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20 Inspirational Quotes ... About Taxes

Depressing, but true: taxes are on everyone's mind almost 24-7 since they influence our daily lives. Reading famous quips about taxes won't help you pay less, but at least you'll get a good chuckle on the way to the poor house. The following quotes are drawn from a volume compiled by Jeffery L. Yablon: [Tax Analysts – As Certain As Death – Quotations About Taxes](#).



(Photo credit: Tax Credits)

1. “The taxpayer: that’s someone who works for the federal government, but doesn’t have to take a civil service examination.”—**Ronald Reagan**
2. “We have what it takes to take what you have.”—**Suggested IRS Motto**
3. “The income tax created more criminals than any other single act of government.”—**Barry Goldwater**
4. “You must pay taxes. But there’s no law that says you gotta leave a tip.”—**Morgan Stanley advertisement**

5. "If you get up early, work late, and pay your taxes, you will get ahead—if you strike oil."—**J. Paul Getty**
6. "The tax code is a monstrosity and there's only one thing to do with it. Scrap it, kill it, drive a stake through its heart, bury it and hope it never rises again to terrorize the American people."—**Steve Forbes**
7. "The difference between death and taxes is death doesn't get worse every time Congress meets."—**Will Rogers**
8. "It is a paradoxical truth that tax rates are too high today and tax revenues are too low, and the soundest way to raise the revenues in the long run is to cut the tax rates."—**John F. Kennedy**
9. "Make sure you pay your taxes; otherwise you can get in a lot of trouble."—**Richard M. Nixon**
10. "You don't *pay* taxes—they *take* taxes."—**Chris Rock**
11. "For a nation to try to tax itself into prosperity is like a man standing in a bucket and trying to lift himself up by the handle."—**Winston Churchill**
12. "Income tax returns are the most imaginative fiction being written today."—**Herman Wouk**
13. "I am proud to be paying taxes in the United States. The only thing is I could be just as proud for half of the money."—**Arthur Godfrey**
14. "A liberal is someone who feels a great debt to his fellow man, which debt he proposes to pay off with your money."—**G. Gordon Liddy**
15. "Collecting more taxes than is absolutely necessary is legalized robbery."—**Calvin Coolidge**
16. "The hardest thing in the world to understand is the income tax."—**Albert Einstein**
17. "In 1790, the nation which had fought a revolution against taxation *without* representation discovered that some of its citizens weren't much happier about taxation *with* representation."—**Lyndon B. Johnson**
18. "All taxes discourage something. Why not discourage bad things like pollution rather than good things like working or investment?"—**Lawrence Summers**

19. “I’d like somebody to get rid of the death tax. That’s what I want. I don’t want to get taxed just because I died. I just don’t think it’s right. If I give something to my kid, I already paid the tax. Why should I have to pay it again because I died?” – **Whoopi Goldberg**

20. “The IRS spends God knows how much of your tax money on these toll-free information hot lines staffed by IRS employees, whose idea of a dynamite tax tip is that you should print neatly. If you ask them a real tax question, such as how you can cheat, they’re useless.” – **Dave Barry**

Want more tax quotes? Get Jeffrey L. Yablon’s book, *As Certain as Death: Quotations About [Taxes](#)* (Tax Analysts).

You can reach me at Wood@WoodLLP.com. This discussion is not intended as legal advice, and cannot be relied upon for any purpose without the services of a qualified professional.