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OPINION | OTHER THOUGHTS

Ducking Taxes? Don't Blame Burger King

NEWSDAY (Aug. 27): Burger King, corporate deserter? That's what President Barack Obama would call the fast-food giant now that it's buying Tim Hortons Inc., the Canadian coffee and doughnut chain.
But the epithet is hard to swallow.
The \$11.4-billion deal announced Tuesday will allow the Miami-based Burger King Worldwide Inc. to slash its United States tax bill by moving its corporate home to a foreign country, a strategy known as inversion. At least 21 companies have announced or completed such deals since the beginning of 2012, according to Bloomberg News. Obama castigated them last month for doing business as usual in the United States while renouncing their citizenship to avoid taxes.

He's wrong to vilify corporations for legally reducing their tax bills.
Corporations exist to make money. Their executives have a fiduciary duty to shareholders to maximize profits. Rather than trying to shame them, the United States can slow inversions by reforming the U.S. tax code to make the strategy less appealing.
The top federal corporate tax rate in the United States is 35 percent. That's among the highest in the world, although many corporations actually pay much less and those most successful at exploiting loopholes pay zero. In Canada the top federal tax rate is 15 percent.

Congress should tilt the playing field in our favor. Eliminating the corporate tax would be the best approach, as long as reformers also scrap the lower rate for capital gains and dividends, and tax that income the same as income from work. Cutting the corporate tax rate while closing loopholes would work, too, or enacting a territorial system in which only profits earned in the United States would be taxed by the United States.

Of course, any of that would require Congress to take on contentious tax reform, something it hasn't had the courage to tackle. Until it does, the message to corporations like Burger King is, have it your way.

THE VIEWS PAGE

■ The **PRESS & DAKOTAN** Views page provides a forum for open discussion of issues and interests affecting our readers. Initialed editorials represent the opinion of the writer, but not necessarily that of the **PRESS & DAKOTAN**. Bylined columns represent the view of the author. We welcome letters to the editor on current topics. Questions regarding the Views page should be directed to Kelly Hertz at views@yankton.net.

ON THIS DATE

By The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, August 28, the 240th day of 2014. There are 125 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On August 28, 1964, two days of race-related rioting erupted in North Philadelphia over a false rumor that white police officers had beaten to death a pregnant black woman.

On this date: In 1609, English sea explorer Henry Hudson and his ship, the Half Moon, reached present-day Delaware Bay.

In 1862, the Second Battle of Bull Run (also known as Second Manassas) began in Prince William County, Virginia, during the Civil War; the result was a Confederate victory.

In 1922, the first-ever radio commercial aired on station WEAF in New York City; the 10-minute advertisement was for the Queensboro Realty Co., which had paid a fee of \$100.

In 1944, during World War II, German forces in Toulon and Marseille, France, surrendered to Allied troops.

In 1945, the Allies began occupying Japan at the end of World War II.

In 1955, Emmett Till, a black teenager from Chicago, was abducted from his uncle's home in Money, Mississippi, by two white men after he had supposedly whistled at a white woman; he was found brutally slain three days later.

In 1963, more than 200,000 people listened as the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. delivered his "I Have a Dream" speech in front of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington D.C.

In 1968, police and anti-war demonstrators clashed in the streets of Chicago as the Democratic National Convention nominated Hubert H. Humphrey for president.

In 1972, Mark Spitz of the United States won the first two of his seven gold medals at the Munich Olympics, finishing first in the 200-meter butterfly and anchoring the 400-meter freestyle relay. The Soviet women gymnasts won the team all-around.

In 1988, 70 people were killed when three Italian stunt planes collided during an air show at the U.S. Air Base in Ramstein, West Germany.

In 1990, an F5 tornado struck the Chicago area, killing 29 people.

In 2012, former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney swept to the Republican presidential nomination at a storm-delayed national convention in Tampa, Florida.

Ten years ago: Islamic militants claiming to be holding two French journalists in Iraq gave France 48 hours to overturn its law banning the wearing of Islamic head scarves in schools. (The French government re-

fused the demand; the reporters, Christian Chesnot and Georges Malbrunot, were released in December 2004.) The U.S. men's basketball team beat Lithuania 104-96 to win the Olympic bronze medal in Athens; Argentina won the gold medal by beating Italy 84-69.

Five years ago: The Los Angeles County coroner's office announced that Michael Jackson's death was a homicide caused primarily by the powerful anesthetic propofol and another sedative, lorazepam. Celebrity disc jockey Adam Goldstein, known as DJ AM, was found dead in his New York apartment; he was 36.

