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have not asked either Mr. Harris or Mr. Chretien (Martin) to cut my taxes. And I am not complaining about paying taxes.

What I want to say to Mr. Harris and Mr. Chretien and to other of our elected leaders is simply this. Please continue to tax me and other Canadians. And please invest those tax dollars wisely in our public institutions so that our country can continue to be strong, vital and healthy.

I want my children, and future generations to have the important infrastructure in place. If these future Canadians are going to have good roads, bridges, hospitals, schools, colleges, universities, doctors, nurses, teachers, police officers, etc. then we have to pay taxes to make sure that those things are in place for them. And those of us who make more need to pay more. This has to do with fairness - it has to do with doing the right thing.

And I guess that is the bottom line. That is why a United Church minister is writing about this subject of taxes and public spending. It is through our taxes that we are able to care for our fellow citizens now and into the future. (I am not saying that the system is perfect or that there is not need for more justice and fairness in the rates of tax paid by individuals and corporations.) What I am saying is that we must have government spending, a strong public sector, to keep Canada healthy - and to do that we must pay our taxes. So don't forget to file before the 30th.

God bless you. By paying taxes "you are making good things happen"!

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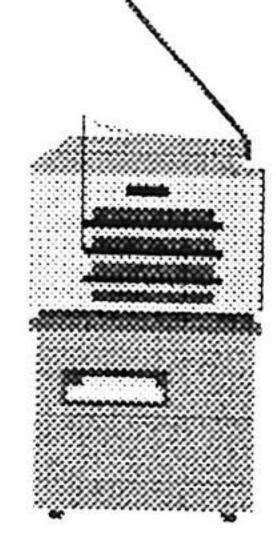
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