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Letter from Adam A. Ross, Chairman, Committee on Federal Legislation, American Institute of Accountants, to Members of the AIA Re: Press Dispatches Stating That Tentative Returns for 1919 Have Been Abolished, That Estimated Returns Will Not Be Permitted, and That Extensions Will Be Granted Only in Case of Sickness or Absence.

Adam A. Ross

American Institute. Committee on Federal Legislation

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AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ACCOUNTANTS

1 Liberty Street,
New York

February 21, 1920.

To the Members of the
American Institute of Accountants:

Recent press dispatches stated quite definitely that tentative returns for 1919 have been abolished, that estimated returns will not be permitted, and that extensions will be granted only in case of sickness or absence.

The department has not admitted that these dispatches are based on anything authentic, but from the best information at hand it appears to this committee that no definite relief will be afforded except, perhaps, in individual cases on application.

This will not give the relief sought by accountants. Making applications in individual cases at the last minute would involve much trouble and loss of valuable time at a time when every moment will count.

This committee would advise that all completed returns possible be prepared in time for filing; and that in cases where complete returns are not possible the amount of the taxable income or estimated taxable income be filled in on the regular forms provided, with the view to substituting completed returns at a later date. In our opinion this is the only way out of our present unsatisfactory situation.

Members are urged to forward to the secretary statements of information mentioned in the committee's letter dated December 26th. It is hoped that the great majority of members will be able to supply such information so that a fairly comprehensive statement may be forwarded to the Commissioner of Internal Revenue. These returns should be sent to the secretary by March 1st.

Yours very truly,

COMMITTEE ON FEDERAL LEGISLATION

By- Adam A. Ross, Chairman.

AAR:EMM