of democratic government to do good.

01:38:03

News announcer: October 29, 1929, black Tuesday. The New York Stock Exchange is in a panic.

Wolff: In the 1930s, you had a depression. It made the mass of the American working class suffer terribly. And they demanded help.

Klein: The original New Deal was not one thing. It was a decade-long process and struggle. You’re talking about jobs, you’re talking about infrastructure, you’re talking about inequality. Policies were proposed, the people in the streets demanded more, there was pushback from industry, there was more push from labor.

01:38:52

Aronoff: The goal of the New Deal was to say there are all these people who need relief, we need a sort of federal apparatus which can provide that relief and bring the economy out of a depression. Federal government has a huge role to play in getting us out of this crisis.

Wolff: They did all kinds of things that socialists typically advocate. They provided a social security system, which we never had before. They provided the first minimum wage. They set up unemployment compensation. They gave public jobs, millions of them, to people who would otherwise have been destitute. They did classical socialist things. That went a long way to change the level of inequality because it helped the people at the bottom.

01:39:39

Performer: You and you and you and you, you’ve got a president now. He gave the land a New Deal. You hold the cards now you deal. You and you and you and you put shoulders to the plough. He gave us what we asked for, now pay him back somehow!

01:39:56

Nichols: Franklin Roosevelt, he saw the scorching reality of the Great Depression. He knew he needed ideas. Before he took office, he invited the Socialist Party candidate for president to come talk to him.

Aims: From socialists’ perspective, Franklin Delano Roosevelt’s New Deal, the Democratic Party steals a lot of ideas from the Socialist Party. They prove enormously successful.

01:40:21

Wolff: The problem in capitalism is, so long as you leave that system there, it undoes what can be occasionally achieved. Which is why, as a socialist, I can’t in good conscience go to the mass of the American people today and say, let’s have a big struggle for, and then run another set of reforms. We’ve been there. We’ve done that. That doesn’t work! Not that it doesn’t work for a while, but it doesn’t endure! It doesn’t last for us and it sure as hell isn’t there for our children.

01:40:55

Lee: It’s, um, kinda isolating being the only person from your ideological perspective in a legislative body. You know, there’s a hundred people and there’s 99 of them that aren’t socialists. But, uh, doin’ what I can.

Councilmember: Thank you Mr. Chairman, members of the committee. I have two bills up for the committee this morning.

Lee: I’m trying to upend the political establishment because it’s failing the people that live in my district. I’m an invader here.

01:41:39

Lee: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Uh, I expressed some concern about the House version of this bill when it came through, and my concerns have not gone away. Even though I understand that it’s– it’s a good faith effort to try to help combat poverty in some very impoverished areas in Virginia, I believe it relies on a very deeply flawed mechanism. It– it may make the locality look richer on paper. It’ll look like you’ve done something about poverty.

01:42:04

Lee: But at the end of the day, if this does what– what has happened in Northern Virginia, what will happen in Southwest and Southside and the Eastern Shore, and particularly, I think Petersburg is particularly susceptible to this. You won’t have any poor people in those localities anymore, but it won’t be because you’ve helped the poor people, it’s because you’ve moved them to other localities.

01:42:26

Tom: A member of our own party flashed a, uh, hammer and sickle behind us.

Lee: Yeah. Lovejoy’s gonna spend a lot of money and put it on TV. It was on the fucking livestream. It’s archived. State records.

Tom: Yeah. I know. Comparing you to dictators for caring about poor people. That’s the funny part. You care about poor people, and people call you a Communist.

Lee: [sighs]

01:43:13

Foner: I– I think the idea that socialism is a foreign import, an alien idea in the United States, it really is a product of the Cold War. Or you might say the long Cold War which began really with the Russian revolution and of course accelerated tremendously after WWII. Where socialism was equated with the Soviet Union and the United States was in this, you know, worldwide battle and therefore it seemed like a foreign and hostile ideology.

01:43:40

DHS: There is intense reaction against the political Left, anxiety over the existence of the Communist Party and its ties to Moscow, its connections to labor organizations. The fear being that the communists in the labor movement would use those unions to disrupt production, stage a general strike, and then that would be the first step in the overthrow of the government.

01:44;06

Blanc: Historically, in the United States and elsewhere, the labor movement has been most successful when there was also a strong socialist movement, and the socialist movement has been most successful when there was a strong labor movement. The two things have always gone hand in hand at their best. Unfortunately in the United States, that was broken very severely by McCarthyism in the 1950s.

