



A monthly publication of THE METROPOLITAN DEMOCRATIC CLUB of SEATTLE

Sanders (Howell) wins debate with Clinton (Munro)



Allan Munro



Lem Howell

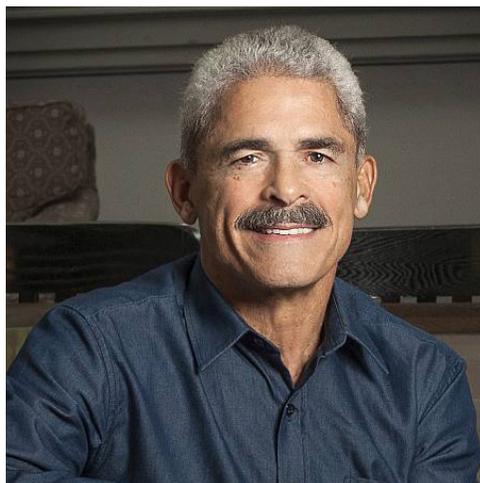
One a “schoolmasterly logician,” the other a “firebrand litigator,” according to Charlton Price, Lem Howell and Allan Munro respectively debated by proxy for presidential hopefuls Bernie Sanders and Hillary Clinton at the March 9 meeting of the Metropolitan Democratic Club of Seattle. Mr Price is an MDC member who heads the club’s Health Care for All Task Force. Senator Pete Francis was moderator for the debate and Bert Wyman was the timekeeper. The audience voted 10 to 9 in favor of Bernie.

Dan Fievez flipped a coin, Mr Howell called heads and won the right to decide who would speak first. He chose to have Mr Munro begin. Rather than attempt to replicate the constructive and rebuttal exchanges I will list the high points of each debater. Remember, the debaters have tried to put themselves in the shoes of the candidates and speak for them, not for themselves.

Dr Gayton talks about his fugitive slave ancestor

“None of us are responsible for the past, but all of us are responsible for the future,” Dr Carver Gayton concluded his presentation to the Metropolitan Democratic Club of Seattle March 9 about his book *When Owning a Shilling Costs a Dollar*.

The story is about Mr Gayton’s great-grandfather, Lewis G Clarke, who was born a “white” slave. Mr Clarke was the



Dr Carver Gayton

prototype for the character of George Harris in Harriet Beecher Stow’s book *Uncle Tom’s Cabin*.

When offered the opportunity to buy his freedom, he said no one can own another person and that he belonged to himself.

He escaped from slavery and helped many others do so. He also became a leading spokesman for the abolitionist cause.

Mr Gayton has carried on the work of his ancestor. He earned his PhD in political science from the University of Washington. He served as Director of Affirmative Action Programs at the UW and was Executive Director of the Northwest African American Museum. He also was assistant professor of public administration at Florida State University and corporate director of educational relations and training at the Boeing Company.

Following his presentation Dr Gayton signed and sold books to members and guests.



Clinton/Munro

Mr Munro provided some background. An awful lot rides on this 2016 presidential election: control of the US Supreme Court, Obamacare, the nuclear agreement with Iran, avoiding another boots-on-the-ground war in the Middle East, relations with Mexico, further reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, control of several US Appeal Court circuits, avoiding Republican austerity-strangling economic growth and more. Therefore the issue of electability becomes paramount.

Mr Sanders is a candidate with enormous vulnerabilities.

First, his political persona is undefined in the perception of most general election voters. The gives the Republican attack dogs the opportunity to define him in negative terms. Lee Atwater is dead, but Karl Rove isn’t.

Second, Mr Sanders is a self-described socialist. Socialism means state ownership of the means of production. This provides

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book review

Nation on the Take: How Big Money Corrupts Our Democracy and What We Can Do About It

by Wendell Potter and Nick Penniman
 Bloomsbury Press, New York 2016

Reviewed by Nelson Dahl

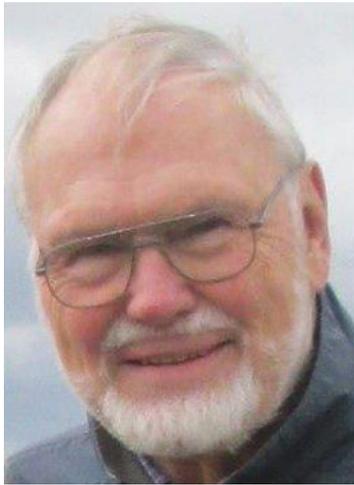
Unfortunately, I found this a tedious book to read. However, the message is urgently important. We the people have lost the democracy that was intended by the Constitution. Corporations and special interest groups increasingly control every level of government. They employ well-paid lobbyists, often former members of Congress, to peddle influence to their former colleagues.

