

an inconvenient tax

A DOCUMENTARY FILM

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Break the code.

ABOUT THE FILM

An Inconvenient Tax sheds light on one of America's messiest problems – a fundamentally broken tax code that affects every part of people's lives. With the U.S. Congress making over 16,000 changes to the tax code in the last two decades alone, many Americans want something better, but few know where to start. This feature-length documentary film reveals the many ways Congress uses the tax code to achieve political goals that have nothing to do with raising revenue. It also tackles the controversial issue of tax reform through a non-partisan presentation of U.S. tax history and current proposals to fix the code. In a time when America faces fiscal crisis, *An Inconvenient Tax* brings a crucial exploration of the tax code to the big screen.

For all press related inquiries please contact: press@lifeismymovie.com

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SYNOPSIS

short synopsis

Albert Einstein once wrote, "The hardest thing in the world to understand is the income tax." The product of 95 years worth of additions, subtractions, deductions, and exclusions, it has become such a headache that many are calling for it to be drastically simplified or even removed all together. With a looming fiscal crisis on the horizon, April 15th seems more like a scene from a B-Horror horror movie than a day to contribute to the common good of the nation. Political favoritism, ineffective social programs, and economic manipulations all reveal the need for tax reform. But how can Americans decide the best way to change the income tax when few people even understand the code or the vast extent to which it truly affects the country?

An Inconvenient Tax explores the history of the income tax and brings to light the causes of its many complexities. The film follows the tax through wars, economic booms, and some of the most significant presidencies in U.S. history. To help crack the code, the film employs the country's top economic experts, commentators, and political voices. Noam Chomsky, Steve Forbes, Joseph Thorndike, Mike Huckabee, Charles Rossotti, Dave M. Walker, Neal Boortz, Michael Graetz, Daniel Shaviro, Leonard Burman, and others discuss not only the problems America faces in the tax code, but also give valuable insights on how to move forward. Finally, the film gives a voice to the creators of several potential tax reform solutions who claim to have found a better way. In a time when many Americans are concerned about the future of the economy, rising deficits, and unfair tax treatment, "An Inconvenient Tax" provides a crucial, honest look at the income tax. For the first time ever, Americans can engage in the tax debate with confidence and perhaps discover a new way to tax.

long synopsis

Taxes affect the lives of every American. Since the founding of the United States, there has been an ongoing debate over the proper way to tax and the role the tax code should play in people's lives. These debates show no signs of resolution as Americans currently must deal with the country's most complicated tax system ever - the Federal Income Tax.

The product of 95 years worth of additions, subtractions, deductions, and exclusions, the income tax has become such a headache that many are calling for it to be drastically simplified or even removed all together. Despite the obvious need for reform, the tax code remains one of the most controversial subjects of our time. From political handouts for corporate contributors to vote-buying gimmicks, the income tax is no longer simply a means to raise revenue but a proxy war over the country's social and economic goals.

Also, most would agree that the tax system should at least raise enough money to pay for government spending, but even that is not being accomplished. With a looming fiscal crisis on the horizon, and a growing dread of tax consequences, April 15th seems more like a scene from a B-horror

movie than a day to contribute to the common good of the nation. But how can Americans decide the best way to change the income tax when few people even understand the code or the many startling effects it has on the country.

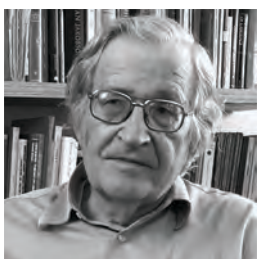
An Inconvenient Tax, a feature-length documentary film, explores the history of the income tax and brings to light the causes of its many complexities. The film follows the tax through wars, economic booms, and the most significant presidencies in U.S. history. This whirlwind tour includes everything from early IRS propaganda films to the tax reform campaigns of Ronald Reagan, whom historian Steven Weisman describes as "the poet laureate of capitalism." The film uncovers redefinitions of income, the creation of corporate loopholes, and even a brief moment in 1986 when Congress actually tried to simplify everything. But with over 16,000 changes to the tax code in the last 20 years alone, Americans find themselves in a more dire situation than ever.

