

Incentive Taxation

We hope you enjoy our Annual Humor Issue.

All is not property taxes, tax-free economic development, and tax reductions for most voters.

The Ant and The Grasshopper

ORIGINAL VERSION:

The ant works hard in the withering heat all summer long, building his house and laying in supplies for the winter. The grasshopper thinks he's a fool and laughs and dances and plays the summer away. Come winter, the ant is warm and well fed. The grasshopper has no food or shelter, so he dies out in the cold.

MODERN VERSION:

The ant works hard in the withering heat all summer long, building his house and laying in supplies for the winter. The grasshopper thinks he's a fool and laughs and dances and plays the summer away. Come winter, the shivering grasshopper calls a press conference and demands to know why the ant should be allowed to be warm and well fed while others are cold and starving.

CBS, NBC, and ABC show up to provide pictures of the shivering grasshopper next to a video of the ant in his comfortable home with a table filled with food. America is stunned by the sharp contrast. How can this be, that in a country of such wealth, this poor grasshopper is allowed to suffer so?

Kermit the Frog appears on Oprah with the grasshopper, and everybody cries when they sing "It's Not Easy Being Green." Jesse Jackson stages a demonstration in front of the ant's house, where the news stations film the group singing, "We shall overcome." Jesse then has the group kneel down to pray to God for the grasshopper's sake.

Al Gore exclaims in an interview with Peter Jennings that the ant has gotten rich off the back of the grasshopper, and calls for an immediate tax hike on the ant to make him pay his "fair share."

Finally, the EEOC drafts the "Economic Equity and Anti-Ant Act," retroactive to the beginning of the summer. The ant is fined for failing to hire a proportionate number of green bugs and, having nothing left to pay his retroactive taxes, his home is confiscated by the government.

Hillary gets her old law firm to represent the grasshopper in a defamation suit against the ant, and the case is tried before a panel of Federal judges that Bill had appointed from a list of single-parent welfare recipients. The ant loses the case. The story ends as we see the government house the ant is in (his old house) crumble around him because he does not maintain it.

The ant has disappeared in the snow. The grasshopper is found dead in a drug-related incident and the house, now abandoned, is taken over by a gang of spiders who terrorize the once-peaceful neighborhood.

*"I think that I shall never see
A billboard lovely as a tree
In fact unless the billboards fall
I'll never see a tree at all."
(from The Golden Trashery of
Ogden Nashery)*

Murphy's Laws (or Why Things Go Wrong)

You've heard of some of these before, but we're sure there'll be some new ones here for you:

- Anything that can go wrong will go wrong
- There's never time to do it right, but there's always time to do it over.
- Murphy's Golden Rule: Whoever has the gold makes the rules.
- The light at the end of the tunnel is the headlamp of an oncoming train.
- A pipe gives a wise man time to think.

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