

**Ok this is freaky, try it...it works... Try this formula...**

Ignore your area code & using only 7 digit phone:

1. key-in the first 3 digits of your phone number into the calculator
2. multiply by 80
3. then plus 1
4. multiply by 250
5. plus last four digit of phone number
6. plus last four digit of phone number again
7. minus 250
8. divide by 2 at last

Is the answer your phone number?

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**Taxes**

Accounts Receivable Tax  
Building Permit Tax  
Capital Gains Tax  
CDL License Tax  
Cigarette Tax Corporate Income Tax  
Court Fines (indirect taxes)  
Dog License Tax  
Federal Income Tax  
Federal Unemployment Tax (FUTA)  
Fishing License Tax  
Food License Tax  
Fuel Permit Tax  
Gasoline Tax (42 cents per gallon)  
Hunting License Tax  
Inheritance Tax  
Interest Expense (tax on the money)  
Inventory Tax  
RS Interest Charges (tax on top of tax)  
RS Penalties (tax on top of tax)  
Liquor Tax  
Local Income Tax  
Luxury Taxes  
Marriage License Tax  
Medicare Tax  
Property Tax  
Real Estate Tax  
Septic Permit Tax  
Service Charge Taxes  
Social Security Tax  
Road Usage Taxes (Truckers)  
Sales Taxes  
Recreational Vehicle Tax  
Road Toll Booth Taxes [there MAY have been some Pikes that charged - JWF]  
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 Taxes  
Telephone Minimum Usage Surcharge Tax  
Telephone Recurring and Non-recurring Charges Tax

- Telephone State and Local Tax
- Telephone Usage Charge Tax
- Toll Bridge Taxes
- Toll Tunnel Taxes
- Traffic Fines (indirect taxation)
- Trailer Registration Tax
- Utility Taxes
- Vehicle License Registration Tax
- Vehicle Sales Tax
- Watercraft Registration Tax
- Well Permit Tax
- Workers Compensation Tax

Not one of these taxes existed 100 years ago and our nation was the most prosperous in the world, had absolutely no national debt, had the largest middle class in the world and moms who wanted to stay home with the kids were able to do so.

What changed?

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### **More Americans in Poverty in 2002, Census Study Says**

September 27, 2003

By LYNETTE CLEMETSON - The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Sept. 26 - The number of Americans living in poverty increased by 1.7 million last year, and the median household income declined by 1.1%, the Census Bureau reported today. The worsening economic conditions fell heaviest on Midwesterners and nonwhites.

It was the second straight year of adverse changes in both poverty and income, the first two-year downturn since the early 1990's.

The data, results of the Census Bureau's annual Current Population Survey, the official barometer for measuring income and poverty rates, showed that lingering negative effects of the recent recession cut across a broad swath of the population.

The official poverty rate rose to 12.1% in 2002 from 11.7% the year before, bringing to total number of people living below the poverty line to 34.6 million.

The median household earned income fell \$500 over the same period to \$42,400. Per capita income declined by 1.8 in 2002 to \$22,794, the first decline since 1991.

Daniel H. Weinberg, chief of the Census Bureau's Housing and Household Economic Statistics Division, said the findings were consistent with the bureau's expectations.

"If you look at the historical timeline trend, there is a lag with poverty rates," Mr. Weinberg said. "Low points in poverty and income seem to come the year after a recession ends."

The most recent recession lasted from March 2001 through November 2001, though job losses have continued at high rates this year.

Asked about the census data, Scott McClellan, the White House spokesman, said, "The actions that we've taken to boost the economy and to create jobs are essential to turn this around."

At his daily press briefing, Mr. McClellan, rather than focusing on the census data, pointed instead to newly released figures from the Commerce Department that showed a larger-than-expected rise in the gross domestic product.

A 3.3% increase in G.D.P. in the second quarter of this year, Mr. McClellan suggested, indicates that the

economy is moving in a positive direction.

Gross domestic product is considered a leading economic indicator, while poverty is seen as a lagging indicator.

