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SAT APR 23, 2011 AT 08:50 AM PDT

# This is rich -- The Rich are accusing Obama of Class Warfare

james

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I literally laughed out loud when I read this Google News Headline from Forbes ... allow me to recap its high low points ...

## Obama Embraces Another Class-Warfare Proposal

Business in The Beltway - Forbes

Posted by Daniel J. Mitchell, blogs.forbes.com -- Apr. 22 2011

[...] It appears that President Obama wants to radically change this [Social Security Cap] system so that it is **based on a class-warfare model**. During the 2008 campaign, for instance, then-Senator Obama suggested that the programs giant long-run deficit **could be addressed by busting the wage-base cap and imposing the payroll tax on a larger amount of income**.

And the President reiterated his support for a class-warfare approach earlier this week, leading the **Wall Street Journal** to opine.

Speaking Tuesday in Annandale, Virginia, Mr. Obama came out for lifting the cap on income on which the Social Security payroll tax is applied. Currently, the employer and employee each pay 6.2% up to \$106,800, a level that rises with inflation each year. ...Mr. Obama didn't hint at specifics, though he did run in 2008 on a *plan to raise the "tax max" by somewhere between two to eight percentage points for the top 3% of earners*. ...**most of the increase could be paid by the middle class or modestly affluent** [...]

If the cap is removed entirely, it will also mean a huge increase in the marginal tax rates that *affect decisions to work, invest and save*. In a recent paper for the American Enterprise Institute, **Andrew Biggs calculates that this and other tax increases Mr. Obama favors would bring the top marginal rate to somewhere between 57% and 68%** when factoring in state taxes. *Tax levels like these haven't been seen since the 1970s*. [...]

That's rich. Increasing the Social Security Ceiling, **will hurt the middle class**, or so the WSJ asserted, and this Forbes Bobblehead, just repeated. They got keep repeating this stuff, until

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it *finally sticks* ...

All numbers based on the research of Andrew Biggs, with the American Enterprise Institute -- hmmm, this should make for some fun reading ....

First off, who or what is behind the Front Group: **American Enterprise Institute?**

*Where do their allegiances lie?*

SourceWatch:

**The American Enterprise Institute** for Public Policy Research (AEI) is an **extremely influential, pro-business, conservative think tank** founded in 1943 by Lewis H. Brown. It promotes the advancement of free enterprise capitalism[1], and succeeds in placing its people in influential governmental positions. It is the center base for many neo-conservatives.  
[...]

#### Casting Doubt on Global Warming

In February 2007, The Guardian (UK) reported that **AEI was offering scientists and economists \$10,000 each**, "to undermine a major climate change report" from the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).  
[...]

The Guardian reported further that **AEI "has received more than \$1.6m from ExxonMobil**, and more than 20 of its staff have worked as *consultants to the Bush administration*.  
[...]

#### Funding

In 2006 AEI reported that its income was \$28.4 million. Of this it states on its website that "individual contributions of more than \$10 million provided the largest share of the revenue base, followed by **\$6 million in corporate support, and \$4.7 million from foundations.**"[18]

#### Corporate donations

While the AEI acknowledges that it received over \$6 million in corporate contributions in 2006, *the donors are not identified in either its annual report or on its website*. However, it is known that during 1997, Philip Morris contributed \$100,000 to the Institute[19]. During 2007, *ExxonMobil contributed \$240,000* [...]

OK, that should tell you a lot about the AEI motives and their "pro business" agenda.


And what about this author in AEI's employ -- Andrew Biggs -- the guy attacking Obama, because Obama is "*attacking the Middle Class*" with all his new Tax Proposals?

Well check out Andrew Biggs' Blog -- to get an inkling of his of where he ~~stands~~ sits, as he keeps cranking out the "Defend the Rich" Talking Points, on a routine basis ... (I suspect the gig must pay pretty well) ...


#### Just Say It, Mr. President

By Andrew Biggs -- [blog.american.com](http://blog.american.com)  
April 20, 2011


[...] Reuters reports that "Obama backs lifting income cap for Social Security," referencing proposals to increase the \$106,800 earnings cap on which Social Security taxes are applied and (although rarely mentioned) Social Security benefits are calculated. At an event on Tuesday in Annandale, Virginia, **the president said:**

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For the vast majority of Americans, every dime you earn, you're paying some in Social Security. But for (billionaire investor) Warren Buffett, he stops paying at a little bit over \$100,000 and then the next \$50 billion he's not paying a dime in Social Security taxes.

