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NEWS

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Colorado TABOR Fact of the Day Scare Tactics Didn't Work Then, Won't Work Now- Part IV

On November 1st, Coloradans will vote on Referenda C and D and will decide on whether to allow state government to keep ALL excess tax revenues beyond the spending limit set by the Taxpayer's Bill of Rights.

Make no mistake-- passage of these measures will result in a tax increase of over \$3.6 billion.

The big spenders have always gone to great lengths to misrepresent the Taxpayer's Bill of Rights. In 1992, they painted doomsday scenarios should TABOR pass. The extent to which they would try to fool voters apparently had no boundaries: They invoked images of pillaging and plundering prisoners roaming the streets of Colorado.

They went so far as to claim that a tax and expenditure limit would make it difficult for Denver to host the visit by the Pope. One investment banker even warned that passing TABOR would increase the risk of a Papal assassination.*

TABOR passed, the pope came and left safe and sound, and the plundering prisoners were never to be seen. In fact, Colorado prospered, as other states were experiencing fiscal downturn.

Today, the proponents of C and D may have toned down their rhetoric, but they try to imply the same old exaggerations that did not hold true in the past: A commentary in the Colorado Springs Business Journal foresees the following scenario:

"I could see privatization of our fire department and a call like this:

Operator: This is 911 how can I help you?

Caller: My house is on fire.

*Operator: One second, please let me check the last payment. I'm sorry sir, your fire department fee was late last month, we can't send a fire truck until you are paid in full."***

Colorado voters can't be fooled. The special interests are using these tactics to mask the basic fact that they want to permanently increase your taxes. Colorado voters must vote NO on Referenda C and D!

*One-time champion of TABOR, Governor Bill Owens, now pushing for passage of Referenda C and D, once ridiculed these efforts on the part of the big spenders in this editorial: Amendment 1 has proven its worth, Rocky Mountain News, Denver, CO, December 16, 1996.

** Colorado Springs Business Journal, September 9, 2005 Friday, Commentary: Community 'wealth creation' summit on tap, by Lon Matejczyk

Americans for Tax Reform (ATR) is a non-partisan coalition of taxpayers and taxpayer groups who oppose all federal, state and local tax increases. For more information or to arrange an interview, please contact Chris Butler at (202) 785-0266 or at cbutler@atr.org.