Within hours of the morning release of the data, Democrats seized on the figures to criticize Bush administration policies in a flurry of faxed press releases, e-mailed statements and news conferences.

"This is sad news that the Bush administration is trying to sweep under the rug," said Senator John Edwards of North Carolina, a Democratic presidential candidate. "I'd like to hear President Bush explain to all the single mothers with kids living in poverty how his tax breaks for the rich are helping them."

Gen. Wesley K. Clark, the newest Democratic candidate, said of Mr. Bush, "With a record like this he shouldn't be running for president, he should be running for the hills."

In general, poverty rates over the last two years have not been as severe as in the aftermath of past recessions, a point several conservative analysts pointed out.

"As recessions go this is extremely good news," said Robert E. Rector, a senior research fellow with the Heritage Foundation. "This shows that this has been a shallow recession that has been mild in its impact, and it also shows the positive impact of welfare reform which has kept more women in the work force."

The Midwest was the only area of the country to have a significant increase in poverty rates, rising to 10.3% from 9.4% a year earlier. Real median income declined 2% in the region, with drops in important battleground states in next year's presidential election, including Illinois, Michigan, Missouri and Ohio.

Among racial groups African-Americans suffered the worst increases in poverty, after several years of economic progress in the 1990's. The poverty rate among blacks rose to 24.1% from 22.7% a year earlier. Median income for blacks fell 3%.

Other racial and ethnic groups also saw significant decreases in median income, which declined 4.5% for Asians, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders and 2.9% for Hispanics, a group that Mr. Bush has been courting.

And though rates of poverty did not change significantly from 2001 for those under age 18 and over age 65, staying afloat was harder last year for people aged 18 to 64, the bulk of the work force.

The poverty threshold for a family of four is \$18,392. For individuals the amount is \$9,183. The percentage of people in severe poverty, those with incomes below half of the poverty threshold, increased to 14.1 million from 13.4 million.

Liberal economists took the position that any increase in poverty was too high, given the relative prosperity of the country. Many also criticized policy shifts, which they said reduced the social safety net for the poor, like reductions in child care assistance and reduced unemployment insurance benefits.

"We would all expect poverty go up some in an economic downturn," said Robert Greenstein, executive director for the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, a liberal research group. "But misplaced priorities by Congress and the president are making the increase in poverty larger than it needs to be."

As controversial as the data was the timing of its release. Typically the results of the annual survey have been released on a Tuesday in late September at the National Press Club in downtown Washington.

This year the bureau scheduled the release for a Friday, the first time it has done so, and moved the news conference from the centrally located press club to the bureau's suburban headquarters in Suitland, Md. The switch prompted some advocates and lawmakers to speculate that the government agency had been pressured by the administration to move the date and place so that the results, which most people expected to be worse than they were last year, would generate less attention in the weekend news cycle.

The effect of the move meant that the figures on poverty and income were released on the same day as the data on G.D.P., data that many economists expected to be more positive.

Census officials maintained that the delayed release had to do with nothing more than a work backlog.

"We were running into technical problems getting it all done; we were running behind," Mr. Weinberg said. "So we decided, hey, how about some more time."

<http://www.nytimes.com/2003/09/27/national/27POVE.html?ex=1065668812&ei=1&en=4c5d0f33c1e460c0>

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### **A Chronicle of Confusion in the Hunt for Hussein's Weapons**

July 20, 2003

By JUDITH MILLER - The New York Times

On paper, the Pentagon's plan for finding Iraq's unconventional weapons was bold and original.

Four mobile exploitation teams, or MET's, each composed of about 25 soldiers, scientists and weapons experts from several Pentagon agencies, would fan out to chase tips from survey units and combat forces in the field. They would search 578 "suspect sites" in Iraq for the chemical, biological and nuclear components that the Bush administration had cited time and again to justify the war. The Pentagon said the weapons hunters would have whatever they needed — helicopters, Humvees in case weather grounded the choppers, and secure telecommunications.

But the "ground truth," as soldiers say, was this: chaos, disorganization, interagency feuds, disputes within and among various military units, and shortages of everything from gasoline to soap plagued the postwar search for evidence of Iraq's supposed unconventional weapons.

