

THREE THINGS: NO, NO, AND HELL TO THE NO ON THE TAX BILL [UPDATED]

NB: Update at the bottom of this post.

I don't have three things. I just have three (or more) layers of pure rage about the so-called tax reform bill now returned to the Senate floor.

There is not one good thing about this bill. Nothing, nada, zippo, nil. How anyone could possibly think adding \$1 trillion to the deficit – ostensibly to raid Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid in the near future – is a positive is simply beyond my grasp.

And yet Senate Republicans are willing to set fire to the economy, torch people's health care, wreak ruin upon academia and research, just to stay on their donors' good side.

Super-wealthy donors are extorting performance from the GOP by withholding donations until they get their tax cuts. They are literally demanding the GOP obtains campaign contributions from the lowest and middle classes by increasing taxes or reducing benefits and transferring the funding to the uppermost class which does not need it but will instead convert the tax cuts to campaign contributions.

If these corrupt GOP senators continue blindly supporting this tax bill, they will stem consumption by the true engine of economic growth while encouraging greater anger across the largest percentage of citizens. I am reminded of the economic troubles in Germany before the 1929 market crash, the following wave of mass unemployment and a banking crisis leading to domination of National Socialism.

We know how that turned out.

This is an open thread. Bring your tax bill rage and off-topic stuff here.

UPDATE – 4:45 PM EST –

Looks like Senate GOP has been inundated with lobbyists' requests for favors (read: quid pro quos for future donations) now being tacked onto the tax bill without any final draft bill available for reading by either the Senate or the public. Totally corrupt bunch of hacks.

A good reminder, thanks to Senator McCaskill: none of the Senators have seen the final version of the bill, and they're still leading up to a final vote.

Be. Angry. Keep. Calling.
<https://t.co/Ny939J7UK3>

– Celeste P. (@Celeste_pewter) December 1, 2017

As @Celeste_pewter says, keep calling; even if Sen. 'Turtlehead' McConnell says the GOP has 51 votes, they still need to get through conference committee. Congressional switchboard is (202) 224-3121. Here's a script for your use.

Thanks to Sen. Ron Wyden who continues to fight for the individual mandate.

Boos and rotten tomatoes to Sens. Susan Collins and Lisa Murkowski, who sold out for rather meager tidbits – state/local tax write-offs for Collins, and drilling more oil for Murkowski. The cost to constituents' health and financial well-being is a lousy trade-off .