

FOR RELIGIOUS REASONS: ABOLISH THE INCOME TAX

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Religious freedom has always been the heritage and the delight of every American.

The First Amendment to the Constitution says, "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech. . . ." The freedom of religion is mentioned even before freedom of speech.

Jesus Christ declared to the religious leaders of His day, "If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed" (John 8:36). The "indeed" includes all the freedoms that we have enjoyed under the Constitution, including the reserved rights and the freedom from unreasonable searches and seizures.

However, since the adoption of the 16th Amendment (1913) and the development of the Federal income tax, a situation has developed that definitely affects "the free exercise of religion." So serious has this become over the period of the past two years that the evils inherent in the system are affecting many of the fundamental churches in the land.

I. The Federal Government has to approve of churches and agencies before they can be tax exempt

In order for a church to receive tax-exemption privileges in the receipt of contributions, it is necessary for the Government in Washington to approve of that church. If approval is withheld, that church is outside the area of tax exemption.