To help crack the code, the film employs the country's top economic experts, commentators, and political voices. Noam Chomsky, Steve Forbes, Joseph Thorndike, Mike Huckabee, Charles Rossotti, (continued)

SYNOPSIS CONTINUED

Dave M. Walker, Neal Boortz, Michael Graetz, Daniel Shaviro, Leonard Burman, and others discuss the problems America faces in the tax code and give valuable insights on how to move forward. The film then gives a voice to the creators of several potential tax reform solutions who claim to have found a better way. In a time when many Americans are concerned about the future of the economy, rising deficits, and unfair tax treatment, *An Inconvenient Tax* provides a critical, honest look at the income tax. For the first time ever, Americans can finally engage in the tax debate with confidence and perhaps discover a new way to tax. As Joseph Thorndike, one of the film's experts, says, "We face fiscal problems in this country right now that are so serious, we should all fear for the safety of our children. Americans are going to have to deal with the topic of tax reform because it's just too important."

INTERVIEWEES



Noam Chomsky - Professor of Linguistics, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Noam Chomsky is an American linguist, philosopher, political activist, author, and lecturer. He is an institute professor emeritus and professor emeritus of linguistics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Chomsky is well-known in the academic and scientific communities as the father of modern linguistics. Chomsky received his PhD in linguistics from the University of Pennsylvania in 1955. In 1961, he was appointed full professor in the Department of Modern Languages and Linguistics at M.I.T. According to the Arts and Humanities Citation Index in 1992, Chomsky was cited as a source more often than any other living scholar was during the 1980-92 period.



Steve Forbes - Chairman and CEO, Forbes

Steve Forbes is president and chief executive officer of Forbes and editor-in-chief of *Forbes* magazine. Since Mr. Forbes assumed his position in 1990, the company has launched a variety of new publications and businesses. In both 1996 and 2000, Mr. Forbes campaigned vigorously for the Republican nomination for the presidency. Key to his platform was a flat tax, medical savings accounts, a new Social Security system for working Americans, parental choice of schools for their children, term limits, and a strong national defense. Mr. Forbes continues to energetically promote this agenda.



Joseph Thorndike - Director, Tax History Project

Joseph Thorndike, a historian, is responsible for Tax Analysts' Tax History Project website. He is writing a history of federal taxation during the Great Depression and World War II. Thorndike's recent articles include pieces on the Civil War income tax, the history of Internal Revenue Service reform, and the tax ideology of Franklin D. Roosevelt. He is also a contributing editor for *Tax Notes* magazine. Thorndike received both his Master's and PhD in history from the University of Virginia.

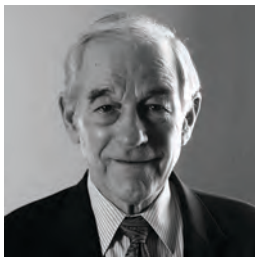


Mike Huckabee - Former Governor of Arkansas

Michael Dale "Mike" Huckabee is an American politician and a member of the Republican Party. He was the governor of Arkansas from 1996 to 2007 and was a candidate in the 2008 United States presidential election. Huckabee is the author of several books, an ordained Southern Baptist minister, a public speaker, and a musician. He graduated magna cum laude from Ouachita Baptist University before attending Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas. He has two honorary doctoral degrees: a Doctor of Humane Letters, received from John Brown University in 1991; and a Doctor of Laws from Ouachita Baptist University in 1992.

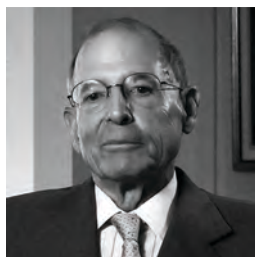
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INTERVIEWEES



Ron Paul - U.S. Congress (R) - TX

Congressman Ron Paul of Texas is the leading spokesman in Washington for limited constitutional government, low taxes, free markets, and a return to sound monetary policies based on commodity-backed currency. He serves on the House Financial Services Committee, the International Relations committee, and the Joint Economic Committee. On the Financial Services Committee, Rep. Paul serves as the vice-chairman of the Oversight and Investigations subcommittee. Dr. Paul is the author of several books, including *Challenge to Liberty*; *The Case for Gold*; and *A Republic, If You Can Keep It*. He has been a distinguished counselor to the Ludwig von Mises Institute, and is widely quoted by scholars and writers in the fields of monetary policy, banking, and political economy.



