

Thanks are due to Governor Schwarzenegger for responsibly calling for an increase in taxes “to stop the bleeding” in the State’s financial condition. For the past three decades the mantra of successful politicians has been “we have to cut taxes, we have to cut taxes.” George W. Bush went to war, and then expanded the military assault to two wars, with not one word about how to pay for these incredibly expensive military efforts. With deficit spending hemorrhaging daily, while Bush asked us to “support our troops” though not volunteering to increase taxes to pay for those troops, the deficit grew worse by the hour.

Now, responsible conservatives like the Governor realize that there has to be an end to this madness. How do we pay off the Bush deficits? The answer lies in the rule applied by local courts, saying that parents are financially responsible for the financial damages made by their irresponsible offspring. Following this rule, it seems only fair that those who voted for Bush should come forward and volunteer to pay for the mess that their boy George made. Surely those people, who have for so long loudly proclaimed their patriotism, will see the error of their ways and will come forward voluntarily to make their restitution payments.

I suggest we declare the next month as “Pay Off the Bush Deficits Campaign.” And, after everyone who voted for Bush has made their voluntary payment, we can balance the budget, declare the era over, and forgive them for their mistakes.

But there is a tiny problem with this plan. What is the nation to do if the Bush supporters do not come forward with enough volunteer payments to clean up the mess? Just on the tiny off chance that they are not quite ready to put their money where their very loud mouth is, I think we need to be thinking about a backup plan.

Barack Obama offered the suggestion during the campaign that he is going to raise the taxes of those people who make more than \$250,000.00 annually. After all, they are the people who have most benefited from this country, so it is obvious that those who benefit most should pay the bills. Nice try to a painless solution, Barack, but no prize for mathematical calculation awarded. President-elect Obama’s solution is a mirage. The numbers just do not add up. It is not enough. So, the only solution is to double the tax rate for those earning over \$100,000. Another swipe of the calculus, though, and even that is not enough to pay off the nation’s debts.

OK, so if taxing the rich is not going to pay for the Bush deficits, where is that money going to come from? Somebody has to pay for it. Then who?

The only solution is for Bush supporters to pay for their boy’s deficits. Let’s begin with religious institutions. The reason I begin with them is because the Christian Churches have been so prominent in arguing that there should be “no special rights.” Remember when they used this as their slogan, several years ago, saying that there should be “no special rights” for homosexuals? That is so true. They really convinced me that no one should get any special rights. I stand with the Churches on that one.

And so, because they were so convincing that no one and no organization should be able to have any special rights, I am sure that the Church leaders will not object in the least to abolishing the religious exemption from taxation. How could they possibly object? They are on record as opposing any “special rights,” and so to be consistent the churches will surely agree that a special right to be exempt from taxation is not moral.

Another reason I am so sure the Churches will readily agree to pay their fair share of taxes is because they have been so generous in providing quite a lot of money to politics lately. Churches have funded efforts to restrict the use of stem cells for medical research, the teaching of evolution in the schools (the horror!), women's reproductive rights, and equality for homosexuals. I agree with the churches, no one should have any special rights, and that obviously includes the churches themselves.

The new principle of fiscal responsibility must be: "no special rights for anyone. No tax exemptions for anyone." Since Christian Churches were the main supporters of George W. Bush, it seems quite appropriate that after persuading the majority of American voters to support Mr. Bush they should shoulder part of the burden to pay off the Bush deficits. Surely they would not expect the American people to pay for this profligate spending of the last eight years, while they continue to hold billions of dollars worth of church-owned property that goes untaxed. Surely they will do their patriotic duty, to help the country in its time of need. Remember Christian charity?

Maybe, just maybe, if the California State government levies taxes on churches, some of them will go out of business (and they are a business, the most efficient money making business of our time) or will leave our State and cease infecting still another generation of youth with their intolerance. They continually terrorize parents with the specter of homosexual child abusers, when the churches themselves are the biggest abusers of children imaginable. What could be more terrifying to a young person than to be told by a priest that they will spend eternity in hell because they masturbated? What is more abusive than foisting the ridiculous notion that a person using their hand to make their own body feel pleasure is deserving of eternal damnation? Who is the real child abuser? Who is going to stand up and say, "This insanity has got to stop."

Churches have done enough damage. Polls show that many Christians realize this, and acknowledge that they differ with the positions of the Church. But, if they contribute one cent to such political bodies, they are feeding the beast that is devouring America.

It is time for sensible people to withdraw from the hateful churches, and either transfer to a non-discriminatory non-political church, take over their community sanctuary and throw the charlatans out, or refuse to legitimate Christianity in any way. The sins of the churches are so great, their corruption so foul, that they have forever lost their claim to speak in the name of Jesus. Please, Jesus, if you do return to earth, save me from your followers.