



## FRIENDS OF THE MIDDLE NEWSLETTER #198 — AUG. 7, 2012

*Welcome to always lively political discussion and whatever else comes up.*  
<http://www.FriendsOfTheMiddle.org> [FriendsOfTheMiddle@hotmail.com](mailto:FriendsOfTheMiddle@hotmail.com)

**INDEX: Click here.**

### **R0mney: 1 + 1 = 3!**

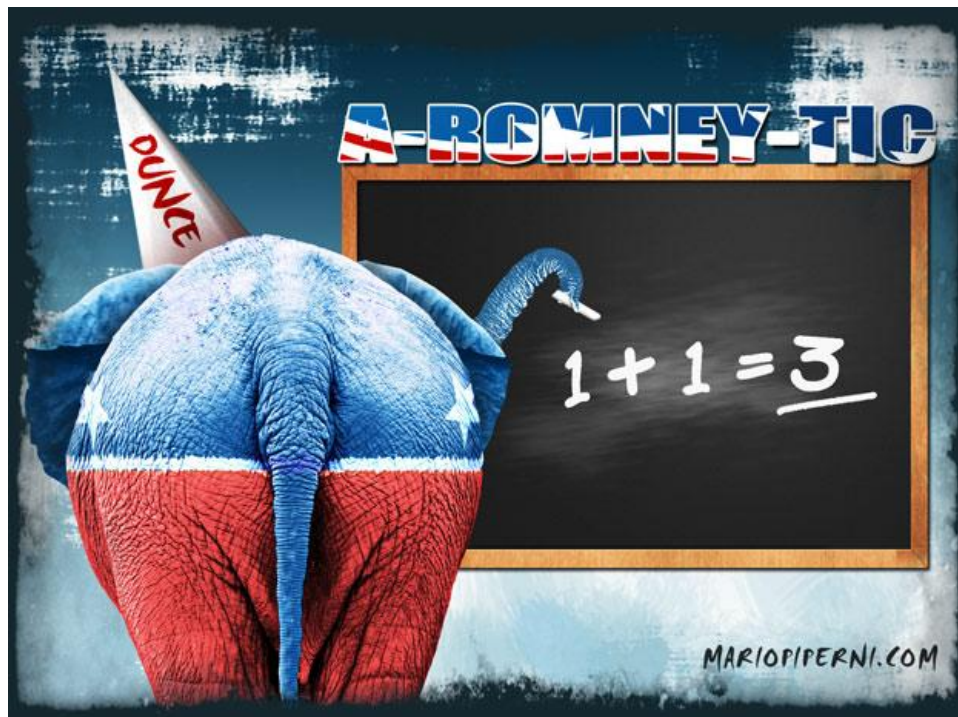
(posted by Steven W. Baker / SteveB, Aug. 7, 2012)

"When Willard isn't busy taking irrevocable stances on both sides of issues, belittling people he considers inferior, insulting commoners, hiding his wealth, etching his sketch, and lying about everything that he uses to support his claim that he is worthy of the Presidency, he's looking for ways to raise YOUR taxes so he can pay less. Unfortunately for him, new analysis of his tax plan proves that is exactly what his plan does." —Politics Plus

"The Romney Tax Hike" by Matthew Yglesias, Slate

Aug. 6, 2012,

[http://www.slate.com/articles/business/moneybox/2012/08/mitt\\_romney\\_s\\_middle\\_class\\_tax\\_hike\\_and\\_how\\_he\\_can\\_get\\_out\\_of\\_it.html](http://www.slate.com/articles/business/moneybox/2012/08/mitt_romney_s_middle_class_tax_hike_and_how_he_can_get_out_of_it.html)



(How the GOP candidate stumbled into proposing higher taxes on the middle class and how he can get out of it.)

Whatever else happens in American politics, Republicans have one big advantage: They favor low taxes, and people really don't want to pay more taxes. For the past five years, Democrats have countered this by reassuring voters that their plan is to have someone else pay higher taxes. But it's difficult to make this work mathematically and difficult for Democrats to persuade voters that they really mean it. Yet a bombshell report released last week by the Urban-Brookings Tax Policy Center shows that Mitt Romney has given Democrats the greatest gift they could hope for—a Republican plan for a broad increase in middle-class taxes.

