

17 Golfview Rd

Palm Beach, FL

33480

14 March 05

PRESIDENT'S ADVISORY
PANEL
ON FEDERAL TAX REFORM

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Gentlemen/Ladies:

When my father passed away my mom received his entire estate tax free. If something were to happen to my partner (we have been together 34 years), and since his estate is well over the current 1.5 million tax free inheritance exemption, I would have to sell the home we have shared for nearly twenty years in order to pay the taxes. First the government tells us we cannot marry, and then they tax us for not having BEEN married. Hardly an equitable situation! Additionally, on a local basis my partner's property taxes are now grandfathered and would pass to a spouse unchanged. However, to me they would pass at the new property rate value which would become totally prohibitive for me to maintain.

Sincerely,

Van Stewart