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### Who Owns the Wealth you Create? You or the Government?

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[David Boaz](#) of the Cato Institute has caught another left-wing journalist who says that the money Americans earn belongs to the government and they should be thankful that it lets them keep some of it:

Pulitzer Prize-winning columnist Eugene Robinson at the Washington Post [complains](#) about Republicans' insistence that tax rates not go up next month, while they also resist more government spending:

In other words, there's no additional money in the national coffers for the victims of the most devastating recession since the Great Depression. But to help investment bankers start the new year right, perhaps with a new Mercedes or a bit of sun in the Caribbean? Step right up, and we'll write you a check.

No. No. No. When the government fails to raise taxes, no one "writes a check." People who are not taxed don't get a check from the government, they simply get to keep the money *they have already earned*. No check will be coming from "the national coffers" to taxpayers if tax rates are [left at their current rates](#).

Robinson seems to think that all the money in America is "in the national coffers," and the question for Congress is who to give it to.

Robinson epitomizes the attitude progressives have about income inequality and the free market. Make no mistake about it, extreme left wingers like Robinson would like to see the government control all of the wealth and distribute it " [to each according to his need](#)."

I wrote about the difference between liberals and conservatives in my recent post titled [Is Wealth Distributed or Earned](#):

The recent squawking about the unequal distribution of wealth in America made me reach for my dog-eared copy of the Thomas Sowell classic, [A Conflict of Visions](#).

It took me only a few minutes to find the sentence I was looking for:

"Despite a voluminous and often fervent literature on "income distribution," the cold fact is that most income is not distributed: It is earned."

One would be hard-pressed to find a more stark difference between liberals and conservatives than in their attitudes toward the rich and successful.

Liberals tend to believe that the haves got that way not through any special virtues they may have nurtured, but rather, through luck, built-in systemic advantages and corruption.

Conservatives, on the other hand, believe that the haves earned their success through a mixture of intelligence, diligence and a rebellious independence that refuses to accept the demeaning notion that others are responsible for one's own failures.

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