Published on *Adam Smith Institute* (http://www.adamsmith.org)

Quite the best story about tax ever [1]

Written by **Tim Worstall** [2] | Saturday 24 August 2013

A quite delightful little story about tax and taxation [3]. You might recall that a while back an IT contractor stole the list of banks account owners from a Swiss bank. And then sold it to the German government who used it to chase those naughty tax avoiders for the money they had avoided/evaded.

We might call this a victory for law and order or we might call this part of it such a victory. For the Swiss have now jailed the man for three years because what he did was indeed theft.

But the part that makes this such a wonderful story is this [3]:

> The 54-year-old German-born man appearing before the Swiss criminal court in a striped polo shirt and jeans, said that he had intended to use the bulk of a 1.1 million euro ($1.47 million) reward to pay off taxes he owed in Germany.

At which point I think we can all agree that tax rates in Germany are much too high. For look what happens: people are driven to theft just to be able to pay those taxes.

Update: I'm told by a trustde source that the reason he owes the tax is because he was on the list that he himself handed over. Which is really icing on it, isn't it?

blog comments powered by Disqus [5]

Source URL: http://www.adamsmith.org/blog/tax-spending/quite-the-best-story-about-tax-ever

Links:
[1] http://www.adamsmith.org/blog/tax-spending/quite-the-best-story-about-tax-ever
[2] http://www.adamsmith.org/taxonomy/term/5778
[3] http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/08/22/us-swiss-datatheft-idUSBRE97L0I820130822
[4] http://disqus.com/?ref_noscript
[5] http://disqus.com