

4/12/12

KINS COMMUNITY COMMENT (442-5744)

This is Ron Pierre for Community Comment.

It's tax deadline time! It's that time of the year when we focus on what we must give of our own labors to support our governments. Each year when I review my tax filings, I also think about all the other costs that take dollars out of my pocket. All those fees, licenses, hidden costs, co-payments, assessments, and obligations that put my sweat equity into the hands of political bureaucrats. I think of the Mark Twain quote, "The only difference between a tax man and a taxidermist is that the taxidermist leaves the skin." I am not impressed by longtime bureaucrats who measure their individual success on how many years they have held political office, and how many taxes, laws, and regulations they have enacted to bring in more revenue and handcuff private enterprise. Those additional income takeaways increased the costs nearly 22% for the average American taxpayer last year. Yet the government calculated cost of living adjustment rose only 3.6%. Let's get real..... does anybody think that it cost you only 3.6% more to live today than it did a years ago? Moreover, consider the last three years and the value of your dollars in the market place. I think about a Mark Twain quote of 1866.... "No man's life, liberty, or property is safe while the legislature is in session." These words are more true today than ever before.

I've had to re-prioritize my personal life these past three years to meet my living costs. Most people have done the same thing, and the outlook for significant growth for the next few years is bleak at best given the sluggish economy. Yet government spending increases. At the Government Services Administration(GSA) for example, the budget dollars have nearly doubled in the last three years. Oh.... for a ukulele party shown in Las Vegas at their recent annual GSA meeting!

In this rural area, we are still waiting for some economic windfall to inject growth. The wait continues, and now with recent legislative redistricting, we are truly without any form of political representation. All we can do is hope that government doesn't forget us. Don't fret though, government will always remember you come the middle of April. I think of the Will Roger quote: "I don't make jokes. I

just watch the government and report the facts." Will Rogers goes on to say, " No man's life, liberty, or property is safe while the legislature is in session."

I read a news article over the weekend that said the national debt is now \$73,000 per person living in the United States. The article went on to state that the debt now exceeds the annual ^{U.S.} gross domestic product (GDP). I am reminded of the Thomas Jefferson quote, "A government big enough to give you everything you want, is strong enough to take everything you have."

I used several quotes in this community comment because politicians has always tend to abuse power. My last quote is from Winston Churchill, "I contend that for a nation to try and to tax itself into prosperity is like a man standing in a bucket and trying to lift himself up by the handle."

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