

Reagan: Reform The Tax Code

Michael

REAGAN

BY MICHAEL REAGAN

CagleCartoons.com

Jay Leno told his studio audience the other night that President Obama should forget his plans to close the detention camp at Guantanamo Bay and instead close the IRS.

The applause was instantaneous and the laughs were loud and genuine.

Most ordinary Americans would have

whooped and hollered in favor of Leno's idea long before they learned the IRS has been caught targeting conservative political groups and wasting millions on moronic employee-training conferences. But the IRS is no joking matter.

The average working American — poor or rich or in-between — hates and fears the

IRS for good reason. Able to seize your bank account or house without a court order, able to shut down your business overnight, the IRS is the clos-

est thing to the Gestapo America has ever had. But it's not the current IRS scandals that are the real problem. It's not the hated tax-collecting bureaucracy itself. It's not even whether the Obama regime used the dangerous powers of the IRS as a political

The real problem — the long-term problem and the one Republicans have to find the courage to fix — is the horrible income tax system the IRS is hired to enforce.

The federal income tax code deserves the death penalty for a lot good reasons. It's unfair, overly complex, horribly politicized, harmful to individuals and the economy, helpful to the forces of Big Government and impossible to understand without a CPA.

It's also a costly waste of money and time. Just com-

plying with our unnecessarily (but deliberately) complicated federal tax system costs Americans about \$430 billion a year, according to economist Arthur Laffer.

The IRS scandals are a golden opportunity for conservatives and Republicans to direct the country's attention toward the ultimate and long-overdue goal abolishing the IRS as we know it and drastically reforming our tax code.

We need a strong leader — now — who will stand up and lead the country down the road to radical tax Maybe it's going to be Sen. Ted Cruz of Texas. Earlier

this week he called for abolishing the IRS after instituting a simple flat tax that could be filled out on a postcard. Maybe it'll be another rookie in Washington, Sen. Rand Paul of Kentucky.

The biggest problem we have is that our side — the tax-reform side — has no leader and no clear, unified message.

Should we conservatives go for a Flat Tax or a Fair Tax?

A low, simple, flat-tax percentage for all income earners, minus deductions for home mortgages and charitable deductions? Or a national sales tax of about 23 percent that would replace both the federal income tax and the payroll tax?

If my father Ronald Reagan were around today, I know what he'd do.

He'd do exactly what I'd do — get the flat-taxers and the fair-taxers together in a room and have them hash out a single tax reform program to sell to the American people.

So, sure, let's bring the Obama Gang and its IRS lackeys to justice for their abuses.

But what we need most right now is for someone — Ted Cruz, Rand Paul, Donald Trump, even Jay Leno to convene a national tax convention that would unite our side and lead the fight for a better tax code.

Republicans can't afford to be split on the important issue of income tax reform or miss this chance to focus on the crimes of the IRS.

The Flat Tax and the Fair Tax each have pluses and minuses that need to be debated. But in the end it really doesn't matter which idea triumphs.

America and all Americans would be better off with either one. Either would eliminate the progressive tax system and make federal taxes simpler, fairer, smarter and apolitical. And, best of all, either one would kill the IRS as we know it — forever.

What's Behind A Name Choice?

BY BOB RAY SANDERS

Fort Worth Star-Telegram (MCT)

Let's begin with a quick, three-question, fill-in-the-

- When I say Kunta Kinte, you say ____? • When I say Shaniqua, you say ___
- •When I ask what are the most popular names of African-American children today, you say _

While I was listening to a local nighttime sports radio program a couple of weeks ago, someone texted a question specifically for the African-American members of the broadcast team.

The listener asked why so many black sports stars had names that began with "Le-," "La-," "De-," etc., pre-fixes introducing a "main" name, which the texter, I deduced, thought was a little weird. His question really was: Why would a black mother name her son LeBron? Or LeSean or LaShawn or KeShawn? What about De-Marcus, DeMarco, DeVonte, DeJuan, DeAngelo or De-

Because the sportscasters were running out of time for that segment, they didn't talk a lot about the issue other than to say something to the effect that it may have to do with parents wanting to bestow a kind of royalty on a kid or just making up something that would be different.

Although one of them began to broaden the discussion to other unusual names of black people, they didn't have time to go there either. They didn't get to Taneka and Tanisha, Quiana and Nikeisha, DeShaun, JaQuan, Marquise and Tyrik (also spelled Tyreek and Tyriq). Shaniqua, in fact, has become the No. 1 stereotypical name lampooned in white and black circles.

There has been a lot of talk lately, among people of all races, about black people's names, with some offering the theory that in a still-racist society those identifiable ethnic monikers will become a hindrance later on. A person who wants to discriminate against you (for jobs, apartment applications or car loans), could make that decision without ever seeing your face.

The hope, of course, is that one day names — along with race, religion, nationality and sexual orientation will not matter. That day is probably a long way off.

