

Getting in Touch

and other trivia

I'm going to ask a question and I would like you to answer the question as soon as you read it. No more than 5 seconds. The idea is for you to get a feel for your own perception. If you take more than 5 seconds then your answer is not a general perception, it is an attempt to impress someone with a well thought out answer and that is not what this exercise is about. So, 5 seconds and no more. Ready?

OK, here we go. You are going to be given an amount of money to spend. You will spend it at the rate of one thousand dollars an hour, twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, until the money is gone. The money will accrue no interest, it is a principle amount only. The amount is one billion dollars. Now how long will it take you to spend it at \$1000 per hour? Quickly, only 5 seconds is allowed. Don't read any further until you've answered to yourself.

Whenever I have asked this question in person, most people will guess a few months, some a few weeks, never do I receive an answer that exceeds five years unless the person is calculating in their head and taking longer than the 5 seconds allocated. Then I encourage them to guess higher. And they guess:

2 years ...guess higher
5 years ...guess higher
10 years ...guess higher
25 years ...guess higher
50 years ...guess higher
Oh, come on
100 years ...guess higher
My god, I don't know.

Actually it takes 114 years to spend a billion

dollars at one thousand dollars per hour. Since a billion is a thousand millions, then at \$1000 per hour, it takes a million hours. Remembering that there are 24 hours in a day, and that a year is 365.25 days (don't forget leap year), then there are 8766 hours in a year. Divide one million by this number:

$$1,000,000 / 8766 = 114.077$$

Or, approximately 114 years. And now you have a feel for a billion dollars.

Well, that was my method of getting someone to develop a *feel* for a billion dollars. But I've just had an e-mail forwarded to me that takes it a little further and it is interesting reading.

What is a BILLION

and other matters

What is a ?Billion??

The next time you hear a politician use the word "billion" in a casual manner, think about whether you want the "politicians" spending your tax money.

A billion is a difficult number to comprehend, but one advertising agency did a good job of putting that figure into some perspective in one of its releases.

- a. A billion seconds ago it was 1959.
- b. A billion minutes ago Jesus was alive.

The Philosophy of Washington D.C.

- c. A billion hours ago our ancestors were living in the Stone Age.
- d. A billion days ago no-one walked on the earth on two bare feet.
- e. A billion dollars ago was only 8 hours and 20 minutes, at the rate our government is spending it.

While this thought is still fresh in our brain, let's take a look at New Orleans . It's amazing what you can learn with some simple division . .

Louisiana Senator, Mary Landrieu (D), is presently asking the Congress for \$250 BILLION to rebuild New Orleans .

Interesting number, what does it mean?

- a. Well, if you are one of 484,674 residents of New Orleans (every man, woman, child), you each get \$516,528.
- b. Or, if you have one of the 188,251 homes in New Orleans , your home gets \$1 ,329,787.
- c. Or, if you are a family of four, your family gets \$2,066,012.

Washington , D.C... HELLO!!! ... Are all your calculators broken??

The following is too true to be very funny

* * * * *

Tax his land,
Tax his wage,
Tax his bed
In which he lays.

Tax his tractor,
Tax his mule,
Teach him taxes
Is the rule.

Tax his cow,
Tax his goat,
Tax his pants,
Tax his coat.

Tax his ties,
Tax his shirts,
Tax his work,
Tax his dirt.

Tax his tobacco,
Tax his drink,
Tax him if he
Tries to think.

Tax his booze,
Tax his beers,
If he cries,
Tax his tears.

Tax his bills,
Tax his gas,
Tax his notes,
Tax his cash.

Tax him good
And let him know
That after taxes,
He has no dough.

If he hollers,
Tax him more,
Tax him until he's
Good and sore.

Tax his coffin,
Tax his grave,
Tax the sod
In which he lays.

Put these words
Upon his tomb,
"Taxes drove me
To my doom!"

And when he's gone,
We won't relax,
We'll still be after
The inheritance TAX!!

Tax, Tax, Tax...

Accounts Receivable Tax
Building Permit Tax
Drivers License Tax
Cigarette Tax
Corporate Income Tax
Dog License Tax
Federal Income Tax
Federal Unemployment Tax (FUTA)

Fishing License Tax
Food License Tax
Fuel Permit Tax
Gasoline Tax
Hunting License Tax
Inheritance Tax
Inventory Tax
IRS Interest Charges (tax on top of tax),
IRS Penalties (tax on top of tax),

Liquor Tax,
Luxury Tax,
Marriage License Tax,
Medicare Tax,

Property Tax,
Real Estate Tax,
Service charge taxes,
Social Security Tax,
Road Usage Tax (Truckers),
Sales Taxes,

Recreational Vehicle Tax,
School Tax,
State Income Tax,
State Unemployment Tax (SUTA),
Telephone Federal Excise Tax,
Telephone Federal Universal Service Fee
Tax,
Telephone Federal, State and Local
Surcharge Tax,

Telephone Minimum Usage Surcharge Tax,
Telephone Recurring and Non-recurring
Charges Tax,
Telephone State and Local Tax,
Telephone Usage Charge Tax,
Utility Tax,
Vehicle License Registration Tax,

Vehicle Sales Tax,
Water-craft Registration Tax,
Well Permit Tax,
Workers Compensation Tax.

COMMENTS:

Not one of these taxes existed 100 years ago and there was prosperity, absolutely no national debt, the largest middle class in the world and Mom stayed home to raise the kids.

Is it not time that we begin to protect each other in court? Is it not time to protect our fellow American from Washington, D.C.?