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# Taxation Is Theft

Obviously, this concept as the proper functions of a limited government has all but succeeded. For it would seem logical that if a single individual is not allowed to steal or murder, then there is no way that an association of individuals (the government) can suddenly possess the authority, either by Divine Right or collective rule, to steal or murder also. In essence, the state has accepted the role of a big bully who says, "I can do it, but you peons cannot."

The next question that might be asked is whether government is "empowered to do things that individuals are not?" Does the majority have the right to reign over the smallest or minorities- the individual? If so, this premise could lead to a dictatorship of the majority if its logic is carried to its ultimate extreme. As a whole, the majority has no Rights, only individuals have 'Individual Rights' in an environment of voluntarism (e.g. The Bill of Rights).

And one of the biggest instrument of the state to slowly maim personal liberties is the heavy burden of taxation. Poverty caused, for the most part, by government taxation (see Tax Foundation study which shows that national, state, and local taxes rob 34 per cent of citizens who make less than \$3,000 a year-U.S. News, Dec. 9, 1968) breeds ardent allegiance to a welfare/warfare state where liberties are sold for securities.

And since the state never voluntarily decreases its power, neither do taxes either. Between 1960 and 1970 alone according to "Time" magazine, "the tax burden on each American man, woman and child

almost doubled, from \$711 to \$1,348" (March 13, 1972). "Time" went on to say that,

"The higher taxes and higher spending have brought little if any improvement in public services. In many cases, the nation's streets are dirtier, its mass transit more decrepit, its public hospitals more understaffed, its streets more crime-ridden today than in decades."

Tax reform, a relatively unsuccessful program, is not the alternative to an immoral system. Such reforms only lead to a "tax him more than me" mentality or heavier taxation on businesses which is ultimately passed on to the consumer. The solution is to eliminate taxes entirely.

Many have argued that such a program is impractical. Others, like the Society for Individual Liberty (SIL), a national libertarian student group, believe that it is possible writing,

"It is argued that taxes are necessary to support services of government. It is claimed that garbage would lie knee deep in the streets if trash removal wasn't provided by government; that muggers and rapists would roam at will without government police on hand; that the commuter train and bus lines would cease to exist if turned back to private enterprise.

"Why, we must ask, would men be so foolish to allow such service to cease without the government's intervention?... Do men forget to report to their jobs

every morning because the government does not yet provide them with alarm clocks?" If some are not sure of the answer then remember, at least, "Don't rob anyone because it is still a crime to compete with government."

# TAXATION

By Lawrence K. Samuels

If you drive a car, I'll tax the street,  
If you try to sit, I'll tax your seat,  
If you get too cold, I'll tax the heat,  
If you take a walk, I'll tax your feet.

"THE TAXMAN"-The Beatles

If a masked man suddenly pressed cold iron to the belly of a citizen, demanding money or threats of bodily harm, most would undoubtedly identify him as a common thief. If two men performed this same quaint, hostile ritual, they still would be labelled as thieves. And if a small gang organizes to terrorize and rob the community similar to the gangsters of the 1920's, it is conceivable that most citizens would yell "thieves" again.

But what if such aggressive acts of robbing another were on a larger scale? Would it morally make a difference? That is, what if the thieves numbered in the millions? Would the number of thieves, larger or smaller, in essences, make a difference? It is likely that most, desiring to remain morally and logically consistent, would reply with a thundering "No."

Yet, if the terms "majority" or "majority rule" were to be added to the act of stealing, moans and groans of "you're not playing fair" would be echoed rather than a rationalization of "you might have a point."

To understand the libertarian reason of why taxation is thief, it first must be assumed that stealing from your neighbor, especially his \$500 stereo unit, is immoral. After that earthshaking statement, the question arises: if it is immoral for one man or a group of men to rob another, is it not the same conclusion for the biggest non-voluntary revenue collecting Godfather of them all-the government?

A thief will demand money of a person on the street and if the person resists, the robber usually proceed to assault him or her, forcibly taking his or her property away. The tax collectors of the Internal Revenue Service have the same confiscating power. However, they plunder behind government doors and rarely work the street corners. Furthermore, if the taxpayer refuses to cooperate,

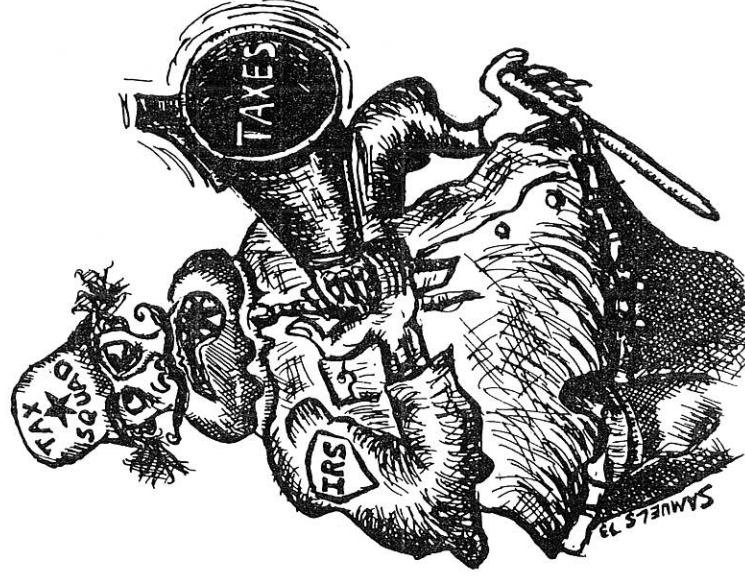
# IS THEFT

protecting his property instead, he is subject to property seizure and jailed as the 'aggressive' criminal.

In other words, the victims of the robbery escapades are jailed and punished for not submitting to organized government theft. It seems that the victim is prosecuted while the one who committed the act is protected by a law of the state. Apparently, individuals and gangs have found this to be a safer method to steal than the old fashion way of local indiscriminate stick ups in back alleys. Those alleys and street corners are dangerous, even for a mugger.

Working "within the system," is the tax collector's actions any less immoral simply because there are a million or a majority of them instead of one who supports forcible confiscation of one's money? In national terms, IRS agents are nothing but sophisticated thieves sanctioned by the state to steal for the common good for wars to million dollar improvements on Presidential homes. Fortunately, thieves only steal for themselves and not, of course, for beautified Presidential homes.

It should be apparent that governments are only associations of individuals created for some purpose, hopefully for protection from thieves and murders.(continued)



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