[...] But at some point I can't blame Congressional Republicans -- and Democrats, too, for that matter -- if they yell out, "Just say it!" **Increasing the tax max would constitute a tax increase for the "middle class," defined in the president's terms as those with incomes less than \$250,000.** Everyone knows that if he wants to balance the budget without significant reductions in the programs the president cares about, **he's going to need to increase taxes on people with more modest incomes.** If so, *there's no time like the present.*

Mr. President, just say it.

Say What? *That the Middle Class is really the target* of any plans to raise the Social Security Ceiling, to repair its long-term stability?

*Yeah right!* \$250K a year, yep that's just the struggling-to-get-by average middle-of-the-road Americans!

After citing that 'Rhodes Scholar', Daniel Mitchell, "the Kettle doing the calling ..." ends his Obama 'Class Warfare' accusations, with his own sunny version of "how Job Creation" really happens in America ...

**This video** from the Center for Freedom and Prosperity, narrated by yours truly [Daniel Mitchell], elaborates on why this is the wrong approach.

*[Diarist Warning: serious Conservative Talking Points given ahead, concerning how Taxing the Rich hurts "all of us who don't make anywhere near \$250,000" by creating a "sluggish economy", etc. PS. this video appears to be making the rounds in the conservative blogosphere.]*

### Senator Obama's Social Security Tax Plan

Here's a sampling [Time Mark 1:40]:

*Daniel Mitchell:*

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"Now a lot of people are already worried about the economic impact of Obama's proposal to kill the 2001 and 2003 income rate reduction. **That would increase the top tax rate on 'productive behavior'** by about 4.6% points.

*Well Heck, that is small potatoes compared to a **Social Security scheme** which would boost the Top Tax rate by approximately 12% points. In one fell swoop America's Top Tax rate would be a French and German levels. This would be bad news -- even for all of us who don't make anywhere near \$250,000*

*-- high tax rates on 'investors and entrepreneurs', **slow economic growth**. And **it's 'regular people'** -- not the Donald Trumps and Warren Buffets of the world -- **who lose out when the economy is 'sluggish'** ..."*

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That was about as much "**Defend the Rich**" Talking Points as I could stomach from Dan J. Mitchell, with my morning coffee. He drones on like this for another nine minutes, I presume.

Who is Dan J. Mitchell the person *leading Reverse Robin Hood charge* on Forbes site today, posted in my intro?

*Well Heck, that would be the Dan J. Mitchell "of the **Cato Institute**" on loan to the Center for Freedom and Prosperity, to share his "insights" {cough} ...*

Let me give you a quick refresher on WHO and what Cato represents ...

SourceWatch:

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**The Cato Institute** is a **libertarian think tank** headquartered in Washington, D.C. The Institute states that it favors policies "that are consistent with the traditional American principles of limited government, individual liberty, and peace." [1]

[...]

**Cato was founded in 1977 by Edward H. Crane and Charles Koch, [2] the billionaire co-owner of Koch Industries known for its financing of the Tea Party and various extreme right front groups. David Koch is currently on Cato's Board of Directors. "According to the Center for Public Integrity, between 1986 and 1993 the **Koch family gave eleven million dollars to the [Cato] institute.****

Today, *Cato has more than a hundred full-time employees*, and its experts and policy papers are widely quoted and respected by the mainstream media. It describes itself as nonpartisan, and its scholars have at times been critical of both parties. It has **consistently pushed for corporate tax cuts, reductions in social services, and laissez-faire environmental policies.**" [3]

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### So Cato is Koch.

And Koch is leading this "Defend the Wealthy" from Obama's Class Warfare rhetoric.

Big surprise, eh -- Koch Brothers defending their fortunes, under the guise of "protecting the Middle Class".

*(you knew, I was leading to somewhere, right? )*

Knowledge is Power. Stay informed, my friends.

You never know where this new "Class Warfare" meme might lead, as the Wealthy continue to "protect their assets".

Apparently *THAT* is the only Patriotic Duty they know, "Get theirs -- and Keeping it -- while the Gettin's good."

And Pay your "Front Groups" Millions, to make it all look "legit".

ORIGINALLY POSTED TO [DIGGING UP THOSE FACTS ... FOR OVER 4 YEARS](#). ON SAT APR 23, 2011 AT 08:50 AM PDT.