Charles Rossotti - Former IRS Commissioner

Charles O. Rossotti is a businessman and former IRS Commissioner. From 1965 to 1969, Rossotti worked for Robert S. McNamara, becoming deputy assistant secretary of defense for systems analysis. In 1970, Rossotti and several Department of Defense colleagues co-founded American Management Systems, a technology and management consulting firm. Rossotti served as chief executive officer from the late 1980s to the mid-1990s. In 1997, Rossotti was named Commissioner of Internal Revenue where he served for five years. He detailed his experiences at the IRS in his book, *Many Unhappy Returns: One Man's Quest to Turn Around the Most Unpopular Organization in America*. He currently serves as a senior advisor with the Carlyle Group.



David M. Walker - Former Comptroller General

David Walker is a certified public accountant and former Comptroller General of the United States, the head of the Government Accountability Office (GAO). Currently, he is the President and CEO of the Peter G. Peterson Foundation. Before his appointment to run the GAO, Mr. Walker served as a partner and Global Managing Director of Arthur Andersen LLP and in several government leadership positions. He continues to serve as a global accountability expert as chairman of the United Nations Independent Audit Advisory Committee and serves on the Boards of the Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget and the Partnership for Public Service.



Neal Boortz - Author and Radio Talk Show Host

Neal Boortz is an American radio host, commentator, lawyer, and best-selling author. His popular radio show, *The Neal Boortz Show*, is a nationally syndicated program. Mr. Boortz is a staunch supporter of tax reform and advocate for the FairTax, a national retail sales tax designed to replace our current income tax system. Along with Congressman John Linder, he authored the #1 New York Times bestseller *The FairTax Book* and *FairTax: The Truth*. Before entering radio, he practiced law in the Atlanta area. Mr. Boortz attended Texas A&M University and received his law degree from John Marshall Law School in Atlanta.



Michael Graetz - Professor of Law, Columbia University

Dr. Graetz is the Justus S. Hotchkiss Professor of Law at Yale Law School. His specialties include taxation, tax policy, health law and policy, and income security law and policy. Before coming to Yale, he taught at Georgetown, the University of Virginia, the University of Southern California, and the California Institute of Technology. He also served in the U.S. Treasury in Washington, D.C. in the early 1990s. His books on taxation include *100 Million Unnecessary Returns: A Simple, Fair, and Competitive Tax Plan for the United States*, *Death by A Thousand Cuts*, and *The Decline and Fall of the Income Tax*.

INTERVIEWEES



Daniel Shaviro - Professor of Law, New York University

Daniel Shaviro is the Wayne Perry Professor of Taxation at New York University Law School. His research mainly emphasizes tax policy, government transfers, budgetary measures, social insurance, and entitlements reform. He is a graduate of Princeton University and Yale Law School. He spent three years in private practice at Caplin & Drysdale, a leading tax specialty firm, and three years as legislation attorney at the Joint Congressional Committee on Taxation where he worked extensively on the Tax Reform Act of 1986. In 1987, Shaviro began his teaching career at the University of Chicago Law School, and he later joined the New York University School of Law. His recent books include *Taxes, Spending, and the U.S. Government's March Toward Bankruptcy* and *Do Deficits Matter?*



Leonard Burman - Director, Tax Policy Center

Dr. Burman is a Senior Fellow at the Urban Institute and director of the Tax Policy Center. He is an expert in public finance and modeling the effects of government policies on individuals' and firms' decisions. He has held high-level positions in both the executive and legislative branches, serving as Deputy Assistant Secretary for Tax Analysis at the Treasury from 1998 to 2000, and as Senior Analyst at the Congressional Budget Office. Dr. Burman is also a visiting professor at Georgetown University's Public Policy Institute and previously taught economics at George Washington University and Bates College.

COMPANY INFO

Life Is My Movie Entertainment began creating feature films in 2001. The company has produced a slew of documentary, television and feature film programs that have aired on television, been featured at festivals, and picked up for distribution.

