

Tony Atkinson

(1944-2017)

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BOOK: 'INEQUALITY – WHAT CAN BE DONE?'

The 15 Proposals from Tony Atkinson's 'Inequality – be done?'

Proposal 1: The direction of technological change should be an explicit concern of policy-makers, en in a form that increases the employability of workers and emphasises the human dimension of service p

Proposal 2: Public policy should aim at a proper balance of power among stakeholders, and to this en

- (a) introduce an explicitly distributional dimension into competition policy;
- (b) ensure a legal framework that allows trade unions to represent workers on level terms; and
- (c) establish, where it does not already exist, a Social and Economic Council involving the social p nongovernmental bodies.

Proposal 3: The government should adopt an explicit target for preventing and reducing unemployme ambition by offering guaranteed public employment at the minimum wage to those who seek it.

Proposal 4: There should be a national pay policy, consisting of two elements: a statutory minimum wa wage, and a code of practice for pay above the minimum, agreed as part of a "national conversation" i and Economic Council.

Proposal 5: The government should offer via national savings bonds a guaranteed positive real rate of with a maximum holding per person.

Proposal 6: There should be a capital endowment (minimum inheritance) paid to all at adulthood.

Proposal 7: A public Investment Authority should be created, operating a sovereign wealth fund with th up the net worth of the state by holding investments in companies and in property.

Proposal 8: We should return to a more progressive rate structure for the personal income tax, with mar increasing by ranges of taxable income, up to a top rate of 65 per cent, accompanied by a broadening

Proposal 9: The government should introduce into the personal income tax an Earned Income Discou band of earnings.

Proposal 10: Receipts of inheritance and gifts *inter vivos* should be taxed under a progressive lifetime

Proposal 11: There should be a proportional, or progressive, property tax based on up-to-date property

Proposal 12: Child Benefit should be paid for all children at a substantial rate and should be taxed as

Proposal 13: A participation income should be introduced at a national level, complementing existing with the prospect of an EU-wide child basic income.

Proposal 14 (alternative to 13): There should be a renewal of social insurance, raising the level of ben their coverage.

Proposal 15: Rich countries should raise their target for Official Development Assistance to 1 per cent c Income.

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Alongside these proposals are several possibilities to explore further:

Idea to pursue: a thoroughgoing review of the access of households to the credit market for borrowing housing.

Idea to pursue: examination of the case for an “income-tax-based” treatment of contributions to private lines of present “privileged” savings schemes, which would bring forward the payment of tax.

Idea to pursue: a re-examination of the case for an annual wealth tax and the prerequisites for its suc

Idea to pursue: a global tax regime for personal taxpayers, based on total wealth.

Idea to pursue: a minimum tax for corporations.