

Group Protests Taxes



(SENTINEL Photo/J. Hopkins)

TAX DAY PROTEST – More than 250 thousand Americans are estimated to have participated in over 700 tea parties in cities, towns, and villages nationwide, protesting the nearly \$13 trillion of spending, loans and assurances by the federal government since March 2008.

Sentinel Staff Report

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About 30 Sierra County residents, fearful about future taxation, demonstrated April 15 in the Triangle Park at the intersection of Date and Broadway, the T-or-C park that has been the site of protests of many kinds in recent years. Organizers say more people would have shown up but for the high winds.

Carrying homemade signs

and shouting slogans, the tax protesters braved the windy weather for about an hour as part of the national "T.E.A. (Taxed Enough Already) Party", protesting taxes.

Tens of thousands of protesters, some dressed like Revolutionary War soldiers and most waving signs with anti-tax slogans, gathered around the state and the nation Wednesday for a series of rallies modeled after the original

Boston Tea Party. They chose the income tax filing deadline to express their displeasure with government spending since President Barack Obama took office, according to the Associated Press.

The Boston Tea Party was not a revolt against taxation or government spending—it was a revolt against a tax loophole that had been granted to a multinational corporation, one

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New Mexico advocacy group explained.

"The Boston Tea Party was about tax fairness," said Bill Jordan, Policy Director for New Mexico Voices for Children. "Colonists were angry that they were expected to pay the tax on tea that the British East India Company was supposed to be paying," he added.

Tax fairness and transparency are the message the advocacy group and others were trying to send at their Tax Day rally at the Main Post Office in Albuquerque. The group passed out fliers to educate taxpayers about tax fairness and transparency, and how New Mexico could improve.

"It's ironic, really," said Jordan. "Other Tax Day 'tea parties' are being promoted by the same corporations that are still getting away with not paying their fair share. And they've gotten a group of citizens—who are paying more because of corporate loopholes—to be their mouth pieces."

In some cities protest sizes were somewhat smaller than the left's anti-globalization and anti-war demonstrations of the past decade. In some places, like New York and Atlanta, as

many as 15- to 20,000 people showed up to express their displeasure.

They tax day protests appear to have grass-roots origins, according to published reports. Americans for Limited Government President Bill Wilson praised the national tea party movement and called upon activists to "take action in their local communities, join political organizations, attend town hall meetings, and talk to their neighbors."

"The American people should be proud of themselves for what they did, for taking to the streets yesterday (April 15) in their hometowns to protest an unjust government—for traveling miles to be in their state capitals, and elsewhere," said Wilson.

Wilson emphatically believes that "the American people, and the American people alone, deserve credit for making their voices heard as one."

"The beauty of this movement is that, despite some claims, nobody organized this; the American people spontaneously did this themselves," Wilson said.