Since corporations have a commitment to maximize profits, they have a natural dislike for government regulations and use all the influence they can to limit them. Unregulated, they may produce many harmful and unhealthy products. Thousands of chemicals in our environment are unregulated, and we don't know what effects they may be having on people, especially children.

Bernie Sanders has ably pointed out that the influence of money in politics is one of America's greatest problems. Our elected officials must raise huge sums of campaign cash. The average winning Senate seat in 2014 spent \$10.6 million. No wonder Congress gets so little done. Total money spent on Federal elections in 2012 was \$6.2 billion. Even most Republicans recognize this problem.

None of this is new information. What's shocking is that it gets so little attention in the media and so little protest from the people. There does seem to be a general sense in America that something is wrong. We hear it from voters in the current presidential campaign. But most of the people, despite their loud complaining, aren't focusing on the critical issues: the influence of money in politics and the drastically skewed distribution of wealth.

Teddy Roosevelt was the first to pursue campaign finance reform. Surely, the



Nelson Dahl

time has come for the people to get aroused. Democracy requires reinvention and constant vigilance. It's time for a little rebellion, which Thomas Jefferson said is sometimes necessary and a good thing.



New members

The MDC welcomes new members
 Dan Shih, candidate for state representative in the 43rd LD.



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the republicans with the opportunity to stampede voters away from him from him. Specifically, small business class - a huge number of voters, entrepreneurs, and millennial generation libertarian techies. Moreover it is feared that over the years Mr Sanders has made statements in support on his socialist beliefs that will embarrass the Democratic Ticket.

Third, where is Mr Sanders team? He is being heavily criticized by mainstream economists for greatly overstating the economic growth and corresponding tax revenue from his fiscal and tax proposals.

His foreign policy statements are not definitive enough to outline a policy in places like the Middle East and Europe where we are engaged. I don't see any advisors with gravitas who are helping him lay out a comprehensive foreign policy. He has received very few endorsements from senators and congressman whom he will need to support his policies. He is not a Democrat. This huge country and government cannot be run by one man.

Fourth, his candidacy is not motivating key elements of the Democratic Party's coalition, such as Blacks and Hispanics. If these people don't vote in November, we will lose.

For these reasons, a Bernie Sanders candidacy presents clear risks of going awry.

Ms Clinton, on the other hand is poised to land running. For example she will need to deal with events in the Middle East and East Africa. The post World War I national boundaries, established by Churchill, David Lloyd George, Clemanceau and Orlando, are crumbling.

People are motivated by ethnic, tribal and religious loyalties, not national loyalties. There are many moving parts to our foreign policy. Our friends' enemies are also our friends. We are arming the Syrian Kurds while the Turks are bombing them. The Saudis are arming Sunni rebels in Iraq, including ISIS while we train the Iraqi army. This is causing a huge refugee problem in Europe, giving rise to right-wing racist parties.

Ms Clinton knows the territory and the players. She has developed an intuitive sense of how the US can achieve its policy goals without putting boots on the ground and without allowing terrorist enclaves to develop. It will be messy. It will have to be implemented on a case-by-case basis. But if anyone can do it, that person is Hillary Clinton.

In addition, Ms Clinton has detailed
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From the editor

Please send notices of upcoming events, letters, articles, and book reviews to Editor Eleanor Munro at walkere1@msn.com or 1925 41st Ave SW, Seattle WA 98116 no later than the fourth Wednesday of the month. All contributions are subject to editing. For more information call 206-370-1374.

The Devil's Chessboard; Allen Dulles, the CIA, and the Rise of America's Secret Government.

by David Talbot

HarperCollins Publishers, New York 2015

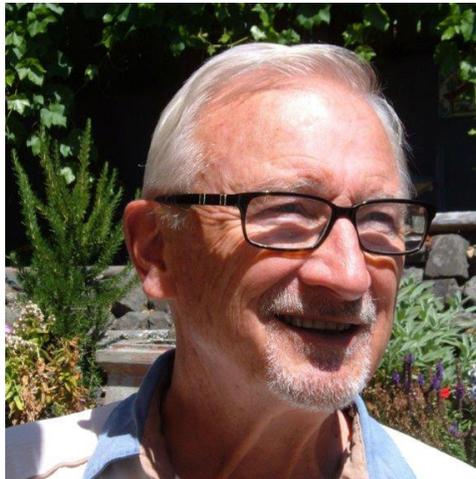
Reviewed by Pete Francis

This book is very readable and well-documented. It is important for us to understand how terribly wrong our foreign policy has been and still is. Yes, I am talking about how we have overturned elections and cancelled the will of the people in country after country, including such examples as Guatemala, Chile, and Iran. Talbot argues that Arbenz in Guatemala was much like JFK – smart, young, liberal – so he had to be gotten rid of.

