

DEAR CONGRESSPERSON--1/30/03

The President's recent assertion in his State of the Union address--that by lowering taxes he was generously giving back money which rightfully belongs to the taxpayer--is transparently fraudulent. Fraudulent, that is, in the context of multi-billion dollar deficits incurred to pay for present and future wars. Raising money by tapping the Social Security fund (or issuing government bonds) merely defers taxes to our children and grandchildren.

I am going to make you a proposition. I want you to use the resources of the Federal Reserve Bank to create for me (in the same way you use it for the government's purposes) a fund of \$1,000 for the use of which I will give you the bond of my children and grandchildren as surety of its repayment. With interest. Better yet, in order to express your personal conviction as to the soundness of the reasoning behind my scheme (in addition to avoiding the inevitable legislative wrangling and special-interest pork amendments), please provide me with the money out of your own pocket.

With this money as my grubstake, I propose to travel to some third-world foreign country where I will perform robberies and finance drug deals that will do no harm to any American citizen. Of course, if unlucky, I may die or become incarcerated. But no matter; my progeny will be picking up the tab. With interest.

Although I am making you a proposition, the reasoning and motivation behind which you apparently have no contest, I am not seriously expecting to receive a check in the mail anytime soon. Nor do I expect a well reasoned rebuttal free from name-calling, petty carping about false analogies, meaningless or deceptive rhetoric, change-of-subject, or self-serving obfuscation.

You stand accused of having the courage to provoke war without the courage to ask the public to pay for it. I would love to have you prove yourself innocent, but am not at all hopeful that you will succeed.

Oh, and by the way, if federal taxes are really the public's money, wrongfully taken, why is the government allowed to persist in levying any taxes at all?

Sincerely,

Charles A. Metcalf