

# Faithful Citizenship



February 10, 2008

I love my morning walk. It's time I take for myself to relax as well as to think. I observe human nature and even go so far as to develop theories about the economy.

For most of the last few years, I was averaging about \$0.20 to \$0.25 a week in change found along my route. Mind you, that's pretty much the same route every day, so people are dropping "new" money all the time. Over the last 6 weeks or so, I've found maybe a total of \$0.10. So, of course, I have concluded that people are concerned about the economy and are watching every penny.

That makes the proposed federal tax rebate a welcome relief for many people. It's a gutsy move on the government's part, relying on all of us to spend that money and generate increased taxes. The problem is that when I'm concerned about my money and my future, I tend to save whatever "extra" money comes my way. We shall see what the majority does.

We all would like something for nothing. Who will we vote for in the next election? Of course, someone who offers us a worry-free future would look attractive. But can that really come without sacrifice? We are spending billions in Iraq and Afghanistan and many of us have not noticed the slightest difference in our lifestyle. During World Wars I and II, people at home made sacrifices and did without. President Bush's new budget will double our national debt. We are dreaming if we think that can happen without consequences.

Gotta go boot up my hard drive!

*Aloha - M. J. B.*