

# Being a taxpayer good but frustrating

By Ken Scott     *12:15 a.m. CDT April 24, 2014*

A letter writer recently stated that "There are worse things than everyone paying their fair share of taxes." However, he omitted the operational definition of what is fair and for whom it is fair.

The term "fair share" does not elicit gratitude when I see the work being done in Washington.

"Fair share" does not cause me to feel gratitude when I hear about the Affordable Care Act, which is so heavily subsidized by taxpayers that it will cost taxpayers trillions of "fair shares." Obamacare is political coverage, not health care coverage.

Middle-class Americans see fair share differently from the idea of being thankful that we are taxpayers. To us, we work long hours and, many times, two jobs to make ends meet.

Those who have worked all their lives, saved what they could, and now look to repayment for all those deductions are not thankful for being taxpayers — some for 30, 40, 50, or even 60 years of work.

Why? Because when our former jobs are shipped overseas, the tax base shrinks; when the leadership that is responsible for the care of those deductions fail to protect those deductions, those who paid in all their lives are on the receiving end of less support, which they earned.

In the final years of life, retirement should not be survival, it should be reasonably comfortable, nowhere near excessive.

How could anyone fathom appreciation for being a taxpayer when those fair shares are consumed even before they are appropriated by those in Washington? The national debt has surpassed \$17 trillion.

This one is so controversial that it causes us to rise up against one another — those who refuse to fulfill their responsibility of fair share in terms of work, accountability and community service. These are the individuals who, by choice, take but never give. They find every conceivable reason not to work — even though they are fully able — because the system takes care of them. These individuals cross all lines of demarcation in color, creed or religious declaration. And they're happy that others are taxpayers.

As I was completing my own taxes for this present year, when I look at the modest amount that I was blessed to earn from two jobs, I am able to pay my just debts, take care of my family and save a truly meager amount compared with my fair share of taxes. I, as many other Americans will attest, wouldn't mind a fair share if that fair share was used responsibly by those that consume our fair shares. But our government is a wasteful entity that tramples upon the very principles upon which this nation was built. We as a nation are truly on the brink of taxation without representation.

You might opine that we have representation in Washington and in our state legislative bodies. We have individuals who sit in chairs from on high, who legislate as they think it should be accomplished, and we the American people are lip service to many of them. It will remain an irony until the day that I leave this world how people who claim to represent me politically never seem to be satisfied with my fair share of taxes.

There is always something that they want — not always need — and the only representation they can muster is how to get re-elected and continue the perpetual cycle of increased fair share. Fiscal responsibility eludes their repertoire of leadership traits.

What is fair and to whom? Each one of us will need to determine that for ourselves as we pay even more in our respective "fair shares." Even so, as the writer of the letter stated, you should be thankful that you're a taxpayer.

Ken Scott writes from Montgomery.

**\* SEE ORIGINAL ARTICLE BELOW FOR FULL INTENT AND CLARITY OF ORIGINAL IDEAS PRESENTED \***

Dear Editor; (Email Sent Sun 4/6/2014 1:57 PM)

A few thoughts in response to the article in today's *Advertiser* on paying our fair share.

Best regards,  
Ken Scott  
Montgomery

### **Alabama Voices - 'Fair Share': What is fair and to whom?**

I have just finished reading the *Advertiser's* 'Be thankful that you're a taxpayer', in which the author noted that "There are worse things than everyone paying their fair share of taxes." However, he omitted the operational definition of what is fair and for whom it is fair? Consequently, allow me to discuss what is fair from a taxpayer who is thankful to live in a nation that is still generally free, yet views fair share quite differently.

The term 'fair share' does not illicit gratitude when I see the work being done in Washington. For example, when Congress takes extended vacations while important legislation is pending, is that fair? When the President—Obama or any former President—spends millions of taxpayer dollars on vacations, is that fair? When Harry Reid or Nancy Pelosi threatens the American Citizen to do as their inflated Washington-elitist egos demand, is it fair that we pay their salaries? And, for God's Sake, is it fair that our fair share of taxes support perks that very few working-class individuals in this nation are afforded?