What went wrong?

A core conviction of the Republican Party since the election of Ronald Reagan is that lower taxes on high-income individuals is the key to economic growth. This belief has grown especially rigid since the Gipper's departure from the scene. Reagan himself had sufficient credibility with conservatives to cut deals with Democrats on taxes as well as other issues. But George H.W. Bush's decision to sign a budget that raised taxes as the price for getting Democrats to agree to spending cuts was widely denounced as heresy. Following H.W.'s defeat, Bob Dole, George W. Bush, John McCain, and all the 2012 contenders have run on platforms of tax cuts for the rich—an agenda that's been equally pushed by Republican congressional leaders.

The price of this policy has typically been large budget deficits. That's because even though conservatives espouse spending cuts and sometimes even vote for them, they have little interest in letting their tax agenda be held hostage to the difficult political lift of major spending reductions.

"Reagan proved deficits don't matter" was the watchword of George W. Bush-era economic policy. And in political terms, it worked great. Rather than yoking tax cuts for the rich to unpopular, offsetting cutbacks in Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid, they were yoked to a smaller but still meaningful—and politically appealing—reduction in middle-class tax rates.

But then came the great crash of 2008, the inauguration of President Obama, and the 2009 stimulus bill. Ever since, Republicans have embraced the rhetoric of debt reduction with the fervor of converts. High deficits is the aspect of Obama-era economic policy that has the most in common with the policies the past two generations of Republicans have espoused, but the current generation has assailed Obama for it with a breathtaking level of hypocrisy. Then along comes Romney, ever eager to mold himself to whatever is the current fashion in conservatism. How could he enact growth-enhancing reductions in the marginal tax rates paid by high-income individuals without piling on hundreds of billions in new debt?

His plan is simple: Close loopholes and lower rates. "By virtue of doing that," he told campaign donors, "we'll get the same tax revenue, but we'll have lower rates."

It sounds almost too good to be true and, indeed, the Romney campaign has offered few details of exactly what deductions he would eliminate in order to finance his very detailed program of reductions in tax rates. The only specifics he has provided have been about which tax preferences he won't get rid of—the ones that offer preferential tax treatment of investment income.

Fortunately for us, the busy beavers at the Tax Policy Center were able to fill in the details. They were interested in the distributional consequences of Romney-style reform, and they reasoned that the best way to enact it would be to establish a best-case scenario for the middle class. Look at all the tax breaks that are on the table, in other words, and start by eliminating the one that's most favorable to the wealthy. Then take away the second-most-favorable one. Repeat until you've done away with enough tax breaks to pay for Romney's tax cuts. Then run the numbers and see the consequences. What you get turns out to be a substantial decrease in the after-tax incomes of households with less than \$200,000 a year in income, to the tune of 1.2 percent of total income on average. Richer households, by contrast, will pay less in taxes than they do now.

**Tax Policy Center:**

**"It is not mathematically possible to design a revenue-neutral plan that preserves current incentives for savings and investment and that does not result in a net tax cut for high-income taxpayers and a net tax increase for lower- and/or middle-income taxpayers," the study concludes.**

**Even if tax breaks "are eliminated in a way designed to make the resulting tax system as progressive as possible, there would still be a shift in the tax burden of roughly \$86 billion [a year] from those making over \$200,000 to those making less" than that.**

**What would that mean for the average tax bill? Millionaires would get an \$87,000 tax cut, the study says. But for 95 percent of the population, taxes would go up by about 1.2 percent, an average of \$500 a year.**

The issue here isn't so much that the tax breaks Romney would have to close are such great deals for average people. Even things like the home mortgage interest deduction that are frequently touted as middle-class benefits do more to help rich people, who own fancier houses. Indeed, if Romney were to try to pay for these tax cuts through reduced spending, the results would be even more regressive. It's just that the kind of broad tax cuts Romney is proposing are very favorable to high-income families, meaning basically that any way of paying for them would shift income up the ladder. At the moment, the Romney camp is responding to the analysis with sputtering indignation, denouncing it as a "biased study from a former Obama staffer" in reference to co-author Adam Looney's previous experience as a staff economist on the Obama administration's Council of Economic Advisers. These staff roles, however, are not political positions (a young Paul Krugman was a Council of Economic Advisers staff economist during the Reagan administration), and the Tax Policy Center's director, Donald Marron, was an actual political appointee to George W. Bush's Council of Economic Advisers.