01:44:26

DHS: The Taft-Hartley Act was passed in 1947. And so the Taft-Hartley act specifically targeted Communists but tarred anybody on the left. Then ultimately the unions are weakened. There’s the House of Unamerican Activities Committee in Congress that is revived here in the McCarthy period.

01:44:45

Archival Film Interrogator: Are you a member of the Communist Party or have you ever been a member of the Communist Party?

Archival Film Person in courtroom: I wish to repeat–

[Gavel sound]

Archival Film Interrogator: Next witness.

01:44:59

Anita: Joseph McCarthy was creating havoc in the national scene. He was a Senator from Wisconsin. And the interesting thing is, my dad said he never attacked him personally. But just the fact that he was red-baiting and there were a lot of people who supported him made it very uncomfortable.

01:45:24

Aims: Milwaukee, as a city, could still elect a person who called himself a socialist at the beginning of the Cold War. By 1956, that’s becoming increasingly difficult. And the persecution of the Left under McCarthyism is extremely oppressive. Another really important part of the story is the role of racism in Milwaukee. In the early 1950s there’s a large increase in Milwaukee’s African-American population, as increasing numbers of African-Americans migrate from the US south. And this poses white Milwaukeeans and other Milwaukeeans in the city as well with the question. Will they be willing to share what in many ways is a remarkable city with these relative newcomers?

01:46:22

Anita: My dad was really, really good at getting people to work together. All he was ever worried about was, how can I make life better for the people of Milwaukee? In 1951, for example, he built low-income housing. And my father insisted that it be integrated. That was the end of building any more low-income housing.

Aims: And so opponents of socialism, the real estate industry, the tavern and alcohol industry, the financial industry, sectors of the economy that are already opposed to Frank Zeidler and any form of socialism. They take advantage of this racism and they exploit it to erode this larger commitment to public services. That kind of socialist vision of a city that could be shared by everyone.

01:47:26

Foner: By the time of the Civil Rights movement, socialism was a completely different thing in America.

Keeanga: What is interesting is the way that black radicals helped to create a framework for understanding black oppression.

Cornel: They always saw the intimate connection between the struggle against white supremacy and the struggle against class subordination, class exploitation.

01:47:56

Keeanga: It wasn’t just the March on Washington or some Civil Rights March. It was the March for Jobs and Freedom. If African Americans did not have an economic foundation to stand upon, then they could not actually be free people who participated in a meaningful way in American society.

Foner: King was a radical. And we forget that every Martin Luther King Day. All we know is one speech of King’s. Sometimes it’s just one sentence of King’s: I want my children to be judged not by the color of their skin but the content of their character. That’s not the whole King.

01:48:38

MLK: Now I believe we ought to do all we can and seek to lift ourselves by our own bootstraps. But it’s a cruel jest to say to a bootless man that he ought to lift himself by his own bootstraps. And many negroes by the thousands and millions have been left bootless as a result of all these years of oppression and as a result of a society that deliberately made his color a stigma and something worthless and degrading.

01:49:06

Foner: King became more and more radical as time went on. He was organizing a poor people’s march on Washington. He was calling for fundamental changes in the economic system.

King: One day we must ask the question, why are there 40 million poor people in America? When you begin to ask that question, you’re raising a question about the economic system, about a broader distribution of wealth. When you ask that question, you begin to question the capitalistic economy.

01:49:40

Keeanga: I think that he had come to the conclusion that in many ways, the system as it was currently constructed had gone as far as it could go.

Cornel: People don’t want to come to terms with the radical King. But these are the kinds of realities and facts that are often hidden and concealed.

01:50:01

Adaner: In the 1960s the Civil Rights Movement was a major force in American politics. You only get those things when you have people out demanding those things. So I think what socialists have to reassert is the idea that the state and the government are both in our control, and that they exist to serve some really important social functions. They exist to make our society fair and just.

01:50:33

Lee: One of the things that I didn’t expect coming down here was the way that corporate influence works. The structure of state governments is set up to isolate legislators from anybody other than businesses. Every single event is sponsored by somebody. Most of the people in the building are lobbyists for for-profit corporations.

01:51:06

Man in suit Lobbyist: [inaudible]

Lee: Of course! I was undecided, like I–

Man in suit Lobbyist: Were you really?

Lee: Yeah, yeah. I couldn’t make up my mind on it until–

Man in suit Lobbyist: Yeah.

Lee: –until the board came up and I was like, alright, I gotta push one button [laughs].