To this day, whether Saddam Hussein possessed such weapons when the war began remains unknown. It is the biggest mystery of the war and a thorny political problem for President Bush. His administration has expanded the hunt and has urged patience, expressing the belief that some weapons may still be found. Others believe that to be increasingly unlikely.

Interviews with soldiers and government officials over three months with the Pentagon's 75th Exploitation Task Force, known as the XTF, identified a number of problems that might explain why the search has produced so little. The flaws are serious enough, according to some participants, that the searchers might indeed have overlooked weapons or their components — if they were there to be found.

Some participants said the Bush administration used flawed intelligence to plan and conduct the search. They said planners had assumed that either chemical or biological weapons would be used against American forces in the field, proving their existence to the world. Or they assumed that if the armaments were not used, they would be easy to find.

Some said that promising sites were looted — or cleared of evidence — before Americans could search or secure them.

"Because we arrived at sites so late, so often," said Capt. J. Ryan Cutchin, the leader of the team known as MET Bravo, "we may never know what was there, and either walked or was taken away by looters and Baathist elements under the guise of looting."

A senior Iraqi military intelligence official, a source some of the weapons hunters considered their most promising find, said Mr. Hussein had destroyed his stockpiles of chemical and germ weapons, continuing the destruction up until a week before the war.

Several officials asserted that bureaucratic rivalries were partly to blame. There was strife between the Central Intelligence Agency and the Pentagon's Defense Intelligence Agency, and arguments between the MET weapons-hunting units and their commander; and some said that Special Operations forces alienated potential Iraqi sources through midnight raids and other harsh tactics.

Underlying those problems, experts and soldiers said, was the Pentagon's reluctance to make the mission an

urgent priority as the risky occupation of Iraq unfolded.

"Though it may be now, I don't sense that this was much of a priority," said Fred C. Ikle, an under secretary of defense in the Reagan administration.

By the middle of June, according to weapons experts and administration officials, the searchers had interviewed only 13 scientists among some 200 people on the government's black list of "high-value targets" or among the thousands of midlevel people on the so-called gray list. Collectively, those people could have had extensive knowledge of Iraq's unconventional weapons programs.

Only after the administration came under political fire for failing to find the weapons and was accused of distorting intelligence to build a case for the war did the White House put David Kay, a former international weapons inspector and envoy from the C.I.A., in charge of invigorating a task force that had already been restructured once.

Several analysts said that although the task force's weapons-hunting teams were highly motivated and innovative, the Pentagon initially erred in putting a field artillery brigade in charge of the hunt.

"Unlike Marine or infantry units, field artillery units are full of procedures, lists and box-checking," said a veteran military analyst. "They are not known for flexibility."

Col. Richard R. McPhee, 47, a West Point graduate and veteran of the Persian Gulf war in 1991, said he learned only in late December that his brigade had been selected to lead the search, leaving him only a month to prepare.

#### Drawing Up the Plan

The plan for the hunt, drawn up mainly by United States Central Command in Tampa, Fla., with the Defense Intelligence Agency, put too much emphasis on site searches, officers said. In September, defense planners, former inspectors from the United Nations Special Commission, or Unscm, and officials from several Pentagon offices, including Central Command, had concluded in a secret session at the Pentagon-run National Defense University that while compiling a definitive list of suspect sites to be surveyed was important, recruiting Iraqis involved in unconventional weapons programs was the key to success.

They also agreed that financial and other incentives, like lenient treatment, should be offered to induce cooperation from wary Iraqi scientists and military officers. Finally, participants said, they agreed that former inspectors from Unscm, especially those who had interviewed Iraqis involved in the program, should be involved in the hunt.

But the task force had virtually no inspectors and few analysts who knew Iraq or its weapons programs well, said Richard Spertzel, a former weapons inspector who had helped assemble a list of more than 20 former American inspectors who were ready to help. No financial incentives for cooperation were offered until recently.

