

Taxes and Gun Rights— What Gun Owners Must Know

By the JPFO Liberty Crew

Vice President Cheney's hunting accident, unfortunate as it was, actually pointed up how rare firearms accidents really are. When it comes to firearms handling and use, gun owners as a group tend to be pretty careful and sensible.

But when it comes to federal taxes – why do we gun owners lose our common sense?

Here's one answer: we don't see the direct connection between federal taxation and the destruction of our gun rights and our way of life.

THE BIG TAX PICTURE

If you're a typical American, you pay more in taxes than you pay for your mortgage, car payment, and groceries combined. It wasn't always this way. Through most of this nation's history, government required only a tiny portion of American productivity. Now, we're supposed to believe that feeding bureaucrats is more important than feeding our own families or keeping a roof over our heads.

Is it sensible to put government's priorities so high above our own? Is it logical to pay more for government than for the fundamental daily needs of life?

Taxation is destroying many wonderful aspects of life in America. It's destroying our ability to save for our medical bills and retirement, pay our children's educational costs, and get ourselves through hard times. Adding it all together, about 40 percent of our income is taken and used to support bureaucrats, special interest groups, and pork-barrel projects. It takes

two full time workers to support a family, when it used to take only one.

Sensible people – like gun owners – must see that something is very wrong here. This federal tax system is so complicated that businesses and individuals spend billions of dollars annually just to comply with the paperwork. Some taxpayers spend anywhere from \$500 to \$1500 to pay a tax accountant who figures out how many more thousands of dollars the taxpayer must pay.

For senior citizens, the tax burden is insane. Think about it: seniors who squirreled away investment money now have to pay taxes four (4) times per year. Four filings, four checks, keeping track of the paperwork – burdens imposed on older folks who finally ought to be free of the rat race.

On April 15, check out your tax bill. *Does this tax system – do the tax rates – make any sense at all?*

THE SICKEST JOKE

We're really careful with our firearms, but we pay taxes to our persecutors. Every firearm manufactured in the U.S. is subject to a 10% federal excise tax. Handgun ammunition is taxed at 11%. Gun owners pay the federal government to grow, to grab more power, to enact more regulations, and to wreck our way of life. To top it off, *we gun owners pay for the federal BATFE to threaten and harass gun owners.*

According to Cybercast News Service reports, BATFE itself admitted to stopping and interviewing 206 gun show visitors while it confiscated firearms from another 50 visitors in Richmond, Va. Without warrants, the BATFE took the guns and ordered the visitors to appear at a BATFE office to "discuss their transactions."

In addition, African-American and female gun buyers in Richmond and Pittsburgh were apparently target-

ed because of their sex or race. BATFE agents threatened some of them with arrest for actions that were not actually illegal.

On numerous occasions since 2004, BATFE agents conducted so-called "residency checks" on individuals who purchased firearms at gun shows. Uniformed officers went to the homes of prospective gun buyers to question family members and neighbors about the gun buyers' firearm purchasing habits.

Bottom line: we gun owners run through the maze of tax laws and forms, and pay increasingly outrageous taxes for guns and everything else, only to have our tax money spent to terrify and oppress us gun owners.

We wouldn't allow some lowlife to invade our homes. Why do we allow the federal government and the BATFE to invade our whole lives?

OUR MOTTO: NO WHINING

If you don't do something to defend your rights, then you'll have no right to complain when you lose them. You clearly see the problem. It's time to act.

Learn about how tax policies operate to destroy American rights: Click on www.jpfo.org and read the Alert: **Taxing Away Our Rights.**

Learn about BATFE abuses: click on www.jpfo.org and click on **The Boot.**

Talk and e-mail to other gun owners about how tax-funded BATFE endangers your gun rights – and how the tax system damages America in so many other ways, too.

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