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Dear Editor

Whether we look at local street improvement issues in Eugene and Springfield or consider California's budget crisis or observe the politics of economic stimulus in Washington, we hear the same mantra from our fine citizenry: "We want (fill in the blank), and by the way- lower our taxes"!

I don't know where this oxymoronic double-think comes from, but I have a hypothesis. We, the people that is, are divided into three parts. First there are those of us that want an absolute minimum of government services and have little or no desire to pay for most of them with the possible exception of national defense. These are the conservatives/libertarians among us, also known as Republicans. Then there are others of us that want good schools, safe neighborhoods, health care, well maintained streets and are more likely than not willing to pay for these social services. These are the liberals/socialists who are often known as Democrats.

However there is a great wide middle, often referred to as "independents" and they seem to have accepted ideals from both in that they seem to want all the Democratic espoused social benefits of social safety nets, adequate jail funding, food safety, etc, but they also have the Republican aversion to paying for any of it.

This is what leads to legislatures to create popular government programs, whose bond funding or tax base measures are promptly voted down by the electorate. Didn't these people's parents ever tell them: "You get what you pay for!"?

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