

# Glossary of a Simple Man

(T to W)

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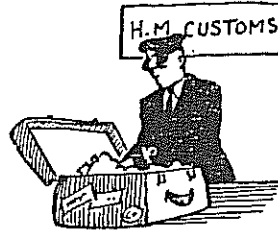
**TAXATION, NATURAL:** the method, instinctively, though imperfectly, understood in earlier societies, by which the community collects from each individual, according to the communal benefits he receives, the cost of maintaining essentially public services. As the value of communal benefits varies according to situation, each site holder contributes the rental value of the space only, leaving his own property untouched. As the assessment of site rent has been shown in practice to be easy, as it is a natural phenomenon that cannot be altered by politics, and as land cannot be concealed, natural taxation offers no incentive to abuse of power on one side or deceit on the other. Justice is done, and seen to be done. No tax penalty falls upon labour, thrift, or the cost of living.

**TAXATION, UNNATURAL:** the maze of expedients, requiring vast administrative expenditure, by which politicians seek to overcome their immediate difficulties without challenging the power of monopolists in land, labour or trade. These expedients conflict with each other; they involve deception, as in currency debasement; they foster the selfishness of pressure groups, and as they all fall eventually on labour, thrift and commodities, they all raise the cost of living. As their destructive effects evoke demands for government assistance the total burden of taxation progressively increases. Through mass communications the citizen is taught that as taxes must be regulated according to the mysteries of the planned economy, no principle of justice is involved.



**TRADE:** the natural urge to exchange goods and services to mutual

advantage at one's own risk. By means of the marvellous sensitivity



of free prices and exchange rates the natural advantages to mankind of every region of the earth are diffused to the benefit of all so far as intelligent foresight can bring them. Thus free trade automatically brings self interest to promote the general interest, forming a natural bond between all persons, however diverse, and tending to destroy barriers of ignorance and prejudice. As a reputation for fair dealing is an asset to every trader, trade is a moral force to raise the general standard of integrity. As every exchange is the culmination of an innumerable series of previous exchanges, those who seek to collectivise and plan trade presume to have more knowledge than everybody else put together. They succeed only in perverting the channels of trade and the character of those concerned in it, transforming a natural bond into a source of selfish intrigue and strife.

**WELFARISM:** remarkable achievement of modern politics, showing that with suitable build-up it is easier under democracy to work the ancient trick of giving doles instead of justice than under the old despotisms. By pauperising everybody, at the expense of everybody, and proclaiming this as the solution to the problem of poverty, attention is effectively diverted from further enquiry into the cause. The compassion of ordinary people can be exploited to discredit the motives of anyone who disputes the solution. Any politician who asserted that if people's earnings were exempted from the tolls of private rent and penal taxation, they could provide for their

own welfare, would be denounced.

By creating the impression that government can spend one's money more effectively than oneself, welfarism helps to break down resistance to the taxman on all fronts: a further advantage to rulers—and confidence tricksters.

**WORDS:** originally sounds evolved naturally to convey conceptions in one person's mind to the mind of another, and still used in that way in private conversation where nonsense can be challenged, and in science and in law cases where clear definitions prove essential to the discovery of truth. But in mass communications, in relation to social questions, and especially to that branch of politics called modern economics, speakers find that words best suit their purpose when used in the form of cliché, jargon, misleading metaphor, false analogy, misuse of collective nouns, etc. In conjunction with the processing of educational conscription, this method of confusing the mind is so successful that students at teachers' training colleges are found to be increasingly unable to express themselves in plain English.