

Glossary of a Simple Man

(H to M)

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HONEST WORKER, OR STOOGE: simple type who noticing that all real wealth is produced by effort not by politics, whether as capitalist, employer, employee or self-employed, seeks to benefit himself by benefiting others, i.e., by supplying the public on a free market with the goods and services they require. For this, in the course of his operations, he must pay private rent, monopoly tolls on his materials, taxes on his buildings, welfare taxes on employment and suffer a multitude of arbitrary restrictions; finally, after satisfying the taxman's inquisition into his private affairs he must share half his earnings with the government.

HUMOUR: an essentially individual quality which kindles a common sympathy between all persons capable in any degree of thinking for themselves and sufficiently tolerant to be able to laugh at themselves; therefore a refuge for common sense and a constant check on the pretentious humbug by means of which the V.I.Ps. and experts seek to dominate the minds of others; and as it

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cannot be taxed, monopolised, nationalised, subjugated by educationalists or detected at frontiers this elusive quality might yet survive.

IMMIGRATION PROBLEM: outcome of the flight from less developed countries where taxable capacity is insufficient to allow the immediate effects of unjust taxation to be bribed away by welfarism, to countries where, thanks to technology, politicians can work this illusion and where, by knowing the regulations we can often get by without working, and where the general wage rate must be high enough to induce people to work at all.

INDUSTRY: the whole series of operations by which the natural material of the earth is transformed into wealth people require and by exchange placed at their disposition; a process which as machines improve requires progressively less labour to produce any specific article; but in a society haunted by the fear of unemployment and forbidden by the Great Taboo to investigate the ultimate cause, industry is regarded rather

as a method of creating jobs than satisfying consumption, so trades unions resist improvements, monopolists resist exchange and governments claim to be able to create employment by subsidising unproductive industries at the expense of productive industry. Meanwhile Homo Sap. looks on so impressed by the achievements of modern economics that he never ventures to practice some do-it-yourself economics on his own account.

LOGIC: the extension of commonsense, which every normal person uses in personal affairs, to spheres where it would be awkward for the V.I.Ps. if others poked their noses; therefore never taught in schools although it is essential to true education and the only real defence against sophistry, propaganda and exploitation by "the hidden persuaders."

LUNATIC FRINGES, SPLINTER GROUPS, EXTREMISTS: emotive words used by journalists on band waggons to discredit minorities holding firm convictions which, whether mistaken or sound, might, if given adequate publicity, provoke inquiry into deeper issues, inconvenient for the band waggons. To make the holding of minority views appear ridiculous in itself is an effective method of "argument" as it deters the timid from expressing any view not generally accredited.

MASS COMMUNICATIONS, RADIO & T.V.: methods requiring official sanction, by which an organised body of professionals at one end can transmit news, comment and opinion, all selected by themselves, to millions at the other end without allowing the millions to reply, and, by staging arranged controversy on passing or shallow issues, the appearance of free discussion may be maintained so that the millions do not realise that the most essential evidence on basic questions may be omitted. The most important question for everyone is how to get a living and of this only the general public can be an impartial judge, but in the field of mass communications

all aspects of this question are referred to professional experts inevitably inclined to avoid disturbing the prevailing influence and

dominant interests. This method of moulding opinion, instinctive and automatic, is more effective than direct censorship.