

## Protection and Paternalism

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**A**ROUND THE WORLD, and particularly in the Far East, seeing how the people of other countries exist one becomes more and more impressed with the artificial nature of the British economy.

In contrast with Hong Kong, where trading of all kinds flourishes, Britain in all its trading elements appears highly restrictionist. Indeed she is.

The British people are losing their freedom without being conscious of any loss at all. Other people have consciously lost their freedom and have not realized its immense value until they lost it. When they have lost it that freedom has become extremely precious to them.

But to talk to most Britons today of freedom means very little. Indeed, many of them are now afraid of freedom. So much is done for them by the State that they have lost initiative.

They regard the suggestion that they should accept their personal responsibilities for their livelihood and their family welfare as impossible and something which should not be expected of them. They have become accustomed to what is called free education and free hospital and other services, little realizing that enormous cost which has to be paid ultimately for those services by themselves as taxpayers. . . .

If there is to be a break with the past forty years there must be a break with the burden of cross subsidization which is the key instrument of state control and patronage and the heaviest fundamental burden on our overseas trade. The key element of this is the system of protection.

There is, in fact, no way out of Britain's dilemma resulting from fifty years of protectionism but by a reversal of policy. . . .