

FOCAL POINTS

Elizabeth Ann Arey

Question: Do you favor or oppose the federal withholding tax on interest and dividends in June?



Anna Abele: I feel the intent on the part of our government is to catch people who have never paid an income tax. Still, I resent having any money withheld from my savings interest. I want the use of my money until time to pay my taxes. It just isn't fair.



Leroy Brown: I'm against it because it's pre-taxation. Why should the government or the bank have the use of my money in advance? It's a very negative approach on the part of the

government by inferring that the majority of savers are tax cheats.



Joseph O'Neill: I thoroughly hate the idea of another invasion by government bureaucracy. Furthermore, it's an overload on the clerical aspect of operating a bank or lending institution. It's non-productive and we are the ones who will pay these costs in the end in higher banking fees.



Sherlene H. Bartholomew:

Although I support the present administration and feel at last our economy is headed toward recovery, I think this tax is a mistake. It will be 10 percent this June, but there is no guarantee what it may be in the future. The paperwork will be costly to banks and we'll have another W2 form to fill out. It will stifle people's incentive to save and invest. It's just one more hindrance. I feel this tax is really James Baker's idea and the President should listen less to some of his more liberal staff and follow his own fiscal experience in California.



Jerry Lory: I think this will cause people to grow very discouraged with savings programs. The withholding tax will encourage people to cheat, to find other investments, and to put their money in a mattress so the IRS won't know what

they've got. Also, who is going to pay the enormous cost of the paperwork and accounting involved and how are these monies going to be paid back to us? I hope Congress repeals this legislation before it takes effect.



Barbara Lory: If the government is going to require banks to withhold money from interest on savings, banks are going to lose a lot of business. How is the government going to use those withheld funds? I believe to support a large nuclear defense and energy budget, to which I stand opposed. It isn't fair that the federal government should have the use of my money in advance and without my knowledge about what their investments will be. Our government is slowly eroding away the middle class in this country.

real charm!