

PRIME MINISTERPOVERTY

You may like to glance at this article in The Guardian of Wednesday.

An unlikely source of helpful comment, I know, but it does point out that:

"If the Government makes SB more generous this has the perverse effect of increasing the number in poverty measured on this basis (i.e. by relating the definition of poverty to SB levels)."

The figures are interesting, too. They show that in absolute terms - i.e. in terms of what people can buy - the proportion of people in poverty fell between 1977 and 1983. In relative terms - i.e. in relation to SB - it rose.

In general terms, increasing levels of benefit have largely compensated - in terms of poverty - for the increase in the numbers of those out of work.

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