Subject: Taxes; That Seems A Good Topic.
Posted by Manualblock on Wed, 14 Jun 2006 12:00:10 GMT
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Here we go. Tax cuts are not working. The deficit is causing America to lose in the trade arena and the rest of the world is suffering as a result. Someone has to pay for this lifestyle of excess and surfiet; we are mliving on borrowed time here. Repeal the bush tax cuts immediatley.

Subject: Re: Taxes; That Seems A Good Topic.
Posted by colinhester on Wed, 14 Jun 2006 12:11:08 GMT
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Actually, I'm pretty hapyy with the amount of taxes we pay. I would like to pay less, but on a local level the services we recieve are outstanding.Within the next couple of years, we will be moving to Wyoming, OH, which has one of the top-ranked school districts in the nation (#12 on list.) and is about 10 miles south of where we currently live. Property taxes will just about double, but it seems like a good investment.....
http://www.csh.k12.ny.us/highschool/data/TheTopHighSchools.htm

Subject: Re: Taxes; That Seems A Good Topic.
Posted by Manualblock on Wed, 14 Jun 2006 12:44:14 GMT
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I agree; we pay a fair share for what we get. The fact that the tax structure is tilted towrds the wealthy is a problem; and I can't help thinking that we could pay less if they paid their fair share. Schools are always the best return for your tax dollar.

Subject: Re: Taxes; That Seems A Good Topic.
Posted by Wayne Parham on Wed, 14 Jun 2006 13:43:35 GMT
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I agree that school funding is money well spent. That's one thing that I don't mind paying for, as is military, roads, dams and other public expenses. But entitlements and pork spending are a waste. The Soviet Union was a great example of what happens when you try to redistribute the wealth. Not a good idea, if you asked me.

Subject: Re: Taxes; That Seems A Good Topic.
Posted by Manualblock on Wed, 14 Jun 2006 13:44:41 GMT
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How about Sweden?

Subject: Re: Taxes; That Seems A Good Topic.
Posted by Wayne Parham on Wed, 14 Jun 2006 13:58:49 GMT
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What about Sweden?

Subject: Re: Taxes; That Seems A Good Topic.
Posted by Manualblock on Wed, 14 Jun 2006 14:01:32 GMT
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Highest Tax rate=highest standard of living. 50% for those in the highest brackett.

Subject: Re: Taxes; That Seems A Good Topic.
Posted by Wayne Parham on Wed, 14 Jun 2006 14:30:12 GMT
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Not a good incentive to become successful, is it? Approximately 75% of their labor force is in service industries, and Sweden has a problem with unemplyment. Their current employment ratio is only 76%. I'm sure the people are wonderful, but I'm not sure I'd use their economy as an example of the benefits of socialism.

Subject: Re: Taxes; That Seems A Good Topic.
Posted by Damir on Wed, 14 Jun 2006 15:59:05 GMT
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But, Wayne - economy isn`t everything...the quality of life of "average" citizen is another story. In many countries, the standard of life (not just in terms of money) is in much higher level then in

other countries that can be "strong" in industry, trade, or whatever.

Subject: Re: Swedisht Unemployment rate is 4%, better than ours.
Posted by Manualblock on Wed, 14 Jun 2006 16:31:56 GMT
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They also have a 37 hr workweek vs our 43.5 hr workweek on average. They have universal healthcare and retirement. They have a net worth on average greater than we do. So whats the problem?

Subject: Re: Taxes; That Seems A Good Topic.
Posted by Wayne Parham on Wed, 14 Jun 2006 17:22:03 GMT
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Yes, agreed. I really love the people and quality of life in Odessa, Ukraine, for example. I like the kind of people that I would consider "salt of the earth", what were called Tovarisch there. Those same personalities are found here in America too. I have realized that it is more of a personal thing really, not so much determined by political structures or government. It's purely culteral, mostly personal.

Subject: Ever look at the metrics?
Posted by Wayne Parham on Wed, 14 Jun 2006 17:38:14 GMT
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First of all, Sweden's published unemployment rate is higher than America's. It isn't 4% lower; I don't know where you came up with that number. So even if you look at their own figures, their unemployment rate is higher. Secondly, it is widely recognized as being artificial, that unemployment is actually much higher. The are lots of unemployed that are counted as being employed, simply because government programs for early retirement, sick leave, labor market programs and welfare count these people as employed.You asked "what's the problem." John, I consider you to be my friend, but where politics are concerned, you and I couldn't disagree more. I would prefer not to have big brother in any of my affairs, you would have them in everything from cradle to grave. So the problem is what you want, I don't.

Subject: Re: Ever look at the metrics?

Posted by Manualblock on Wed, 14 Jun 2006 17:58:06 GMT
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I never said their employment rate is 4% lower; I said as of right now their rate hovers around 4%, 4.9% to be exact. Hidden inflated employment data? You think we don't have that same problem? We have the same thing. In the published data retirees and public assistance beneficiaries are not considerd in any country; the same as here. Our rate as of now is 5.6%; thats about a percentage point higher than theirs. The problem I refer to is what is the problem with their version of social support programs; not any problem with you personally.Oh; who is it that "Widely regards their employment figures to be much different than the stated numbers", I never heard that.