Names do matter, and sometimes they say some-

thing whether we want them to or not. Just the other day, a caller from Arizona, after a long conversation about a column, commented that my name, Bob Ray, "must be a redneck Texas name." He obviously didn't

Even a mistake in a name can stick with you for a lifetime, as my late friend Ossie Davis discovered. Ossie, a great actor and director who died in 2005 at 87 was born in Georgia. When the nurse asked his parents for a name, his mother said, "R.C." The nurse wrote "Ossie" on the birth certificate, he said.

After slavery, many blacks took their masters' last names, or they chose the surname of a popular president like Washington or Jefferson. The first names often came from biblical characters or other family members.

During the 1960s, a lot of African-Americans, in an attempt to identify with the "mother country," chose names that sounded African even if they weren't.

But let's go back to Kunta Kinte, for I'm convinced that the new wave of christening black children came after the epic miniseries "Roots" aired in 1977. One of the most graphic scenes in the television movie was when the young runaway slave was strung up by his hands and whipped repeatedly as the white overseer demanded he say the new name his master had given

Kunta refused over and over, but finally said. "My name is Toby." (The scene is posted multiple times on

For many parents, the "slave name" was simply unacceptable. They wanted their children, for good or bad, to be identifiably black — proud, free, unashamed and unique — even if it meant they had to make up a

Black people decided they would determine what their children would be called just as they had decided how their race would be indentified, changing from colored to Negro to black to African-American.

Shakespeare certainly didn't have this issue in mind when he penned the question, "What's in a name?"

Bob Ray Sanders is a columnist for the Fort Worth Star-Telegram. Readers may write to him at: 400 W. 7th Street, Fort Worth, Texas 76102, or via email at bobray@star-telegram.com.

YOUR LETTERS

Poor Fan Behavior

Amy Hansen, Blair, Neb.

It is with regret that I had to read about the altercation with the umpire and a Blair parent (Press & Dakotan, June 3).

I am embarrassed for Blair, the team and the other parents who were at the game who were civilized.

This type of behavior should not be tolerated. I would hope that Blair teams and fans are not punished for the poor behavior of a few.

Thanks For Opportunity

Tina Foxhoven, St. Helena, Neb. My son recently took part in

the Yankton Morning Optimist youth golf tournament held at Fox Run Golf Course.

This was a wonderful opportunity for the youth of this area to golf on a beautiful course and learn the etiquette and rules of

The Yankton Morning Optimist group paid for all the green fees,

provided lunch for the participants, a T-shirt for all participants and first- and second-place trophies for all age groups.

The Yankton Morning Optimist members were so kind and encouraging to all of the young golfers. My son was so thrilled to be part of this great golf tournament.

Thank you Yankton Morning Optimist Člub for promoting youth activities in our area!



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OPINION | WE SAY

A Good Question



THUMBS UP to residents who have questioned the Yankton City Commission about the long-term effects on riverfront development that will be caused by locating a new water plant near the Meridian Bridge. It is a legitimate concern that expanding on Water Treatment Plant No. 2 will further divide the Meridian Bridge and Riverside Park and not fit in with the recreational vision for

the area. For its part, the City Commission believes the cost of building elsewhere adds too much expense. We don't necessarily disagree based on the limited information currently available, but we encourage the city to seriously examine the location of the plant as planning progresses. If economics requires the city to keep the facility in the park, consideration should be given to architectural options that could make the new plant a point of interest, rather than just a square block obstructing the beautiful

Killing Without Evidence



THUMBS DOWN to the CIA for executing people based on what can at best be described as circumstantial evidence. A review by NBC News of classified intelligence reports found that approximately one of every four of those killed by drones in Pakistan between Sept. 3, 2010, and Oct. 30, 2011, were classified as "other militants." It has prompted questions about how the CIA

knew these individuals were indeed a threat to the United States. Of the approximately 600 people listed as killed in the documents, only one is described as a civilian. One drone expert called the claim that only one civilian was killed "not believable." This deployment of lethal firepower on unspecified human targets is immoral and unacceptable, and we question why more Americans are not protesting the continuing carnage.

On The Right Track



THUMBS UP to members of the South Dakota Legislative Planning Committee who are calling for better statistics to determine how well the state is training and recruiting workers for key industries. Members said they have no central source of information about workforce development and need to know what state agencies, schools and other organizations are doing to provide workers needed for critical jobs. Developing such an in-

formation source is crucial to ensuring the state is effectively meeting the needs of the economy and fueling growth.

A Centennial Celebration



THUMBS UP to Fordyce, Neb., celebrating its centennial on Saturday. The day will be packed with events, kicking off with the 5K run/walk and wrapping up with the street dance. The 11 a.m. parade is scheduled to conclude with the arrival of the Pony Express carrying a proclamation honoring Fordyce on the 100th anniversary since its incorporation in 1913. It's a celebration not only of the past but also the present and future. We congratu-

late the Cedar County, Neb., community on its historic milestone.

ONLINE OPINION

The results of the most recent Internet poll on the Press & Dakotan's Web site are

LATEST RESULTS:

Do you think Yankton County should spend \$13,462 to create a 211 helpline service along with Bon Homme and Hutchinson counties? .49% Not Sure . TOTAL VOTES CAST

The Press & Dakotan Internet poll is not a scientific survey and reflects the opinions only of those who choose to participate. The results should not be construed as an accurate representation or scientific measurement of public opinion.

