



The Week that was

Happy Jubilee weekend. As we approach this eventful weekend let us remember the famous saying that **"the poor will always be with us"**. For some, the statement ends there, for others it raises a series of other questions and indeed challenges. This week, the Centre for Social Justice announced that targets for reducing child poverty should be **scrapped because the poor will always exist**. The think tank said that ministers should focus their attention on finding other ways to measure deprivation rather than through income. Somehow this feels wrong; surely poverty is related to income? Surely we need to know who is poor and the level of their poverty; what we chose to do about it is another thing entirely.

Education Technical Colleges: It's good news that the Government has announced plans to permit teenagers to opt out of mainstream school from the age of 14.

Treasury: Shock horror! staff at the Treasury are not up to the job, that's what their boss, the Permanent Secretary says. I think he has slightly taken leave of his senses by asserting that it is because of this that the country is still in recession.

Have a good weekend, and if you see any of those Treasury people enjoying the break; tell them to get back to work immediately!!!

Floyd

Opposition Position

Following the release of figures this week that showed that nearly 4 million households in the UK have no-one going to work, shadow Work and Pensions minister Liam Byrne heavily criticised the Government's welfare to work programme.

Mr Byrne said that the Department of Work and Pensions was in **"chaos"**. The Labour member further stated that cuts to tax credits **"mean parents can longer afford the childcare. Frankly it is chaos."**

Head line of the week

"Let workers take sietas"

The Daily Telegraph, Pg.5

Research undertaken by University College London has argued that workers should be allowed to take sietas during office hours and wear shorts to work during hot weather. The researched warned that

“urban heat island effect” could push temperatures in cities up by as much as 10 degrees reducing worker productivity. (I don’t think there has been too much danger of this happening this summer)