One year ago: A military jury sentenced Maj. Nidal Hasan to death for the 2009 shooting rampage at Fort Hood that claimed 13 lives. On the 50th anniversary of Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech at the Lincoln Memorial, President Barack Obama stood on the same steps as he challenged new generations to seize the cause of racial equality.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Sonny Shroyer is 79. Actor Ken Jenkins is 74. Former Defense Secretary William S. Cohen is 74. Actor David Soul is 71. Former pop singer-musician Honey Lantree (The Honeycombs) is 71. Former MLB manager and player Lou Piniella is 71. Actress Barbara Bach is 68. Actress Debra Mooney is 67. Singer Wayne Osmond (The Osmonds) is 63. Actor Daniel Stern is 57. Olympic gold medal figure skater Scott Hamilton is 56. Actor John Allen Nelson is 55. Actress Emma Samms is 54. Actress Jennifer Coolidge is 53. Movie director David Fincher is 52. Actress Amanda Tapping is 49. Country singer Shania Twain is 49. Actor Billy Boyd is 46. Actor Jack Black is 45. Actor Jason Priestley is 45. Olympic gold medal swimmer Janet Evans is 43. Actor J. August Richards is 41. Rock singer-musician Max Collins (Eve 6) is 36. Actress Carly Pope is 34. Country singer Jake Owen is 33. Country singer LeAnn Rimes is 32. Actor Michael Galeota is 30. Actress Sarah Roemer is 30. Actor Arnie Hammer is 28. Rock singer Florence Welch (Florence and the Machine) is 28. Country-pop singer Cassadee Pope (TV: winner "The Voice") is 25. Actor/singer Samuel Larsen (TV: "Glee") is 23. Actor Kyle Massey is 23. Actress Quvenzhané Wallis is 11. Reality TV star Alana Thompson, AKA "Honey Boo Boo," is nine.

Thought for Today: "The man who views the world at fifty the same as he did at twenty has wasted thirty years of his life." — Muhammad Ali, American boxing champion (1942-).

FROM THE BIBLE

And Jesus uttered a loud cry and breathed His last. Mark 15:37.
Portals of Prayer, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis

YOUR LETTERS

Thank You!

Paul R. Krueger, Sioux Falls
President and CEO, Make-A-Wish South Dakota

On behalf of the children and families we serve, thank you to everyone in the Vermillion and Yankton areas for your generous support of Make-A-Wish South Dakota at the July 23 fundraising event at the Old Lumber Company in Vermillion. This year more than \$26,000 was raised to help make wishes come true for kids facing life-

threatening medical conditions in the area. To date we have granted more than 50 wishes to kids across the state and we have more than 55 kids in the process of receiving a wish. The average cost of a wish is nearly \$7,000. To the business sponsors and individuals involved, thank you! A special thanks to the organizers, led by Gary Madsen and Bruce and Kelly Fischbach, Rick Steenholt and Jim Brady. You are helping us share the power of a wish!



Writer's Block

A Painful Minimum Wage

BY WILLIAM KERR
For the Press & Dakotan

The Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that 1.5 million hourly wage workers reported earning the minimum wage and another 1.8 million earned less than the minimum wage, meaning they were legally excluded from the minimum wage or were illegally underpaid.

Those numbers are not the total of people earning less than the minimum wage because they don't include salaried workers earning less than the minimum wage.

According to the August issue of *In These Times*: "Workers at Target, Walmart and McDonald's need food stamps to survive ... Walmart is the country's biggest beneficiary of Food Stamp dollars, and many of those dollars come from its own workers." (My wife responds, "I will not shop at Walmart. If I want something and only Walmart has it, I'll go without!") Walmart's total take of food stamps is \$13.5 billion annually. That is 18 percent of the total annual distribution of food stamps in our country.

"So what?" you might respond. The "what" is that most of their employees are the people who must use the various helping programs paid for by our state and federal taxes in order to survive. That group is made up of workers averaging 35 years of age, 80 percent of which are 20 years old or older, 56 percent of whom are women of whom 28 percent have children, according to the Economic Policy Institute. On average, these workers bring in half of their families' income. And, who provides that other half? Those of us who pay the state and federal taxes that supply the money for "Medicaid, The School Breakfast Program, the School Lunch Program, the Section 8 housing program, the Earned Income tax, Low Income Home Energy Assistance, and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program," says *In These Times*.

So, raising the minimum wage would reduce those demands by reducing the number of citizens needing food stamps and other helping programs, which would reduce the cost of all of those programs, thus helping reduce our national debt. Do you suppose we could get our Congress to act on that?
Americans for Tax Fairness, a coalition of



William KERR

more than 400 organizations that advocates progressive tax reform, released a study in April that concluded that Walmart alone costs taxpayers \$6.2 billion annually in public assistance. That report draws from a 2013 study by the Democratic staff of the U.S. House Committee on Education and the Workforce, which estimated that Walmart cost taxpayers, on average, between \$3,015 and \$5,815 per worker per year. Does that sound like a real bonus for the Walton family (among the richest billionaires in our country) by keeping their 20,997 employees low paid, and getting us taxpayers to pay the extra salary (via the above program services) they need to survive? And, as long as we allow this situation to exist, the Walton family just keeps getting richer. How about that for a record-breaking example of exploitive greed that beats all? And our elected members of Congress, backed by the rich and our Supreme Court, are directly responsible.