The number of MET teams hunting for unconventional weapons was reduced to two from four before the war was even over, lowering the number of active weapons hunters to fewer than 50 from 100, far fewer than the 200 United Nations inspectors.

"To seize and secure facilities took time and manpower, and they did not want to do it," said Master Sgt. Thomas Boon, a weapons hunter traveling with the Third Infantry Division. By the time Sergeant Boon's team reached Karbala in late April, the soldiers had turned up nothing at the 38 sites they had surveyed, sometimes hastily, as the maneuvering forces pressed on to Baghdad, team members said.

Most sites had already been heavily looted by the time the forces arrived, Sergeant Boon said.

#### Interviews vs. Searches

Chief Warrant Officer Richard L. Gonzales, the head of MET Alpha, said in a recent interview that he became convinced of the need to concentrate on human sources, rather than site visits, after his unit secured the cooperation of two senior Iraqi participants in Iraq's unconventional weapons programs.

One of them, Dr. Nissar Hindawi, a leading figure in Iraq's biological warfare program in the 1980's, said in an interview in April that the explanations he and other scientists had continued giving the United Nations about Iraq's efforts to produce poisons and germ weapons were lies. He said, for instance, that he told inspectors that he was the head of a single-cell protein plant which, he said after the war, actually had made botulism toxin and anthrax.

Administration officials said MET Alpha's second source — a man who originally identified himself as a scientist but who turned out to be a military intelligence officer who said he oversaw part of Iraq's chemical weapons program — remained one of the highest-ranking Iraqis to volunteer to help the United States government in its search for unconventional weapons. Col. McPhee called his recruitment a "turning point" for the task force.

According to officers and officials interviewed in Baghdad and Washington, the Iraqi asserted not only that stockpiles of banned weapons had been destroyed from 1995 to a few days before the war, but also that the weapons programs were devised to continue research and development after the chemical stockpiles were gone. Military experts and administration officials who confirmed that the military spent hours debriefing the Iraqi said similar claims had also been asserted by other deposed Iraqi officials now in detention. But they declined to comment on what proportion of the stockpiles he said had been destroyed early on or why the intelligence agencies did not know of the stockpile destruction.

On April 24, less than a week after the Iraqi met with American officials in Baghdad and White House officials were given a report about his claims, President Bush said publicly for the first time that the military might not find Iraqi unconventional weapons stockpiles because they they might have been destroyed.

A White House spokesman declined comment on whether Mr. Bush's statement was a result of the Iraqi source's assertions, but officials in Iraq and Washington confirmed that White House officials had hotly debated the Iraqi's assertions, which they said had startled them.

"The Iraqi remains a cooperating source whose life would be endangered were his identity known in Iraq," a senior administration official said.

Despite the discovery that Iraqis like the military intelligence officer were willing under the right circumstances to cooperate, the MET units were ordered to stick to searching the list of suspect sites.

"We said this is useless," said Captain Cutchin of MET Bravo. "It's toilet paper for us."

### Faulty Leads and Frustration

The intelligence on sites was often stunningly wrong, one senior officer agreed.

"The teams would be given a packet, with pictures and a tentative grid," he said. "They would be told: 'Go to this place. You will find a McDonald's there. Look in the fridge. You will find French fries, cheeseburger and Cokes.' And they would go there, and not only was there no fridge and no McDonald's, there was never even a thought of ever putting a McDonald's there. Day after day it was like that."

Throughout their mission, MET units members expressed frustration that they were not permitted to discuss with Iraqi scientists and security officials either the amnesty for war crimes or the sizable monetary rewards that had been authorized to offer in exchange for cooperation, despite the Iraqis' obvious reluctance to participate as long as Mr. Hussein might be alive. Then the MET units were sent home two months before a normal rotation, though they had volunteered to stay.

Officials charged with cultivating Iraqis as sources remained unhappy with raids by Special Forces on their potential sources' homes in the dead of night. "Knocking down a scientist's door at 3 a.m., putting a bag over his head, and flex-cuffing his family while you search for hidden weapons or documents is hardly a way to induce his cooperation," one weapons expert said.