Man in suit Lobbyist: I appreciate your consideration.

Lee: Of course.

01:51:18

Lee: What you end up with is a system where the only voices in the ear of legislators are from one ideological perspective. There are folks that are at the top of our current economic structure that are desperate to stay there. And they’re gonna fight back against any attempt to change that.

01:51:46

Lee in Legislative session: You know, there is a fairly common phrase that blue-collar workers in the building trades use, which is if you fall off a ladder you’re fired before you hit the ground. This bill seeks to end that so that folks know that if they are hurt on the job where they put their bodies on the line day in and day out, um, that they will not be retaliated against simply for getting hurt and exercising their legal rights.

01:52:20

Lee: I brought 12 bills this year. They were pretty varied. So I had a bill dealing with coal-ash recycling. I had a bill about pedestrian safety. No progress on any of them. Down the line, every– every single issue. They didn’t even really have to give a reason why. They just– they said we oppose these bills. If there’s a disconnect between the actual policy and what could benefit people, there’s almost always a large political contributor in the middle.

Lee in session: Thank you.

01:53:03

Lee: I think it’s telling that I didn’t get a single Republican vote on anything. You know, I’m the only socialist in the chamber, and, you know, they– they think that they can get the seat back, and so one of the attacks that they want to use is that I’m ineffective. They’ve decided Lee Carter isn’t gonna pass any bills, and then they’re gonna attack me for not passin’ any bills.

01:53:35

Alicia Priest: We need to face reality. No significant legislative movement since last Friday.

Stephanie: Exactly.

Alicia Priest: OEA leadership has been negotiating in good faith with House and Senate. Senate Republicans won’t budge an inch on any more revenue for public education. They say they don’t believe Oklahoma students need more funding, and they’re wrong. So while the walkout is ending today and we’re going back to school, we are not just giving up and going home.

01:54:16

Stephanie: Yes, we are.

Alicia Priest: Instead, we are moving on to the next phase in our ongoing effort.

01:54:36

Stephanie: I don’t feel like it was time to quit. I feel like when I’m being told– we’re at a stalemate because these people won’t do anything, we have to keep pushing. Because when in life things get hard, you can choose to push through them or you can choose to sit down. And I d–. And I– believe me, if we all stood up together and there was somebody to say, like, we need to do this, then it might be different. But I feel like maybe I need to say we need to do this. I’m ready to shake some shit up. I mean, I don’t know how else to say that, but I’m ready to, um, make some changes.

01:55:44

Nichols: We had an unrecorded– or under-recorded democracy revolution in America in the aftermath of WWII. We enacted a Civil Rights Act and a Voting Rights Act. We also passed a constitutional amendment to eliminate the poll tax. And then we began a process of giving voting rights to 18-21 year olds.

01:56:04

Cornel: Very strong social movements of black people in the south, students on college campuses, women awakening, and more and more gay and lesbian and trans awakening. These social movements are crucial. But the repression went hand in hand with that as well.

Aschoff: The 70s is a decade of crisis. Political crisis, social crisis, economic crisis. What happens is you just get this about-face kind of dismantling period, and restructuring period.

01:56:40

Reagan: Government is not the solution to our problem. Government is the problem.

W. Bush: Read my lips. No new taxes.

Crowd: [cheering]

Clinton: The era of big government is over.

01:56:56

Wolff: I had been taught, and we were teaching that the Great Depression of the 1930s was a cataclysm, understood, and it had taught us these lessons because now we knew how to make sure that didn’t happen again. Therefore the society completely unprepared for it happening again.

01:57:24

Wolff: From 1820 to 1970, wages rose in America. After that, they didn’t. We made Americans a new class of pioneers. This time they weren’t in the covered wagons going across the prairie. This time the American working class became the pioneer that took on more personal debt than any working class in the history of the world has ever taken on. Mortgage debt, car payment debt, credit card debt, student debt. Which means the American people, in addition to having low wages, now have a burden of debt they can’t cope with. Of course this house of cards collapses.

01:58:06

Newscaster: Not in generations has Wall Street absorbed the number of body blows it took today.

Brian Williams: The American financial system is rocked to its foundation as top Wall Street institutions topple under a mountain of debt.

Art Cashin: This is the– the fifth time we’ve seen this movie. And you sit on the edge of your seat and you yell at whichever character it is, don’t go into that wood shed. But they keep going in!

Newscaster: Bailing out Wall Street is the only way to save Main Street. So says the president.

