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—For section.....Voices/Letters from readers
—Format.....LETTERS - Opinions - Letters to the Editor
—Dateline.....Brattleboro
—Article Number:.....43006



Notes from editor (not for publication):



HEADLINE ELEMENTS:

####BEGIN HED####

1 Churches cannot substitute for an effective social safety
2 net

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4 TEXT BODY:

####BEGIN TEXT####

5 By 1960, much of the social welfare services offered in
6 the U.S. was provided by religious charities (Roman Catholic,
7 Lutheran, Presbyterian, Methodist, Mt. Sinai, etc.) and labor
8 unions. These groups were tapped out and the demand was high.

9 They joined forces to demand legislative action that led
10 to the Great Society legislation, which began addressing health
11 and human service needs across the nation.

12 Over time, the GOP has tangled these services in red
13 tape and reduced funding so that they do not work very well. In
14 addition, these meddling actions have ended up forcing the
15 closure of the religious-based charitable services.

16 Now, with broken systems, they blame the Democrats
17 and "libs." They also beat the drum that charities can handle the
18 needs that are being abandoned in the neoliberal capitalist
19 system that is being foisted on the U.S. by the Trumpists.

20 In 1960, when the religious charities were at their
21 strongest, they could not meet the needs of our society — a
22 society that was far more egalitarian and economically less
23 extreme. Today, there is no way that these charities can fill in for
24 the losses that the Trumpists are creating.

25 As Brattleboro seeks to rein in its budget by abandoning
26 social services, the same old line is being voiced: "Let the
27 churches handle the problem." It will not work.

28 So this is a clarion call to all religious folks and other
29 progressives to organize resistance and demand real change to
30 develop an effective social safety net for all people. The
31 Brattleboro municipal leadership is on notice that there will be
32 resistance.

####END TEXT####

BIO/COATTAIL:

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LAST ISSUE IN WHICH THIS FILE CAN BE RUN:

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LINKS:

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VIDEO:

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LOGLINE (SOCIAL MEDIA):

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