

(Published in *The Montclarion* Sept. 29, 2005, p. 25)

[Steve Ellis' Opinion article in last week's *Montclarion*](#) is biased toward the richest at the expense of everybody else. It also contains significant lies, and is factually misleading.

First of all, the lies: Marx never “listed a progressive income tax as an essential of totalitarian society,” as Ellis falsely claims. Corporate taxes are not paid by “We the People” as Ellis states, but by corporations and, indirectly, by those individuals who own large amounts of stocks – the rich.

Ellis notes that the very rich pay taxes at a higher rate while “others” – the lowest paid, poorest workers – “pay nearly nothing,” and then asks: “Is this equality?” No, it isn't.

“Equality” would be **a society where people are equal. Nobody would be filthy rich while millions live in poverty.** Ellis' “flat tax” scheme would mean increased taxes on middle income earners in order to reduce taxes for the rich

Ellis claims that “equality” would mean a society where the rich paid the same percentage of their income in taxes as the rest of us. In other words Ellis defines “equality” to mean “yet more INequality.”

In the USA rich individuals and corporations are taxed at a far lower rate than in any other industrialized country. Meanwhile, non-rich Americans, the vast majority of us, are far less secure than our counterparts.

- Americans work more hours; retire at a later age; and have fewer social welfare benefits.
- We have the worst system of medical care, and also the most expensive.
- Fewer Americans have pensions, and more of them are private; too low; and are liable to being taken away by employers.
- Education is a greater financial burden on individual families, and is of lower quality.

Meanwhile, the USA has the greatest income disparity between rich and poor, between corporate CEOs and workers, than in any other industrial country. The US tax structure both reflects and reinforces that.

Result? In this, the richest country in the world, American workers have the lowest standard of living and the least security, while the American unemployed live in the greatest misery, and have the fewest rights, of any industrialized country.

This disgrace is a direct result of a tax policy that is not nearly “progressive” enough – that lets the rich, and big corporations, further enrich themselves at the expense of the rest of us. Furthermore, these same super-wealthy people manipulate the supposedly “democratic” system to give themselves more and more, while leaving less and less for American workers.

What all of us, except the filthy rich, need is a far more progressive tax structure, coupled with far higher social welfare benefits. This would mean a significant re-distribution of wealth, and benefit the vast majority of Americans.

Ellis wants to make this system even more exploitative by reducing taxes for the rich. If this is what you want, please get in touch with me – I have a bridge in Brooklyn I'll sell you – cheap!

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