01:58:35

GW Bush: Despite corrections in the marketplace and instances of abuse, democratic capitalism is the best system ever devised.

News interviewee: As one of nearly 47 million of us lacking healthcare, it horrifies me that this country will put $700 billion to pay off Wall Street but we don’t count. People who are losing their homes don’t count.

01:58:59

Bernie archival: People go to these banks, news reporters go and say tell us what you’re doing with this money. And the banks say oh, well thank– we thank the public very much for bailing us out but we don’t want to tell you what we’re doing with the money. Are you using this money to lend out to small businesses and create jobs? None of your business! I think that there is an outrage on the part of the people that is not necessarily perceived in Congress.

01:59:21

Protesters: Banks got bailed out! We got sold out! Banks got bailed out! We got sold out!

Kshama: When you look at the rise of the Occupy Movement, it happened because the 2008 recession had happened, and the message from all the powers that be was that it was time for all of us to pull together, share sacrifice. But what did people actually experience? People experienced that the Wall Street power brokers, the initiators of this crisis, they got rewarded. What were the rest of us left with? The standards of living that were lost in the economic collapse have not been replicated again.

02:00:06

Adaner: We started to think of the state and government as entities that are out there and that simply exist to dip into our pockets and take money from us. But actually, the state and the government, they’re just us. They’re fundamentally people that we elect and people that we control. And they are the way in which we organize our society and we choose to organize our society.

02:00:54

Doug Burgum: Uh, good morning everybody and happy anniversary!

Audience: [clapping]

Burgum: About a hundred years ago some people came together to try to solve a really big problem. And over the past hundred years, the Bank of North Dakota has been playing that critical, critical role.

Jacobs: The Bank of North Dakota is the state of North Dakota doing business as a bank. It is controlled by the people. The taxpayers are essentially the owners of the Bank. The publisher of the Grand Forks Herald, my predecessor, excoriated the legislature as having basically taken a giant step toward socialism. Sure, it’s socialistic, but it’s not un-American.

02:01:44

Junker: North Dakota didn't have a banking community in the early nineteen hundreds. It just didn't exist in the state. And so all of the banks that were lending to North Dakota farmers were from Minnesota and they were charging 12 percent interest rate. And so the Bank of North Dakota was created to fill a void. And it's done that beyond the founders' wildest dreams.

Jacobs: North Dakotans did not rally to ideological socialism. They rallied to a practical solution to a problem.

02:02:17

Junker: The mission of the private bank is to create shareholder value. That's its goal. Hence, the more you can charge for a product, the more you will charge. Just because the people you owe are the people who are who are holding your shares. In the Bank of North Dakota, that's not the goal. The goal is not to lose money, but the goal is to serve the community.

02:02:43

Junker: In the mid 20s, that agricultural depression set in, and so all of a sudden you had the bank making loans and farmers not being able to repay those loans. What the Bank of North Dakota did that private banks didn't do during the depression is, when the economy started to turn around, the Bank of North Dakota had held onto the farms and they gave the original owners the first right of refusal to buy their farms back. That was just an amazing decision that the bank took to try to protect the farms and the farmers.

02:03:18

Junker: The bank in North Dakota made the first federally insured student loan in the nation. And in fact, I'm a recipient of the Bank of North Dakota College student loans, all paid back. The Bank of North Dakota, it could make more money buying luxury condominiums as opposed to helping single family home buyers in North Dakota. But it doesn't. It doesn't have to. It rather provides a service to the state. The public bank is only successful to the extent that the citizens are successful.

02:03:54

Jacobs: Every state has its heroes, its traditions, its beauty spots, and its tourist attractions, but only North Dakota has its bank.

Jacobs: I don’t think it’s worth arguing about whether or not it is socialism. It clearly is. I guess labels are important, but I think people should understand, it’s not an anti-democratic idea if your constitution, your legislature, and your voters say it’s ok.

02:04:27

Bernie: Healthcare in America must be a right, not a privilege.

Crowd: [cheering]

John Pearson: The role of government is to help us organize together to get basic– the basic things that we need, and to set some standards for how we all agree we want to treat each other. I think healthcare should be in the public sector without question.

02:04:50

Rebecca Wood: Our healthcare system is broken. It’s time we look to single-payer healthcare as a way of ensuring that families aren’t faced with impossible choices.

Pearson: When your heart is failing, when you need an appointment, uh, when you have some kind of deadly disease, we shouldn’t be worrying about what kind of funding you have or don’t have. We should just be worried about your healthcare. In the public sector, there’s accountability to the public. And in the private sector there’s not. There’s only accountability to whoever is the private owner.