Much else is revealed in this book. The chapter on “little mice” shows how callously cruel Dulles was, throwing innocent and unsuspecting friends to the Soviets for them to lock up and torture, always in pursuit of the ultimate and highest goal, defeat of the communist menace.

If you hate to hear about conspiracies, avoid this book. The documentation is very thorough regarding CIA involvement in and control of the assassination of JFK, and probably of RFK. And who effectively ran the so-called Warren Commission, but good old Allen Dulles, allowed to investigate and cover up his own crime.

Do you remember Patrice Lumumba? Dulles could not stand the idea that Lumumba wanted to keep the Congo



Senator Pete Francis

neutral in the cold war – so Lumumba had to go. There is much to learn in every chapter of this book.

It is axiomatic that elected officials such as Congress and the president should be in charge, but it is obvious that at times it has not worked out that way. Allen Dulles is only one of the strangest, most sociopathic, and most powerful of the loose cannons who have stained our republic without the public's knowledge.

Read this book.



- Debate continued from p2 -

proposals: 1) amendments: Sarbanes Oxley and Dodd Frank, to reduce risk of another financial crisis, 2) stop inversions by multinational corporations to avoid US taxes, 3) require complete disclosure of sources of political spending, and 4) to achieve true gender equality from glass ceilings to women's right to choose.

Bernie's big issue will not be resolved just by taxing the rich. We need to overcome austerity and massively increase government expenditures for education and infrastructure.

Mr Munro is bothered by Mr Sanders opposition to the export-import bank. It benefits Washington state apple and fruit growers, wheat growers and music stand manufacturers. More than 30 percent of

Washington's employment is supported by foreign trade. This bank creates a level playing field for our exporters.

Sanders/Howell

In response to Mr Munro's statement that Sanders is a very vulnerable candidate, Mr Howell said that Mr Sanders led all the Republicans in the polls. He quoted Mr Sanders as pledging to become a loyal Democrat and to remain so, at the time of he announced he was running for president last year.

Mr Howell stated that Mr Sanders voted against the Iraqi invasion and opposes “regime change.” Who are we to tell other countries what kind of government to have?” he asked. In addition Sanders voted

What's happening

April 10 - May 1 Community outreach presentation regarding Initiative 123, Alaskan Way Elevated Park. For more information contact campaign director Kate Martin, 206-579-3703 or katemartin@initiative123.org. These meetings take place, 3 – 4:30 pm at the following locations.

April 10 Douglass Truth Library.

April 17 Montlake Library

April 24 West Seattle Library

May 1 Columbia City Library

April 12 Share your thoughts on newly released ST3 Draft Plan, 5:30 pm, Ruth Fisher Boardroom, Union Station, 401 S Jackson. Panelists include King County Executive Dow Constantine, King County Councilmember Claudia Balducci, Seattle Mayor Ed Murray, Sound Transit CEO Peter Rogoff, and Shafali Ranganathan, executive director of Transportation Choices Coalition.

April 16 Exclusive reading of Elizabeth Heffron's play “Portugal,” about the lives of five people after an “off normal” event at the Hanford Nuclear Reservation, 7 pm, Bainbridge Island Museum of Art. Tickets are \$20. One hundred percent of proceeds go to support Hanford Challenge. Questions, Sarah Freeman, 206.292.2850 x27.

April 26 Campaign kickoff for Jeff Sprung for state auditor, 5 – 7 pm, Farestart, 700 Virginia.

Special guest, Attorney General Bob Ferguson. Suggested donations start at \$25. RSVP to katherine@jeffsprung.com or 206.486.5913.



against the Patriot Act and voted against the bank bailout. He also voted against confirmation of Timothy Geithner as Treasury Secretary. He is opposed to Glass Steegall which Hillary voted for.

In addition Sanders supports universal health care and tuition-free junior colleges.