The Moving Picture Institute identifies and nurtures promising filmmakers who are committed to protecting and sustaining a free society, and supports their work through grants, fiscal sponsorship, promotion, marketing, internships, training workshops, networking opportunities, and production assistance. www.TheMPI.org



FILMMAKERS

Vincent Vittorio - Writer / Producer

Vincent Vittorio founded Life Is My Movie Entertainment in 2001 as an outlet for independent film ventures. A graduate of the University of Florida, Vittorio earned a double major with a Bachelor of Science in Journalism with emphasis in Telecommunication Production along with a Bachelor of Arts from the College of Liberal Arts with emphasis in Film and Media Studies. Since 2001 Vittorio has gained extensive experience in directing and producing film and videos for creative exhibition in addition to material for corporate clients. Vincent's first feature film, *Divine Reality*, was award winning and a profitable venture. This success led to a series of other small independent films and television programs. His experience in all areas of producing and directing makes him a strong leader that is excellent at managing others.

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FILMMAKERS

Nathaniel Thomas McGill - Director of Photography / Producer

Nathaniel Thomas McGill earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Film and Video with a minor in theater from Georgia State University and an Associates degree in Business Administration from Georgia Perimeter College. Nathan began his career as a Creative Director for the youth department of Georgia Baptist Convention, directing live video as well as creating thematic content for large scale events. From 2001-2006 he worked with various organizations and music companies to direct live-video for over 500 concerts and events, produced for television, and created content for production companies and local churches. In 2006, Nathan partnered with Life Is My Movie Entertainment to produce feature films and create corporate content. Beyond producing, Nathan also has experience behind the camera, in post-production supervision, and with hands on editing for feature length films. He is currently pursuing an MFA in Screenwriting from Spalding University in Louisville, Kentucky.

Christopher P. Marshall - Director

Christopher P Marshall is a documentary filmmaker based in Atlanta, GA. Inspired by Human stories and topical projects, Christopher has an artistic passion to present relevant current-day subject matter in a creative and compelling way. His previous feature documentary, "PEZheads: the Movie" received international festival attention for its revealing look at a popular collecting subculture. Currently, Christopher shoots for a variety of television shows on networks such as Animal Planet and NFL Network. He received a Master of Fine Arts degree in film and television from the Savannah College of Art and Design.

Nathan Padgett - Assistant Director / Lead Designer

Nathan Padgett collaborates with Life Is My Movie Entertainment as assistant director for *An Inconvenient Tax*. Nathan oversees all design work and serves as Lead Designer. Nathan earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts in visual communication from American Intercontinental University. His talent for maintaining a clear vision and producing beautiful artwork keeps *An Inconvenient Tax* evolving with web design and digital art.

Ginnyann Reynolds - Associate Producer

Ginnyann Reynolds is the heart's blood for the production office at Life is My Movie Entertainment. Her writing skills, creative intuition, and communication skills play an important role in keeping films on schedule. She is an incredible asset to any film of which she is a part. Ginnyann earned a Bachelor of Liberal Arts with a double major in Psychology and English from the University of Mississippi. She currently works with Life is My Movie Entertainment as an Associate Producer for *An Inconvenient Tax*.



FILMMAKERS Q&A

What inspired you to tackle the topic of "TAXES"?

Nathaniel:

We felt that we needed to do a film that people would care about and a topic that hadn't yet been explored.

Vincent:

April 15 is a day that everyone in our country is connected to. As Americans we can all relate, whether it's complaining about how to file, including the expense of resources and time, or just plain lacking knowledge of what to do—not to mention how much is ultimately paid in taxes.

What was the process of developing the film's impressive list of interviewees?

Vincent:

The first step is to understand your topic. We began by hiring our director, Christopher Marshall, who immediately delved into reading several of the leading books providing a variety of perspectives on our country's tax issues.



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FILMMAKERS Q&A

Nathaniel:

As a team, we all watched countless hours of footage, talked to several experts, and read numerous Web sites and blogs dedicated entirely to the topic of tax reform.

Vincent:

After the preliminary research was completed, we came together and developed a list of the most beneficial experts in explaining the tax system and its surrounding issues.

Nathaniel:

It was difficult to land interviews. Everyone wanted to know what we supported and what angle we were coming from.

