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Phone: 512-476-0082

Email: vil3202@aol.com

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RAPPIN' Thomas Wyatt

AUDITS

This week, IRS Commissioner Daniel Werfel admitted Black taxpayers face an IRS audit exponentially more than other ethnicities. Werfel blames the 'Earned Income Tax Credit' and 'ghost preparers' as the reasons.

I call B.S.

This has always been the case in the U.S. of A.

Race matters.

So, you can understand why so many of us get ticked off when former president, liar, and cheat, Donald Trump uses the IRS as his personal scapegoat for so many of his personal finance troubles.

And you wonder why he wants to be president again.

And you wonder why he wants to abolish the IRS.

I wonder what he would go through if he were Black.

Furthermore, knowing the IRS is more likely to audit Blacks than whites, it's no wonder Trump got away with cheating on his taxes for so long.

Or did he?

See, it makes you wonder how Trump, the self-proclaimed highest IQ U.S. president in history, could lie about his finances on tax returns (and get away with it) for over 50 years, but my father could be audited at a far higher rate for just trying to etch out a living in a redlined business district for the majority of his adult life.

But Trump is just one example. I'll bet if Werfel was serious about his pledge to evaluate "the best ways to address bias within [the IRS] audit program", he'd find a lot of politicians, who aren't Black, breaking the rules with impunity.

You have to understand the effects of this injustice of communities of color. Injustices aren't always in the streets or courts of local law enforcement. Its reach is well within the federal government, too.

Nevertheless, with this new revelation, finally admitted to the public, I'm still waiting for the knock at Judge Clarence Thomas' door.

For Shame, IRS! For Shame!



By Stacy M. Brown, NNPA Newswire Senior National Correspondent, @StacyBrownMedia

(NNPA) - IRS Commissioner Daniel Werfel has acknowledged what many have known for some time: Black taxpayers face an IRS audit exponentially more than other groups.

Werfel acknowledged the disparity in a letter this week in which he responded to a request for information about the "apparent racial disparity" in selecting tax returns for audit, along with a plan to address the issue.

"Let me start by stressing that the IRS is committed to enforcing tax laws in a fair and impartial manner," Werfel said in the letter addressed to the U.S. Senate.

"When evidence of unfair treatment is presented, we must take immediate action to address it. It is also important to reiterate that we do not and will not consider race as part of our case selection and audit processes."

He continued:

"Nevertheless, a recent study estimated, using imputed race values, that Black taxpayers are audited at three to five times the rate of non-Black taxpayers.

"The research further suggests that most of this disparity is driven by differences in correspondence audit rates among taxpayers claiming the Earned Income Tax Credit.

"We are deeply concerned by these findings and committed to doing the work to understand and address any disparate impact of the actions we take."

Werfel noted that as soon as Congress con-

firmed his appointment, he met with an IRS team that had already studied the issue of race discrimination in audits.

He noted that the research has continued as authorities try to pinpoint what drives the disparity and how to fix the issue.

Researchers discovered that Black taxpayers are five times more likely to face an audit when filing federal returns than any other race.

When President Biden signed the Inflation Reduction Act, the IRS received \$80 billion, which the agency pledged to use to determine a better system to eliminate such discrimination.

"Back in March, my colleagues and I raised alarms with the new IRS boss about Black taxpayers being over-audited, and today he confirmed our suspicions," tweeted Rep. Bill Pascrell, Jr. (D-N.J.).

"The IRS is making strides, but extra audits of Black Americans are disgraceful and must end."

Werfel promised that the IRS would accelerate an existing research effort to detect and ensure compliance among "ghost preparers," individuals who are paid to prepare returns for others but do not identify themselves to the IRS.

"Initial evidence confirms that unscrupulous and ghost preparers disproportionately prepare returns in minority communities," Werfel noted.

"We are making broad efforts to advance our commitment to fair and equitable tax administration and evaluating the best ways to address bias within our audit program."

Vice-Chair Sheryl Cole Passes 6 Bills out of Texas House Before House Bill Deadline

(AUSTIN, TX) - May 16th, 2023 – Vice-Chair Sheryl Cole has passed 6 bills out of the Texas House before the House Bill Deadline, with one bill currently on the

Governor's Desk.

Rep Cole had the following to say: "I'm very proud of the work that my office and I have been able to accomplish this session with the bills that we've passed. From issues ranging from providing tuition exemptions to EMS paramedics, preserving Austin-Travis County EMS as a civil service, and extending the insurance enrollment deadline for parents to put their newborn(s) on their insurance plan, to issues like fighting the fentanyl crisis on our college



campuses and reforming the workers' compensation tax system, it's been an incredibly successful and productive session working for the constituents of House District 46. While one bill is currently

sitting on the Governor's desk, I look forward to the remainder of my bills passed out of the House passing swiftly in the Texas Senate before the end of the 88th legislative session."

INSIDE



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