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## Tax bill cover up

Jan 5, 2018

To the editor:

Most Americans are unaware of the real intent of the tax bill, i.e., to provide Republicans with political cover for going after Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid. Because we don't realize what they are up to, we are letting them implement their plan without so much as a murmur of opposition.

Two outcomes of the tax bill are certain. The biggest beneficiaries by far will be the rich and corporations. Depending on a person's particular situation, some of the rest of us will actually pay more. Some will pay less initially, but that benefit will expire in 2025. The tax cuts for the rich and corporations, however, are permanent.

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Tax cuts are the first step in a plan the Republicans have been incubating "for 34 years," according to Trump, waiting for control of all three branches of government. Objective analysts do not believe the debunked "trickle down" fantasy will pay for the loss of tax revenue. The next step in the plan is for the government to borrow still more, thereby increasing the national debt by 1.5 trillion dollars.

When our creditors lose confidence in the viability of our economy, they will demand return of their money. Republicans will then claim they have no alternative to eliminating Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid to avoid bankruptcy.

The statements below from Republican leaders are evidence that they really do intend to go after these entitlements. Majority Leader Paul Ryan said, "We have a welfare system that is trapping people in poverty and effectively paying people not to work. We've got to work on that. We're going to have to get back next year at entitlement reform, which is how you tackle the debt and deficit."

Senator Hatch, Chair of the Republican Senate Finance Committee remarked, "I have a rough time wanting to spend billions and billions and trillions to help people who won't help themselves, won't lift a finger, and expect the Federal Government to do everything."

Grover Norquist, Republican ideologue and author of the "No New Taxes Pledge" that Republican lawmakers had to sign or face a challenger during their next primary, made his intentions clear. "I want to make government small enough that I can drag it into the bathroom and drown it all in a bathtub."

How will your life be changed if Republicans revert to the social programs we had before the New Deal of the 1930's when there was no Social Security, Medicare or Medicaid? If this isn't the future you want for yourself and your children, it's time to overcome apathy and express our outrage in peaceful demonstrations in every city across the country.

Dan Leary

