

## A Golden Age for America

In the years that I have studied and taught history, I have paid particular attention to what brought about the Golden Ages of the past. Most of the leaders who set the stage for a golden age within their realm came into power during times of recession, high taxes, and complex legal systems. By making a few common sense changes, the new rulers opened the way for the citizens of their state to succeed, instead of remaining in a stifled and oppressed environment. Here are the ingredients needed for a Golden Age:

1. A small but strong central government
2. A small but well trained bureaucracy
3. A simplified tax system
4. Reduced taxes
5. A fair and simplified code of laws based on protecting the three natural rights of all human beings (life, liberty, and property).
6. Complete freedom within the economic system
7. A population that understands the importance of self-reliance and hard work.

## Our Tax System

The first thing these leaders tackled was the tax system. This was the easiest to rectify. By simplifying and reducing taxes it made life easier for the people and also set the stage for accomplishing some of the other tasks. Surprisingly enough, tax revenues increased instead of decreasing. Fewer people tried to get out of paying their taxes, hence the increase.

Simplifying and reducing taxes in the United States would be relatively easy, but would require a herculean effort on the part of the people to get it passed. It would require the passing of a 28<sup>th</sup> amendment with the following provisions:

1. Repeal of the 16<sup>th</sup> amendment
2. All taxes on a federal, state, and local basis prohibited with the exception of a 12% sales tax.
3. A 10% tariff on all foreign goods entering the U.S. to be used for education.

4. Any increase in percent of sales tax prohibited to protect future generations.
5. Borrowing of money by any government prohibited.
6. Printing of money based on sound economic principles.

By using a *sales tax only* system for taxes, the financial part of our lives would become much simpler. No longer would we have to keep detailed financial records. Every time we bought something we would pay our taxes. The government would be less invasive in our lives. The IRS would be reduced dramatically or even disappear since there are electronic ways to immediately disperse the sales tax to the proper account.

The amendment would have to state the division of the monies collected. To even have a chance to pass, there would have to be a separate education fund to provide vouchers to each family with children of school age. Here's a sample of how this could work:

1. 4% to federal government to be used for defense and protecting the individual's right to life, liberty, and property.
2. 4% to state governments to enact and enforce laws to protect its citizens in their rights to life, liberty, and property.
3. 3% to municipal governments.
4. 1% to county governments.
5. Numbers 2, 3, and 4, would be distributed based on population.
6. A 10% tariff that would be used for education. A voucher would be issued to each family with school age children to take to their school of choice.

Governments could no longer take on the task of financially providing for its citizens. This responsibility would have to revert to where it properly belongs; to the individual, the family, and the community. The term community, as used here, refers to the neighborhood where an individual or family lives, not the local government.

The existing tax systems and social programs would have to be reduced over a 10 year period to avoid chaos in our economy, but once accomplished and our legal system revised to reflect the protection of the natural rights already mentioned, the economy would boom. This is supported by history.

All amendments that have been introduced and had the support of the people of this country have been passed!

## **Our Legal System**

Many of the other ingredients needed for a golden age would come as a result of the new tax system, but overhauling and simplifying the legal system would require massive reform. All laws would have to be based on protecting the three natural rights of all human beings; the right to life, liberty, and property. Any more than this becomes oppressive. It would require the efforts of many statesmen trained in legal, historical, and political areas to combine their expertise, as did our founding fathers, to make this possible. The term statesmen refers to men and women who desire to put the interests of the public good before their own interests. It would also require the support of all of the good people of this country. It would require putting aside any existing differences and uniting to bring this to pass.

Once accomplished future generations would enjoy improved liberty and justice. Whatever sacrifices we have to make, let's make now, for their sakes. By working together we can get the necessary legislation passed to take America into its next Golden Age.

# Amendment XXVIII

## Section 1

The sixteenth article of amendment to the Constitution of the United States is hereby repealed.

## Section 2

All taxes levied by any government in the United States and all entitlement programs, as now constituted, will be reduced each year for ten years until gone.

## Section 3

After ten years, all taxes levied by any government in the United States will be prohibited with the exception of a 12% sales tax. This sales tax will be introduced at the beginning of the ten years at the rate of 1.5% per year until it reaches 12% and will be distributed as follows:

Federal Government – 4%

State Government – 4%

County Government – 1%

Municipal Government – 3%

Appropriations for state, county, and municipal governments will be based on population.

After 10 years all entitlement programs funded by any government in the United States will be prohibited.

#### **Section 4**

The borrowing of money by any government in the United States is hereby prohibited.

#### **Section 5**

A 10% tariff will be levied on all foreign goods entering the United States and will be used for education and distributed as follows:

Each student from grades K-12 and the first two years of post-high school training will receive a voucher to redeem at a school of choice.

#### **Section 6**

Increasing the sales tax beyond 12% and the tariff beyond 10% is hereby prohibited.