

A Modest Proposal

Like many Americans, I am getting tired of Obama constantly whining that the wealthiest Americans aren't paying their fair share of taxes. Those who have been paying attention certainly have read more than a few articles explaining the facts. For example, according to IRS data for 2007, the top 1 percent of income earners paid 40.4 percent of *all* federal income taxes—*more in income taxes than the bottom 95 percent combined*. The middle fifth bracket of income earners, those generally referred to as the middle class, paid a mere 4.7 percent of all income taxes. Further, the bottom 40 percent of income earners paid *no* federal income taxes in 2007—they instead received net *payments* from the IRS equal to 4 percent of total federal tax revenues.

The claim that the fat cats and the evil rich are paying less than their fair share is one of the many lies that infect the debt debate. If it is not enough for the top 1 percent to pay more than 40 percent of all federal income taxes collected, how much *is* enough to satisfy those on the political left? 60 percent? 75 percent? 99 percent?

If we are going to raise taxes on the most productive Americans—the ones who create the businesses and the jobs for the rest of us—can we at least do something with the additional revenue other than waste it on things like a National Institutes of Health study to find out if a gay man's penis size has any correlation with his sexual health? (That continuing study has so far cost the taxpayers \$899,769. I have not read the results of the study, but I have noticed that Harry Reid's face seems to exhibit a perpetual scowl.)

The last thing I would like to see is Republicans in Congress caving in on tax increases, because that would destroy desperately needed jobs. But I have a proposal they should consider should their knees buckle under the pretentious pressure of Chris Matthews and Christine Amanpour. My proposal is simple enough that even John McCain and Olympia Snowe might understand:

All additional revenue from any tax increase must go directly toward reducing the national debt and may not be used for any other purpose.

How can Obama and his fellow Democrats argue against such a proposal? They want the wealthy to pay more in taxes, don't they? They agree that the rising national deficit is a problem, don't they? They don't want that additional tax revenue for new programs, do they?

If Obama insists on putting middle-class aircraft assembly line workers out of work by further taxing corporate jet owners, let's at least insist that the cash be spent wisely. Or, as Obama would say, "invested." If Obama wants to grab another \$5 billion or so from the oil companies every year, let's at least use it to reduce the national debt from \$14,350,203,912,345.29 to \$14,346,203,912,345.29. In 3,587 years the national debt would then be reduced to zero.

Oh, wait, I forgot that we'll need an *additional* 480 years to pay off the \$2.4 trillion Obama wants by August 2. Shoot—there goes my Nobel Prize in economics.

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