Chris Marshall:

We just wanted to make a film that shed light on a growing problem and leave it up to the audience to decide which solution they wanted to get on board with. Luckily, things worked out in the film's favor because we have both an intelligent and eclectic cast that complements the film's goals.

Who is the target audience for this film?**Vincent:**

This country's estimated 175 million taxpayers.

Nathaniel:

Considering that this film is non-partisan, it will appeal to everyone. It is entertaining as well as educational.

Vincent:

We have interviews from leading economics experts as well as the history of how we got here in the first place.

What do you hope the audience will take away from your film?**Nathaniel:**

I hope they walk away understanding how important the tax reform issue is. It affects every person reading this article and walking on the street; it affects all Americans.

Vincent:

I would like the audience to be inspired to become a part of the solution, whether it be researching and supporting a particular plan or calling their representatives. I expect a change to come from this.



PRODUCTION NOTES

In early 2008, the creative minds behind *An Inconvenient Tax* noticed something strange. They found that it was almost impossible to find a discussion about taxes that was not politically charged or agenda driven. While \$2,000,000,000,000 in federal revenue was bound to bring out opinions from all sides on issues of fairness, complexity and economics, one thing was still missing: a balanced, non-partisan presentation of how the U.S. is truly affected by its tax code.

To get beyond political sound bytes and partisan arguments, Life is My Movie Entertainment decided to travel the country to film the nation's top tax and

economic experts in hopes they could shed some light on this controversial subject matter. From prestigious universities, to Washington think tanks, to the homes of U.S. congressmen, the filmmakers left no stone unturned. What they found was a fantastic story that stretched from the founding fathers to the present economic crisis and encompassed the lives of every single American. Their only thought was, 'why hasn't anyone made this film before?!'

They continued their intriguing search by scouring the national archives and interviewing notable figures such as Charles Rossotti, former commissioner of the IRS, presidential candidates Steve



PRODUCTION NOTES

Forbes, Mike Huckabee, former House Majority Leader Dick Armey and many others. Now, they believe they truly have something unprecedented to offer.

Director Christopher Marshall offers this insight, "There is a direct connection between the tax code and the way our government functions. If Americans care about their country, its values, its goals and its future, they must understand our tax code and its vast implications."

CREDITS

NOAM CHOMSKY
MIKE HUCKABEE
NEAL BOORTZ
LEONARD BURMAN
RICHARD RAHN
ALLEN BUCKLEY
LEE SHEPPARD
STEVEN R. WEISMAN
LEO LINBECK

STEVE FORBES
CHARLES ROSSOTTI
MICHAEL GRAETZ
DICK ARMEY
DANIEL J. MITCHELL
BOB S. MCINTYRE
JOHN O. FOX
STEVEN ENTIN

JOSEPH THORNDIKE
DAVID M. WALKER
DANIEL SHAVIRO
SCOTT HODGE
JOHN LINDER
HERMAN CAIN
J.D. FOSTER
KELLY PHILLIPS ERB
RON PAUL

STEVE WARREN as "UNCLE SAM"

PRODUCED BY

NATHANIEL THOMAS MCGILL & VINCENT VITTORIO

DIRECTED BY

CHRISTOPHER P. MARSHALL

WRITTEN BY

VINCENT VITTORIO

DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY

NATHANIEL THOMAS MCGILL

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR / LEAD DESIGNER

NATHAN PADGETT

ASSOCIATE PRODUCER

GINNYANN REYNOLDS

COMPOSER

LEWIS HURRELL

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Inside the Brain of... The Creators of "An Inconvenient Tax"

09/22/08 – The Wall Street Journal
Mary Pilon

There's nothing better than chatting about taxes, which is exactly what we did with Vincent Vittorio and Nathaniel Thomas McGill, who just wrapped up shooting "An Inconvenient Tax." The title, which evokes Al Gore's film, is meant to remind us that taxes are a grizzly topic, but an important one. Their fiscal frolic takes a look at the history of taxes and what all this recent news means for our already massive tax code. The film hits select venues at the end of October.

What on earth drew you to taxes?

Vincent: *We're in the deep south, Georgia, and we saw that the fair tax was a big movement. [Eds: The so-called Fair Tax would replace all federal income taxes with a federal sales tax.]*

Nathaniel: *And everyone had an opinion because everyone pays taxes....The fair tax is a national sales tax. It's a consumption tax.*

Making the movie, what surprised you?

