

# The New York Times

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EDITORIALS/LETTERS

## To Keep the Estate Tax, or Kill It?

To the Editor:

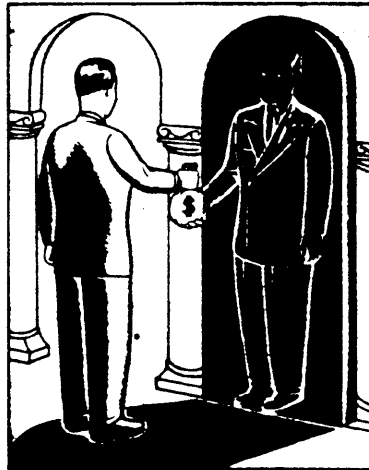
Re "Dozens of Rich Americans Join in Fight to Retain the Estate Tax; Buffett, Soros and Gates's Father Call It Only Fair" (front page, Feb. 14):

After many years of reviewing estate plans in connection with divorce cases, I am continually amazed at how very rich people are able to pay comparatively little or no estate tax. Very rich people avoid the payment of the estate tax by a myriad of schemes involving dizzying arrays of trusts, foundations, shelters and gifts.

If there is any real sincerity in such people's desire to maintain an estate tax, there is a simple solution. Why not tax only estates of \$25 million or more? That way, those of us who are not billionaires can still pass along some of the fruits of our hard work. This would allow our children some degree of comfort.

RAOUL LIONEL FELDER  
New York, Feb. 14, 2001

*The writer is a lawyer.*



Tim Lane