



Uh & Other Naughty Words

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The love of other people's money is the root of so much political evil.

Francesca Hong, the Democratic front-runner in today's gubernatorial primary in Wisconsin, embraces that evil. She's even willing to add curse-words to declare her dedication to soaking the rich: "Tax. The. Fucking. Billionaires." Or so she [says](#) on Facebook.

So edgy.

But Hong blanks out when it comes to the negative fallout of taxing the rich at higher rates. Says lame things; doesn't use the f-word. She uses the u-word: "uh." When challenged in last week's [debate](#), about what she'd do "if all the millionaires leave the state," she responded with "You know, uh, discussing that hypothetical is, um, a little bit, uh — I'm confused about that."

"Like most socialists, she is in denial about the costs and consequences of her proposals," [argues](#) *The Washington Post* editorial board.

"To fund 'free' child care, state-run grocery stores and more health care subsidies" she pushes an additional 1 percent in taxes on the top income bracket. "This might sound fine to a taxpayer who doesn't make a million dollars, but Wisconsin — like every other state — relies on wealthy taxpayers to support state infrastructure, public schools and social programs," *WaPo* explains. "The top 5 percent of earners [pay about](#) 40 percent of the state's net income taxes."

For years, journalists have enabled demagogues to lie about how much the highest income earners actually pay in taxes, fooling many voters into thinking that the goose that lays golden eggs can be plucked and plundered without consequences. A turnaround on the issue at *WaPo* is refreshing.

"Recent elections seem to suggest," its editors conclude, "that Democratic voters no longer fear labels such as 'socialist' and are more interested in tearing down the party's establishment. A better strategy to combat extreme policies is to explain the damage they will cause."

Too late? I hope not. For Wisconsin and for other states.

This is Common Sense. I'm Paul Jacob.