To change that, we'll need to elect some new senators and representatives who want to see the minimum wage increased to where it should be, according to the original regulations, which have been violated since 1968 by our Congress. That increase will also boost our economy, when those millions now barely surviving can again spend more money it will help us all.

But we in South Dakota don't even have to wait for the Congress to act. We can petition our state Legislature to raise the minimum wage in South Dakota and vote for candidates who will promise to vote for such a raise. And remember, we have the power of the ballot box to do it. If enough of us want it done and vote for those who will do it! (By the way, there is also an initiative on South Dakota's November ballot to raise the minimum wage.)

So, I for one will be anxious to see what your answer is when the votes are counted and we see who is elected and later how they act toward raising the minimum wage.

If we don't help elect candidates who are sympathetic to the one-third of us all who are living at or near poverty while the rest of us pay for near half of the income of those who are working at these low-paying but profit reaping companies, don't complain to me about the shape our country is in.

Those Asian-Bashing Dems

BY MICHELLE MALKIN
Creators.com

Harry Reid is a bigoted Beltway corruptocrat with an interminable case of diarrhea of the mouth. The feeble-minded coot stuck his foot in that mess of a mouth again last week at the Las Vegas Asian Chamber of Commerce. But as mortifying as the Senate Majority Leader is, there's an even worse spectacle: Asian-American liberals who keep giving top Democrats and their partisan operatives blanket passes.

Reid clumsily offered his assessment of the success and intelligence of business leaders of Asian descent at the gathering. "I don't think you're smarter than anybody else, but you've convinced a lot of us you are," he babbled. You put those uppity Asians in their places, Hater Harry!

During a question-and-answer session, Reid followed up his jibe with a crude "joke" about Chinese surnames that would make Archie Bunker cringe: "One problem that I've had today is keeping my Wongs straight."

Good thing the pale-faced codger didn't let a "ching-chong" slip out, too. You know it was ringing around between his ears. Mocking Asian monikers is a hanging offense if you're a Republican pol or conservative talk-show host. But it's just a meaningless gaffe by "diversity's" best friend when you're Democratic Senate Majority Leader.

That's why Reid's hosts obliged with subdued tittering. National news anchors selectively averted their gazes. The Asian American Journalists Association, so quick to issue sanctimonious guidelines for avoiding ethnic stereotypes, maintained radio silence. And the usual left-wing speech police who read racism into every word uttered by conservatives from "angry" to "Chicago" to "Constitution" to "Obamacare" saw and said nothing.

One bizarre group, Asian Pacific American Advocates, was only offended because they resent public attention paid to successful Asian Americans. They vented that Reid "falsely assumes that our communities continue to perpetuate the model minority stereotype, when we have been actively working to highlight the vast socioeconomic disparities within our communities." These confused people have spent way too much time in Social Justice 101 classes.

Back in Washington, D.C., the usually garrulous Democratic chairwoman of the Congress-



Michelle MALKIN

sional Asian Pacific American Caucus (CAPAC), Rep. Judy Chu, responded by ... not responding at all. CAPAC Executive Director Krystal Ka'ai did not return my email seeking reaction to the race-mocking Senate Majority Leader, who has now apologized for his "extremely poor taste."

Chu and her ethnic grievance caucus — which pledges to "denounce racial and religious discrimination affecting Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders" — did find time over the past year to:

- attack a Seattle theater production of *The Mikado* for its use of "exaggerated Asian stereotypes."
- "denounce" comedian Jimmy Kimmel for a kids' table skit that poked fun at America's debts to China.
- demand the firing of Fox News liberal chucklehead Bob Beckel for using "racial slurs" against Chinese people.

Here's another glaring omission by the Democrats' whitewashers: Neither CAPAC's press release archive nor its Twitter account has published a word about the ugly liberal racists in Kentucky who've repeatedly attacked former GOP Labor Secretary Elaine Chao.

Last year, left-wing super-PAC Progress Kentucky tweeted multiple China-bashing messages insinuating that Chao, the Taiwanese-American wife of GOP Sen. Mitch McConnell, was part of some conspiratorial plot to move jobs to Asia. The Progress Kentucky xenophobes denied engaging in race-baiting. But the dog whistle — dog trumpet — had been sounded, and the liberal racist hits keep on coming.

Earlier this month, Kathy Groob, a "progressive" supporter of McConnell's Democratic opponent, Alison Grimes, repeatedly insulted Chao on social media as his "Chinese wife." She's "not from KY, she is Asian," fumed Groob. You won't be surprised to learn that Groob had complained copiously about "sexism" and "racism" by the tea party.

When will doormat minorities grow spines and stop protecting the progressives of pallor who denigrate them? Collectivism is a hard, cowardly habit to break.

Michelle Malkin is the author of "Culture of Corruption: Obama and his Team of Tax Cheats, Crooks and Cronies" (Regnery 2010). Her e-mail address is malkinblog@gmail.com.