

We The People
Program 335 April 29, 2019
We the People 335 A Taxing Time



Good Day to you. I'm sure you will have heard the old adage that, "***the only thing certain in life is death and taxes***" and of these may I say, taxes are the most certain. Governments need money to run the country and to provide services and infrastructure and so on. Taxes are also needed to pay our politicians their handsome stipends and their mountain of extras all of which have a cost. Australia is a mid range country when it comes to taxes but because of our natural resources and Christian based democracy we enjoy a good quality of life. Our standard of life has little to do with political decisions and a lot to do with our culture, society, sense of fair play and the many Anzacs who have given their all. Dare I say, '***we the people***' built this country in spite of the politicians and the price of justice and all the various public parasites producing nothing of consequence. '***Have a go mate***' really means try your best and be responsible for your own decisions and take some measured risks. When that sense of personal responsibility fails we move closer to a socialist state where people just want free stuff which is paid for from taxes. That socialist path has never worked yet the world appears to be moving toward that unholy precipice again because so many folk, especially the young, feel disenfranchised.

Now governments and politicians are always looking to take more of our hard earned money and some more than others, so be very careful when you vote. Australia has a total tax revenue of 27.8% of gross domestic product which is similar to the USA and below the OECD average. Nonetheless that's a lot of cabbage by any measure and represents over \$489 billion dollars a year. Taxes are necessary but as a country we must live within our means and not keep using the national credit card. So yet again there is stress with taxes and the people who work hard each day to put food on the table. It is silly to just go after relatively wealthy individuals or companies because they have done well and stifling enterprise or prudent investment will in the end, drive taxes even higher because the base has been eroded.

Now having set the scene let's look at a notion being carefully promulgated by the unions which is a **death tax**. It's also called an **inheritance tax or even a bequest tax** but whatever the name the system taxes the dead at the graveside on earnings already taxed. The first effect is that the younger generation are robbed of their inheritance which is counterproductive. In a capitalist society the fair creation of any level of wealth is good as it is a measure of responsible work and investment. If you don't have incentive then you have socialism which places all control with the State and that has never ended well. New inventions and technological advances usually occur in free enterprise and democratic, socially responsible countries. Take away incentive and the country loses a lot.

One of the major excuses for death duties is demography. It's a very shallow argument where government wheel out the case that the population is aging and within a few decades there will be so many people retired the government will not be able to meet the needs of society. This places direct irresponsible blame on the seniors in society who built this country and I find such an argument to be beneath contempt. In Australia, governments have had plenty of time and resources to balance the books of account and prepare for an aging population. Most people have also tried to prepare for retirement but constant changes to superannuation, taxes and excessive immigration have made the job very difficult. We have paid our taxes and in the end if we need a hand we expect the government of the day to help, which was and is an intrinsic promise. So when you vote do so with insight and integrity and be very aware that a **death tax** is being considered behind the scenes by the influential unions.

Until Next time this is Kent Bayley