

Give him a better reason

Re “Taxing thoughts” ([SN&R Editorial, September 9](#)):

Why do we have to justify our political agendas in this country with subjective words like “patriotism”? Quite frankly, I care not that the SN&R editorial board believes that paying taxes is an act of patriotism. It may sound nice to say that we have a moral duty to “contribute to the common effort” by opening our wallets ever April 15, but how does doing so impact the economy? That is the issue we as a society should be focused on.

Every year, the federal government extracts \$2.8 trillion from private citizens and businesses, according to Cato Institute economist Chris Edwards. That is money businesses could use to hire more employees and individuals could use to improve their quality of life. Instead, much of it is wasted on things that are decidedly harmful—like fighting offensive wars and bailing out failing Wall Street firms.

I enjoy reading the SN&R opinion page because it usually runs counter to my own views; what I find irritating, however, is opinion with little substance. Why will allowing the Bush tax cuts to expire address our budgetary problems? Why is more stimulus spending necessary? Can the economy actually be revived with injections of government credit?

If another editorial extolling the virtues of higher taxes is published, and I am sure one will be, it would be greatly improved if it answered these questions.

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