

It's Not About the Taxes

I hope none of my fellow Americans aren't straining too hard to figure out why Mittens Romney won't release his tax returns. It's not because it will make transparent that he pays a lower effective tax rate than 90% of the middle class; we already knew that. It's not that it makes crystal clear just why the Republicans looted the national treasury and diverted billions in government revenue to the pockets of less than 1% of the populace they feign serving; they did it to get richer, of course. It's not even that he doesn't invest in the American economy he professes to be so proud of and confident in, piling up riches in off-shore accounts and European hedge funds. Galling perhaps, but Mittens is normally tone deaf to such quibbles.

No, the real reason the man who bays *America the Beautiful* at his campaign stops (in lieu of reciting any actual ideas) won't release his tax records is that they will reveal that Romney, like his supporters, like all the billionaires who hope to form the backbone of the next government, hasn't used a cent of his fortune to create one effing job, unless you count a handful of lackeys at some hedge fund. All the Bush tax cut money, which hardly gets mentioned anymore, went straight from the treasury to the pockets of the super-rich, and what did they do with it? Instead of creating jobs with it, they plowed it into financial instruments that were nothing more than glorified casino bets, made possible by Republican indifference to any sort of regulation of any kind. That's where Mittens stashed his dough: in financial products that are kept the exclusive province of the super-rich for the simple reason that no one else is allowed entry.

What a great American! When are jelly-brained Americans going to realize that the Republican agenda has nothing to do with creating jobs? They've had billions in funny money for the last ten years and didn't use it to create anything but more and more dangerous financial shell games, knowing they'd be bailed out if the bets soured because they controlled the apparatus that would rescue them from their greed. Rescue them, but not us, not the rest of America who didn't have any insurance with AIG on their CDO's.

If we want to get the bottom of Mitt Romney, forget about his career at Bain; there's nothing remarkable there. Forget about his record as governor; Lord knows, he has. Forget that despite being an elder in the Church of Latter Day Saints he seems to have no moral center, shifting his position on core social issues with the aplomb of a sociopath. Instead, look at Mitt the Citizen, Mitt left to his own devices, Mitt who could do with his millions as he wished. All we have to do is look at his tax returns for those years.

Oh, that's right, we can't.

It's time for Mitt to stop singing and start explaining what a great job creator he's been for America. We're waiting.