On Friday, Colonel McPhee said he was proud that his teams had inspected more than 350 sites "without getting a single soldier killed" and had provided a smooth transition for the 75th XTF, which was merged into a larger, supposedly more agile task force known as the Iraq Survey Group. The number of weapons hunters and support troops has grown to more than 1,500 from 1,000. Once expected to be operating in May, officials said the new

group would not be fully operational until August.

But MET Alpha's final mission underscores the continuing problems that plague the hunt. Sent to Basra to investigate what senior Iraq Survey Group intelligence and weapons experts called highly suspicious equipment that could be components for a nuclear weapons program, the team collected what turned out to be oil production equipment and a handful of large, industrial-scale vegetable steamers. The contents of the crates containing the suspect equipment were all clearly marked, in Russian.

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## **Corporate Tax Cheats Wreak Havoc On The Neediest Among Us**

by Arianna Huffington

Published on Wednesday, July 23, 2003 by Arianna Online

All across corporate America, high-priced accountants are hard at work helping companies avoid billions in taxes by hiding profits in a host of tax sheltering schemes. No summer vacation at the beach reading trashy actuarial tables for these guys. And they're doing a bang-up job: Corporations are currently turning over 30% less of their profits to the taxman than they did 20 years ago.

Meanwhile, all across the country, state governments, facing the biggest budget crisis since the Great Depression, are being forced to slash programs and cut services.

Gee, do you think there might be a connection? You can bet your vanishing after-school care, prenatal health program, and local law enforcement service there is.

According to a new study released last week by the Multistate Tax Commission, a nonpartisan coalition of state taxing authorities, corporate tax shelters robbed states of \$12.4 billion in desperately needed revenues in 2001 -- a figure that represents more than a third of the money corporations rightfully owed.

Companies sheltering their assets overseas are draining another \$70 billion a year from the federal Treasury -- funds that often make their way back to states through programs such as Head Start and AmeriCorps.

But as damning as those statistics are, they're still just abstract figures. In order to really understand the devastating impact these lost revenues are having, we need to put flesh and bone to the numbers.

Take California: according to the Multistate Tax Commission, the Golden State lost an estimated \$1.34 billion in corporate tax revenue because of tax shelters. Now that might not seem like that much money to a state facing an elephantine \$38 billion budget deficit, but it means very specific cuts to very specific programs that affect hundreds of thousands of people.

For example, just \$520 million of the \$1.34 billion the tax dodgers kept for themselves would make it possible for the state to avoid the closure of -- or severe cost cutting at -- 250 to 350 nursing homes. Just \$380 million would prevent the loss of childcare and daycare services for 429,000 children. And just \$600 million would make it unnecessary to up the entry age for kindergartners -- a change that will keep 110,000 children from starting school in the fall. But because of the tax shelterers' greed, those dark clouds are gathering on the California horizon.

Chew on that for a second. Thanks to California's corporate tax cheats, thousands of elderly nursing home residents are facing the prospect of being tossed out on the street. Maybe the high-powered corporate numbers-crunchers can take a break from devising ways to bilk the taxman and figure out, pro bono, how the state's nursing home operators are supposed to cut corners and still protect the health and well being of those in their care. Feed their elderly charges less often? Substitute sugar pills for life-sustaining medication? Fill their oxygen tanks with helium?

And what about those 110,000 California kids who may have to put their education on hold for another year? What are we supposed to tell them: "Hey, who needs kindergarten when you've got Sponge Bob Squarepants"?

Need more evidence of the difference this lost revenue would make? Consider that just \$18 million of the lost

\$1.34 billion (only 1.3% of the total skimmed) would allow California officials to fully fund the California Arts Council, the 27-year old agency that brings artists, writers, and performers into the state's public schools. Artists like poet Dana Lomax, who inspires low-income elementary school students to believe that "Imagination can take you anywhere" or actress Jill Holden, who conducts workshops at treatment centers for abused and neglected kids. Instead, the Arts Council is on the budget chopping block. Thanks corporate tax crooks!