If Romney wants to cut taxes on the rich without hurting middle-class pocketbooks, he needs to return to the faith of his GOP forefathers and ask, "What would George W. Bush do?" The answer is simply not to pay for the tax cuts. That would mean admitting that the attacks on Obama-era deficits are bogus. But it would also have the virtue of being true. For all that Democrats mewled about deficits during the Bush years, there's precious little evidence they did the economy any harm. Right now the government can borrow money basically for free, so there's little reason to pay for anything. That wouldn't be my ideal economic stimulus plan, but it's better than doing nothing and certainly better than the middle-class tax hike Romney has backed himself into proposing. But the first step toward improving his proposal would be admitting he has a problem.



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<a href="#">20120806-01</a>	09:56	SteveB	Fw: MoveOn Action: Start Your Own Online Petition!
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<a href="#">20120806-01</a>	09:56	SteveB	Fw: MoveOn Action: Start Your Own Online Petition!
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A few months ago, a bill was passed by the Utah state legislature to ban sex education in public schools. It was a terrible bill, and the only chance of stopping it was to get the state's Republican governor to veto it.

It seemed like a real long-shot, but a school bus driver named Paul Krueger was outraged and started a petition on MoveOn's website, SignOn.org. Paul's petition spread quickly through Facebook and email and even got the attention of the state's big newspapers and TV stations.

Then, something really amazing happened. After more than 40,000 people signed Paul's petition, the governor announced that he would veto the bill! The tea party was outraged, but because of the public groundswell, the bill was dead.

Now it's your turn. Using SignOn.org, you can start your own online petition and invite your friends to sign it. We'll send the most popular petitions to other MoveOn members to help build support for your cause.

Click here to start your own petition on SignOn.org right now:

[http://www.signon.org/create\\_start.html?source=homepage](http://www.signon.org/create_start.html?source=homepage).

Thanks for all you do. –Steven, Stefanie, Manny, Bobby, and the rest of the team

<a href="#">20120806-02</a>	11:59	SteveB	"Five Adjectives that Scream 'Don't Vote Republican!'"
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"Five Adjectives that Scream 'Don't Vote Republican!'" by Paul Buchheit, NationofChange

Aug. 6, 2012, (<http://www.nationofchange.org/five-adjectives-scream-don-t-vote-republican-1344258529>)

There are more than five, of course, and voting Democrat may not be much of an improvement, but attaching these adjectives to the comically contemptible GOP seems more than appropriate.

OBSTRUCTIONIST

In 2010 Mitch McConnell said: "The single most important thing we want to achieve is for President Obama to be a one-term president." He didn't mention the economy, or education, or jobs, or the housing market. Instead, the goal is to beat Obama, whatever misery it might cause 200 million Americans.

For the past two years the Republicans have obstructed proposals that would have helped most Americans. They fought the middle-class tax cut because it would only apply to the first quarter-million of income. They killed a jobs bill that was supported by two-thirds of the public. They rejected a bill to disclose information about big campaign donors. They disrupted the routine process of increasing the debt ceiling, thus triggering the first-ever downgrading of the U.S. credit rating. Most recently they've obstructed efforts to provide mortgage debt relief to American homeowners.

Along the way they found time to obstruct other bills that conflicted with their 'austerity' mentality: a Pay Equity Bill that would have provided greater pay equality for women; a bill to limit student loan rates; a transportation bill that Senator Dick Durbin called one of the "easiest bills to do on Capitol Hill"; a demand for a \$16 million cut in the FAA budget that led to a \$25 million PER DAY shutdown.

Republicans in Congress, by relying on questionable filibuster rules and delay tactics, have built a "road to gridlock" in the halls of our government. They have been even less productive than the "do-nothing" Congress of Harry Truman. As observed by George Lakoff and Elisabeth Wehling, their recalcitrance "disables the government to the point where it can no longer carry out its moral mission -- the protection and empowerment of everyone equally."