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**Tip Jar** by james, Sat Apr 23, 2011 at 08:50:52 AM PDT (30+ / 0-)

**This is just another way to hit Obama...** by tds1f1, Sat Apr 23, 2011 at 09:38:16 AM PDT (7+ / 0-)

**If Dems (and Progressives) can't unite here** by james, Sat Apr 23, 2011 at 09:51:44 AM PDT (11+ / 0-)

**Who is protecting the rich?** by AndyS In Colorado, Sat Apr 23, 2011 at 01:45:54 PM PDT (0+ / 0-)

**I'm just reporting on** by james, Sat Apr 23, 2011 at 01:54:19 PM PDT (0+ / 0-)

**Your reporting is fine. It's the inferences you** by AndyS In Colorado, Sat Apr 23, 2011 at 02:03:38 PM PDT (1+ / 0-)

**what do you suggest we do instead** by james, Sat Apr 23, 2011 at 02:12:07 PM PDT (1+ / 0-)

**Oh but wait! You suggested that we unite behind** by AndyS In Colorado, Sat Apr 23, 2011 at 02:22:42 PM PDT (0+ / 0-)

**SO** by james, Sat Apr 23, 2011 at 03:30:18 PM PDT (1+ / 0-)

**It's the appearance of disingenuousness and** by AndyS In Colorado, Sat Apr 23, 2011 at 03:38:04 PM PDT (0+ / 0-)

**such is the political world we live in** by james, Sat Apr 23, 2011 at 03:41:26 PM PDT (0+ / 0-)

**Oh BULLSHIT.** by AndyS In Colorado, Sat Apr 23, 2011 at 04:00:19 PM PDT (0+ / 0-)

**And here is what I want you to do.** by AndyS In Colorado, Sat Apr 23, 2011 at 04:21:35 PM PDT (0+ / 0-)

**last word** by james, Sat Apr 23, 2011 at 05:17:57 PM PDT (1+ / 0-)

**We push the Democratic Party to Back This Kind of** by Into The Woods, Sun Apr 24, 2011 at 01:14:42 AM PDT (1+ / 0-)

**It's always interesting on this kind of diary** by Into The Woods, Sun Apr 24, 2011 at 02:00:13 AM PDT (1+ / 0-)

**Obama's campaign was NOT paid for** by anastasia p, Sat Apr 23, 2011 at 04:08:45 PM PDT (4+ / 0-)

**But it was PARTIALLY paid for by rich plutocrats.** by AndyS In Colorado, Sat Apr 23, 2011 at 04:47:13 PM PDT (0+ / 0-)

