



Al Shumard (letter, July 19) and other Republicans are trying to rewrite history. They should fact-check before accepting right-wing propaganda.

The top income tax rate from 1918 to 1931 was 25 percent. After the crash in October 1929, President Hoover's tax increase came into effect in 1932. Shumard blames the crash on the tax increases and government spending that began after the crash (Tax Policy Center, Yahoo News, ABC News, Cato Institute). Ultimately, if you have to reach back to Harding-Coolidge, you're grasping at straws.

Shumard cites a 20 percent reduction in the top rate during the Kennedy-Johnson administrations. During Johnson, the top rate dropped in 1964 from 91 percent to 77 percent to 70 percent, back to 75 percent in 1968, not a minus-20 percent average.

It might be useful to remind some that income tax rates for those who made more than \$400,000 were 91 percent from 1950 through 1963. Then 39 percent doesn't seem so outrageous.

But, all this rambling is really pointless. During Clinton's eight years, the economy generated a record 23 million new jobs with a job creation rate of 39.6 percent. That is unmatched in all the 20 years of Reagan, Bush 41 and Bush 43 combined. Bush's tax cuts and Iraq together actually drove the economy off the cliff.

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