

I started this letter a couple of weeks back with the line that 2016 could be summarized in two words "Trump Trumped". The card game metaphor seemed initially a convenient way of adding that determining whether Russia helped stack the deck in Trump's favor would likely depend on a special congressional investigation that might never be allowed to make its findings public. Editorial input made me stop and re-think whether using the genteel game of Bridge to characterize what happened in 2016 adequately captures the magnitude of what we now face.

Trump did vanquish the largest field of presidential candidates ever. Branding Jeb Bush "weak", Marco Rubio "whiny" and Hillary "crooked", Trump masterfully disproved the old saw that "Sticks and stones may break my bones but names will never hurt me". Trump knows viscerally that said often enough without challenge a name or claim takes on an aura of "believability", or truthiness (another term like emoluments that the campaign is responsible for bringing into more common parlance). By harping on the integrity of his Democratic opponent and with the help of the head of the FBI, the undisputed result is that many came to believe that having a private server was a greater sin than sexually battering women, mocking the handicapped, or insulting the parents of an Iraq hero. To borrow a phrase from Trump's spokeswoman, it may prove historically tragic that more of us didn't look closer into what was in the heart of each candidate.

Admittedly, Trump was not the only culprit in this epic drama. Hillary, and the then chair of the Democratic Party, did deviously undertake to side track Bernie Sanders, fearing his message was reverberating too successfully with younger voters. In hindsight, it may turn out that while Hillary was unknowingly sealing her fate by minimizing debates, Bernie was drawing crowds of dissatisfied citizens that rivaled Trump's with the result that the downtrodden in former coal and auto plant areas shifted allegiance from Bernie to the candidate who loudly voiced support for Bernie's message of restoring economic fairness. Trump, not Hillary, successfully picked up the mantle of promise, challenging inner city and underemployed voters with the taunt "What do you have to lose?"

Sadly, as it seems we are now finding out, the answer may well prove to be "Everything". What is to come in 2017 is really where the tragedy of historic proportions may develop.

At the turn of the 20th century, President Wilson, who had a far reaching vision of how to make a better world was replaced by Republican administrations under Harding, Coolidge and Hoover. Republican controlled Congresses enacted trade protective measures that were a major contributing cause of the Great Depression. Then as now, the misconception that success in business ensures success in government, led to complete disregard of the fragility of the world wide economic system. With the eventual Republican approval of most, if not all of, Trump's nominees for Cabinet secretaries and

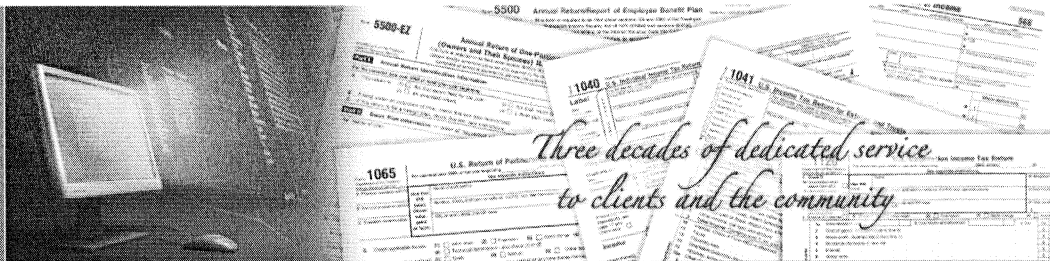
Bureau heads, our Country will mirror Russia at least to the extent that oligarchs will head many of the most impactful divisions of government, from Secretary of State to Education.

The advances in social services and the rules and regulations for the public good that are the hallmark of a 21st century society are about to come under attack. In the name of reducing bloated government, not only will more long serving civil servants lose their jobs but all of us may lose clean air protection, fair natural resource management and the means to ensure full participation in the economy. Flying the banner of lower taxes, the most vulnerable will likely lose not only health coverage but other crucial public services, be it housing or education. It took two world wars to teach us that taxes are the mechanism that stabilizes society. When the citizenry are deprived of the basic resources necessary for a passable life, their discontent eventually boils over. In light of the Great Depression and more recently the Great Recession, it would seem elemental that the unemployed and uneducated do not buy autos with the result that auto workers and their suppliers get laid off. Hyped, misguided legislation crescendos into major human suffering.

Needless to say, I am not optimistic about what lies ahead. I am not one of those who think that Trump will change his spots now that he has been sworn in. My reading of this past year is that Trump is perennially blinded by his own ego and dismisses, demeans and destroys those who dare to disagree with him. Hopefully, I am completely wrong but the first week of his administration seems to adequately prove the point that Trump has trumped us all. Under our system, he holds the power to devastate, at least for the next two years.

The underlying point of writing my annual letter is to wish you all the best in 2017, which will in any case be interesting, whether or not it turns out to be a complete undoing of 90 years of extending a helping hand to those who need it in order to ensure that all are able to participate in life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jack", with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the left.



WELCOME

OUR PRACTICE

FIRM PROFILE

CONTACT US

*An accountant's  
calendar is busy,  
with many deadlines.  
Check the filing dates  
on this summary  
calendar for those  
that apply to you.*

## Filing dates calendar ...

### INDIVIDUALS

#### FEDERAL / STATE ESTIMATED TAX PAYMENTS

First Quarter estimate ... due **April 15**

Second Quarter estimate ... due **June 15**

Third Quarter estimate ... due **September 15**

Fourth Quarter estimate ... due **January 15**

#### TAX RETURNS

Due **April 15**

Extended ... due **October 15**

F-BAR (foreign reporting)

Due **June 30 (2016)**

Due **April 15 (2017)**

### PARTNERSHIPS / TRUSTS

#### TAX RETURNS

Partnerships due **March 15**

Trusts due **April 15**

Extended (both) ... due **September 15**

### CORPORATE

Calendar year companies ... due **April 15**

Extended returns ... due **September 15**

Fiscal year companies ... due **2.5 months after year-end**

Extended returns ... due **8.5 months after year-end**

### PAYROLL TAX RETURNS

Q1 (Jan-March) wages ... due **April 30**

Q2 (April-June) wages ... due **July 31**

Q3 (July-Sept.) wages ... due **October 31**

Q4 (Oct.-Dec.) wages ... due **January 31**

### NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS

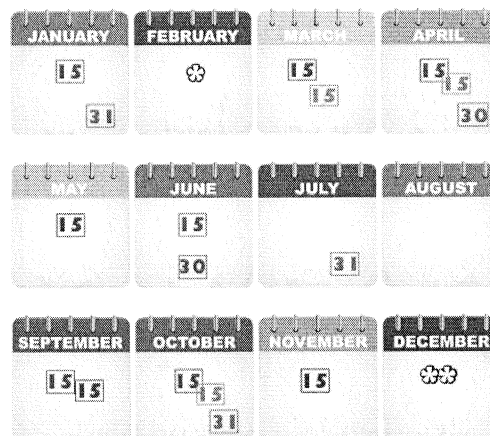
#### TAX RETURNS

Calendar year non-profits ... due **May 15**

Extended returns ... due **November 15**

Fiscal year non-profits ... due **4.5 months after year-end**

Extended returns ... due **10.5 months after year-end**



- ☞ Schedule tax appointment
- ☞ Year-end tax planning

NOTE: When the return due date is a weekend or legal holiday, it then moves to the next business day.

S Corp March 15  
Extended return Sept 15