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# Socialism Gains Like Orwell Predicted

**F**ILING systems have a habit of breaking down. Mine failed when I filed a clipping quoting a congressman from a northwestern state.

The quotation stands out clearly, however. This elected official declared that taking wealth from the Rockefellers and Exxon and giving it to people who need it "isn't communism; it's Americanism!"

It recalled to mind "Doublespeak," language used by George Orwell in his prophetic book published in 1949 and titled "1984."

He depicted three powers that maintained worldwide dictatorships and which were perpetually at war with one another. Everybody was supervised by a mysterious "Big Brother," personification of omniscient government which controlled everything.

People were fed propaganda continually on telescreens that also observed their activities. They were told repeatedly that "War is peace. Freedom is slavery. Ignorance is strength."

Now we are being taught that socialism is Americanism. The depth

to which this philosophy permeates our lives is ominous, because of the widespread acceptance of the idea that government ought to pay for everything and manage everything.

Our country was developed by people who believed that the more they produce the more they should have. Those who produced less were expected to have less. Equal opportunity but not equal division of the results of productivity.

The equal rights movement now has been extended to insist that everybody ought to have as much as anybody else, regardless of his or her contribution to society, business or progress.

Nowhere is this notion more rampant than in the current strike of overpaid professional football players. One of their demands has been to pay all players the same salaries regardless of abilities, attitudes, fitness or performance.

But don't laugh! All of us are involved in it. Sen. Jesse Helms (R., N.C.) recently observed that every October, whether they deserve it or not, "federal employees get a pay raise. Everyone gets the same raise,

as a percentage of salary, regardless of merit."

Similar situations prevail in industries where union contracts call for salary or wage increases at stipulated intervals, regardless of increases or declines in productivity, cost of materials, or demand for products at prices quoted.

Our socialized medicine system, called Medicare, is in so much trouble that a bandage of socialism has been prescribed whereby medical care fees would be set and paid by a federal bureau.

Wherever socialism or communism has been put into effect people have lost their independence. Only the political hierarchies enjoy incomes above the official American poverty level.

Still socialism keeps spreading because people like to believe that they are going to be given something for nothing.

The noted economist Milton Friedman summed it up well when he declared: "A society which aims for equality before liberty will end up with neither equality nor liberty."