

the Trump administration has mothballed the facility, he wants waste removed.

"I want the stuff out," Graham said. "I want a pathway forward out of the state."

There have been earlier cases of presidents who favored some states over others based on election results—the Kennedy administration, for instance. But most of those involved benefits for supporting states, not punishment for opposing states. This is one more way this era of polarization has changed the normal rules.

Newsweek says that since Trump and the Republican Congress increased spending more than Democrats ever dreamed of doing, "Therefore, Republicans are going to have to raise taxes to avoid bigger deficits. They have set out to do exactly that to their political opponents while cutting taxes for their supporters. All of this makes their current narrative about eliminating the state and local deduction from federal tax liability especially unseemly. They claim the deductions force low tax states to subsidize high tax states like California, but that's not true. California and New York pay more in federal taxes than they reap in federal benefits.

That isn't to defend the egregious taxation

in states like New York. But as Republicans love to remind us, the wealthiest 20 percent of Americans pay most of the income taxes and most of those people live in blue states

Republicans are targeting for effective tax hikes. To raise spending by \$200 billion and then claim the moral high ground based on fake news is exasperating even by Washington's standards."

Even so, some may find it difficult to believe that vindictiveness could guide federal actions. But Donald Trump is not the usual president. His own interests tend to guide his actions. His life is littered with people he liked until they disagreed with him—Michael Cohen, Steve Bannon—and last year NBC reported, "He praises and pardons friends/allies who have committed crimes (Manafort, Joe Arpaio, Dinesh D'Souza), but calls for the prosecution of enemies who haven't been charged at all (Hillary Clinton, James Comey, Peter Strzok, Christopher Steele)." This is not a president whose actions are predictable, but his earlier actions against Clinton states are relevant. □

"Those negotiations were a sham all along."

Gov. Steve Sisolak

Rock on



Attendees at the second Reno Punk Rock Flea Market watched as local band Basement Tapes performed on the afternoon of Feb. 9. The event drew thousands of people to the Reno Generator arts space in Sparks.

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