

INVENTIONS

or, "why you will all feel better tomorrow night"

04-14-2014 By Harry Zirkelbach

"Wait a Minute! We've always done it that way."

Not everyone responds immediately to the new.

This is equally true of ideas or inventions that change society's habits permanently.

The history of America has many highlights. Pundits review every decision of the Administrative, Legislative, and Legal branches, for in every corner of the country these choices affect the vitality of democracy as practiced by each citizen.

Early in the 20th Century, the Legislative branch of American Government began considering the feasibility of a national Income Tax. Such a Law, passed by both Houses of Congress, then approved by 3/4 of the states; this became the 16th Amendment in 1913.

Income Tax rates were small initially, imposed on just ten percent of the voters, the higher income earners. The form was on one page.

Changes were made in the next three decades, depending on many variables, notably International crises, and political party controlling Congress, the Presidency.

With the onset of WW II, Congress considered paying the immense costs of that war. From this, the Withholding of Income Tax from every employee's paycheck.

These two decisions have withstood continuous legal attacks, now are the accepted Law supporting the expenses of operating the government of America.

There are only a few who believe these two governmental acts have provided stability in war, depression, peace, prosperity, enabling the average citizen to live in some harmony with his neighbor. I sit in the choir with them.

In particular, I believe the Withholding enactment a brilliant stroke. The average Joe is not inclined to save any money from each pay check.. Then meet the financial tax obligation for the past year's Incomes, due on the 15 April of that following year. To further this acceptance, withholdings in recent years, coupled with the Standard authorized (non-itemized) deduction, has produced withholdings

exceeding the Tax due. This provides most Americans a refund of the money they had been forced to have the government save for them.

The resultant refund of their overpayment tax dollars, pleases the taxpayer; this could be deemed a brilliant tax policy.

The same withholding policy created Social Security. Makes it possible for everyone eligible for Social Security, when at retirement, they request then spend their government enforced savings.

Men and women in America, in unbelievable numbers register for political office, beg to nourish at the political trough created by the Income and Other Tax systems. Not just a few do this while denouncing government itself, at an evil they will destroy.

So far, candidates have not appeared stating that they will take no government remuneration for themselves, or the immense staff they will be provided once elected.

My wife and I have paid Income Tax yearly since being of age. And yes, in recent years, that has provided a small refund usually the month after we submitted our Federal 1040.

We remain concerned, contented tax payers, citizens.

“Wait a minute”!

These provisions became Law when we were young, and “we’ve always have done it that way”.