And the same sort of pain being felt in California is being meted out all across the country, with beleaguered state legislatures forced to cut programs and eliminate services that could easily have been funded by lost revenues.

In Florida, which lost \$554 million to tax shelters in 2001, just \$7.7 million would have saved a program that provided glasses and hearing aids for low-income people.

In Oregon, which is dealing with \$80 million in lost corporate taxes, \$14.5 million would have prevented the 19,000-student Hillsboro school district from shutting its doors 17 days early this year.

In South Carolina, which also was denied \$80 million because of tax shelters, a mere \$1.4 million would have stopped the round of budget cuts that cost Traci Young Cooper, the state's 2001 Teacher of the Year, her job. The honor earned her a trip to the White House to meet President Bush; maybe if she knew what was coming she could have lobbied him to make all tax shelters illegal.

In Kentucky, which lost \$150 million to tax shelters, \$2.6 million would have allowed Gov. Paul Patton to leave behind bars the 883 prison inmates he released early in a desperate effort to balance the state's budget. I have a sneaking suspicion that the 25-year old woman who was raped by one of these freed inmates just three days after his release would consider that \$2.6 million money very well spent.

And the list goes on and on. Vital programs and services cut or eliminated that could have been saved had corporate America just done the right thing and paid what it owed.

It's time for the IRS to stop coddling corporate crooks and start going after tax shelter thieves with a vengeance. To do any less is a slap in the face of all the hard working taxpayers who, however grudgingly, pay their fair share.

Wealthy corporations absolutely must be forced to do the same. Because in the end, it's not the big, bad taxman these corporate tax cheats are pulling a fast one on. It's you and me.

<http://commondreams.org/views03/0723-08.htm>

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This came from the New Republic web site

**WHEN DOES PAUL WOLFOWITZ COME CLEAN, PART XXVIII:** *"I don't know what people expected, that suddenly this regime which is responsible for killing a million Muslims, that for 35 years abused and tortured and raped the Iraqi people, would disappear and suddenly everything would be fine overnight? We're what, four or five months into it? People who have been in Kosovo and Bosnia, which was a picnic compared to Iraq, who say that Iraq is already way ahead."* [Emphasis added.]

--Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz, in an interview with the BBC, September 11, 2003

"[S]ome of the higher-end predictions that we have been hearing recently, such as the notion that it will take several hundred thousand U.S. troops to provide stability in post-Saddam Iraq, are *wildly off the mark*. First, it's hard to conceive that it would take more forces to provide stability in post-Saddam Iraq than it would take to conduct the war itself and to secure the surrender of Saddam's security forces and his army. Hard to imagine. Second, in making predictions one should at least pay attention to past experience. And in the case of Iraq we have some recent experience to look to. The northern third of Iraq has been liberated from Saddam Hussein's grasp since Operation Provide Comfort, which we undertook just one month after the cease-fire in the Persian Gulf War in 1991. ...

"After that operation we withdrew our ground forces from northern Iraq completely in the fall of 1991, and in the 12 years since then we have not had any forces--I emphasize any forces--on the ground there. And yet the northern third of Iraq has remained reasonably stable, even though, sadly, it is subjected to the same economic sanctions

that have been applied to the rest of the country...

"There are other differences that suggest that peacekeeping requirements in Iraq might be much lower than historical experience in the Balkans suggests." --Wolfowitz, in testimony to the House Budget Committee, February 27, 2003

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## ORIGINS OF THE TERM "BOXING DAY" (FROM THE URBAN LEGENDS WEBSITE)

Claim: The name comes from the need to rid the house of empty boxes the day after Christmas.

Status: False.

Origins: Few Americans have any inkling that there even is such a thing as Boxing Day, let alone what the reason might be for a holiday so named. However ... even though Boxing Day is celebrated in Australia, Britain, New Zealand, and Canada, not all that many in those countries have much of a notion as to why they get the 26th of December off ...

Despite the lively images suggested by the name, it has nothing to do with (the sport of boxing) ... Likewise ... (not with ridding) the house of an excess of wrappings and mountains of now useless cardboard boxes the day after St. Nick arrived ... The name also has nothing to do with returning unwanted gifts to the stores they came from, hence its common association with hauling about boxes on the day after Christmas.

