

July 2nd, 1943

Collector of Internal Revenue,
110 East 45th Street,
New York City.

Dear Sir:

I am in despair at the thought that this will now go on forever. I wrote you about six weeks ago to change my name on your records from Rex Scout to Rex Stout. I now get two of everything from you, one addressed Rex Stout and the other addressed Rex Scout. I hereby disclaim all responsibility for this guy named Scout. You conceived him, you gave him birth; do what you want to with him, but for God's sake keep him away from me.

Sincerely,

RS/mw



TREASURY DEPARTMENT

INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE

OFFICE OF THE COLLECTOR
THIRD DISTRICT OF NEW YORK
110 EAST 45TH STREET

NEW YORK, N. Y.

July 6, 1943

IN REPLY REFER TO VT:MME:jg

Mr. Rex Stout
55 East 86th Street
New York, N. Y.

Reference is made to your letter dated July 2, 1943 in which you protest the creation of your alter ego, Rex Scout.

This office is fully cognizant of the difficulties and complications which may arise in these times because of a dual personality. We can imagine the more pleasant side such as being the recipient of two food and gas ration cards. On the other hand, we can imagine your consternation at being assessed on two tax returns or being the possessor of two call notices from your Draft Board.

Our office frankly accepts paternity of Rex Scout but contemplates an immediate and surreptitious patricide. The untimely demise of this imposter will not, we hope, arouse the interest of Nero Wolfe or Archie. It would be very embarrassing to this office to find on the bookshelves "The Case of the Duplicate Stout or The Case of the Phantom Taxpayer".

Seriously, however, this office appreciates the good humor with which you have taken this incident and will immediately rectify the error.


JOSEPH T. HIGGINS,
Collector.



The withholding tax on wages was introduced in 1943 and was instrumental in increasing the number of taxpayers to 60 million and tax collections to \$43 billion by 1945.

Read more: [History of the Income Tax in the United States — Infoplease.com](http://www.infoplease.com/ipa/A0005921.html#ixzz1uCi1eibw)
<http://www.infoplease.com/ipa/A0005921.html#ixzz1uCi1eibw>