

Statement For The Press by John Boehner – Date ASAP

Today House Republicans and I wish to send a message to all Senators and all other Representatives, within both houses of the current 112th Congress, and to President Obama in the White House, who are no longer acting like adults when it comes to income taxes and our so called FICA payroll taxes, and the way Federal government treats the U.S. taxpayers; rich, poor, middle class, small and large companies, and anyone else who pays taxes or fees to keep this government running.

We Republicans in the House are sorry that Congress has not been honest with you of late and for playing these immature games of late when it comes to the soon to expire income tax rates, which will go up on all taxpayers at all levels very soon if the Democrats and others have anything to do with it. And we are sorry for risking the stability of Social Security and Medicare, which still need to be reformed in a responsible manner, by recently and temporarily lowering the so called payroll tax rates, which will also be reset back to normal levels very soon.

We Republicans in the House feel that the income tax rates should remain as is for as long as possible and that there should never be a change in rates tied to any give expiration date. Setting an expiration date was, and always is, a bad idea, as we can all now see. Likewise, the idea of temporarily lowering the payroll tax rates was yet another mistake made by Congress. Therefore, the FICA payroll withholding rates should, without question, be allowed to reset and should never again be used as a gimmick to generate votes or to experiment with economic outcomes at the risk of undermining the Social Security and Medicare programs in the process.

We should also stop playing games with our National Debt, which is still out of control, because the majority in Congress refuses to cut spending. The primary reason this country is in fiscal trouble is obvious. Our government spends money like a bunch of drunken sailors. All of this irresponsible behavior must be stopped. Thus, we Republicans in the House intend to do just that, because apparently we are the only ones with enough insight and wisdom which is required to do the right thing for once.

So, this is not a warning or a bluff. What I am about to say is a fact.

IF Congress does not remove the expiration date on current income tax rates, thus making sure they continue at current rates from now on, and instead allows the current tax rates to expire and go up to higher tax rate levels on all taxpayers this coming December 31st or **IF** Congress does not make sure that the FICA payroll tax rate is allowed to reset back to its normal level by December 31st or **IF** Congress takes any action which changes the current tax system that does NOT make the tax system simpler, more stable and more predictable for all taxpayers in the future **THEN** we Republicans in the House who have also been elected to serve again in the 113th Congress will NOT vote to ever raise the so called “Debt Limit” again. And you can take that to the bank.

If that happens, it will happen because our President or many Democrat members in Congress wished to continue playing games, and because they wished it to happen. If they want to go off the so called “fiscal cliff” then so be it. There will be no going back. The results will be the natural consequences of their own choices. The ball is in their court, once and for all. The media and pundits can try all they want to blame Republicans for what results. But the American people will know who is actually to blame, because everyone will know what the results of their actions will be from here on out.

It is time to stop the games and to stop the **irresponsible spending** in the U.S. Government.

Changing tax rates on anyone, up or down, will not fix this government’s spending problems nor will it help assure the future solvency of the Social Security and Medicare programs and it will not fix the way this so called government keeps raising the limits on the debt it racks up.

It is time we stopped playing games with the American taxpayer and stopped acting like children who cannot learn to spend their allowance wisely. As adults, it is time we stopped treating the American taxpayers like they are pawns in some elaborate game that can be jerked around endlessly while Congress keeps kicking the need for spending cuts down the road.

Once this Congress is ready to stop playing with tax rates then we can all focus our efforts on the long and difficult process of cutting wasteful and unnecessary spending, however much it takes, to reach a balanced budget and to, hopefully, start paying down the nation’s debt once again.

We current Republicans in the House of Representatives will, therefore, only allow another increase in the debt limit so long as the Democrats among us agree to stop playing around with taxes and start working on ways to cut spending... now. Not next year or the year after that. Right now.