The holiday's roots can be traced to Britain, where Boxing Day is also known as St. Stephen's Day. Reduced to the simplest essence, its origins are found in a long-ago practice of giving cash or durable goods to those of the lower classes. Gifts among equals were exchanged on or before Christmas Day, but beneficences to those less fortunate were bestowed the day after.

And that's about as much as anyone can definitively say about its origin because once you step beyond that point, it's straight into the quagmire of debated claims and dueling folklorists ...

Although there is general agreement that the holiday is of British origin and it has to do with giving presents to the less fortunate, there is still dispute as to how the name came about or precisely what unequal relationship is being recognized.

At various times, the following "origins" have been loudly asserted as the correct one:

- (1) Centuries ago, ordinary members of the merchant class gave boxes of food and fruit to tradespeople and servants the day after Christmas in an ancient form of Yuletide tip ... in much the same way that one now tips the paperboy an extra \$20 at Christmastime or slips the building's superintendent a bottle of fine whisky. Those long-ago gifts were done up in boxes, hence the day coming to be known as "Boxing Day."
- (2) Christmas celebrations in the old days entailed bringing everyone together from all over a large estate, thus creating one of the rare instances when everyone could be found in one place at one time. This gathering of his extended family, so to speak, presented the lord of the manor with a ready-made opportunity to easily hand out that year's stipend of necessities. Thus, the day after Christmas, after all the partying was over and it was almost time to go back to far-flung homesteads, serfs were presented with their annual allotment of practical goods. Who got what was determined by the status of the worker and his relative family size ... Under this explanation, there was nothing voluntary about this transaction; the lord of the manor was obligated to supply these goods. The items were chucked into boxes, one box for each family, to make carrying away the results of this annual restocking easier ...
- (3) Many years ago, on the day after Christmas, servants in Britain carried boxes to their masters when they arrived for the day's work. It was a tradition that on this day all employers would put coins in the boxes as a special end-of-the-year gift. In a closely-related version of this explanation, apprentices and servants would on that day get to smash open small earthenware boxes left for them by their masters. These boxes would house small sums of money specifically left for them. This dual-versioned theory melds the two previous ones ... namely, the employer who was obligated to hand out something on Boxing Day, but this time to recipients who were not working the land for him and thus were not dependent on him for all they wore and ate. The "box" thus becomes something

beyond ordinary compensation (in a way goods to landed serfs was not), yet it's also not a gift in that there's nothing voluntary about it. Under this theory, the boxes are an early form of Christmas bonus, something employees see as their entitlement.

(4) Boxes in churches for seasonal donations to the needy were opened on Christmas Day, and the contents distributed by the clergy the following day. The contents of this alms box originated with the ordinary folks in the parish who were under no direct obligation to provide anything at all and were certainly not tied to the recipients by a employer/employee relationship. In this case, the "box" in "Boxing Day" comes from that one gigantic lockbox the donations were left in.

More elaborate versions of this origin involve boxes kept on sailing ships:

(5) The title has been derived by some, from the box which was kept on board of every vessel that sailed upon a distant voyage, for the reception of donations to the priest - who, in return, was expected to offer masses for the safety of the expedition, to the particular saint having charge of the ship - and above all, of the box. The box was not to be opened until the return of the vessel; and we can conceive that, in cases where the mariners had had a perilous time of it, this casket would be found to enclose a tolerable offering. The mass was at that time called Christmass, and the boxes kept to pay for it were, of course, called Christmass-boxes. The poor, amongst those who had an interest in the fate of these ships, or of those who sailed in them, were in the habit of begging money from the rich, that they might contribute to the mass boxes; and hence the title which has descended to our day, giving to the anniversary of St Stephen's martyrdom the title of Christmas-boxing day, and, by corruption, its present popular one of Boxing Day.

