

TAX TREK

EPISODE: LOST IN TAX

The Millennium is here. The year 2000. The 21st century. Science fiction writers of past centuries speculated as to what the world would be like in the year 2000 and beyond, expressing their views through the various mediums of literature, television and film. These writers have focused on various aspects of life in the 21st century including travel, communication, and lifestyle, to name a few. Unfortunately, none of these pundits have dealt with a topic that affects virtually each and every Canadian and one that is near and dear to the science fiction writers at GCSE. That's right. That topic is "Tax."

Tired of hearing about Y2K. Sick of all of those millennium "best of" lists. With the dawning of a new era, the science fiction writers at GCSE have been working feverishly to provide you with a glimpse of the future in a way that you've never experienced before. In order to achieve that, we'll need to beam you aboard the Starship G.C.S.E. TaxTips manned by Captain James T. Xpert (The "T" is for tax of course), his abled bodied Tax Planning Officer Mr. Schlock, Chief Planning Engineer "Scotty" and the rest of the crew. Your emotions will soar as they battle the evil Cling-On Government to save the Earth and its inhabitants from excessive taxation, complex tax laws, and other assorted evils too terrible to describe.

"May the force be with you" (oops! Sorry, wrong show)".

"Tax, the final frontier. These are the voyages of the Starship G.C.S.E. TaxTips; its continuing mission to explore new worlds of tax, to seek out new tax planning tips and new opportunities to save tax. "To boldly go where no man has gone before".

PROLOGUE

Captain James T. Xpert:

Captain's log. Stardate 2000.0. This is Captain James T. Xpert, Commander of the Starship TaxTips. We are about to embark on a mission of extreme danger with our dreaded enemy, the Cling-On Empire. The evil Cling-Ons have struck again (as they always do around February of each year). The new Kiddie Tax and increased foreign reporting requirements have been added to the arsenal of weapons used by the Cling-Ons in their ongoing battle against G.C.S.E. Federation Starships. The dreaded GST remains a force in the galaxy.

Our mandate requires us to keep our engines at warp speed to create the tax planning tips required to thwart the Cling-On empire.

THE ACTION

Captain James T. Xpert:

Officers Schlock and Scotty, please report to the bridge immediately. Gentleman, there appears to be a disturbance in the Budget Quadrant. The Cling-Ons seems to be readying their weapons for a full-scale attack. There's no telling what new tax changes they're likely to throw our way. We have to prepare to counter-attack; all hands to their battle stations. Scotty, I'm going to need all the speed you can give me.

Scotty (said in a strong Scottish brogue):
Aye Captain, Warp drive standing by.



Captain James T. Xpert:

The Cling-Ons seems to be up to something big this time. One can only hope that they're finally going to drop personal tax rates. But you know the Cling-Ons never arrive bearing only good news. We must keep on the alert. Set our phasars to stun just to be safe. We must keep our tax plans ready to defend against any Cling-On advance.

Analysis, Mr Schlock.

Mr. Schlock:

Highly logical, Captain. We have to assume the Cling-Ons will be attacking the Starship on all fronts. There's no doubt they'll use all the weapons at their disposal; income taxes, payroll taxes and the photon GST. Our Starship must be fortified and battle ready with all of the proper tax planning tips in place. As a Taxman from the planet Tax, my highly logical mind knows that tax planning is not just a once a year voyage. We have to make sure that our Starships are checked on a regular basis to ensure that our tax

planning is both current and finely tuned. This requires regular maintenance throughout the year. We have to make sure that our deflector shields are in place to protect us against any Cling-On tax changes, and that our engines are fully loaded with Dilithium crystals so that we can react quickly to any new tax planning opportunities that arise. Our plans have to change as the galaxy shifts. It would be illogical to assume that all conditions remain stable.

Captain James T. Xpert:

Excellent analysis Schlock. Completely devoid of human emotion. Your Taxman instincts never fail you. In order to accomplish those objectives, we're going to have to increase our speed. Scotty, give me Warp factor 85(1).

Scotty (said in a stronger Scottish brogue with excitement in his voice):

Captain, if I push these impulse engines too hard in the condition they're in, they'll blow apart. Captain, what do we do?

