How Two Income Families Can Beat Higher Tax Bracket

RALEIGH — Couples with two incomes are often hard hit by taxes. Because of the high bracket the total income falls into, many often find themselves owing the IRS money on April 15. Others, however, may find that they continually get refunds because of their large deductions. Either way, the N. C. Association of CPAs says you can break even with the IRS at tax tax return. time by adjusting the number of withholding allowances on your W-4, Employee's Withholding Allowance Certificate.

The IRS has recently revised their rules and how permits taxpayers to subbefore taxes are calculated. This reduces the amount of paychecks, but results in a smaller refund at April 15. On the other hand, if you need 14 dependents to claim

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owe less at April 15. (Note: North Carolina still operates under the old rules, however, and does not allow withholding exemption in order to equalize your yearend tax balance.)

The W-4 makes it possible for you to estimate how many itemized deductions you will have on your next Using allowances of \$1,000 each to offset these deductions, the IRS provides a formula for you to figure how many allowances you can claim. Previously the limit for these allowances you can claim. Previously the limit tract up to \$14,000 of income for these allowances was nine; now it is 14 or \$14,000. You can claim more, but the tax automatically withheld IRS will review your past and can give you larger taxes to see if they are warranted.

But this doesn't mean you usually owe additional tax those allowances. Using on your return, you might either the short or long

to an exemption for your-self-more if you are 65 or older or blind-as well as one for each dependent. Other you to adjust your allowances are claimed against deductions for alimony payments, mortgage interest, business losses and expenses, energy credits, qualified retirement plans and more. (CPAs say you can't claim the same allowances that you use if you pay estimated taxes

instead of withheld taxes.) If you receive large refunds from the IRS, you may be entitled to increase the number of allowances you claim. If you usually owe the IRS, you may have claimed too many allowances and should have more tax withheld. While the government will accept excess withholding payments, excessive claims on allowances could result in a fine, or even a jail sentence

Here's how a W-4 properly used, could affect your income. A couple with \$40,000 combined income will often claim only two allowances of \$2,000. Using 1981 tables as an example, they would pay \$9,260 in tax on \$38,000 income, or about \$772 monthly. If they both started Individual Retirement Accounts, paid \$4,000 mortgage interest on a new house, and it cost them \$2,000 to move, they would expect \$10,000 in deductions. According to the formula, they could take three allowances plus their two personal exemptions and they would reduce their taxable income by \$5,000 to \$35,000. Thier estimated tax bill would then be \$7,996 and they could have \$666

have more tax withheld and Form 1040, you are entitled withheld montly. This is \$106 ss per month than if they took only the two personal

The new IRA and Keogh retirement plans limits enable couples to take more deductions from their income. Another plus for working couples is the ability to deduct five percent of the income of the lower paid spouse, up to \$1,500, from their income.

To figure your allowances, estimate your deductions and credits for 1982. Subtract from your estimation the figure for your income group given on the back of the W-4, and divide this number by 1,000.

For example, our couple with \$40,000 combined income had \$10,000 in estimated deductions. The figure for their income group is \$7,700 which leaves them with \$2,300 or 2.3 allowances, plus their two personal exemptions.Any fraction can increase your allowance by one, so the total here is five.

If you and your spouse file a joint return, you can divide the number of allowances between you. The same allowance cannot be claimed by more than one person or at more than



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While some people view annual tax refunds as a forced method of saving, others see them as money lent to the government interest free. If the rate of inflation increases during the year, your refunded money is worth even less.

Republicans Are Criticized

"We don't expect Republicans to embrace Democratic positions on issues of the day, although we are glad occasionally when some of them do see the light. But we do expect them to support democracy with the small 'd' because that is simply goverment by the people."

Senator Russell G. Walker (Democrat, Randolph) chairman of the North Carolina Democratic Party. said he "was surprised at the reaction of Republicans at the U.S. Conference of Mayors in Washington. When their group adopted several official responses that Republican mayors saw as contrary to the wishes of President Reagan, they tried to discredit the vote. I guess they were hoping that a parade of Administration spokesmen, headed by Secretary Richard Sweiker of Health and Human Services, would bring a rubber stamp endorsement of the New Federalism concept.

"They couldn't go along with the consensus of most of their members.

"I'm sure there are Democrats in the national group, but I also believe that many are elected on a nonpartisan basis, just as we often do in North Carolina. So I'm surprised that the Republicans wanted to negate the majority opinion, which is the heart of the democratic process."

Walker said that Mayor Richard Carver of Peoria, Illinois, a Republican said: "This organization is supposed to represent the needs of American cities ... not to be serving the needs

Continued On Page 6-B

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fireplace, DR, kitchen, 3 BR, 2 baths, utility room, deck. \$69,500.

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HWY. 17 - Owner financing. 12 year old home on large wooded lot; features LR, den, dining area, kitchen, 3 BR, 11/2 baths. \$42,000.

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BERTIE COUNTY - Only 12 mi. from Edenton, 8 acres including fish pond; country home. \$40,000, owner financing at 12 per cent or \$35,000 cash.

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