



Letter from the Chairman, no 11
Stockholm June 16th 2015

Dear members and friends of the World Taxpayers Associations!

Here a start with some quotes from Alan Greenspan, at 89 still one of the worlds most influential people:

"Negative interest rates are against human nature."

"We are on the right track but going very slowly. We have lots to catch up on, but have stopped adding new insecurities"

"The American spirit is on the way to becoming like the European. We are not quite like Greece yet, but working on it. We have a lack of investments, which have dropped vs GNP, and are not growing. And we have the demographic factor with those born in the US between 1946 and 64 approaching pension age"

"We are loosing control of our budget deficit, which has grown out of additional entitlements, growing at 9 or 10 % per year. This is a political factor, not a market factor, and it will eventually push out savings, which are the basis for investments and increased productivity."

He also says that *"the sooner Greece leaves the Euro the better for all. They should never have had the Euro. Today most of the debt is owned by other states and institutions, so the risk of spreading is small, even if of course there will problems. We tried to join very different economic cultures (in creating the Euro), and today there is no mechanism to get out of it."*

A quick lesson in economics from a major interview in the Swedish business daily Dagens Industri June 13, 2015.

25 years of fighting for lower taxes in Canada

The Canadian Taxpayers Federation is celebrating 25 years. Recognized by the former Prime minister and Minister of Finance Paul Martin as a very important factor for the development of economic policy in Canada. He says that "every time he sat down with representatives of CTF he found people who really understood what the (financial situation) was all about and who had evidence based arguments. We did not always agree but every time it was a valuable experience".

You can hear his comments and those of leaders of the tax movement around the world under this link, which also presents some of their activities. <https://vimeo.com/128307030>

With creativity, humor and based on factual research they have argued against waste, shown alternatives and toured the country with the "debt clock" now being a model for other nations as well.

Troy Lanigan has documented the 25 years of battles and successes in a just published book you can find under this link:

<http://www.taxpayer.com/others/fighting-for-taxpayers>

Under the link you can also see the debt clock running – and working against the increasing debt, really being postponed taxes to paid by future generations – is one of the priorities.

We congratulate the energetic Canadians, working across this vast nation, the worlds second largest, with a chain of representatives and local organization in the ten provinces.

Germany - 20 years of Debt Clock

In Berlin the "Debt Clock" is a popular tourist photo object. The "Shuldenuhr" celebrates 20 years of holding up the responsibility for the politicians to balance the budget and not borrow money today and let the children and grand children pay! You can download the report on the clock and on the german debt development here:

http://portal.relaunch.steuerzahler.de/files/65854/20_Jahre_Schuldenuhr.pdf?li=30947

The description is in German, but the graphics are easy to follow.

WTA on Facebook

WTA now has a closed Facebook page, to facilitate exchange of ideas and communication. Sarah Elliot has added many of our members for ready access, so go to Facebook and logg in to World Taxpayers Associations. If you are not already a friend on the page – let us know and we will add you. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/WorldTaxpayersAssociations>

More on the web page

On the web page is an updated list of nations with flat tax. The list now includes 44 countries or territories around the world. Bjorn Tarras-Wahlberg, then Secretary General of WTA, travelled extensively in eastern and central Europe from year 2000 to 2010 promoting the concept of a flat tax as a simple and fair system, also leading to people really paying these taxes in the new democracies in these areas. The efforts were very successful and many countries followed these principles. Here is a link to the new list: xxxxx

Suggested reading

I have previously recommended Bjorn Lomborg's book "The Skeptical environmentalist" as a unique reference guide. Here is a link also to his latest newsletter and blogg.

<http://us5.campaign-archive1.com/?u=40608ac93880d1cb2444f1d20&id=b5be697d41&e=f80674c011>

If you want to follow political and economical developments and get a critical view as to how international aid can be used more effectively you might like to follow his newsletter.

Open the Books publishes a major report on waste and cronyism at the US Export-Import Bank.

Read a summary in the Washington Examiner here:

<http://www.washingtonexaminer.com/clinton-world-flexes-d.c.-muscle-for-export-import-bank/article/2565618>

Or get more information on their web page.

<http://www.openthebooks.com/>

Transparency is at the heart of fighting for lower taxes and honest government. Learn from the best!

Quote of the month

"Dr. Art Laffer of the Laffer curve endorses WTA

"I'm greatly encouraged by the work of the World Taxpayers Association and its members. The battle for lower taxes and limited government is never ending, so their commitment to the cause is to be admired."

Best wishes – looking forward to hearing from you!

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