



Won't Come A-Knockin'

July 26, 2023

The Internal Revenue Service says it [will end](#) “most” surprise visits to homes, like the one [an agent made](#) to the home of journalist Matt Taibbi the day he was telling Congress about governmental use of social media to censor people.

According to IRS Commissioner Danny Werfel, the many surprise visits each year looked bad, and “making this change is a common-sense step.” (The IRS wants to still be able to surprise-visit taxpayers whose assets it is seizing. . . .)

Let’s hope that the reform, even if partial and inadequate, is for real. It’s long overdue.

But can we trust these “[revenueurs](#)”?

The agency periodically says that it will now respect taxpayer rights, now be nicer, etc., usually soon after [publicity](#) about awful IRS abuses. As a result of such attention, some IRS personnel are then probably nicer in some ways to some taxpayers sometimes.

And things could always be worse.

Indeed, they may be getting worse. Our Congress recently moved to expand IRS funding by \$80 billion over the next ten years ([part of](#) the laughably named Inflation Reduction Act). Over the last few years, the IRS has [spent millions](#) on “weaponry and gear.” And the question of what to do about the latest bad-looking IRS abuses of the taxpayer never seems to go away.

It will probably never be realistic to expect the IRS to always play nice and in strict accordance with all pertinent legalities and constitutional rights.

But if the Congress that funds the IRS actually represented us, the American people, maybe these issues would’ve been solved a long time ago.

This is Common Sense. I’m Paul Jacob.