

IRS Police Reveal Bazaar Stunts to Rob Uncle Sam

Editor's Note: It is fact, not fiction, that the tax-collecting Internal Revenue Service (IRS) hires a special police force to keep its employees honest; even though a vast majority are persons of scrupulous rectitude. The reasons for maintaining the force are outlined in the following dispatch.

By JOSEPH D. HUTNYAN
United Press International
Washington — (UPI) — A telephone rings in the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) bureau.

A jealous woman demands to know how an Internal Revenue agent living in her neighborhood can afford to

drive a fancy sports car, send his children to a private school and buy his wife a mink coat with his small salary.

A convicted embezzler has rosy dreams of working where cash is stacked in big bundles. So he applies for a job with the IRS.

A plumber working on a stopped-up toilet in an IRS office unhooked the pipe and finds the trouble. It is clogged with crumpled pieces of income tax returns torn up by a dishonest IRS employee.

A taxpayer being interviewed by an IRS auditor leans back in his chair, nonchalantly blows cigar smoke toward the ceiling, and coos: "can't we make a little deal here."

None of these situations is common among the huge corps of IRS workers who handle the billions of income tax dollars that U. S. taxpayers send to the Treasury each year—but each has occurred and could again.

Pushes Button

When it does, it pushes a button in the investigative machinery of the Internal Revenue Inspection Service—a unique enforcement agency.

The inspection force patrols the IRS from within. To put it another way, it polices the policemen and audits the auditors.

The agency is completely independent and answerable only to the Commissioner of Internal Revenue. It was created only after income tax scandals of the late 1940's which Congress felt had undermined public confidence in the revenue service.

One of its most important functions is checking out the character background of new IRS job applicants. Those who apply also have their income tax returns audited for the preceding three years and are required to file a statement of their financial assets.

These statements are used by the inspectors when the IRS receives an anonymous tip that a certain agent seems to be living beyond his means.

Inspectors can check what the employee's financial standing was when he joined the service. If he has suddenly accumulated wealth, he will be called in to explain.

Acree Directs

The 525-man IRS police force is directed by Assistant Commissioner Vernon D. (Mike) Acree who stresses that he is not out to malign the character of revenue personnel.

"We see our role as being right down the middle," he told UPI in an interview. "We are completely objective. Our job is to protect the employees as well as the taxpayer."

He said statistics indicate that the average IRS worker is honest and stays out of trouble; that 60 per cent of his investigations are resolved in favor of the employee.

This is backed up by government records which show that during the last fiscal year, only 215 out of the 60,000 IRS workers were dismissed for criminal acts.

Acree said some IRS employees may dread a visit from one of his inspectors—but there are still many who are thankful. He mentioned an incident in North Carolina.

"A witness dropped a bombshell at a bootleg trial when he testified that the Revenue agent involved actually did not destroy the liquor from the still but sold it back into the bootleg trade," Acree recalled. "We sent a team in on the case, and we were able to go into a swamp and, after considerable digging, produce the broken necks of 148 out of 150 jugs."

Acree said the report was passed on to the judge and the witness was indicted for perjury.

Check Unwanted

One of the inspection division's big jobs is keeping undesirables out of the IRS, which seems to have an attraction for ex-convicts, embezzlers and petty and grand larcenists.

The files contain the case of a man who falsified his application and already was

IT'S YOUR LAW

Respect for Law Makes Democracy Live

Editor's note: The following article was prepared as a public service by the Oregon State Bar and is not intended to be legal advice. Persons having a legal problem should consult an attorney.

WHAT IS A TORT?

A "tort" is a legal wrong or injury committed upon the person or property of another. Examples are assault, battery, false imprisonment, libel, slander, malicious prosecution, alienation of affections, and negligence causing personal injuries or property damage.

The remedy provided by law to persons against whom a tort is committed is an action for money damages. Liability arises from a breach of duty primarily fixed by law. In some cases, the person wronged may have the additional remedy of injunction or of specific restriction of property. The injured party must act in a timely manner, since the statutes impose limitations on the time within which he may begin suit.

A breach of contract is not a tort. Neither is a tort necessarily a crime, although in some instances the same act may be both a tort and a crime. For example, if one man slashes another with a knife, he may be prosecuted criminally. He may also be sued in a civil action for the injuries caused by the assault and battery.

Not Static

The law of torts is not static. It grows with the growth of society. In some instances it takes an act of the legislature to keep pace with the changing attitudes of society.

In other situations, new torts are developed by the courts. For example, the invasion of a person's right of privacy has come in many states to be recognized as a remedial wrong—that is, a wrong for which the law provides a remedy by way of money damages. Texas has not yet adopted this view.

Torts are sometimes classed as follows:

1. Intentional wrongs, such as trespass to land, assault and battery, false imprisonment and conversion of personal property. In all of these cases the act must be intentionally done.
2. Negligence, such as careless operation of a motor vehicle causing injury to another.
3. Strict liability, such as the keeping of dangerous animals, or the doing of a potentially dangerous thing, which is not a matter of common usage, such as blasting.

The law of torts, built up over a period of many years by the process of court decisions and legislative enactment, forms a silent but strong protection necessary in an orderly society.

OSU Summer Session Enrollment Near 2,500

Corvallis — (UPI) Enrollment at Oregon State University's summer session is climbing toward the 2,500 mark. The registrar's office said at the close of the first week registrations totaled 2,264, an increase of 17 per cent over last year.

Of those registered, 1,225 were graduate students.

Dennis the Menace



"I'VE BEEN NERVOUS AS A CAT. HE KEPT OPENING DOORS AND SHOOTING BURGLARS ALL EVENING."

Servicemen

AIRMAN OF MONTH

Airman Second Class Gary W. Maxson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Gary W. Maxson, 208 West Clark st., Medford, has been selected outstanding airman of the month in the 808 Medical group in Mountain Home, Idaho.

Maxson, an Air Force medical supply specialist, was chosen for the honor in recognition of his exemplary conduct and performance of duty.

AN AIR STATION

Aviation Electronics Technician Third Class Leon W. Todd, son of Mrs. Elizabeth Lambert, Eagle Point, is serving at the Naval Air station, Norfolk, Va.

The air station supports the air arm of the Second Fleet, which has commitments in the Western Atlantic and the Caribbean.

WITH BAND

Army Pfc. Jack Allen Hamilton, son of Mrs. Eleanor Hamilton, 826 East Main st., Medford, and Orville E. Hamilton, 310 North 10th st., Central Point, is serving with the 21st Army band at Ft. Lewis, Wash.

Hamilton plays trombone with the band, the same instrument he formerly played with the Crater High school. Hamilton entered the Army in November, 1961, and arrived at Ft. Lewis after attending three-months band school in Ft. Ord, Calif.

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Clog Pipes

Acree mentioned a case where an IRS clerk was tearing up the returns and flushing them down the toilet in the ladies' room. The culprit was arrested after a plumber discovered what had clogged the pipes.

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