

The following is something written back in the 1900s. Is it better or worse today? I cannot prove that all the statements are true – but they might be.

## IRS - Sobering Thoughts

The Gettysburg address is 269 words, the Declaration of Independence is 1,337 words, and the Bible is 773,000 words. However, tax law has grown from 11,400 words in 1913 to 7 million words today.

There are at least 480 different tax forms, each with many pages of instructions. Even the easiest form, the 1040E, has 33 pages of instructions, and all in fine print.

The IRS sends out 8 billion pages of forms and instructions each year. Laid end to end, they would stretch 28 times around the earth.

Nearly 300,000 trees are cut down yearly to produce the paper for all the IRS forms and instructions.

American taxpayers spend \$200 billion and 54 billion hours working to comply with federal taxes each year, more than it takes to produce every car, truck, and van in the United States.

The burden of compliance is the equivalent to a staff of 3 million people working full time for a year, just to comply with the taxes on individuals and businesses. The IRS employs 114,000 people; that's twice as many as the CIA and five times more than the FBI.

60% of taxpayers must hire a professional to get through their own return.

Taxes eat up 38.2% of the average family's income; that's more than for food, clothing and shelter combined AND THAT IS ONLY THE FEDERAL TAX – NOT COUNTING STATE, LOCAL, PROPERTY, SALES TAX, ETC.

IRS unofficial slogan: We've got what it takes to take what you've got.

Remember, taxes are due April 15th - the same day the Titanic sank!