

The original documents are located in Box 24, folder “Tax Bill Veto Suggestion” of the Michael Raoul-Duval Papers at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

Copyright Notice

The copyright law of the United States (Title 17, United States Code) governs the making of photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted material. Michael Raoul-Duval donated to the United States of America his copyrights in all of his unpublished writings in National Archives collections. Works prepared by U.S. Government employees as part of their official duties are in the public domain. The copyrights to materials written by other individuals or organizations are presumed to remain with them. If you think any of the information displayed in the PDF is subject to a valid copyright claim, please contact the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

TO: Dick Cheney

9/17/76

From: Mike Duval

THE FOLLOWING PROPOSAL IS SUBMITTED FOR OUR CONSIDERATION BY BRYCE HARLOW. HE HAS TALKED TO IRVING KRISTOL, ALAN GREENSPAN AND BARBER CONABLE.

SUBJECT: Tax Bill

The President appear on camera behind his desk in the Oval Office. Sign a piece of paper. Look up, put the cap on his pen and, speaking directly into the camera, make the following points:

The action I have just taken is significant to each one of you, all American businesses, and the economic future of this country.

I have just vetoed the tax bill.

(President picks up a copy of the bill.)

This bill is a monstrosity. It is incomprehensible. It is 1,600 pages which will further confuse our tax laws. Even my own advisors in the Treasury Department are not certain what this bill means and how it will affect each one of you.

Instead of reducing our tax laws as I have requested, this one simply adds another 1,600 pages to the already burgeoning tax laws.

(Pick up copies of the tax code for dramatic effect.)

The legislation I have vetoed epitomizes everything that is wrong with the government. It layers more bureaucracy, more regulations, and more burden on the taxpayers. I have been trying to reduce the burden in other areas, such as agriculture, housing, etc. I have consistently opposed new laws which simply confuse and add to the existing mess of statutes and regulations.

We need tax reform, but it should be meaningful and serve to help the average taxpayer -- not to further burden him.

For now, what we need is an extension of the tax cut (add one or two other key points).



If Congress does not override my veto, I will call them back into special session until the tax cut legislation is enacted this year.

Next year, we will have comprehensive tax reform and not this incomprehensible piece of legislation enacted by this Congress.

(Note: President should carry the tax bill he vetoed to every campaign appearance and use it as a visual aid to make his point.)