CURRENT QUESTION:

Do you think the City of Yankton should further investigate the possibility of building a new water plant outside of Riverside Park?

To vote in the Press & Dakotan's Internet poll, log on to our website at www.yankton.net.

TODAY IN HISTORY

By The Associated Press Today is Friday, June 7, the 158th day of 2013. There are 207 days left in the year.

Today's Highlights in History: On June 7, 1776, Richard Henry Lee of Virginia proposed to the Continental Congress a resolu-

tion stating "That these United Colonies are, and of right ought to be, free and independent States, that they are absolved from all allegiance to the British Crown. On this date: In 1654, King Louis XIV,

age 15, was crowned in Rheims, 11 years after the start of his reign. In 1769, frontiersman Daniel Boone first

began to explore present-day Kentucky. In 1862, William Bruce Mumford, a Con-

federate loyalist, was hanged at the order of Union military authorities for tearing down a U.S. flag that had been flying over the New Orleans mint shortly before the city was occupied by the North. In 1863, French forces occupied Mexico

City during the Franco-Mexican War. In 1892, Homer Plessy, a "Creole of

color," was fined for refusing to leave a whitesonly car of the East Louisiana Railroad. (Ruling on his case, the U.S. Supreme Court upheld "separate but equal" racial segrega-

tion, which it overturned in 1954.) In 1929, the sovereign state of Vatican City came into existence as copies of the Lateran Treaty were exchanged in Rome.

In 1942, the World War II Battle of Midway ended in a decisive victory for American forces over the Imperial Japanese. In 1967, the Haight Ashbury Free Medical Clinic opened in San Francisco. In 1972, the musical "Grease" opened on

Broadway, having already been performed in lower Manhattan. In 1981, Israeli military planes destroyed a nuclear power plant in Iraq, a facility the Is-

raelis charged could have been used to make nuclear weapons. In 1993, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that religious groups can sometimes meet on

In 1998, in a crime that shocked the nation, James Byrd Jr., a 49-year-old black man, was hooked by a chain to a pickup truck and dragged to his death in Jasper, Texas. (Two white men were later sentenced to death for the crime; a third received life with the possibility of parole.)

school property after hours.

Hampshire Episcopalians elected the Rev. V. Gene Robinson, an openly gay man, their next bishop. A suicide bomber in Afghanistan

Ten years ago: In a national first, New

also killed a teenage Afghan bystander Justine Henin-Hardenne beat Kim Clijsters 6-0, 6-4 at the French Open, in the first all-Belgian Grand Slam final. Empire Maker beat Kentucky Derby-Preakness winner Funny Cide in the Belmont Stakes. Five years ago: Hillary Rodham Clinton

killed four German peacekeepers; the blast

suspended her pioneering campaign for the presidency and endorsed fellow Democrat Barack Obama. Longshot Da' Tara spoiled Big Brown's bid for a Triple Crown by winning the Belmont Stakes. Ana Ivanovic won her first Grand Slam title by beating Dinara Safina 6-4, 6-3 in the French Open. Veteran sportscaster Jim McKay died in Monkton, Md., at

One year ago: Attorney General Eric Holder clashed with Republicans on the House Judiciary Committee seeking more information about a flawed gun-trafficking investigation in Arizona known as "Operation Fast and Furious." Bob Welch, a former member of Fleetwood Mac who went on to write songs and record several hits during a solo career, died in Nashville; he was 65. Today's Birthdays: Movie director

James Ivory is 85. Actress Virginia McKenna is 82. Singer Tom Jones is 73. Poet Nikki Giovanni is 70. Actor Ken Osmond ("Leave It to Beaver") is 70. Former talk show host Jenny Jones is 67. Actress Anne Twomey is 62. Actor Liam Neeson is 61. Actress Colleen Camp is 60. Singer-songwriter Johnny Clegg is 60. Author Louise Erdrich is 59. Actor William Forsythe is 58. Record producer L.A. Reid is 57. Latin pop singer Juan Luis Guerra is 56. Singer-songwriter Prince is 55. Rock singer-musician Gordon Gano (The Violent Femmes) is 50. Rapper Ecstasy (Whodini) is 49. Rock musician Eric Kretz (Stone Temple Pilots) is 47. Rock musician Dave Navarro is 46. Actress Helen Baxendale is 43. Actor Karl Urban is 41. TV personality Bear Grylls is 39. Rock musician Eric Johnson (The Shins) is 37. Actress Adrienne Frantz is 35. Actor-comedian Bill Hader is 35. Actress Anna Torv is 34. Actress Larisa Oleynik is 32. Tennis player Anna Kournikova is 32. Actor Michael Cera is 25. Actress Shellev Buckner Thought for Today: "The slight that can

be conveyed in a glance, in a gracious smile, in a wave of the hand, is often the knee plus ultra of art. What insult is so keen or so keenly felt, as the polite insult which it is impossible to resent?" — Julia Kavanagh, Irish novelist (1824-1877).

FROM THE BIBLE

The Word became flesh and dwelt among us. John 1:14. Portals of Prayer, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis

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