



News from

THE RIPON SOCIETY

April 21, 2011

“Meet Team Camp” Ripon Society Roundtable Features Senior Staff from the Ways & Means Chairman’s Office

The Ripon Society hosted a roundtable lunch discussion yesterday afternoon with 11 senior staff members from the office of the Chairman of the Ways & Means Committee.

“One of the most important debates taking place in our Nation’s capital right now has to do with tax policy,” stated Jim Conzelman, the President and CEO of The Ripon Society. “Democrats believe taxes need to be raised. Republicans, on the other hand, believe that Washington has a spending problem, not a revenue problem, and that the tax code as a whole needs to be reformed and replaced with a system that is fairer, simpler, and easier to understand.

“How this debate is resolved will not only impact our Nation’s competitiveness and future economic growth, but will also determine whether the United States is able to get our deficit and long term debt obligations under control. The Chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, Congressman Dave Camp of Michigan, is at the forefront of this debate. One of the purposes of today’s roundtable was to hear from some of his senior staff members about his views on the issue and where he sees the debate headed this year.”

The staff members from Chairman Camp’s office participating in yesterday’s roundtable discussion were: Jon Traub, Staff Director of the Ways & Means Committee; Jim Brandell, Chief of Staff for Chairman Camp; Sage Eastman, Deputy Staff Director of the Ways & Means Committee; Dan Elling, Health Subcommittee Staff Director; Warren Payne, Senior Economist; Michelle Dimarob, Senior Advisor for Public Affairs and Director of Coalitions; Jennifer Safavian, Oversight Subcommittee Staff Director; Kim Hildred, Social Security Subcommittee Staff Director; Ray Beeman, Special Advisor on Tax Reform; Jill Schmalz, Senior Professional Staff, Health Subcommittee; and, Geoff Antell, Trade Counsel.

According to Conzelman, the format of the roundtable was intended to foster discussion among the featured participants and those who attended the event. Conzelman also

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Jim Brandell, Chief of Staff to Ways & Means Chairman Dave Camp, and Jon Traub, Ways & Means Staff Director, deliver opening remarks at The Ripon Society roundtable on April 20.

noted that this was the fourth roundtable discussion The Ripon Society has hosted with senior congressional staff.

Last October, he said, The Ripon Society played host to “Team Boehner.” In December, The Ripon Society played host to members from the Republican Majority Leader’s staff -- “Team Cantor.” And last month, The Ripon Society hosted a roundtable with “Team McCarthy” and members of the Majority Whip’s staff. On average, Conzelman added, anywhere between 90 to 115 people have been in attendance for these events. Yesterday’s roundtable drew a crowd of around 100.

The Ripon Society is a public policy organization that was founded in 1962 and takes its name from the town where the Republican Party was born in 1854 -- Ripon, Wisconsin. One of the main goals of The Ripon Society is to promote the ideas and principles that have made America great and contributed to the GOP’s success. These ideas include keeping our nation secure, keeping taxes low and having a federal government that is smaller, smarter and more accountable to the people.

For more information on The Ripon Society, please visit <http://www.riponsociety.org>.

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**The Ripon Society Roundtable
Discussion with Team Camp
April 20, 2011**



Pictured above (from l to r):
Row 1 - Dan Elling, Warren Payne and Michelle Dimarob;
Row 2 - Jennifer Safavian, Kim Hildred, and Ray Beeman;
Row 3 - Jill Schmalz, Sage Eastman, and Geoff Antell.