

Dear Commissioner,

I have found the social science of economics interesting for some time. I have found the modern theories that failure to address equity and asymmetrical power interesting and bizarre. I find it hard to understand why a science that looks to build societies does not focus on the humans in the society or the other humanities.

One assumption that is made is that I as a customer have access to information in order to make a consumer decision. This is clearly a fantasy. I must trust to fair regulation in the absence of knowledge. When will you give me the right to know that overtime is not being paid or even how poorly a worker is paid?

Work Choice was a poor system that shifted power without compensation. The power to set a fair wage was sacrificed to the will of the master. If you are not concerned for equity then you would suggest that there should be no base for wages and no economic cost of longer hours of work. Some should starve so that others would prosper. The protestant work ethic that the wealthy are favoured by god would prevail.

When you look to the retail trade do not forget the weakness of the individual who is easiest replaced. The hirers market is not a fair market. The historic coal strikes were the product of such arrogance that wages should drop to starvation levels if coal prices fall.

Why can the electricity company, a monopoly, set a fixed price but workers not. The answer is power. The answer to the asymmetric power of a monopoly in the classic economic framework is regulation, but for workers this social science looks for a different answer because it pretends that a solution in which wealth is taken from the powerless is fair.

Your measure of productivity should shift power to the consumer. An uninformed market will never operate efficiently. It will fail to spread wealth based on hard and honest work. It will involve immoral trades made in dark unilluminated corners. It will create victims and not partners.

Yours sincerely