

**Testimony of Philip Hatch  
(Video Video)  
As Transcribed  
Portland, Maine  
February 1, 2017**

My name is Philip Hatch. I'm 81 years old and I'm from Portland Maine, born and raised.

I received a telephone call. I answered the phone and the man said he was a representative from the Internal Revenue Service. I said what can I do to help you? He said, "well we've gone through the records and there has been a mistake on your returns and you owe \$5,988 and some odd cents." So, I said fine -- tell me who I make the check out to and I'll mail it. He said "well we can't do that. We have a warrant out for your arrest. The marshals will be in your house within the hour." I said well what would you like me to do to help resolve this? They said, "you can go to CVS and get those iTunes cards and when you come back you can read the numbers off to us." I said this doesn't seem like a very professional way to do this. They said, "well it's either that or the marshals are coming. If we do this I can tell them not to come." So I did. I went and got these little iTunes cards and read them off to them and they said "alright you can't tell anybody about this." I said what do you mean I can't tell anybody about this? I'm gonna tell the guy who does my tax returns. I'm a little mad at him. He made a mistake. He said, "No. Don't do that. It will all be taken care of." This started at four in the afternoon and went on to eight o'clock at night. They called me the next day and said there was mistake. I said what do you mean a mistake? It wasn't \$5,900 something dollars it was \$23,000. They had someone call me on the regular phone who said he was a Portland Police Officer and that they have a local warrant out for my arrest. So I put my son on the phone and he says "who's this?" They asked

who this was and he gave them a phony name and said he was an FBI agent and they said “whoops” and they hung up. That was the end of it. But I had already sent in \$8,000 to these people.

Being in the military and working for the government – you know when the government calls up you say aye aye sir. What do you need? Can I help you? Okay.

Maybe if I hadn’t had that background, I wouldn’t have been so cooperative. But I was mad -- upset that I was taken in. Just give me five minutes in a room alone with these people and I’d be happy.

All I can say is just be wary. Just be careful. When it comes to someone going after your money just say ‘I’ll think about it tonight and get back to you tomorrow and contact someone about it.’”