**In the world we live in, anyone not taking their** by Into The Woods, Sun Apr 24, 2011 at 02:02:47 AM PDT (0+ / 0-)

**Running a class war on the part of poor people** by AndyS In Colorado, Sat Apr 23, 2011 at 04:49:31 PM PDT (0+ / 0-)

**Interesting framing. "on behalf of poor people"** by Into The Woods, Sun Apr 24, 2011 at 02:12:01 AM PDT (1+ / 0-)

**The Best Horse in the Glue Factory is Still The** by Into The Woods, Sun Apr 24, 2011 at 01:01:54 AM PDT (1+ / 0-)

**You know who is going to show up next year?** by anastasia p, Sat Apr 23, 2011 at 04:07:12 PM PDT (3+ / 0-)

**When Obama is accused** by TomP, Sat Apr 23, 2011 at 10:05:42 AM PDT (18+ / 0-)

**thanks TomP** by james, Sat Apr 23, 2011 at 10:27:13 AM PDT (9+ / 0-)

**These people have** by anastasia p, Sat Apr 23, 2011 at 04:11:01 PM PDT (4+ / 0-)

**No They Don't Have Everything They Want** by Into The Woods, Sun Apr 24, 2011 at 01:25:45 AM PDT (0+ / 0-)

**No surprise. That's the standard break out** by Ezekial 23 20, Sat Apr 23, 2011 at 08:59:43 AM PDT (9+ / 0-)

**which means** by james, Sat Apr 23, 2011 at 09:14:35 AM PDT (9+ / 0-)

**To the rich, someone who makes 250K** by psilocynic, Sat Apr 23, 2011 at 09:15:57 AM PDT (15+ / 0-)

**that is an excellent way** by james, Sat Apr 23, 2011 at 09:33:21 AM PDT (8+ / 0-)

**The Power-Rich have used the upper middle class** by Into The Woods, Sun Apr 24, 2011 at 01:31:13 AM PDT (1+ / 0-)

**Well , of course it's middle class** by Dr Squid, Sat Apr 23, 2011 at 02:32:57 PM PDT (2+ / 0-)

**All of those think tanks** by Iberian, Sat Apr 23, 2011 at 09:21:03 AM PDT (10+ / 0-)

**Indeed** by james, Sat Apr 23, 2011 at 09:32:24 AM PDT (8+ / 0-)

**I'm convinced** by Iberian, Sat Apr 23, 2011 at 11:24:24 AM PDT (2+ / 0-)

**well** by james, Sat Apr 23, 2011 at 11:37:22 AM PDT (4+ / 0-)

**Sustained neglect can be indistinguishable from** by Into The Woods, Sun Apr 24, 2011 at 01:32:28 AM PDT (1+ / 0-)

**Projection** by emal, Sat Apr 23, 2011 at 09:50:25 AM PDT (13+ / 0-)

**very nice assessment and recap** by james, Sat Apr 23, 2011 at 09:56:19 AM PDT (7+ / 0-)

**amen, brother, eom** by isabelle hayes, Sat Apr 23, 2011 at 12:18:51 PM PDT (2+ / 0-)

**American Dream and Democracy = America** by Into The Woods, Sun Apr 24, 2011 at 01:39:18 AM PDT (2+ / 0-)

**That is not Andrew's blog** by Bruce Webb, Sat Apr 23, 2011 at 10:01:21 AM PDT (8+ / 0-)

**thanks Bruce Webb** by james, Sat Apr 23, 2011 at 10:23:28 AM PDT (4+ / 0-)

**Other players? Chuck Blahous & Michael Tanner** by Bruce Webb, Sat Apr 23, 2011 at 10:56:20 AM PDT (3+ / 0-)

**It's only warfare when both sides shoot** by Frank Palmer, Sat Apr 23, 2011 at 10:11:49 AM PDT (5+ / 0-)

**sounds like** by james, Sat Apr 23, 2011 at 10:25:17 AM PDT (0+ / 0-)

**It's premature to call it warfare.** by Into The Woods, Sun Apr 24, 2011 at 01:43:21 AM PDT (1+ / 0-)

**If you shout "Stop! Thief!" and point** by Leo in NJ, Sat Apr 23, 2011 at 10:20:54 AM PDT (11+ / 0-)

**the old** by james, Sat Apr 23, 2011 at 10:24:39 AM PDT (5+ / 0-)

**They've been pulling this garbage forever** by Tam in CA, Sat Apr 23, 2011 at 10:23:48 AM PDT (8+ / 0-)

**we need to Stand Up** by james, Sat Apr 23, 2011 at 10:30:21 AM PDT (4+ / 0-)

**I love this:** by porchdog1961, Sat Apr 23, 2011 at 11:12:16 AM PDT (9+ / 0-)

**astounding, isn't it?** by james, Sat Apr 23, 2011 at 11:20:37 AM PDT (6+ / 0-)

**No, but they understand how politics and PR** by Into The Woods, Sun Apr 24, 2011 at 01:48:19 AM PDT (2+ / 0-)

**you tell it!** by james, Sun Apr 24, 2011 at 06:09:41 AM PDT (2+ / 0-)

**The rich and the elite like to think** by hannah, Sat Apr 23, 2011 at 11:30:06 AM PDT (4+ / 0-)

**interesting, and well said.** by james, Sat Apr 23, 2011 at 11:35:08 AM PDT (3+ / 0-)

**It is our deeply held commitment to those ideals** by Into The Woods, Sun Apr 24, 2011 at 01:54:33 AM PDT (2+ / 0-)

**The attraction to class is a sprout of** by hannah, Sun Apr 24, 2011 at 03:28:05 AM PDT (2+ / 0-)

**Which is why the wealthy and powerful envy** by Into The Woods, Sun Apr 24, 2011 at 04:36:29 AM PDT (2+ / 0-)

**Everything the Republicans accuse the Democrats** by Eric Nelson, Sat Apr 23, 2011 at 11:48:18 AM PDT (5+ / 0-)

**we just can't sit back and let them get away with** by james, Sat Apr 23, 2011 at 11:52:58 AM PDT (3+ / 0-)

**This is pure projection...** by BarackStarObama, Sat Apr 23, 2011 at 01:44:09 PM PDT (2+ / 0-)

**yes** by james, Sat Apr 23, 2011 at 02:14:40 PM PDT (3+ / 0-)

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