Nathaniel: *We started calling the senate finance committee and for documentary filmmakers, it was extremely hard to get people on board. We had to prove that we weren't Michael Moore, setting out with an agenda.*

What are some things about taxes that we don't know?

Vincent: *We found out that no one understands the tax code.*

Nathaniel: *The last tax reform was in 1986 under Reagan. We've had 16,000 changes to the tax code. It is now about 62,000 pages long.*

Who does that benefit?

Vincent: *A lot of the audience is going to see lobbyists who get benefits in the tax code. A ceiling fan company gets a specific tax code break. It has happened that way since the dawn of time.*

Tell me about the vent line, mentioned on your website.

Vincent: *You call, leave a message, turns it into an MP3. We'll use these in the film.*

Nathaniel: *Things are always coming at us telling us what to think, America doesn't get to voice up. This is a small way to get America heard.*

Have you ever been audited? Dingd by the AMT (Alternative Minimun Tax)?

Nathaniel: *We've all been pretty good with the IRS. I'm sure we'll get audited when the film gets done.*

Local Film Company Takes on IRS in New Documentary

Thursday, July 17, 2008
Talk Gwinnett Magazine

Former IRS Commissioner, Charles Rossotti sat down with Christopher Marshall, director of "An Inconvenient Tax" on Wednesday to talk about taxes and what tax reform will look like in the future.

It seems everyone wants to sit down with the film crew from "An Inconvenient Tax", but it was Charles Rossotti that got the star treatment this week. As the former commissioner of the Internal Revenue Service, both his historical perspective of the tax situation in the United States captivated the crew and his vision of what reform could be.

There was no hesitation on the part of Christopher Marshall, director of the film. He had been anticipating the moment that he could engage Rossotti about the state of taxes. "In 1997 when I was asked to be the IRS commissioner people were really up in arms about the

IRS and it's ineffectiveness in dealing with tax payers," states Charles Rossotti, former Commissioner of the IRS.

Rossotti continues, "Congress did pass a law. Something was changed and the IRS did improve. I say the same thing can happen with the broader tax system if tax payers demanded it the politicians and the political leaders would respond and we could get a dramatically better tax system for everybody."

Marshall and his team will move onto New York over the next week to continue talking to leading experts. Production continues throughout the month of July when Life is My Movie Entertainment will wrap production on "An Inconvenient Tax" after a vigorous look at the state of tax reform in America. For additional information, contact press@lifeismymovie.com.

Rounding Up the Tax Experts

Behind the spiffy title, "An Inconvenient Tax," lies a documentary about how the United States might better serve its taxpaying constituents.

Wednesday, July 23, 2008 at 5:40 PM
By FilmStew Staff

Once upon a time, Albert Einstein said that "the hardest thing in the world to understand is income tax." Taking those words to heart, a group of tax-paying Americans is currently on the road filming interviews for "An Inconvenient Tax", a documentary that looks at some of the possible avenues for U.S. tax reform.

The movie is the brainchild of Life Is My Movie Entertainment, a Lawrenceville, GA based outfit. Among those interviewed by director Christopher Marshall and co. are former IRS Commissioner Charles

Rossotti, entrepreneur Steve Forbes and Scott Hodges, President of the Tax Foundation.

In something of a bizarre twist, the filmmakers took a break today in Connecticut so they could do an interview with jazz musician Dave Brubeck, for another separate documentary the company is producing entitled "Perspective: A Portrait of Ryszard Horowitz." When the budgets are a fraction of those of Hollywood mainstream production spreadsheets, it pays to multi-task.

With the George W. Bush mandated tax cuts set to expire in 2010, the issue of tax reform is sure to be a growing concern for either President Obama or President McCain. Sure enough, An Inconvenient Tax is scheduled to roll into the U.S. public's view this November.



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MOVIE BLOG
www.aninconvenienttax.com/aitblog

IMDB
www.imdb.com/title/tt1268224

TWITTER
www.twitter.com/documentaryfilm

FACEBOOK
www.new.facebook.com/group.php?gid=26233383865

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