

Sorting out Genuine “Subsidees”¹

Preface

Language is a democratic, ever developing and flexible means of communication. If Joe Blow needs a word, he has the right to coin his own neologism. If it catches on, it will eventually be found in a dictionary; if it does not, it will fade away. My name being close to that of Joe Blow, I herewith exercise that right by introducing you to the term “subsidee.” No, it’s not a wrong spelling of “subsidy” but the other side of the coin of “subsidizer,” one who subsidizes a person or organization. We have “employer” and “employee;” why not “subsidizer” and “subsidee?” Would you believe it? Even the computer wants to sabotage this new comer by automatically deleting the final “e.” We shall overcome!

The Letter

I agree that welfare for genuine cases needs to be increased. They definitely need more than their current starvation allowance. *Genuine*—that is, those who actually need it. However, before we increase it, we should sort out the genuine from the fake. The latter are simply too many. They consider it a human right. And we should probably privatize the administration to get rid of welfare officers who seem only too eager to dole it out to people who have chosen welfare as an occupation.

We should also discontinue subsidizing housing in expensive parts of the city where many of the funders themselves, that is, the taxpayers, cannot afford to live. They go to places like Surrey, while many of their guests, the professional welfarers, live in the West End. Somebody please explain that one!

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¹ Letter to Editor, *Metro*, 27 April/2006, in response to an article on social welfare, 25 April/2006.