And it all makes the Obama Administration look really bad.

### VINDICTIVE

Despite obstructing every proposal Obama has sent their way, Republicans have the temerity to pass the blame for Congressional failures onto the President and the Democrats. Most of the criticisms border on the absurd. They accuse him of "class warfare" for proposing to tax incomes over \$1 million. They blame him for failing to avoid reductions in military spending. They accuse him of single-handedly losing the country's AAA credit rating.

The President has even been blamed for "strangling the economy" in Ohio when federal labor statistics show that the state's unemployment rate has declined since Obama took office. And, as U.S. corporations abandon job-seeking Americans, Obama is somehow tagged with the title of "outsourcer-in-chief."

The venom is directed not only at political opponents, but also at the public. Social security, a popular and well-run program, is constantly targeted for cuts. Medicare, just as popular, is also threatened, even though private insurance administrative costs are three times higher. The U.S. Post Office was directly assaulted by the 2006 Republican Congress with a ludicrous demand for 75 years of pre-funded retirement plans.

When Republicans run out of spite and accusations, they turn to ambiguities, which allow insults to be fashioned for no particular reason. Mitt Romney blasted Obama's policies for creating "more uncertainty." House Speaker John Boehner lamented the "economic uncertainty that is destroying jobs." House Majority Leader Eric Cantor referred to the "cloud of uncertainty" hanging over small and large employers."

### DELUSIONAL

Republicans have persisted in their 30-year delusion that tax cuts for the rich stimulate the economy and the job market. It is simply not true. Research by Piketty and Saez and Stantcheva confirms that there is a direct relationship between reduced tax rates and higher incomes, and that there is no relationship between tax cuts and GDP growth. As for the claim by Orrin Hatch that a tax increase on top earners would hurt small business, a recent Treasury analysis found that only 2.5% of small businesses would face higher taxes from the expiration of the Bush tax cuts.

The image of wealthy job creators is also an illusion. Over 90% of the assets owned by millionaires are held in a combination of low-risk investments (bonds and cash), the stock market, real estate, and personal business

accounts. The Wall Street Journal admitted that the extra wealth created by the Bush tax cuts led to the "worst track record for jobs in recorded history."

The GOP "tax cut" plan would save tens of millions of dollars for billionaires. This when the richest 1% took 93 percent of all the new income in the first year after the recession, and when at least \$20 trillion -- more than the U.S. GDP -- is stashed away tax-free in offshore tax havens by Ultra High Net Worth Individuals, most of them Americans.

As part of their delusion, Republicans have emphasized the need for austerity measures, including an end to the Child Tax Credit, the Earned Income Tax Credit, and the tax break on college tuition. Not a single Republican voted to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide tax relief to middle-class families.

All this when the child poverty rate in the U.S. has climbed to record levels, leaving us ahead of only Romania for last place among industrialized countries. And when we have 30 million long-term unemployed Americans, 50 million without health insurance, and 50 million on food stamps.

Evidence bursts the balloon filled with Republican hot air. In a survey of leading economists conducted by the University of Chicago's Booth School of Business, 92 percent agreed that the stimulus succeeded in reducing the jobless rate. Not a single economist believed that cutting taxes will lead to higher government revenue.

Instead, reputable studies have found that investing in health care or education will create jobs, and that increasing the minimum wage will stimulate consumer spending.

But the delusional Congressmen don't listen to the middle class anymore. A Princeton study concluded that "Senators appear to be considerably more responsive to the opinions of affluent constituents than to the opinions of middle-class constituents...Disparities in representation are especially pronounced for Republican senators."

### HYPOCRITICAL

Hypocrisy has run rampant among Republicans, starting with their rejection of economic stimulus programs like the one they supported just four years ago. They reversed themselves on the individual mandate, which enjoyed widespread Republican support until Obama endorsed it. They dismissed the payroll tax cut that cuts the taxes they so despise. As noted earlier, they balked at the raising of the debt ceiling, even though it had been raised by Republicans many times before. They demand budget cuts to reduce the deficit while refusing to touch the bloated military budget. They condemn public education while insisting that every individual has an equal opportunity to succeed. They support prison privatization programs that are, according to the Orlando Sentinel, "prime financiers of the Republican party."

