

Dear Editor,

I am indeed thankful to live in one of the world's last true democracies. With Veteran's Day passed, and Thanksgiving ahead, this is the time of year when I check the course of world events against my own moral compass.

I was too young to serve when the National Socialists overran Europe. Like millions of others I followed the war as reported by radio and in the papers. Later, when the fight shifted to containing the spread of Soviet Socialism, I was called up and did my part.

So far our nation has withstood and defeated all external attacks. My fear is that we will be defeated by an enemy from within. There is a fifth column forming that would have us believe that thrift equals greed, individual effort is the same as exploitation, and that it is the role of government to see that no one lives better than their neighbors, regardless of how much harder they may work. The enemy is socialism.

In a democracy you have the right to vote and to make choices. You determine your worth and your values. Your ideas and abilities are as much your personal property as are your opinions. You have the right not to work for others, the church, or the state.

In a socialist society the worth of a person is determined by the state. While you may receive cradle-to-grave healthcare, subsidized food and government housing, the right to call anything your own does not exist. If the state or the synod decides you are needed to shovel manure, that is what you do, and you do it for the benefit of your brethren, not for yourself.

While a democracy may descend into socialism, no socialist state has ever raised itself to the level of a democracy. In our history various communities, some religious and some not, have tried socialism and all have failed. Between the big meal, the big game, and the Black Friday sales, please take a moment to consider this.

I think it is better to be thankful for what you have, even if it is not everything that you want, than to give in to the temptation of letting someone from the government or the pulpit decide what you need. Accepting the unearned, from those with no right to give it, are the two distinguishing features of socialism.

Dick Farmer