
For additional information: Bill Winter, Director of Communications ♦ (202) 333-0008 Ext. 226

The GOP's latest ridiculous suggestion: The "Taxpayer Protection Agency"

Trent Lott's plan has Libertarians howling — with laughter

WASHINGTON, DC — The IRS is dead! Long live the Taxpayer Protection Agency!

That's the plan of Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott (R-MS) — but his proposal to change the name of America's most feared government agency has Libertarians laughing out loud.

"You can call a pig an eagle, but that won't make it fly," scoffed Steve Dasbach, chairman of the Libertarian Party. "And politicians can call the IRS the Taxpayer Protection Agency, but that won't make Americans hate it any less."

Lott's suggestion to give the Internal Revenue Service a new, friendlier name came during a little-noticed speech to the Economic Club of Chicago earlier this month.

Arguing that the income tax system is too complicated, the Republican leader said, "When it comes to the IRS, don't mend it, end it. **My own preference is to replace the IRS with the Taxpayer Protection Agency.**"

In response, Dasbach said his first reaction was: *Didn't George Orwell think of this first?*

"We're waiting for Senator Lott to change the name of the CIA to the **Ministry of Truth**; the Pentagon to the **Ministry of Peace**; the Agriculture Department to the **Ministry of Plenty**; and the BATF to the **Ministry of Love**," he quipped, referring to Orwell's *1984*. In that novel, the government told its citizen-slaves that "War is Peace" and "Freedom is Slavery."

"And in Trent Lott's America, a government agency that seizes \$629 billion annually from our paychecks and routinely terrorizes honest Americans is the Taxpayer Protection Agency," said Dasbach. "It's a suggestion that would make even George Orwell blush!"

But Senator Lott had more on his mind than just Orwellian name changes. In the same speech, he advocated a massive tax cut for all Americans — saying that government should take "not just a lower share of income, but less money, period."

"Then, a few weeks later, Lott helped negotiate the budget agreement with President Clinton that *increased* the cost of government by \$270 billion over five years!" said Dasbach. "Apparently, in Trent Lott's America, truth is falsehood and tax cuts are budget increases."

But there is *one* benefit from Lott's proposed IRS name change, admitted Dasbach: "Americans can phone the new Taxpayer Protection Agency and tell them: *Protect us!*" Republican and Democratic politicians are trying to steal \$270 billion more of our money!

"Yes, Americans need protection— but from lying politicians like Senator Lott."

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