Hypocrisy oozes from the pork that survives the Republicans' public demands for fiscal discipline. It flows from the criticism of unions for campaign spending, even though the Center for Responsive Politics estimates that only 2.7 percent of contributions came from labor unions and individuals representing labor organizations. And it reaches a shameful peak in the appeal for 'integrity' in elections through a Voter ID Act, which could eliminate the vote of millions of lower-income Americans.

Finally, the most common note of hypocrisy from Republicans: their call for lower tax rates coupled with a removal of loopholes. Can it work? A Johns Hopkins study suggests not, determining that Republican CEOs show a significantly higher level of tax avoidance than do companies run by CEOs with no clear political preference.

### INEPT

Our do-nothing Republicans are like children pouting until they get their candy. Congressional experts Thomas Mann and Norm Ornstein say "We have been studying Washington politics and Congress for more than 40 years, and never have we seen them this dysfunctional."



On all counts of economic growth, progress is stifled by Republican ineptitude and inertia. Bloomberg reports that Democrats over the years have created more private-sector jobs, stimulated the markets to a greater degree, and presided over faster GDP growth.

Republicans are outrageously unpopular. A Gallup Poll registered a 10% approval rating, less than pornography, communism, and BP during the oil spill.

And unless, as suggested earlier, they're playing dumb as an obstructionist tactic, they're lacking in intelligence, as evidenced by their stand on climate change. Global warming is universally recognized as a problem caused by humans. Except by Republicans. With their passion for individual rights, conservatives deny any fact that implies a failure in the free-market system. If global warming turns out to be true, excuses are being lined up, like this one from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce: "Populations can acclimatize to warmer climates via a range of behavioral, physiological and technological adaptations."

Cognitive dissonance strengthens erroneous beliefs in the presence of factual evidence. Thus the House of Representatives has voted over 100 times since 2011 to subsidize the oil and gas industry while weakening environmental, public health, and safety requirements. As summarized by Republican Senator James Inhofe, "God's still up there. The arrogance of people to think that we, human beings, would be able to change what He is doing in the climate is to me outrageous."

Adds Republican Representative David Schweikert: "You have the right as an American to be dumb."

#### A WORD ABOUT THE DEMOCRATS

"Impotent" comes to mind. The *New York Times* commented that "Many voters prefer the policies of Democrats to the policies of Republicans. They just don't trust the Democrats to carry out those promises."

But Americans, at the very least, deserve political representatives who won't stand in the way of national improvement simply for the purpose of making their opponent a one-term President.

20120806-04	12:05	SteveB	From the Right: "Five Reasons Republicans Can Win the Tax Fight"
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"Five Reasons Republicans Can Win the Tax Fight" by David Harsanyi, *Human Events*

Aug. 6, 2012, (<http://www.humanevents.com/2012/08/06/harsanyi-five-ways-republicans-can-win-the-tax-fight/>)

Economic catastrophe might be looming, but that's not going to stop Washington from doing what it does best: politics. Last week, the Republican-led House passed a bill extending all Bush-era tax cuts set to lapse at the year-end. A few days before that, Senate Democrats passed their own bill raising tax rates on the wealthy and preserving the rest of the cuts. Both were merely symbolic, purely political and plenty cynical.

And so the battle over taxes has seen much maneuvering but absolutely no movement. It's a dangerous game of chicken, as most economists have warned that a failure by Congress to act could undo any of the economic "recovery" we're barely clinging to these days. Marginal income-tax rates and capital gains would jump, dividends would be taxed as income—and that's just for starters. This state of affairs seems to satisfy both sides because they both believe the broader narrative over the tax fight—the ideological case—needs to be won.

The battle lines are simple: Barack Obama supports allowing lower tax rates for those making above \$200,000 a year and \$250,000 for couples to expire, allowing him to attack Republicans as coddlers of plutocrats and Mitt Romney as a candidate of self-interest. Romney supports continuing the tax rates for all income levels and, moreover, he has added the promise of further across-the-board tax cuts.

