

Freedom Matters

A Weekly Newsletter

Dane County, Wisconsin

Vol. 2, No. 20

Friday, May 17, 2002

We are a free people in a republic, under a constitution which limits the powers of government to those necessary to secure the unalienable rights of each person to their life, liberty and property. Yet, when a legislature is in session, no one's life, liberty or property is safe. It's the curse of a democracy. That's why we have a republic instead. *Freedom Matters* dedicates itself to the fight to restore our republic. Most of the press and courts fail to do so. They've forgotten that freedom matters.

The "Progressive" Income Tax: A One Act Play

By Bob Bowman

Adapted from an article by Ron Adams, published in the February 23, 2002 issue of the Lakeshore News - Salmon Arm, B.C.

Let's put our progressive income tax in terms we all understand. Suppose that 10 pals eat dinner together at their favorite restaurant. The bill for all 10 comes to \$100. If it is paid the way we pay our income taxes, the first four pals pay nothing, the fifth pays \$1, the sixth pays \$3, the seventh \$7, the eighth \$12, the ninth \$18. The tenth pal (the richest) pays \$59.

The ten pals eat dinner in the restaurant every evening for several months, content with their system, until the owner throws them a curve.

"Since you are such good customers," she says, "I'm reducing the cost of your daily meal by \$18."

Now, dinner for the 10 costs \$82. How can that \$18 be divvied up so that everyone still gets billed in the same relationship to their wealth as before?

The first four pals are already eating for free. Thus, the restaurant owner looks to recompute the bill among the remaining six. She considers deducting equal dollar amounts from the bills of the six who pay, but $\$18 \div 6 = \3 , and pal #5 only pays \$1. Hence, that doesn't work.

Then she notes that the pals are paying in proportion to their wealth. She decides that the fair thing to do is to reduce each pal's bill by that same proportion; i.e., by how much they each have been paying. She does so to the nearest dollar. By that, the first four pals still eat for free, the fifth pal still pays \$1, the sixth is billed \$2, the seventh \$6, the eighth \$10, the ninth \$15, and the 10th pal \$48.

"I got nothing of the \$18," declares the fifth pal, pointing to the tenth pal, "and he got \$11."

"Yeah," exclaims the sixth. "I only got a dollar of the \$18. It's unfair! He got 10 times more than me!"

"That's true," shouts the seventh pal. "Why should he get \$11 back when I get only \$1? The wealthy get all the breaks."

The eighth pal yells, "I only saved \$2."

The ninth pal yells, "I only saved \$3."

"Wait a minute," yell the first four pals in unison. "We didn't get anything at all. The system exploits the poor."

The nine surround the tenth and chew him out.

The next night, the tenth pal doesn't show up on time, so the nine sit down and start without him. They finish the meal and he still has not arrived, his meal now cold. Comes time to pay the bill, and the nine discover something important.

They are \$48 short!

They look at the ninth and say, "You'll have to take #10's place, to pay the bill."

Next night, the ninth pal doesn't show up either.

Just a fable? No, it's the story of the Jamestown colony, the Mayflower compact, the fall of the Soviet Union, and every attempt to communalize wealth and live off the efforts of others. If others take the fruits of our work, we stop working.

So it's not a fable. It's an analogy. Of course, it doesn't fit perfectly. Still, it serves to warn us that our taxing system is seriously flawed.

Fredric Bastiat points out that to take from A to give to B is theft, and if it's done by taxation, it's legalized theft. Note, too, if done by income tax, it amounts to slavery. How far this nation has fallen.

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