02:05:22

Pearson: There’s no obligation to provide all the healthcare that is needed. It’s a predictable thing that people will get sick. The idea of insurance is a good idea. You’re preparing ahead of time for risks that you can predict. We can think about having a Medicare-for-all single-payer type system as basically all of us together having one giant insurance policy that’s democratically controlled rather than controlled by people in private industry.

02:05:55

CNBC reporter: There are more than a thousand cases in the United States that have been detected.

CBS reporter: 56,000 people have died nationwide.

ABC reporter: The death toll in the USnow officially topping 110,000.

CBS reporter: More than 2 million Americans have tested positive for the coronavirus. More than 112,000 of them have died.

02:06:14

Pearson: This is a predictable global crisis that we’re in, right? This is not a complete surprise. There have been lots of prediction, at some point we’re going to have a pandemic, gosh it might be something viral, it might be airborne like the flu. The COVID-19 pandemic makes really obvious the problems that already exist in our healthcare system. Where I work, we already had a huge problem with not having enough nurses and other healthcare workers. We already had a huge problem of not enough hospital beds, not enough equipment, not enough training.

02:06:48

Pearson: What it shows about our healthcare system is that it’s not set up to provide healthcare as its primary goal. It’s set up to make money for the healthcare industry. There’s so much wealth, so much intelligence and smarts and inventiveness and entrepreneurship and all that in this country but we can’t provide this really basic stuff for ourselves. Like, you know, if we were one person it’s kind of like we can’t take care of ourselves, we can’t brush our teeth, we can’t take a shower. We’re not doing some really basic stuff that we need to do to take care of ourselves. And it– that– it doesn’t sit right with me.

02:07:29

Vivek: The biggest cost now that we confront with capitalism is, it might actually destroy the possibility of human life. It’s a system based on an unending, unceasing pursuit of profit. Of producing ever more, throwing more and more stuff out there. No matter what the ecological cost. No matter whether we find ways of disposing of the stuff or not. And the actual strain on the planet is now coming to a point where the human species is in danger.

02:08:06

AOC: Our greatest existential threat is climate change. And so to get us out of this situation, to revamp our economy, to create dignified jobs for working Americans, to guarantee healthcare and elevate our educational opportunities and attainment, we will have to mobilize our entire economy around saving ourselves and taking care of this planet.

02:08:30

Kshama: You have a situation where there is no possibility of moving away from fossil fuels. Why? Because the wealth in the oil industry is owned by a few billionaires who have no incentive to move towards renewable energy. It’s not because they have low-IQ and they don’t get the science of climate change. Of course not, they get it completely. But it’s not in their interest.

02:08:54

Klein: Within the structure of any fossil fuel sector, you have the central problem of capitalism, which is the addiction to growth and profits. We have companies like Exxon and Shell who have been doing their own research for decades about the reality of climate change. They knew exactly that they– their core product was in the process of warming the planet and would do so catastrophically. But they didn’t stop. In fact, they doubled down, they spread misinformation and lies and funded the whole apparatus of climate-change denial. The truth is that we cannot have a lifestyle that is based on limitless growth and endless consumption and have a so-called sustainable way of life, because we live on a finite planet.

02:09:48

Aronoff: The estimate that has been made is that something like ten trillion dollars of wealth is bound up in fossil fuels. That is a massive part of the global economy. That is a huge amount of money.

Matt: The crisis over climate today, and the threat of global warming, and the threat of ecological catastrophe requires both a social movement, and ultimately a political movement that will transform the economy in a way that was very similar to the abolitionist movement. Not just constricting the power of fossil fuels, but transforming the entire political economy so that it works for average citizens, as opposed to large corporations, and CEOs, and the people at the top.

02:10:32

Klein: It’s possible to design a society, an economy that is based on meeting people's most pressing needs, that is also grounded in the need to protect the natural systems on which all of life depends.

Aronoff: I mean I think the role of socialists, if we do start to see capitalism really responding to the crisis, is to push forward equity. Because if capitalism responds to this crisis, it will respond in a way that protects profits, it will not respond in a way that protects people. Who gets to live. That’s the defining question of climate politics, right, is who gets to survive?

02:11:33

Stephanie: I’m pretty excited to be here, because it’s so many people who have come together who think like me. I’m really looking forward to making some new connections.