Whatever happens in November, this is a fight, for a number of reasons that Republicans can win.

#### 1. Democrats Are Overestimating

The left often points to the many polls illustrating that Americans support raising taxes on rich Americans. There is no denying it. But what does that mean in substance? Polls that ask a “yes or no” question without context can only tell us so much. Take, for example, presidential approval ratings: The important question isn’t “do you like the president?” but rather “do you like him less or more than the other guy?”

And in a new Gallup poll, Americans were asked to prioritize the president’s agenda. Respondents assigned exceptionally little importance to increasing taxes on the wealthy—so little, in fact, that when given a choice, voters placed it last among all available choices, tied with expanding global warming policy. The top three were: “creating good jobs” (92 percent), “reducing corruption in federal government” (87 percent) and “reducing the federal budget deficit” (86 percent).

So if the Gallup poll truly reflects the mindset of Americans, it’s curious that Democrats made a tax increase the centerpiece of their attack. The notion that around \$50 billion of added tax revenue a year, the increase it’s expected to generate, would fix the economy, reduce the deficit or create “good jobs” or deal with any of the top prioritized agenda items, seems like a weak central argument for the Democratic Party to make.

## 2. Voters Are in the Mood to Say ‘No’

When Americans do get a direct say on the topic, they’ve consistently been saying “no.” While tax hikes on the wealthy, despite the potential economic consequences, might appeal to our innate affection for “fairness” (though voters often fail to understand how much the wealthy already pay), voters have been increasingly reluctant to give in.

People will tell pollsters all kinds of things, of course, but since the recent recession began, many state, county and city initiatives that proposed tapping new revenue streams have lost—and often lost badly. A proposed transportation sales tax in Georgia, for instance, was clobbered last week, and it is one in a very long line of tax-hike efforts batted down by voters from Oregon to New York.

Put it this way: In June, an initiative to levy a new tax on cigarettes to pay for cancer research in California failed. The only thing that could make that initiative more appealing to voters would be to throw in a free kitten. Yet, it was rejected.

## 3. Deal with the Consequences

Sen. Patty Murray (D-Wash.), leading the tax fight for Democrats in the Senate, has stated that unless Republicans concede to hike taxes on the rich, her party would not enter into any compromise that could delay either automatic spending cuts or tax increases.

Voters may remember that this is the same tough-talking Democratic-controlled Senate hasn’t passed a budget since April 29, 2009. Yet, here, for a tax increase on the wealthy, it is willing to risk a second recession. Voters may also remember that Democrats controlled the House in 2008 when they passed a full extension of the Bush-era tax cuts, because, as an assortment of Democrats pointed out, it was a bad idea to raise taxes during a downturn.

At a press breakfast in Washington hosted by the *Christian Science Monitor*, Republican Majority Whip Kevin McCarthy of California pointed out that there are 139 Democrats in the House who voted to extend all tax cuts and “86 of those Democrats still reside in the House...If we’re serious about changing this economy and making America competitive yet, eliminate some of the uncertainty yet. You extend [tax cuts] and reform the entire tax code—that unshackles us and lets us compete.”

That’s a compelling argument that is going to be hard for Democrats to match. In the end, it is Democrats who created the ultimatum and people who create ultimatums typically bear the brunt of the fallout. A study by Ernst and Young found that raising taxes on the rich would cost the economy around 710,000 jobs. Few reputable economists argue that a tax increase could help create any private sector jobs—the kind of “good jobs” that Americans value.



So the onus will be on the Democrats to convince independents that this is a hill worth dying on. While, conversly, the GOP is arguing for the status quo—a tax rate that has been in place for 10 years.

#### 4. Not Just the Wealthy

While President Barack Obama will continue to argue that the tax hikes aim at billionaires and millionaires who aren't doing their "fair share," more and more voters will learn that it's a far broader proposition.

Sen. Charles Schumer (D-N.Y.) and House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.), arguably two of the highest profile Democrats in Washington, both favored raising the threshold of tax on the wealthy to \$1 million rather than the \$200,000 range. If stalwart liberals are wobbly on this issue, one can imagine the average independent might not buy it either.

