

Poor Bashers Tend to Be Hypocrites

by Stephen Elliott-Buckley - Tuesday, June 24, 2008

<http://politicsrespun.org/2008/06/poor-bashers-tend-to-be-hypocrites/>

I've now received this thing for the third time this month. It makes me vomit. Why? Read on...

This was written by a construction worker in Fort MacMurray ...he sure makes a lot of sense!

Read on...

I work, they pay me.

I pay my taxes and the government distributes my taxes as it sees fit.

In order to earn that pay cheque, I work on a rig site for a Fort Mac construction project. I am required to pass a random urine test, with which I have no problem.

What I do have a problem with is the distribution of my taxes to people who don't have to pass a urine test.

Shouldn't one have to pass a urine test to get a welfare cheque because I have to pass one to earn it for them?

Please understand - I have no problem with helping people get back on their feet. I do on the other hand have a problem with helping someone sit on their arse drinking beer and smoking dope.

Could you imagine how much money the provinces would save if people had to pass a urine test to get a public assistance cheque?

Jean Swanson is one of my heros. She works in Vancouver's poorest neighbourhood and wrote *Poor Bashing: The Politics of Exclusion*, a book that challenges everyone's assumptions about the poor, assumptions that usually justify why we won't re-organize society to keep from continually kicking them.

The below response to the above depressingly common attitude is inspired by her exploration of the same issue in her book.

I'm just quite tired of the "don't get me wrong, I really think we should help the poor, except if they..."

Another good [if not far better] point is that there are hundreds of millions or billions of dollars in tax cuts that go every year to people in the top 20-40% of income earners in our society who can afford and write off RRSPs, stocks, and capital investments.

We don't ask them to present their urine or a blood sample or prove they aren't wife/child beaters,

Poor Bashers Tend to Be Hypocrites - 06-24-2008

by Stephen Elliott-Buckley - Politics, Re-Spun - <http://politicsrespun.org>

embezzlers, speeders, j-walkers, theists, atheists, supporters of gun control or capital punishment, regular voters, hockey fans, cokeheads, neglectors of children, gamblers, pot smokers, contributors to political parties, beer/wine/spirits drinkers or various social miscreants.

We give value-free tax cuts to the well-off [like me] as long as they meet the legal requirements to get tax refunds.

I too can sure imagine how much we'd save if we did similar morality testing on those earning over \$57k, double the Canadian average annual income.