The Problem with Unnecessarily Large Homes

Introduction

The reason why I chose this topic is because I know for a fact that the families living in mansions barely use the space that they have. I also believe in a socialist government where people would only be able to purchase property based on their intended use, family size, etc… The unused space in these large homes is wasteful and I think that one day they are going to cause problems.

The Main Problems

This image shows how much of a mansion is used over a few weeks. Each red dot symbolizes where someone used that space in each room.

The main problem with mansions is the unused space and materials. This space could have potentially been used to build more houses, used for farmland, or to even build an apartment. It is likely that many trees had to be cut down in order to make space for such a large home and then the materials used to build the mansion are not getting put to use. That lumber could have been used, for example, for another house. Instead it is being used for only a single family.

Why this is a Problem

While currently this is not much a of a problem, it is inevitable that we will eventually run out of living space as the population grows. Mansions are not going to be an option because we'll need that extra land and materials to build more houses. We have a finite source of lumber, granite, etc… and if we were to use all of it on mansions, we would run out much faster. Having mansions also negatively affects the market for housing by increasing prices.

Potential Solutions: Part 1

A potential solution would be to ban small families from buying houses over a certain size. We could also stop building them as a whole and only allow a certain amount of property to be built on and owned by a person or family. In order for this solution to be put in place, the government would have to pass a bill that restricts people from purchasing a mansion if they do not meet the requirements (family size, etc..) like shown in the introduction.
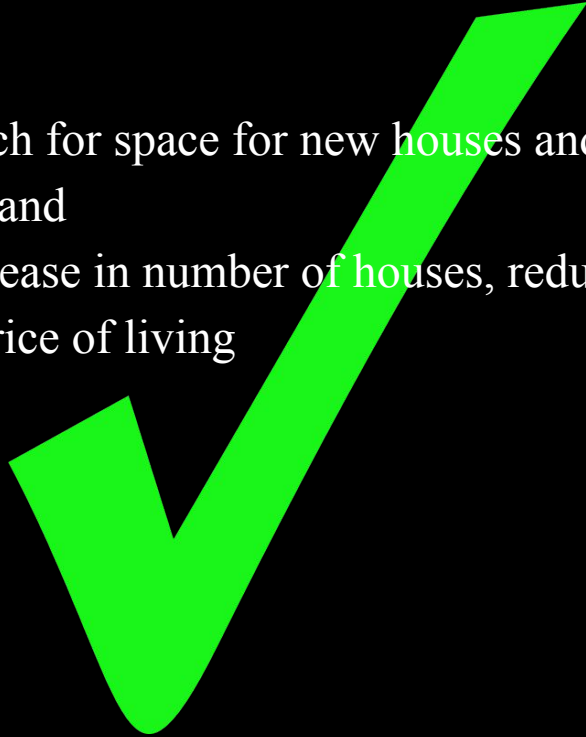
Potential Solutions: Part 2

Another outgoing solution would be to have a communist government where everyone gets a certain sized property based on the family's size and needs. In order to for this to take effect, a new political party would obviously have to be voted for and win the election. After that, it would be the government's responsibility for controlling what property people are allowed to purchase and own.
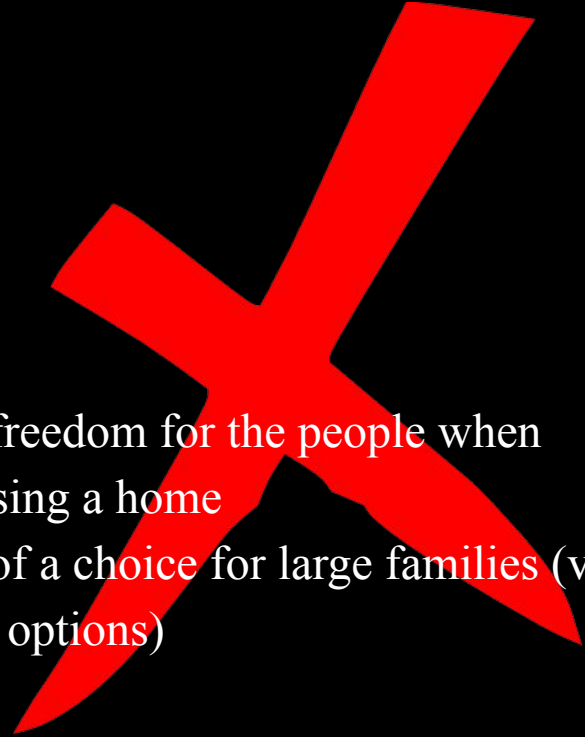
Pros & Cons

Pros:

- Much for space for new houses and farmland

- Increase in number of houses, reducing the price of living

Cons:

- Less freedom for the people when purchasing a home

- Less of a choice for large families (very limited options)

Conclusion

If one of these systems were put in place, the prices of homes would decrease, the number of houses would increase, the locations of new houses would have the environment in mind, and I think that in the next few decades we will have a lot more space compared to if had we continued to build unnecessarily large homes. We would also save a lot of lumber and other finite materials used to build homes.

Thanks for Listening

Bibliography

https://www.marketwatch.com/story/why-the-american-dream-of-owning-a-big-home-is-way-overrated-in-one-chart-2018-05-21