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# Dividends Under the Income Tax

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To Jeanne, Laura, Jonathan, and Andrew



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#### **PREFACE**

THE individual income tax levied by the Federal Government has since the war become by far the most important single source of governmental revenue in the United States. In 1958, an aggregate tax liability of \$34.3 billion was reported on 45.7 million taxable income tax returns. Over 85 per cent of the estimated total of adjusted gross income received by all individuals now appears on taxable returns.

Because of the fiscal and the broader economic importance of the individual income tax, the National Bureau of Economic Research has sponsored quantitative and analytical studies of various aspects of the tax and their changes over time. One of these studies, *Interest as a Source of Personal Income and Tax Revenue*, written by me, was published by the Bureau in 1955 as Occasional Paper 51. Another, entitled *Personal Deductions in the Federal Income Tax* by C. Harry Kahn, appeared in 1960. The present report on dividend income is the third.

LAWRENCE H. SELTZER



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