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## Team Obama's Operation "Soften Up the People for a Tax Hike" Continues

WASHINGTON, D.C.— Statements made Sunday by Treasury Secretary Tim Geithner and National Economic Council Director Larry Summers indicate President Barack Obama is poised to ([again](#)) break his central campaign promise not to raise “any form” of taxes on Americans making less than \$250,000 per year. The comments are the latest of a string of statements by Obama’s spokesmen and appointees gradually stepping back from the “firm pledge” made during the campaign.

Appearing on ABC’s *This Week with George Stephanopoulos*, Geithner [would not rule out](#) a pledge-breaking tax hike after being given several opportunities to do so. *“I think what the country needs to do is understand we’re going to have to do what it takes, we’re going to do what’s necessary.”*

Meanwhile, on CBS’s *Face the Nation*, Summers [also refused to rule out a tax hike](#): *“It is never a good idea to absolutely rule things out, no matter what,”* he said.

**“Obama should fire Geithner and Summers,”** said Grover Norquist, president of Americans for Tax Reform. **“Two appointees of President Obama went on national television and implied the president lied his way into office and that he is open to raising taxes.”**

**“To have the president’s own appointees accuse him of lying his way into office is a betrayal beyond words,”** continued Norquist. **“If, however, Obama has been silent in reaction to these two statements, he does intend to raise taxes, and he should resign because he lied his way into office by making a promise he had no intention of keeping.”**

During the campaign, Obama made a “firm pledge” not to raise “any form” of taxes on those making less than \$250,000 per year:

*“I can make a firm pledge. Under my plan, no family making less than \$250,000 a year will see any form of tax increase. Not your income tax, not your payroll tax, not your capital gains taxes, not any of your taxes.”*

(Dover, NH) [[Transcript](#)] [[Video clip](#)]

**“George H.W. Bush made a similar promise,”** said Norquist. **“He broke that promise and was fired by the American people.”**

*Americans for Tax Reform is a non-partisan coalition of taxpayers and taxpayer groups who oppose all tax increases. For more information or to arrange an interview please contact John Kartch at (202) 785-0266 or by email at [jkartch@atr.org](mailto:jkartch@atr.org).*

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