Mr Howell cited several new taxes Mr Sanders advocates. These included eliminating the carried interest loophole, which allows hedge fund managers trading in their own accounts to pay at a capital gains (reduced) level. Mr Sanders

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mark your

MDC Calendar

April - June 2016

All regular meetings occur on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month, noon – 1:30 pm at the Plaza 600 Building #205, 600 Stewart St, Seattle, unless otherwise noted. The MDC welcomes guests at all of its noon meetings and special events. Members are welcome at all MDC committee meetings.

Look here for notices of Diamond Jubilee, program, and other committee meetings. They will be listed in the Calendar column of *The MDC News* and the bimonthly meeting notes. All members are welcome to attend any MDC meeting or committee meeting.

Programs and events

• April 13

Program: The role of the University of Washington in the society and economy of metropolitan Seattle.

Speaker: Former Seattle City Councilmember Sally Clark.

• April 20

Board meeting: Meeting of the MDC board of directors, 6:30 pm at the home of Harriet Wasserman 1247 20th Ave E, Seattle. Potluck. Part business, part fun and food. RSVP Eleanor Munro, walkere1@msn.com.

• April 27

Program: Beyond Obamacare: Toward Health Care for All

Speakers: Charlton Price, Dean Fournier and possibly other members of the Health Care for All Task Force, plus Marcia Stedman, board member and coordinator of the Outreach Committee and Speaker's Bureau at Health Care for All – Washington, and Teresa Mosqueda, assistant to the chair of the Washington State Labor Council.

• May 11

Program: Seattle v Monsanto; the Problem of PCBs in our City of Seattle.

Speaker: Seattle City Attorney Pete Holmes.

• May 25

Program: ST3, taking people further and faster to destinations throughout King, Snohomish and Pierce counties.

Speaker: Janet Pelz

• June 8

Program: Challenges facing suburban municipalities and mayors.

Speaker: Chris Roberts, mayor of Shoreline.

• June 12 (Note: new date.)

Third annual Chautauqua Afternoon: 1 – 5 pm, home of Ann and Tony Martin, 3718 SW Orchard. Time to connect with the candidates in a festive outdoor setting. Suggested donation \$25. Food and beverages available. Ticket sales open for annual raffle. Tickets are \$5. Books of 10 tickets, \$50.

• June 22

Primary endorsement proceedings.

Committee meetings

• April 13, 27

Diamond Jubilee committee, 11 am – noon, Barnes & Noble coffee shop at Pacific Place.

Health Care for All committee, 11:30 am – noon, Plaza 600 Building #205.

Save these dates

• **June 12:** Third annual **Chautauqua Afternoon** at the home of MDC member Ann and Tony Martin, 3618 SW Orchard, Seattle. Candidates will have the opportunity to connect with MDC members and guests. Other progressive organizations are invited to set up tables and tents to display their literature and solicit funds. The annual MDC raffle opens. Picnic food and beverages provided.

Sponsorships start at \$100. Suggested donation \$25.

• **September 18:** MDC's **Diamond Jubilee** - 60 years of promoting progressive values.

We celebrate our 60th anniversary. Event features auction, retrospectives and what they mean for our future, and a little bit of folly. Sponsorships start at \$250. All sponsorships of \$250 or more include one admission. Advertise in the Jubilee event program and/or *The MDC News*. We'll let you know as soon as we've confirmed a keynote speaker.

• **December 11:** **Winter Holiday Party and Raffle**, a potluck at the Colman Mansion – the home of Marianne Tagney and David Jones. We honor our elected officials and draw the winning tickets for the raffle. Sponsorships start at \$100. Suggested donation \$35.

For more information on any of these events, their dates, times, advertising and sponsoring opportunities, refer to this monthly publication, to metrodeems.org, or contact MDC President Eleanor Munro at 206-370-1374 or walkere1@msn.com.

To join the MDC or for more information contact MDC President Eleanor Munro at 206.370.1374 or walkere1@msn.com or visit metrodeems.org or [facebook.com/metrodeems](https://www.facebook.com/metrodeems).



- Debate continued from p3 -

also supports a tax on internet securities transactions .

Mr Howell pointed out that Mr Sanders has opposed trade agreements such as NAFTA and TPP that allow US jobs to be exported.

He said Mr Sanders does not have a financial PAC and criticized Hillary for accepting large contributions from Boeing. People don't trust Hillary, he concluded.

Membership renewal date appears on above label

April 2016

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DEMOCRATIC CLUB
OF SEATTLE

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