

> Gentlemen,

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> Thank you for your request for public response to the Democratic tax increase wish list. I can easily see why they preferred that this proposal should attract as little public attention as possible.

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> I also read in Thursday's Journal inquirer that Democrats Cassano and Coleman condemned Republican efforts to hold an open public hearing on the GOP budget as "grandstanding" and "political theater." This is rich, since "grandstanding" has been the most used tool in the Democrat's box. I also visited the SEIU Web site to see what the unions had to say about the GOP budget. It wasn't a surprise that the SEIU attacked the GOP budget proposal using language that is similar to that used by Dems Cassano and Coleman. Recently I've noticed that Democrats speaking on public issues simply parrot SEIU boilerplate. It's gotten to be such an accepted practice that the Dems now perceive open government and spirited debate as "grandstanding."

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> I note that many of the Dems proposed tax increases would fall on the
> state's freelancers and consultants. My experience is that many
> workers who lost their jobs in the aftermath on the Great Recession
> set up shop as freelancers. They face a very challenging time because
> of Connecticut's sluggish economy. A freelance advertising friend of
> mine remarked that the first thing he did over his morning coffee was
> to check the paper to see which of his clients had gone out of
> business. Apparently these people are not among the "hardworking
> families" described by the Democrats, because taxing their bills -- in
> addition to their income taxes -- will only make their jobs harder,
> including the job of getting paid

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> The Governor and Democratic legislators would have benefitted greatly if they had spent some time working in the private sector. They would at least have learned about boundaries. In the private sector, competition holds down prices, and the need to turn a profit holds down costs. In the state of Connecticut, fiscal stewardship is replaced by fixed costs, pet projects and dithering.

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> I also noticed in the May 7 Journal Inquirer a story that state legislators are grappling with a bill to ban the sale of rhinoceros horns. Typical.

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