

P.O. BOX 11946, FRESNO, CALIF. 90731

drove in from the track after losing \$50.  
a hot day out there  
they packed them in on a Saturday  
they could bet the Kentucky Derby;  
my feet hurt and I had pains in the neck  
and about the shoulders --  
nerves: large crowds of people more than  
unsettle me.  
pulled into the driveway and got the  
mail  
moved up and parked it  
went in and opened the IRS letter  
form 525 (SC) (Rev. 9-83)  
read it  
and was informed that I owed  
TWELVE THOUSAND SIXHUNDREDFOUR DOLLARS AND  
SEVENTY-EIGHT CENTS  
on my 1981 income tax plus  
TWO THOUSAND EIGHTHUNDREDEIGHTYTHREE DOLLARS  
AND TWELVE CENTS interest  
and that further interest was being  
COMPOUNDED  
DAILY.  
I went into the kitchen and poured a  
drink.  
life in America is a curious  
thing.  
well, I could let the interest  
build  
that's what the government  
did  
but after a while they would  
come for me  
or whatever I had  
left.  
at least that \$50 loss at the  
track didn't look so  
bad anymore.  
I'd have to go tomorrow and  
win \$15,487.90 plus  
daily compounded  
interest.  
I drank to that,  
wishing I had purchased a  
Racing Form  
on the way  
out.

— Charles Bukowski

San Pedro CA