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Insight

JWR
this month

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Rabbi Lawrence Kelemen: Self-Mastery: The View From Chanukah

The Jewish Ethicist: Q: Do employers have a responsibility to provide workers with decent working conditions?

Suzanne Fields: Iran and the big lie

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Rabbi David Aaron: The Miracle and Mystery of Jewish History

Caroline B. Glick: Why is the guy who is gunning for a new Holocaust belittling the last one?

Susie Fishbein: Not your bubbe's potato latkes

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Janet I. Tu: Do public menorahs cheapen Hanukkah?

Cal Thomas: A loyalty oath for Muslims?

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Chosen Words: A newsletter for personal and spiritual growth gleaned from classic biblical and other sources that will help you enhance your day to day life

Quick meals for Kosher gourmets by Linda Gassenheimer: Tomatoes and garlic grace a outlet

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The FairTax Book

By Walter Williams

<http://www.JewishWorldReview.com> | Last year, talk-show host Neal Boortz and Congressman John Linder co-authored "The FairTax Book: Saying Goodbye to the Income Tax and the IRS." It turned out to be a No. 1 New York Times Best Seller. In 2005, the Fair Tax bill was introduced in both the U.S. House of Representatives as H.R. 25 and the U.S. Senate as S.25. Rep. Linder plans to re-introduce the bill next year.



If enacted, the Fair Tax would eliminate: the federal individual income tax, alternative minimum tax, corporate and business taxes, capital gains tax, Social Security and Medicare taxes, and estate and gift taxes. These taxes would be replaced by a 23 percent sales tax on all goods and services sold at the retail level. The Fair Tax would be revenue-neutral in the sense that it would replace the revenue from current federal taxes; thus, it would change the way government is funded.

Our current tax code is an abomination, and we desperately need that change. The time Americans spend simply complying with our tax code comes to 5.8 billion hours of record-keeping, filing taxes, consulting, legal and accounting services. Breaking those hours down to a 40-hour work week, it translates into a workforce of 2.77 million people. That's more than the workforce of our auto, aircraft, computer and steel manufacturing industries combined.

The Fair Tax has much to recommend in its favor, such as being a more efficient form of taxation. It would go a long way toward protecting our privacy and preventing Congress from using the tax code to micromanage our lives. The Fair Tax is an excellent idea, but only under three conditions: first, the repeal of the Sixteenth Amendment that created the income tax; second, a provision fixing the tax at, say, 23 percent; and third, a constitutional amendment mandating that a tax increase requires a three-fourths vote of Congress. Notwithstanding any provisions within the Fair Tax, if the

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Rabbi Avi Shafran: Time for traditionalist Conservative Jews to move on

Mort Zuckerman: The threat from within

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The Jewish Ethicist by Rabbi Dr. Asher Meir: Stand up for elders' rights

Dan Gordon: Slick Jim Baker's solution: Buy the bastards off!

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Rabbi David Aaron: Want to have it all?

Caroline B. Glick: Jews, Wake Up!

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Jonathan Tobin: What's the Matter With Jimmy?

James Lileks: What we really need at the U.N.

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Rabbi Berel Wein: Turning angels into demons

Mort Zuckerman: The Mullah menace

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Caroline B. Glick: Olmert's motive for providing the Saudis with an unwarranted propaganda victory in the US and Israel is understandable

Jeff Ballabon: Jimmy Carter: 'I oppose a Palestinian State'

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The Jewish Ethicist: Taking unfair advantage of the ignorant seller

Dan Gordon: Middle East peace is obtainable in our lifetime

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Rabbi David Aaron: Are You in Love with Love?

Ned Warwick: These terror busters mix motorcycles and swagger

Sixteenth Amendment weren't repealed, down the road we'd find ourselves with a national sales tax and an income tax.

You say, "Williams, it sounds as if you don't trust Congress." I don't trust Congress any farther than I can toss an elephant. During the debate prior to ratification of the Sixteenth Amendment, congressmen said that only the rich would ever pay income taxes. In 1917, only one-half of one percent of income earners paid income taxes. Those earning \$250,000 a year in today's dollars paid one percent, and those earning \$6 million in today's dollars paid 7 percent. The lie that only the rich would ever pay income taxes was simply propaganda to dupe Americans into ratifying the Sixteenth Amendment.



Here's my prediction: The Fair Tax will never become law. The two most powerful congressional committees are the House Ways and Means and the Senate Finance committees. These committees write tax law, and as such they are able to confer tax privileges on some Americans at the expense of other Americans. The Fair Tax would reduce or eliminate this form of congressional privilege-granting power and, subsequently, campaign contributions from the beneficiaries would dwindle.

The method used to finance the federal government is very important, but I've always argued that government spending is the true measure of its impact on our lives. If there were a Fair Tax, what's to stop Congress from deficit spending or inflating the currency? Deficit spending and inflation are simply alternative forms, albeit less obvious, of taxation.

You say, "What's Williams' solution?" My solution is an amendment limiting federal spending to a fixed percentage, say, 10 percent of the gross domestic product. You say, "Why 10 percent?" If 10 percent is good enough for the Baptist Church, it certainly ought to be good enough for Congress.

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[Jordan "Gorf"
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Everything's Relative

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[Michael Goodwin](#) on the
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[The Jewish Ethicist](#): Q:
By taking my relative in,
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mission clinic

[Jonathan Tobin](#):
Recycled Trash Makes
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[The Jewish Ethicist by
Rabbi Dr. Asher Meir](#): Q:
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[Rabbi David Aaron](#): Life
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