Whichever theory one chooses to back, the one thread common to all is the theme of one-way provision to those not inhabiting the same social level ... It is to be noted that the social superiors did not receive anything back from those they played Lord Bountiful to: a gift in return would have been seen as a presumptuous act of laying claim to equality, the very thing Boxing Day was an entrenched bastion against. Boxing Day was, after all, about preserving class lines.

-- Barbara "lines of the times" Mikkelson

Sightings: In the familiar Christmas carol, Good King Wenceslas' gifts of bread, wine, and firewood were made to a poor man whom he observed struggling through the snow "on the Feast of Stephen."  
Last updated: 30 November 2003

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A car company can move its factories to Mexico and claim it's a free market.  
A toy company can outsource to a Chinese subcontractor and claim it's a free market.  
A major bank can incorporate in Bermuda to avoid taxes and claim it's a free market.  
We can buy HP Printers made in Mexico. We can buy shirts made in Bangladesh.  
We can purchase almost anything we want from many different countries BUT, heaven help the elderly who dare to buy their prescription drugs from a Canadian (Or Mexico) pharmacy.

**That's called un-American!**

***And you think the pharmaceutical companies don't have a powerful lobby? Think again!***

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**---- NESTLE'S CHOCOLATE**

**Our Government hard at work for the people of the United States ... what a good team!**

**Friday May 2, 2003, marked a sad passing.**

**After more than a hundred and two years in Fulton NY , the Nestle company shut down it's very first Chocolate factory in the United States, putting over 417 men and women out of work. The majority of these employees were just within reach of their retirement. Now they must start over again.**

**Nestle' has moved the plant's Nestle Crunch bar production to Brazil, the Nesquick line to another state,**

and sold off the Peters brand of chocolate that had been produced at this factory for most of its history.

For years these employees put forth every effort, met every demand, and fought every fight possible to save this factory. Each and every time the Company raised the bar, and each and every time the employees met the challenge. This was not enough for Nestle's.

Over the past twenty years, New York State, Oswego County, and the City of Fulton brought Nestle' tax break after tax break, incentive after incentive. These were still not enough.

Seven years ago, the City of Fulton undertook a multimillion dollar water and sewer upgrade ... an overhaul specifically intended for the Nestle' plant.

The people of this town, many of them Nestle' employees, Retirees, family, or friends, all understood, what was good for Nestle' was good for the town. They emphatically supported these upgrades with their tax dollars. This was not enough for Nestle's.

Nestle' announced that the plant would close and that this was strictly a "business decision" and was not open to discussion. That was enough for Nestle's.

The Nestle company is huge. It manufactures more than just candy bars.

There are the Drinks: Juicy Juice, Nestea, Nesquick, Nescafe', Coffee Mate, and Carnation Instant Breakfast. There are the Pet Foods: Purina, Mighty Dog, Alpo, Fancy Feast, Friskies, and Tidy cat.

There are the prepared foods: Lean Cuisine, & Stouffers. And the Candy: Nestle' Crunch & Chocolate, Baby Ruth, Wonka, Sweet-tarts, Butterfinger, Goobers & Raisinets, and Bit-o-Honey to name a few.

Nestle' wants still more... Who was first in line last year when the trustees of the Hershey Foundation considered selling their controlling share of the Hershey Companies? -----Nestle's was!

Considering their "Just Business" decisions, where would they move Hershey Pennsylvania's production lines to? Hershey Brazil? Hershey Thailand?

Remember, it's "just business." The next time you're buying a candy bar, coffee creamer, Cocoa, Chocolate Milk, or dog food, Please take the time to think about the little town in New York that has 417 newly unemployed workers, and will never again have the smell of chocolate in the air when it's about to rain. Then make your choice: Nestle's or another.

Maybe, just maybe, Nestle's will then realize it isn't "just business" any more.

If you think this lament is worthy, I'd appreciate it if you would take the time to share it.

**Just another American tradition leaving American jobs in the dust!**

"that for the next five years, the leadership of the Society,.... make Solidarity with the Poor and Peacemakers a major focus of our life and mission. (Sent by the Spirit -2001)

PS NESTLE'S IS A SWISS COMPANY --- JWF