__PUBLIC__By MURRAY COHEN
Publisher

No new taxes for billionaires!
That's been what has amounted to the cry of some temporarily-insane congressmen.
Some months ago, I challenged congressmen who felt that way to go on a tour of Afghanistan and Iraq and preach that message to the troops. Let them explain why the immoral wartime Bush tax cuts should remain in place.
Considering that most of them didn't subscribe to the Delphos Daily Herald, I had copies of the editorial sent to scores of congressmen. As far as I know, every one of them was too busy to explain in person to the armed forces why millionaires and billionaires should continue to enjoy the benefits of the Bush tax cuts.
Those tax cuts were the first ones in our history that occurred while the nation was at war.
I believe that holding to:
No new taxes for billionaires at a time when we have members of the armed forces sacrificing their limbs and lives in distant countries to protect our nation indicates a lack of conscience. Or a lack of sense of reality.
As one member of the House of Representatives said recently about the millionaire-billionaire tax cuts.
"They earned it. Let them keep it." He is against any change in those immoral and stupifyingly insane Bush cuts.
It would bring trillions over the next decade if only those millionaire-billionaire folks would pay taxes at the same rate they did in the Clinton era. That was a time of relatively great prosperity for the nation, especially for those at the top of the economic heap.
We are engaged in a world-wide long-term battle with terrorism. It's an expensive war and we will win it only if our armed forces continue to be as totally loyal and patriotic and dedicated as they are now and always have been. When several hundred families are earning and own what is heading toward nearly a third of what the rest of the country earns, we endanger the nation's security, especially if those who protect us see the looting of the nation under the congressmen who are sucking it up to the ultra-wealthiest, when they see schools and police and hospitals and highways and bridges and veterans not getting the funds they need. And when they observe the United States in hock for more hundreds of billions to Asia — at least in part because of the refusal of congress to go for a fair tax code.
(Not all at the top feel "No new taxes for billionaires." This editorial could have been written by many of the enlightened among them, including multi-billionaire Warren Buffet who has expressed thoughts along some of these lines.)
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Further, Dear Friends, this is an era where you have the wealthiest companies doing much more than taking advantage of every possible tax loophole. It's beyond that. Way beyond that. They have thousands — yes, thousands — of highly-paid and highly influential attorneys on their payroll who are hard at work lobbying for the very tax laws and codes that are and will be the law of the land.
What emerges is a situation where the average Ohio worker may pay a higher tax rate than some billion dollar companies and hedge funds and their executives. This cannot continue.

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On the other side, every congressman who opposes a fair system of taxation can cite cases of fraud, waste and mismanagement in the federal government. All of Congress, along with the President, should do a lot more than they have previously to make the government more efficient and root out corruption.

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Lastly, except for humanitarian aid, we must know that we are economically doomed if we can't stay out of other nation's civil wars. We are decades and trillions of dollars behind on learning that lesson.