Sen. John Thune (R-S.D.) told *Human Events* that taxing the rich entails raising taxes "on almost a million small businesses. More than 50 percent of all [small businesses] that passed through income would face higher taxes and those almost one million small businesses who would be hit with higher taxes employ almost 20 percent of the American workforce."

Thune is talking about many small and mid-sized businesses that, to avoid double taxation are either sub-chapter S corporations or limited liability corporations. Obama will, at some point, have to make the case that small business owners should pay more in taxes—no doubt, an unsavory position to be in.

#### 5. History with the Republicans

History doesn't always repeat itself, but, fact is, no post WWII presidential candidate has won the election while making the focus of his campaign the promise of raising taxes.

[20120806-03](#) 12:03 SteveB Bolivia's Birthday

Today is Bolivia's 189<sup>th</sup> (I think) birthday (our July 4<sup>th</sup>).

The Google Doodle today celebrates that fact:



[20120806-05](#) 12:27 Ann Re: Bolivia's Birthday (reply to SteveB, above)

Wow! Hope you have a celebration.

[20120806-06](#) 13:21 Art Re: Bolivia's Birthday (reply to SteveB, above)

Happy Birthday Bolivia!!!!!!!

[20120806-07](#) 16:05 SteveG Puns

1. The fattest knight at King Arthur's round table was Sir Cumference. He acquired his size from too much pi.

2. I thought I saw an eye doctor on an Alaskan island, but it turned out to be an optical Aleutian.
3. She was only a whiskey maker, but he loved her still.
4. A rubber band pistol was confiscated from algebra class, because it was a weapon of math disruption.
5. No matter how much you push the envelope, it'll still be stationery.
6. A dog gave birth to puppies near the road and was cited for littering.
7. A grenade thrown into a kitchen in France would result in Linoleum blown apart.
8. Two silk worms had a race. They ended up in a tie.
9. A hole has been found in the nudist camp wall. The police are looking into it.
10. Time flies like an arrow. Fruit flies like a banana.
11. Atheism is a non-prophet organization.
12. Two hats were hanging on a hat rack in the hallway. One hat said to the other: 'You stay here; I'll go on a head.'
13. I wondered why the baseball kept getting bigger. Then it hit me.
14. A sign on the lawn at a drug rehab center said: 'Keep off the Grass.'
15. The midget fortune-teller who escaped from prison was a small medium at large.
16. The soldier who survived mustard gas and pepper spray is now a seasoned veteran.
17. A backward poet writes inverse.
18. In a democracy it's your vote that counts. In feudalism it's your count that votes.
19. When cannibals ate a missionary, they got a taste of religion.
20. If you jumped off the bridge in Paris, you'd be in Seine.
21. A vulture boards an airplane, carrying two dead raccoons.. The stewardess looks at him and says, 'I'm sorry, sir, only one carrion allowed per passenger.'
22. Two fish swim into a concrete wall. One turns to the other and says 'Dam!'
23. Two Eskimos sitting in a kayak were chilly, so they lit a fire in the craft. Unsurprisingly it sank, proving once again that you can't have your kayak and heat it too.
24. Two hydrogen atoms meet. One says, 'I've lost my electron.' The other says 'Are you sure?' The first replies, 'Yes, I'm positive.'
25. Did you hear about the Buddhist who refused Novocain during a root canal? His goal: transcendental medication.
26. There was the person who sent ten puns to friends, with the hope that at least one of the puns would make them laugh. No pun in ten did.

<http://po.st/V72zyj>





Republicans regularly demand that all welfare, food stamp & unemployment insurance recipients must be drug-tested.

How about WE demand that ALL GUN OWNERS & PURCHASERS MUST BE DRUG-TESTED, TOO.

( Then we can sit back and watch the Rs suddenly insist that drug testing is totally unconstitutional. It'd be fun! )

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<http://savenaturesavehuman.blogspot.com/2012/04/keel-billed-toucan.html>



—Friends of the Middle,  
Steven W. Baker (SteveB), Editor/Moderator

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