

The Passy Press

Letter to the Editor

From: "Keggi, Kristaps" kristaps.keggi@undisclosed.com
To: Gardiner Nick enpg@thepassypress.com
Date: January 18, 2016 at 9:46:05 PM GMT+1
Subject: RE: Curbing an American Oligarchy & How to Fix It

Dear Sir

Thanks for the article on Obligatory National Service.

I am and have been a firm believer in Obligatory National Service for all men and women of all ethnic, racial and religious backgrounds. I do not like the word since by comparison to Europe we are a classless and socially mobile society. Have had many ideas about it and have discussed it on many occasions. Having arrived in the United States at age fifteen and started work a couple months later (as an usher at Saint George Hotel in Brooklyn, pretending to be eighteen) I have also lived and worked through a variety of our social stages, including National Service in the Army with a year in Vietnam. I have dug ditches with the best and the worst. I feel privileged to have had those constructive experiences.

The material comfort I have been able to provide for our family has been beyond anything I could have imagined as I was working at that hotel in 1949. Interestingly enough sixty seven years later I am still working and when Mr. Novitski speaks of the accumulation of wealth I immediately note the word "work" is missing in his analysis of the process.

In the same sentence on the accumulation of wealth greed of the seven deadly sins is his punctuation. Perhaps we should also discuss sloth, gluttony and envy as major causes of Bernie's inequality wrath.

As you can gather I tend to think we are and will be a better society if some of the major decisions made for us all are made by those who have achieved wealth by a variety of factors, including hard work, taking of risks, etc.. They are also the ones who have built hospitals and museums, funded major universities and such entities as the Keggi Orthopaedic Foundation which, at a fraction of the governmental cost, brought more than 250 surgeons and nurses from the Soviet Union, Russia, the Baltics and Vietnam for an educational experience in the United States.

We can go on and on, but there is no question National Service for all of us should be a must. Unfortunately as I remember some of the discussions on the subject there is the issue of exploitation of the less educated and those who are the third generation of unemployed. I am sure it can be resolved to their benefit, but there will always be inequalities. We see them at work; we see them in our families... Those of us who are at the positive end of the inequality scale have to serve and help - most of us do, but there are those who must understand that their problems can only be solved by themselves. Push by governmental edict, rules, regulations and taxation is not the answer. It was not the answer in the Soviet Union and no matter how idealistic our socialist friends sound it is not the answer here. I do not have the ultimate answer... Somehow we must work together and Obligatory Service for all may be that cohesive force that enlightens us, gives us incentives to work, to support our families, help those in need and make the world a

better place - and make the right decisions for all, should we find ourselves in the "Class of Oligarchs".

Sincerely

Kris Keggi,

Kristaps Juris Keggi, M.D., Dr. Med. (h.c.) is the Elihu Professor of Orthopaedics and Rehabilitation at The Yale University School of Medicine. Born in Latvia, having survived World War II, he arrived in America at fifteen, matriculated at Yale less than two years later and with minor exceptions, such as a year in a Mobile Surgical Hospital ("MASH") in Vietnam, has spent his entire career on its faculty. As a former Yale athlete he is the recipient of the George W. H. Bush Award. He holds four Honorary Degrees, has been active in International Orthopaedic Education, and is the innovator of the Direct Anterior Approach to hip replacements, which he has been practicing for more than forty years.