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## Who Are They Screwing First? The Pelosi-Obama-Reid Assault on Middle America

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The 111<sup>th</sup> Congress is less than a week old, and already the first tax increase has been put on the table.

### What:

A 61 cents per pack, or 156 percent, increase in the federal excise tax on cigarettes to fund a proposed \$35 billion expansion of the State Children's Health Insurance Program (S-CHIP).

### Who Will Be Burdened?

The middle- and low-income Americans they said they will not raise taxes on:

- 55 percent of smokers are "working poor"
- One in four smokers live below the poverty line
- On average, smokers, whose median income is a little more than \$36,000, make about 30 percent less than non-smokers.

### Remember the Quote?

*"If you make less than a quarter of a million dollars a year, you will not see a single dime of your taxes go up."* (President-elect Obama in the October 7 presidential debate)

**Yet who are they screwing first...?  
The very people they said they'd protect from higher taxes.**