

No yield from money trees yet

America drinks coffee, not tea (by Ted Mitchell May 28 page A4) is filled with one-sided exaggerations, omissions and typical liberal name calling and scare tactics.

He is upset because the school financial meeting was filled with senior citizens who voted down a tax increase. He resorts to name calling (Tea Partiers) because these seniors are afraid of being forced out of their homes by skyrocketing taxes or having to choose between paying their bills and buying medication or groceries. Seniors live on a fixed income, Mr. Mitchell, and are taxpayers just like you. He then goes on to call them the "Me, Myself and I Party." Well, Mr. Mitchell, the same could be said about you and your ilk. While the teachers union cries it is about the children I don't see them volunteering to give up some of the ridiculous benefits they receive (example below comes from West Warwick teacher's contract):

GUEST COLUMN

1. Reimbursement provision for refusal of health coverage.
2. No cost term life insurance policy with accidental death benefit.
3. Upon retirement the co-pay for health insurance remains the same percentage as it was while working.
4. "Ultimate Advisor" group prepaid legal insurance plan.
5. Paid leave of absence for professional study.
6. 20 paid sick days (remember teachers only work 180 days).
7. Extended sick day pay for members who have exhausted their accumulated sick leave pay.
8. Full pay to Alliance President or their designee to attend to "Alliance business." (We are paying for teacher's union work).
9. Pay for coaching and other advisory positions tied to teacher's pay scale.
10. Coverage for prescription eye glasses and contact lenses.
11. Eliminate taxpayer funding for professional development during school time.

These benefits go far beyond what most workers in the private sector receive. A step one teacher earns \$39,633, a step 10 teachers earns \$69,970 to work 180 days. I see no reason why they cannot take professional development classes on their own time and at their own expense like most people in the private sector do.

Rhode Island is suffering 12.5 percent unemployment. One of seven people is receiving food stamps (a 40 percent increase over last year). The number of people behind on their mortgage has increased. If we want to solve our financial woes we must address all public employee pensions and benefits before our retirees find they have no pensions at all. This is not personal this is reality.

Mr. Mitchell, we don't have money trees in our yards, where do you think the money to pay for all of this is coming from?

As far as Social Security and Medicare and other entitlement programs go, simply put they are unconstitutional. The government has no business redistributing wealth. We have had no choice but to participate in Social Security. These programs should be phased out.

Our country has lost good paying manufacturing jobs because we have priced ourselves out of the market. We have also catered to countries that use slave labor by giving them "Most favorable nation" trade status, as well as NAFTA and CAFTA trade agreements. We give social benefits to people who have not even paid into the system and are not citizens. Our country is going bankrupt. Wake up, Mr. Mitchell. Our country was very prosperous for its first hundred years without any of these social programs until the bankers caused the depression and got laws passed that favor them (the Federal Reserve, income tax and WPW, all of which are unconstitutional) and it has been downhill ever since.

The only thing we agree on is the waste of money spent funding pre-emptive wars — which by the way President Obama is continuing and expanding upon — yet I don't see any of the liberals who complained about President Bush saying anything now that Mr. Obama is in charge.

By the way Mr. Mitchell, I drink tea!

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