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Editor

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To The Editor:

It's no secret that the Republican party is a mess. This is clear in the important issues of our time but also obvious in the small details.

Let's start small. The Republicans hung a banner near Andover's recent election. Alongside traditional Republican logos and slogans, it quoted Thomas Jefferson: "A government big enough to give you everything you want, is big enough to take away everything you have." Sure, a traditional small-government slogan, aligned perhaps with what the party stood for... once upon a time.

Except, Thomas Jefferson never said that.

It's very easy to check these things. I pasted the first ten words of the quote into popular search engines; the first hits -- including ones from the definitive Jefferson source, https://www.monticello.org/ -- make it clear that Jefferson never wrote this. It's a small thing, to be sure. But this is a reusable banner presumably meant to hang at many events. You'd think they'd take care before falsely attributing their propaganda to one of our country's Founders.

If Republican problem were limited to such minor peccadilloes, it would be fine. But it's not. The House Republicans recently voted to send $14 billion in aid to Israel. To offset the cost, they want to cut $14 billion in IRS funding.

We don't need analysis of the Israeli-Palestinian situation to see how ridiculous this is. The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office's data says that this would *increase* the deficit by about $14 billion, because without enforcement, tax cheats simply get away with it. Think of the moral implications: The Republican party says, "Yes, we'll help out one of our closest allies, but only if you let us make a political point that will worsen our debt and help rich tax cheats."

What a disaster!

Sincerely,

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