Stephanie: As someone who’s never been to a socialism conference before, not knowing what to expect, it’s definitely a bit intimidating. At the same time though, I’m surrounded by people who are not happy with the status quo. And I know that I am not the only person who has these feelings about the way things are in the world.

02:12:17

Announcer: On behalf of the entire socialism conference staff, I want to welcome you all to Socialism 2018.

Crowd: [cheering]

02:12:43

Volunteer: Just turn in that list after you’re done.

Lee: At this point, like, the bread’s in the oven. This is the oven, but as candidates, we’ve just got to wait for the oven to bake.

Volunteer: You got your wish. Bernie’s showing up.

Lee: Yes, yes!

Volunteer: That’s terrific.

02:13:09

Lee: Wow! Just wow! Oh my god! For the last two years I’ve been the only socialist in a Republican-held legislature. I can’t wait to be the only socialist in a Democratic-held legislature! It’s gon’ be real nice y’all. It’s gon’ be real nice.

02:13:41

Crowd: Bernie Bernie Bernie Bernie!

Bernie: Our job is to change the world in the United State of America. It’s not just taking on Wall Street, it’s not just takin’ on the insurance companies and the drug companies and the fossil fuel industry and the military-industrial complex, and the prison-industrial complex, and the whole goddamn 1%. But we’ve got a bigger problem. They’re easy. You know what the bigger problem is? It’s what our own expectations are. And thank you all very very much.

Crowd: Bernie Bernie Bernie Bernie!

02:14:50

Kshama: A world worth fighting for would be a human society that is able to harness resources, technology and productivity in such a way as to deliver a high standard of living to all human beings in an environmentally sustainable manner. This can be done.

Lee: People are getting disillusioned with the political system as a whole. There are a lot of people that think, you know, why should I bother to go vote, it’s not gonna make any difference, they’re all bought.

02:15:35

Aims: You know, it’s sad so many people have lost faith in the powers of democratic government. They don’t even know how to talk in a language of socialism. We need to recover that history as a way in rebuilding faith in ourselves and our capacity to do good things of a kind that we can only do together

02:16:03

MC: Our next performer, um, a little bit about her. She’s running for State Senate in the district you’re sitting in.

Salazar: You know, I’m a socialist.

Crowd: [cheering]

Salazar: It’s so cool that you’re clapping for that right now. Really, it’s so cool.

02:16:23

Cornel: Socialism is fundamentally about the commitment to the voices of working people shaping the institutions in which they themselves have helped create, so that there is a society that takes seriously the needs, the desires, the dignity, the decency of working people. People ought to have a right to worship God the way they want to, they can party what they want to, they can listen to James Brown or the Beach Boys all they want.

02:16:51

Jovanka: Union power in the workplace – it’s necessary to have union power for our working people. All power, all power to the people!

Cornel: But what people don’t have the right to do is to engage in massive exploitation and live like kings and queens in the midst of luxury when other– when the masses of people are wrestling with necessity.

02:17:17

Klein: I have hope but I am not full of hope. I am full of many feelings. Hope is one of them because I do see that there is a pathway. But I am also full of raw terror that we will not do this, um, and the stakes are so unimaginably high.

Stephanie: When you can’t do your job without having to have a second job, which I have, to pay the bills? That’s bullshit.

02:17:45

On screen: After the conference, Stephanie returned to Oklahoma and ran for Vice President of her local union.

On screen: She won.

02:17:58

Keeanga: The way that I envision socialism is not by electing a socialist president. Um, it’s about the majority of people having a democratic say and control over the direction of this country. Every movement forward, for something we can call progress. The end of slavery, the right to vote, women’s right to vote, ending the Chinese Exclusion Act, ending Jim Crow. All of these things and so many more. That’s all come from struggle.

02:18:42

Volunteer: Ladies and gentlemen, we do have an announcement to make. We have our current and latest winner, our– from the 50th–

Crowd: [cheering]

Lee: Not bad for a trailer park kid, right? Thank you all again. We couldn’t have done this without every last one of you.

02:19:06

On screen: After re-election, Lee introduced a bill to help minimum wage workers.

On screen: It passed.

02:19:16

Nichols: We don’t have to wait for some multinational corporation to solve a crisis, to find a cure for a disease, to, uh, get us the education we need to help our communities function. We could do that ourselves if we had control over it. And so socialism is really at heart the ultimate expression of democracy.

02:29:08

Stephanie: People were talking about what can we do to make a change? And we were organizing. It was amazing, the collective power of this group of people who got together. Together we can accomplish anything. Thank you.

Crowd: [cheering]

# **[END]**