

Upsetting Thieves with Truth

Years ago, long before I had a blog, I had a retail shop. I *hated* robbing my customers in the name of “sales tax”, but if I didn’t, armed goons would have come and murdered me. Insanity, I know!

But every time I wrote the check to the town’s “tax” collector, on the memo line I wrote something like “*sales ‘tax’ extortion for August*”. The “tax” collector called to question me about that- or to whine- a few different times. It drove her mad.

I wasn’t rude to her, I simply said I didn’t appreciate being recruited to rob my customers on her behalf- that if she wanted to rob them she should go do it herself.

She would object, “*but it isn’t robbery, it’s a tax!*” Same thing, I’d tell her.

She would sputter, “*but don’t you want police and paved roads?*” No, I really don’t. There’s nothing the stolen money buys that I want that bad. Can I stop robbing my customers now?

She actually showed up in person once, just to get me to stop writing that on the checks. Why did it even matter to her? I paid the extortion, but I never stopped editorializing on the memo line.