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Should the Rich and Wealthy get something for paying all those taxes? (Humor)

February 3, 2011 by Deirdre Wheatley-Liss

I came across Top 10 'Bad Ideas' for Taxing the Rich and couldn't help but share it.

The premise, **how to encourage the rich to pay more in taxes, in a tongue in cheek fashion.** Author Robert Frank summarized some of the "best" suggestions:



1–Naming Rights. Depending on your tax bill, you get naming rights for federal property such as highways, bridges, etc.

2–Frequent Flier Points. One reader wrote: “High income taxpayers would accumulate points based on their tax percentile, which could then be redeemed for the ultimate status symbols: merchandise frankly (yet discreetly) proclaiming the bearer’s high income bracket. Imagine, for example, a metallic Coach tote with a sterling ‘1%’ charm on the zipper, proclaiming that the woman carrying it is in the top 1% of US taxpayers. And what businessperson wouldn’t want the Montblanc half percent pen, with a simple ‘.5%’ engraved in the snowy tip of the pen? Those in the know would recognize and respect these symbols of achievement.”

3–A Parade. On April 15, rich people who paid more than \$500,000 in taxes could march down Constitution Avenue and shake hands with the President and members of Congress at the end.

4–Tax the Foreign Rich. We should provide “expedited citizenship” to immigrants who will buy a home for a value of at least \$300K-\$400K. This will reduce our excess housing stock, bring capital into the country and probably bring in productive taxpayers.

5–Access Passes. The rich would get preferred access to public parks/national museums.

6–Exemption from jury duty.

7–The “Fat Tax.” Impose tax incentives tied to a person’s overall Body Mass Index (BMI), as well as a % change in BMI versus the prior tax year.

8–A telethon. A 24-hour live TV auction offering one-on-one experiences with 1,000 “A-List” Stars of entertainment, sports, business and politics with 100% of proceeds earmarked to help fund a specific U.S. Government program. Experiences might include lunch with the President, a concert with Lady Gaga and helicopter skiing with Will Smith. All proceeds would go to taxes and the stars would revel in the patriotism of helping the government.



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9–Rent out paintings and other artifacts from the Smithsonian. “The Smithsonian provides 1,000 treasures that are each available for one-year (or more) rentals at \$50+ million (plus shipping) annually to the highest (sealed) bidder,” one reader suggested.

10–Shame. Anyone who agrees to pay a higher tax rate will be exempt from having their names published in the local newspaper. Rich people, after all, hate adverse publicity.

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