

Opposing view: You are overtaxed

By Grover G. Norquist

October 28, 2008

Every day Americans pay sales taxes, property taxes, gasoline taxes, phone taxes, taxes on water, beer, coffee and utilities, income taxes, Social Security taxes and, if they are foolish enough to die, death taxes.

You work hard to earn money for your family. You earned it. You showed up at work, not someone else. The government takes much of your paycheck. Too much. And while you spend your own money wisely, the government too often spends the money they take away from your family, well, less than wisely. Bridges to nowhere. Earmarks. Subsidies. And the government workers who get your tax dollars earn more than you do, have more lucrative pensions and benefits.

It gets worse. A 2008 study by Sen. Tom Coburn, R-Okla., found that federal workers don't always bother showing up for work. During seven years starting in 2001, federal "workers" took 2.5 million days worth of absences without leave (AWOL). That's 9,410 man-years of no work at high pay.

Politicians think we taxpayers have some nerve standing before our betters like Oliver Twist, pleading, "Please sir, I'd like to keep some more ... of what I earn."

When Americans ask to have their tax burden reduced, the politicians bellow, "Show us what 'services' you would cut." When politicians raise taxes, they never bother to tell us what taxpayers will have to go without: less money for the children, the house, retirement. They focus only on the government's needs. Not the people's.

According to the Center for Fiscal Accountability, seven states now have "Tax Me More" accounts, where liberals who support more taxes can send additional money to the government if they believe the state will spend their money more wisely than they will. Hardly anyone does.

Ever notice that billionaires spend their money through foundations they control? They don't write a check to the government, which they believe would spend their money less well than they would. But some of these same people also believe *your* taxes should be higher because the government would spend *your* money better than you can.

Big-spending, tax-increasing liberal politicians think they are smarter than we are. If they want to be philanthropists, they are free to do so with their own money, not ours. Just leave us alone.

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