**THE UNSERIOUS NEW REPUBLICAN BUDGET PLAN**

**by VERONIQUE DE RUGY**

**(Los Angeles Daily News)**

*Serious problems should be met with serious solutions.*

**Let me interrupt you here for a moment, so we can say that …**

**we have a point of agreement!**

*We have serious problems, namely a fast-growing debt and a need to extend some tax cuts in an unforgiving environment where interest rates are high and inflation is rising again.*

**Regarding the “fast-growing debt”:**

**You are wrong. The debt grew 8 trillion under Trump**

**and then slowed to about half that under Biden …**

[**https://www.crfb.org/papers/trump-and-biden-national-debt**](https://www.crfb.org/papers/trump-and-biden-national-debt)

**So a truthful statement would have read**

**“growing at half the speed as before.”**

**Regarding “a need to extend some tax cuts”:**

**The 2017 tax giveaway to the rich are the tax cuts that Republicans will extend (ya kinda left that part out).**

*Unfortunately, despite a new mandate, House Republicans have yet to rise to the occasion. Their latest budget blueprint shows that fiscal responsibility vanishes the moment real choices arise. As a reminder, government debt stands at 100% of GDP. It will grow to 117% by 2034 if the tax cuts are allowed to expire as scheduled this year. It was 76.5% when the cuts were first passed in 2017.*

**If debt grew from 76.5% to 100% after Trump’s tax giveaway to the rich in 2017 (8 years ago), and will only grow to 117% by 2034 (9 years from now) if allowed to expire, how on God’s Good Earth did you conclude that …**

**extending them will lower the debt?**

*For those wondering why deficits and debt have accumulated so much,*

*here are some more numbers.*

**Those of us not under the cult’s control aren’t wondering.**

**We know why – we just don’t know how to stop it.**

*According to Center for a Free Economy President Ryan Ellis, since 2017, tax revenues have grown by 58%, while spending has grown by 75%.*

**If tax revenues have grown by 58% since 2017 when the big corporations got the biggest tax breaks in history, then that growth in tax revenue could have come from only one place … the backs of American workers.**

*These hikes weren’t driven by inflation alone, which increased by 31% cumulatively over the period. As Ellis rightly notes, we can’t blame taxpayers.The fault lies squarely with politicians’ spending incontinence. Enter the House Republican budget blueprint for a “big beautiful bill” as requested by the president. As the Committee for a Responsible Budget explains, “the budget resolution’s instructions include a net $3.3 trillion in allowable deficit increases — or nearly $4 trillion including interest in additional debt by 2034.” It also raises the debt ceiling by $4 trillion. Basically, we’re talking about offsetting as much as $4.8 trillion — mostly for tax-cut extensions — with only $1.5 trillion in supposed spending reductions.*

**What you left out is that those “tax-cut extensions” solely benefit**

**the big corporations and the ultra rich. You know, the ones whose wealth has reached levels not seen since the gilded age and the roaring twenties.**

*The plan projects that additional tax revenue from economic growth will temper the debt impact. While I’ve touted the potential for some tax-cut extensions to boost economic growth, this is a case of wishful thinking by Republicans. In part, it’s because the plan relies on the same kinds of budget gimmicks and unrealistic assumptions we’ve seen before, like counting on Congress to deliver on large future spending cuts to discretionary spending and Medicaid.*

**Don’t worry, the coup leaders (Trump and Musk) will make sure that their minions in congress transfer as much wealth as possible from discretionary spending into the pockets of their wealthy benefactors.**

*It’s not as if there isn’t lots to cut — there is,*

**One of the great understatements of all time.**

**But cuts directed at the wealthy pillagers of America … will never happen.**

*especially considering the unhinged government expansions of the last four years —*

**You refer to expansions for the masses as unhinged, but**

**massive government giveaways to the rich and powerful …**

**absolutely necessary.**

*but it remains politically tough. As the Manhattan Institute’s Jessica Riedl notes, achieving the assumed level of cuts in the plan would require Congress to deliver the lowest discretionary spending share of GDP since the 1930s while simultaneously increasing defense and border-security spending. Why would we expect Congress to have the stomach for that? Many Republicans are putting their faith in Elon Musk’s cost cutting, but it’s not enough. Much of what needs to happen requires Congress, which apparently prefers to once again kick the can down the road. The blueprint makes other questionable assumptions. I doubt we’ll find $2.6 trillion in extra revenue from a highly improbable 2.8% annual GDP growth rate, considering the approximately 1.8% growth baseline.*

**The only part of America seeing an incredible growth rate is …**

**the billionaire class:** [**https://www.google.com/search?q=growth+of+the+billionaire+class+since+2017**](https://www.google.com/search?q=growth+of+the+billionaire+class+since+2017)

*Yes, extending the provision allowing businesses to quickly and fully deduct the cost of their investments would have a powerful, positive impact on growth. However, many of the other tax provisions have little growth oomph.*

**I agree with the underlined portion above with one slight change …**

**I would replace the word positive with its antonym.**

*In addition, there are plenty of headwinds that will hamper growth, such as the increase of the debt itself and the uncertainty created by a president who spends his time threatening trading partners with ever more tariffs. There’s real risk that inflation may pick up again, in part because previous fiscal decadence has led to enormous interest payments on the debt, which has serious ripple effects. If Republicans decide to extend taxes without any concern for adding to the debt, they will contribute to the problem.*

**The fact that Republicans are raising the debt ceiling to allow just that …**

**proves they could care less about contributing to the problem.**

*And indeed, it looks like that’s what they are setting out to do.*

**That makes 2 times that we have now agreed.**

*The saddest part is that this version of the plan will be better than whatever bargained budget congressional Republicans can get across the finish line — especially after caving to those who want to eliminate revenue-savers from the 2017 tax reform, such as the limits put on the state and local tax deduction.*

**I take issue with your choice of words “reform.”**

**I find the phrase “tax giveaway to the rich” far more accurate and honest.**

*I get it: Governing is hard,*

**Especially when the rich and powerful take complete control of the government (as has now happened in the U.S.) and have lost all the moral restraints that most of us were raised with.**

*so legislators tout savings and revenue that may never materialize. But glossy narratives do nothing to fix the nation’s daunting debt trajectory, and budgets like this latest one push us closer to crisis. Without difficult structural reforms, debt will continue to mount, forcing harsher choices later. To capitalize on their opportunity, Republicans must confront reality. So stop the charade and cut both discretionary spending and the growth of runaway entitlement spending. And cut any unfair tax loopholes that prevent us from paying for a slightly more modest government.*

**The Republicans WILL extend the 2017 tax giveaway to the rich.**

**Therefore, the rest of us will carry the burden of funding our government.**

**Now that the Maga cult has nearly complete control over the U.S. government, the coup is almost complete.**

**Like Trump promised: “You won’t have to vote any more.”**

**And it looks like he has won (and this article is just one example of many**

**showing the press - bending the knee and kissing the ring).**

[**https://www.dailynews.com/2025/02/20/the-unserious-new-republican-budget-plan/**](https://www.dailynews.com/2025/02/20/the-unserious-new-republican-budget-plan/)