Subject: Re: Taxes; That Seems A Good Topic.
Posted by Manualblock on Wed, 14 Jun 2006 17:59:36 GMT
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What does that mean exactly? People in Odessa are somehow better people than other places??

Subject: Re: Taxes; That Seems A Good Topic.
Posted by Wayne Parham on Wed, 14 Jun 2006 18:21:06 GMT
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It means there are good people everywhere. Politics and governments don't do it, people do.

Subject: Re: Ever look at the metrics?
Posted by Wayne Parham on Wed, 14 Jun 2006 18:27:55 GMT
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Do a little research. I don't think you'll find a single example of a socialist country with productivity anywhere close to those of capitalist nations. Not that time off isn't valuable too, or that people aren't working too hard in capitalist countries. One could make that case, I'd probably say the same thing. But in a capitalist country, you do have a choice. You can choose to work less and buy less expensive stuff. You don't have to "keep up with the Joneses" or be a "fat capitalist." That's really a moral decision. One can be a Tovarisch in America, and in fact, I'd say most of the middle class is exactly that.

Subject: Re: Ever look at the metrics?
Posted by Manualblock on Wed, 14 Jun 2006 19:09:26 GMT
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Actually Sweden is a bad example of your theory since their productivity figures since 1999 rival or in some cases exceed our own. The rest about having a choice; I am not sure if I get what that means. Do you mean you have a choice of whether to work or not?What is "Moral" about consumer spending?

Subject: Re: Taxes; That Seems A Good Topic.
Posted by Manualblock on Wed, 14 Jun 2006 19:10:37 GMT
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People are the government; it isn't some alternative lifeform.

Subject: Re: Taxes; That Seems A Good Topic.
Posted by Wayne Parham on Wed, 14 Jun 2006 19:35:17 GMT
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No. People are not the government. People are people. Organizations are made up of groups of people. That's a completely different dynamic. And national governments are bigger structures still (except in small countries), even in a pure democracy, which America isn't. America is a republic, with a representative form of government. So people are not the government.

Subject: Re: Ever look at the metrics?
Posted by Wayne Parham on Wed, 14 Jun 2006 19:41:18 GMT
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Sure thing, John. Wave the flag.As for choice, of course I have a choice and so do you. You can work at a high paying job with a lot of responsibilities, or you can work at a job that doesn't require as much effort if you're willing to take less pay. If you're trying to defend a position that those who don't work should get paid, well, I can't support that kind of thinking.

Subject: Re: Taxes; That Seems A Good Topic.

Posted by Manualblock on Wed, 14 Jun 2006 20:06:54 GMT
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America is a "Democratic Republic" actually. A republic is something different. If I understand you right you don't approve of people creating structures to do the business of government? How would you do it?

Subject: Re: Ever look at the metrics?
Posted by Manualblock on Wed, 14 Jun 2006 20:09:08 GMT
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I can't find where I propose people should get paid for not working. As for choices; wouldn't everyone take the highest paid job if that were true? I mean do you know people who make a descision to work for less money?What do you mean by wave the flag?

Subject: Re: Taxes; That Seems A Good Topic.
Posted by Wayne Parham on Wed, 14 Jun 2006 20:10:17 GMT
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America is a federal republic. That's the point - It's a representative form of government, not a direct form. The people are not the government; It is a distinct and separate entity.

Subject: Re: Taxes; That Seems A Good Topic.
Posted by Manualblock on Wed, 14 Jun 2006 20:12:56 GMT
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The logic escapes me. I understand you might mean that since there are no individual initiatives that we vote on in most cases; and our elected reps do the voting then you say we are not represented as we should be. Is that true?

Subject: Re: Ever look at the metrics?
Posted by Wayne Parham on Wed, 14 Jun 2006 20:15:11 GMT
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You asked "Do you mean you have a choice of whether to work or not?" I wouldn't have even asked that. Sounded to me like you were trying to defend a safety net for deadbeats or something.

Subject: Re: Taxes; That Seems A Good Topic.
Posted by Wayne Parham on Wed, 14 Jun 2006 20:16:47 GMT
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No, John, I am correcting your assertion that "people are the government". They are not.

Subject: Re: Ever look at the metrics?
Posted by Manualblock on Wed, 14 Jun 2006 20:17:54 GMT
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No no; I was trying to clarify what you said since it was not readily apparent from your post.

Subject: Re: Taxes; That Seems A Good Topic.
Posted by Manualblock on Wed, 14 Jun 2006 20:20:05 GMT
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Do we elect our representatives? Or are they imported from somewhere else?

Subject: Re: Taxes; That Seems A Good Topic.
Posted by Wayne Parham on Wed, 14 Jun 2006 21:03:59 GMT
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You are being purely argumentative. America is a federal republic. 'Nuff said.

Subject: Re: Taxes; That Seems A Good Topic.
Posted by Manualblock on Wed, 14 Jun 2006 21:21:32 GMT

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Yassuh massa.

Subject: Re: Taxes; That Seems A Good Topic.
Posted by Bill Martinelli on Thu, 15 Jun 2006 01:34:54 GMT
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I cant even talk about taxes. The schools arond me are great but aside from that I think I pay too much. What about AMT? the people paying it now are not the people it was desgined for.