

Samples
of
Excellent
Student
Reactions

Professor Snyder

Eco 2013

11:30 T-R

Extra Credit

Postal Savings Banks:

Not Just a Bernie Sanders Idea

This article by Paul-Martin Foss, in a way was written to oppose Bernie Sanders and his idea to offer banking services at the U.S. Post Office. Although Foss mentions the fact that this was an idea that was tried before and failed ending up in 1967. Additionally, this idea was tried about fifty years ago, when probably the economy was not as good as in the present day. Besides it is nearly the end of 2016 going into 2017, technology keeps improving, essentially, in the banking institutions. For example, there is the joy of direct deposit, online bill pay, free ATM withdrawals, and there are even banking institutions such Bank of America that allow its clients to set up spending and withdrawal limits to avoid overdraft fees. Furthermore, nowadays the customer is responsible for overdraft fees, not the institution. Overall, as another example to support Bernie Sanders idea, if Walmart can offer a banking solution in other words a debit card where the consumers can direct deposit their checks, why can't the U.S. Post Office do the same, so, therefore, even if it was something that was tried before and failed, it does not mean that it is going to fail with the present day economy and technology.

The Truth About SwedenCare

The article explains the problems of socialized medicines and explains how the US healthcare system is much better. I have never been to Sweden or Canada or had any experience with socialized healthcare. Fast-forward the article 3 more years and we can see how ObamaCare has created more jobs in the healthcare industry and while there are still valid complaints about the type of coverage and premiums, the uninsured percentage has dropped. I got diagnosed with cancer at the age of 18 and was insured by my mother because of ObamaCare. Had it not been for the ACA, I and like many others around the nation would've gone massively broke trying to treat the illness or worse. The ACA is not perfect and neither is socialized medicine, but to say the US model is quicker and better is not the correct answer either. Before the ACA, there were many people who could not afford treatment due to pre-existing conditions and others would go bankrupt trying to pay the medical bills. A hip replacement cost a fortune in the US, but in other first world countries with socialized medicine it costs way much less. Just a thought. We will see what happens during the Trump administration and Paul Ryan's eagerness to turn privatize medicare and give out vouchers to the seniors.

No, the Military Has Not Withered Away Under Obama

After seeing the title to this article, I knew it was a must read. I am a combat veteran who has served under Obama and Bush administrations, and currently still serving in the Army reserve component. I found this article very interesting to say the least. Although the right wing says that military spending is down and according to this article that is not the case, but if you were to ask a service member they would tell you they don't know where all that money is going.

Yes the Obama administration is spending more money since WW2 but they are not spending it in the right places in my opinion. They are probably spending all this money on useless things that more than half the time sit in storage unit because it's not practical for a soldier to carry into battle. Most of the equipment we do carry is over priced and very low quality at that. This is because the government gives contracts to those who keep their pockets fat when the time comes. So yes, we do spending \$1,000 dollars of taxpayer's money on a \$100 dollar radio that will not work when it's essential to have this equipment. I'm not blaming the Obama administration but I am blaming both right and left on this matter. Because it's a monopoly for whoever is going to give the most contributions when the time comes for reelections.

The problem does lay with the dwindling population of soldiers. Combat soldiers are the backbone of the military and the reason why we are strong nation that has not been overran yet. Soldiers today put their lives on the line for less than half the pay rate of your average burger flipper. The average minimum wage is \$8.00 an hour and you average single E-1 private in the military works for about \$3.75 an hour with 24 hour duty as you always have to be ready to be called in. So yes, soldiers are leaving at alarming rates. I have seen this first hand. My first two combat tours had an average of 40 personnel to a platoon just to go on any mission. By my last, third and final tour we had a 22-man platoon but were still carrying the weight of a 40-man platoon.

And to add another reasoning behind why guys are leaving other than the pay is that Obama was cutting the benefits in which guys enlisted in the first place. Guys don't enlist because they want to die for their country; guys enlist because of the benefits. Obama has been cutting those benefits instead of cutting useless materials that we don't need. Not to mention the ROE (rules of engagement) Obama has put in place. He has tied every ground soldier's hands behind their backs, making soldiers nothing more than walking targets. Who wants to serve under a commander and chief who won't let them do their job? Which is to eliminate the enemy at all cost. I have also lost many friends that I consider brothers due to his policies. Again know one wants to die but we do want to feed our families without living on welfare and go to college without government assistance or digging ourselves deep in student loan debts. Maybe if more than 1% of our population had

this mindset our country wouldn't be in the situation we are currently in with debt. Everyone wants a free handout instead of working for it. It may not be as bad as the defense budget cut's of Eisenhower but it is happening and the ROE is so bad, you must have a death wish to serve under Obama.

All I can say is this article is looking at the spending as a whole but what people are missing on both sides of the isle is where the spending is occurring. Yes, we are spending more money and yet our military is weaker than we have ever been before.