

BUCKS COUNTY **Courier Times**

Where is the oversight?

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PBS NewsHour (May 23) featured a discussion of President Trump's Management and Budget Director Mick Mulvaney's draft federal budget between Chris Edwards, conservative Cato Institute's Director of Tax Policy, and Jared Bernstein of the progressive Center on Budget Policy and Priorities.

Edwards acknowledged the draft budget's 3 percent economic growth was extremely unrealistic but was an important goal of the administration. Bernstein described "drastic cuts in entitlement programs to pay for increases in military spending" as failed trickle down fairy dust. He characterized the Republican budget theory as based on the theory that "poor and middle-income people have too much and rich people don't have enough."

Although working class people were the critical voting base in electing Donald Trump to the presidency, it's clear that Trump supports the same group of people that George W. Bush described his base -- "the haves and the have more." That's Trump and the Trump family.

The U.S. defense budget is around \$597 billion and is almost as much as the next 14 nations put together. Next largest is China's at \$145.8 billion, less than a third of U.S. Russia's budget, which is \$66 billion. However, the report recognized that China's and Russia's latest technologies are more advanced.

For decades, Republicans have charged that Democrats have just thrown money at social programs with limited results. I wonder if Trump's just throwing large amounts of money into military spending makes us significantly safer.

Is there any oversight of how our tax dollars are spent? Taxpayers have a right to know.