

We The People
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We the People 231 **Economics is a Form of Brain Damage**



Good day to you. The economists say if you clear-cut the forest take the money and put it in the bank you could make 6 or 7 %. If you clear-cut the forest and put it into Malaysia or Papua New Guinea, you can make 30 or 40% . So who cares whether you keep the forest? Cut it down and put the money somewhere else. When those forests are gone, put it in fish. When the fish are gone, put it in computers. Money doesn't stand for anything and money now grows faster than the real world. **Conventional economics is a form of brain damage.**

Economics is so fundamentally disconnected from the real world it is destructive. If you take an introductory course in economics, the professor, in the first lecture, will show a slide of the economy. And it looks very impressive, you know..... raw materials, extraction processes, manufacturer, wholesale, retail, with arrows going back and forth. And they try to impress you because they think and they know damn well economics is not a science. But they're trying to fool us into thinking that it's a real science. It's not. Economics is a set of values that they, then try to use mathematical equations and all that stuff and pretend that it's a science. But if you ask the economist.... "In that equation, where do you put the ozone layer? Where do you put the deep underground aquifer as a fossil water? Where do you put topsoil or biodiversity?" Their answer is.... **"Oh, those are externalities."** Well, then you might as well be on Mars. That economy is not based in anything like the real world. It's life, the web of life, that filters water in the hydrologic cycle. It's microorganisms in the soil that create the soil that we can grow our food in. Nature performs all kinds of services. Insects fertilise all of the flowering plants. These services are vital to the health of the planet. Economists call these externalities. That's nuts!

We are told over and over the economy is about life, **I don't think so.** What kind of a world would I like to see our species generations from now, I hope it will be a creature that understands what the real bottom line is.....

My dear 4CRB listeners, none of these words are mine. They are the words of Professor David Suzuki who I admire and these words are now my words as I adopt them because they reflect my own opinion. They are the words of reality and common sense from a world renown champion of the vital importance of life and the natural world on planet earth. Our survival depends on a healthy planet, be it fragile. Suzuki is a third generation Canadian with an impressive string of academic qualifications to back his scientific and common sense position. We cannot put off dealing with the environmental matters before us and we must properly and effectively respect nature and the garden of Eden we live in. To believe that big business and big politics are enough and that more people and more building makes sense, is tragically foolish. When we equate progress with concrete and high rise and a greater population then the 'drovers dog' barks with uncommon wisdom but we do not listen. For the sake of our grand children consider the words of David Suzuki and don't fall for the notion that 'progress' is more of everything. It's not.

Australia has a wonderful opportunity to stabilise its population now and to adopt a new paradigm for true progress by living harmoniously with the natural world. To avoid this is tantamount to a legacy of a degraded dangerous world for our grand children. The season for change is upon us as the winds of change begin to blow. David Suzuki's words reflect just that.

Until next time this is Kent Bayley