



Joseph Zashin
3416 Calle Poco
Tucson, Arizona 85715

April 2nd, 1980

To the Editor:

With apologies to Honest Abe.

Three score and eight years ago, our fathers brought forth on the Arizona Territory, a new State with a new Constitution conceived in equitable and understandable tax laws, and dedicated to the proposition that all citizens shall bear their fair share of the tax burden.

Now we are engaged in a bewildering struggle to determine whether such tax laws can prevail. We are met in Legislative Chambers where special interests have fought for advantages against the interest of all the people. Brave men have fought to uphold the tax laws of the Constitution of 1912, but have been overwhelmed by flagrantly improper and unconstitutional practices of underassessment, inequity, privilege and preference.

Little notice has been taken of what special interests have done here, but the world will long remember those brave men, living and dead, who have given their last full measure of devotion to uphold the tax laws of the Constitution as first conceived.

It is for us to dedicate ourselves to this unfinished task to uphold the tax laws, as conceived in 1912. So that just and understandable tax laws shall prevail and the Government of the State of Arizona truly be of the people, for the people and by the people.

Joseph Zashin

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Dear Bob Clancy:

Our Arizona State Legislature is winding up a long session, overlapping a special session on tax reform - and as ever there has been much wrangling and often preposterous debate with little of real value except repealing our awful sales tax on food. This was due to be done in anyway by voter initiatives. The attached bit is on the corny side but it will be read if it gets printed. I have sent it to our two Tucson dailies and to Phoenix. Also copies to Gov Babbitt, our Assessor and others.

Meanwhile, Easter greetings

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "John F. Kennedy", is written over the typed text "Meanwhile, Easter greetings". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "K".