

Subj: death and taxes

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1789: Year in which Benjamin Franklin bragged in a letter to Jean-Baptiste Leroy, "Our Constitution is in actual operation; everything appears to promise it will last; but nothing in this world is certain but death and taxes."

1672: Year in which the first tax upon the American colonies was imposed by the British Parliament without the colonies' consent. It was a duty on sugar, tobacco, ginger, coconuts, indigo, logwood fustic, wool, and cotton.

126 million: Number of personal income tax returns expected to be received by the IRS in 1999 (for the 1998 tax year).

1862: Year in which the first federal income tax was imposed, a temporary three-percent tax on incomes exceeding \$600.

\$825 billion: Gross amount of personal income tax collected in 1997.

\$336 million: Total value of the personal tax levy placed upon seventy percent of the estate of Howard Hughes, making it the highest recorded personal tax levy in the world.

50.7: Percentage of all taxes collected accounted for by personal income tax.

12.6: Percentage accounted for by corporate taxes.

9,471: Number of pages in the Internal Revenue Code.

1,291: Number of pages in the Bible.

5 million: Of Russia's 150 million citizens, the number who file tax returns.

26: Number of Russian tax collectors who were killed in 1996.

41: Number who had their houses burned to the ground.

6: Number kidnapped.

2.83: Number of hours americans spent working each day to pay taxes in 1998.

2: Number of minutes by which this time has increased since 1997.

May 10: Tax Freedom Day in 1998 (date to which Americans will have to work to pay off their total annual tax bill), according to the Tax Foundation.

April 3: Tax Freedom Day in 1950.

1.28: Percentage of personal income tax returns filed that are subject to review by the IRS.

2.67: Percentage of corporate tax returns that are subject to review by the IRS.

5,335: Total number of 1997 tax returns audited that resulted in criminal investigations of tax filers.

88: Percentage of those charged with tax crimes who were convicted.

42: Percentage of Americans who believe they get their money's worth from federal income taxes, according to a survey by Maritz Marketing

Research.

56: Percentage of Americans who believe they get their money's worth from state income taxes.

60: Percentage of Americans who feel they get their money's worth from property taxes.

32.3: Percentage of all federal individual income tax collected that comes from the top one percent of income earners (incomes above \$229,230).

50.8: Percentage of all federal individual income tax collected that is accounted for by the top five percent of income earners (incomes over \$101,202).

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