Captain James T. Xpert:

Scotty, on the Starship G.C.S.E. TaxTips, we concentrate on two principal tax planning objectives that help keep our ship in good working order. The first objective is simply the reduction of taxes. We're prepared to send probes into the darkest regions of the galaxy in order to save taxes. Our second and equally important objective involves trying to defer taxes to future years or millenniums for that matter, if possible. Deferring taxes is like using a good transporter. Here today, gone tomorrow. Moving taxes off to a future year is nothing to be frowned upon.

Mr. Schlock (quirking an eyebrow):
Fascinating!

Captain James T. Xpert:

Scotty, I'm going to need more power to accomplish those two objectives.

Scotty (said in an even stronger Scottish brogue with tears in his eyes):

I've given her all she's got, Captain and I can't give her no more. Aye, the haggis is in the fire for sure. She won't take much more of this. The reactor core is heating up.

Captain James T. Xpert:

While Scotty's checking over our Tax Tips manual to help us reach warp speed, you should remember that while most of our tips are designed for the year 2000, some will relate to 1999. I'm sure that after you peruse our galaxy of star quality "tax tip" planning ideas, you'll be shouting:

BEAM ME UP SCOTTY!

In Touch *with* Tax

EPILOGUE

Captain James T. Xpert:

Captains log. Stardate 2000.2. This is Captain James T. Xpert, commander of the Starship TaxTips. Our ongoing mission is to explore new world's of tax, to seek out new tax planning tips and new opportunities to save tax. To boldly go where no man has gone before. Our mission is peaceful... not for conquest. When we do battle, it is only because we have no choice. We fight only when there is no other recourse.

However, the Cling-On Government often gives us no alternative as they continually change the battlefield. These battles have always strengthened us... (An unexpected visitor interrupts Xpert's dialogue in mid sentence).

Mr. Schlock:

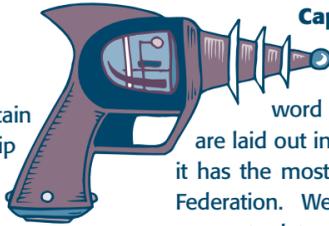
Excuse me Jim. Sorry to interrupt, but I couldn't help but overhear you. I wish to point out that there are always alternatives.

Captain James T. Xpert:

What do you mean Mr. Schlock?

Mr. Schlock:

Being a Taxman means to adopt a philosophy, a way of life, which is logical and beneficial. We cannot disregard that philosophy merely for personal gain, no matter how important that gain might be. Your TaxTips manual provides an excellent source of alternatives to the tax paying masses. Any tax problem can usually be solved by a number of alternatives. It is our role as tax planners to provide these alternatives. What makes our role more difficult is that these tax alternatives must be provided in an ever-changing galaxy. Change is the essential process of all existence.



Captain James T. Xpert: (spoken with consternation in his voice):

Dammit Schlock, I don't understand a word you're saying. All of our tax planning tips are laid out in a simple, straightforward manner, so that it has the most beneficial impact to all members of the Federation. We take pride in our guide and have spent many stardates probing our computer cores to come up with the most timely and relevant tax planning ideas possible. Tax planning can be dangerous, but its ultimate objective is not without merit. A star captain's most solemn oath is that he will give his life, even his entire crew, rather than violate the prime directive. Mr. Schlock, I hope you understand those facts.

Mr. Schlock:

Your emotions are alien to me. I'm a Taxman. Insufficient facts always invite danger. However, Captain, logic and practical information do not seem to apply here.

Captain James T. Xpert:

You admit that?

Mr. Schlock:

To deny the facts would be illogical, Captain.

Captain James T. Xpert:

Well Mr. Schlock, it looks like we've had another successful mission. The good old Starship TaxTips has taken a beating over the years, but it's weathered the storm nicely. We couldn't have done it without all of the hard work put in by you and the rest of the crew.

Mr. Schlock:

You humans have that emotional need to express gratitude. "You're welcome." I believe, is the correct response.

Captain James T. Xpert:

Mr. Schlock, take us out of orbit. Warp factor 85.1.

