

# “Make America Broke Again”

*Michael K. Cantwell*

That’s the Republican mantra . . . and here they go again. Huge tax cuts for the wealthy, topped by massive tax cuts for corporations and the obscenely wealthy, all on the backs of the middle class and the poor. And the icing on the cake? A \$1.7 trillion increase in the deficit, so that when we vote the bums out and set about cleaning up another Republican mess, they’ll holler that there’s no money left to pay for the social spending that citizens of the rest of the industrialized world take for granted, the spending to which Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes was referring when he called taxes “the price we pay for a civilized society.”

Round 1 was the Reagan tax cut, funded by steep hikes in the Social Security tax, that led to a tripling of the cumulative deficit during his administration and a quadrupling by the time Bush I left office. After increasing taxes on high earners in 1993, the Clinton administration not only presided over the creation of 23 million jobs (thus puncturing the myth that higher taxes kill jobs) but turned over three straight annual SURPLUSES to the hapless Bush II administration.

Round 2 were the 2001 and 2003 tax cuts passed under W, with the now-disgraced Ayn Rand acolyte Alan Greenspan cheerleading the raid on the U.S. Treasury by claiming that surpluses were “bad.” The cuts not only failed to create jobs (less than 400,000 private sector jobs were created during W’s two terms) but they helped double the deficit. The odious Dick Cheney infamously claimed that “Reagan proved that deficits don’t matter.” Actually he would have been right if he’d but added “when a Republican is in the White House.”

Despite monolithic opposition from

Republicans, and phony shrieks from shills like Alan Simpson (who idiotically claimed that if we didn’t start slashing social spending we’d be like Greece by 2010), the Obama administration managed to arrange for health insurance for an additional 20 million Americans, while creating nearly 11 million private-sector jobs.

And now, like some loathsome monster in a horror film, they’re ba-ack with a tax plan under which the top 1% gets 20.6% of the benefits in 2018 and nearly 50% of the benefits in 2027 (and the top 0.1% get 10% of the total benefits in 2018 and 25% of the benefits in 2027).

To help pay for the breaks given to the rich and the obscenely rich, Republicans will eliminate tax credits and exemptions that benefit middle class families, such as deducting the interest on college loans or taxing tuition reductions for children of university employees. Indeed, one analysis of the House bill found that families with children will see their taxes increase once the bill is fully phased in. Another found that some 20 million taxpayers earning less than \$200,000 were pay higher taxes, with another 54 million of them receiving a “tax cut” amounting to all of \$100.

Not to mention exploding the deficit by \$1.7 trillion. Republicans claim that tax cuts will pay for themselves but only idiots and liars say that. But I repeat myself.

Some of the grifters behind the plan (like Trump) are only interested in the additional money they can steal from the public purse for themselves. Others (like McConnell and Greenspan) are prostitutes pleasuring the plutocrats who keep them in office. But for others (like Ryan), the rapacious plunder is just means to an end. The real goal is to

Make America Broke Again so as to achieve their lifelong goal of destroying Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid.

Get on the phones, people. Get your friends and neighbors on the phone. And get your

pitchforks. This abomination will pass unless the switchboards are smoking with sustained outrage. Rubio's local office numbers are 305-418-8553 and (561) 775 3360 and his DC office is 203-224-4304.