'Fair share' does not cause me to feel gratitude when I hear about the Affordable Care Act, which is so heavily subsidized by tax payers that it will cost taxpayers trillions of 'fair shares.' There is no excuse for health insurance companies dropping coverage on individuals or denying them coverage because of pre-existing conditions. But Obamacare is political coverage, not health care coverage, and I am not impressed to pay my fair share when so many other legislative actions could have solved the issues of health care for all American citizens. The political pundits in Washington are not health care experts, but they will surely steal your fair share and come back for more.

Middle class Americans see fair share very differently from the idea of being thankful that we are taxpayers. To us, we work long hours, many times two jobs, to make ends meet. We are able to save a little—in fact, we can't even save what Washington demands in a 'fair share.' We in the middle-class might work two jobs to help family; we give to charity; do community service; do our best to tithe to our local Churches; yet, our fair share is always on the rise because it is never enough for the bloated egos and failed leadership in Washington. Our fair share is wasted on frivolous or political party stupidity and when we in the middle class come home tired and discouraged from that second job, stupid spending makes us unappreciative that we are taxpayers.

Those who have worked all their lives, saved what they could, and now look to repayment for all those deductions are not thankful for being tax payers—some for 30, 40, 50, or even 60 years of work. Why? Because when our former jobs are shipped overseas, the tax base shrinks; when the leadership that is responsible for the care of those deductions fail to protect those deductions, those who 'paid in' all their lives are on the receiving end of less support—which they earned; and, in the final years of life, retirement should not be survival, it should be reasonably comfortable, nowhere near excessive. It is a shame before God that those who worked all their lives now have to barely eke out an existence after having been a taxpayer for countless years of hard labor. Does it make them thankful to have been a taxpayer all their lives and then when they need those deductions in support, they are abandoned due to rising costs or the threat that those deductions have been mismanaged and will soon become extinct?

How could anyone fathom appreciation for being a taxpayer when those fair shares are consumed even before they are appropriated by those in Washington? The national debt increases several million dollars every day. It has surpassed \$17 Trillion. And you want the American People to be happy they are taxpayers when our contributions—from the work we do every single day—is wasted in billions and billions of aid to foreign nations that hate us? We have borrowed our nation right out from under the very feet of the American citizen who pays their fair share—over and over and over! And we are to be thankful for this?

This one is so controversial that it causes us to rise up against one another—which is, those who refuse to fulfil their responsibility of fair share in terms of work, accountability, and community service. These are not the American citizens who have remained in high school, worked to provide themselves a technical skill or college education, and participated in the economic engine that drives our nation—even in the face of paying a fair share. These are the individuals who, by choice, take but never give. They find every conceivable reason not to work—even though they are fully able—because the system takes care of them. These individuals cross every conceivable line of demarcation in color, creed, or religious declaration. And, they are very happy that ‘others are taxpayers.’ Those who have legitimacy in an inability to participate in the workforce are not those who are being discussed here—in case the reader wants to slander this article for political or other purposes.

Finally, as I am completing my own taxes for this present year, when I look at the modicum amount that I was blessed to earn from two jobs, I am able to pay my just debts, take care of my family, and save a truly meager amount compared to my fair share of taxes. I, as many other Americans will attest, don’t mind a fair share if that fair share was used responsibly by those that consume our fair shares. But when I hear about paying our fair share and income inequality to justify even more in my fair share, it makes my two jobs that much more depressing. Our government is a wasteful entity that tramples upon the very principles upon which this nation was built. We as a nation are truly on the brink of taxation without representation.

You might opine that we have representation in Washington and in our state legislative bodies. We have individuals that sit in chairs from on high, who legislate as they think it should be accomplished, and we the American people are lip service to many of them. It will remain an irony to the day that I leave this world how people who claim to represent me politically, never seem to be satisfied with my fair share of taxes. There is always something that they want—not always need—and the only representation they can muster is how to get reelected and continue the perpetual cycle of increased fair share. Fiscal responsibility eludes their repertoire of leadership traits.

To answer the question that was opined at the start of this article: “What is fair and to whom?” I surmise that each one of us will need to determine that for ourselves as we pay even more in our respective ‘fair shares.’ Even so, as the writer of the original article stated, “you should be thankful that you’re a taxpayer.”

Ken Scott  
Montgomery