

Tax Cuts by Neil Cavuto

Whenever the issue of tax cuts comes up on my Fox News TV show, I like to use a little prop. That prop is a dollar bill.

When I hear a candidate rail against tax cuts, I show him a dollar bill and ask a simple question: "How much of this dollar do you think the average worker deserves?" He (or she) is often dumbfounded.

As I fold the dollar more, I continue my point.

"Is this enough?"

Do you want a little more?"

What do you think?"

The politician being questioned is not amused.

But my point is serious.

How much is too much?"

The issue really is quite simple.

It's about what we keep and what the government takes.

Remember first they are our dollars.

Washington in turn takes what it considers to be for our good.

Here is where the debates begin.

I want to begin sooner, at the crux of the argument, at the dollar that sits in my wallet, and how much we get to hang on to.

The cold reality is that not all that many of us get to hang on to all that much.

The average American today forks over more than a third of what he makes to the government!

That's the first four months of the year, free and clear to the government.

We don't start taking home our pay until May!

I'm talking about the federal, state, and local governments, FICA, Medicare, and on and on.

Richer Americans, those horrible tax dodgers, as some liberals will attest, well, they don't seem to dodge much. They fork over much more.

When all is said and done, they pay closer to 55 percent of what they make when you throw in all those taxes.

Nowhere in the argument about taxes and dollars does anyone ever get into duty and obligation.

Richer folks dutifully give the most to support the obligations of the government.

But not a thank you.

Not a way-to-go, you.

Barely an acknowledgement.

That's typical.

Let's never forget what this debate on raising or lowering taxes is all about.

It's about that dollar in our wallet.

It's about the folds we keep and the folds the government gets.

It's about our hard-earned money being automatically earmarked for things we cannot veto and for programs we cannot fathom.

It's a telling demonstration that any kid could understand, but politicians loathe.

And they loathe it because of its simplicity.

So ask your congressman or senator, "How much of my money do you think is fair to take?"

Do you want a third, half or all of my dollar?"

The response, I get is "there are obligations."

Fair enough, Congressman.

Spell out why it's worth it to me for you to take such a huge chunk of my dollar.

After all, they're your programs.

And it's my dollar.