

Citizen's Income: Rights and Wrongs

David Piachaud

“Everyone has a right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and his family.”

- UN Declaration of Human Rights of 1948, Article 25

Citizen's Income

- socially just
- boost the economy
- tackle poverty
- integrate society
- feasible politically and practically

- Malcolm Torry

- Unconditionality and justice
- Individualized simplicity
- Economic efficiency
- Political feasibility

Four Concepts of CI

- *A Bonus CI*
- *B Partial CI*
- *C Supplemental CI*
- *D A Full CI*

Four Concepts of CI

- *A Bonus CI*
- *B Partial CI*
- *C Supplemental CI*
- *D A Full CI*

- Unconditionality and justice
- Individualized simplicity
- Economic efficiency
- Political feasibility

Unconditionality and Justice



Lazy



Crazy





I wasted time, and now doth time waste me.

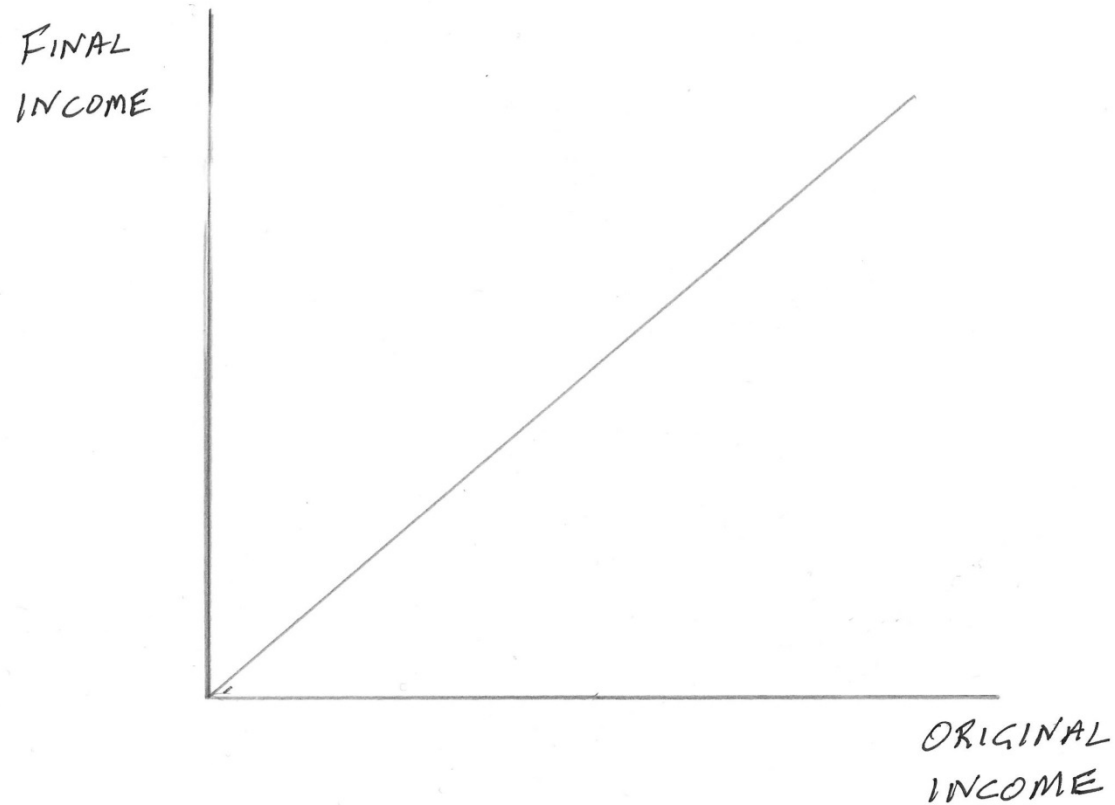
(William Shakespeare)

- Membership of society involves mutual obligations and that conditionality is therefore justified – Torisky
- “Whether people are truly needy or not depends on their potential income (the income they could earn if they chose to seek it) of individuals according to their actual income.” - Arneson

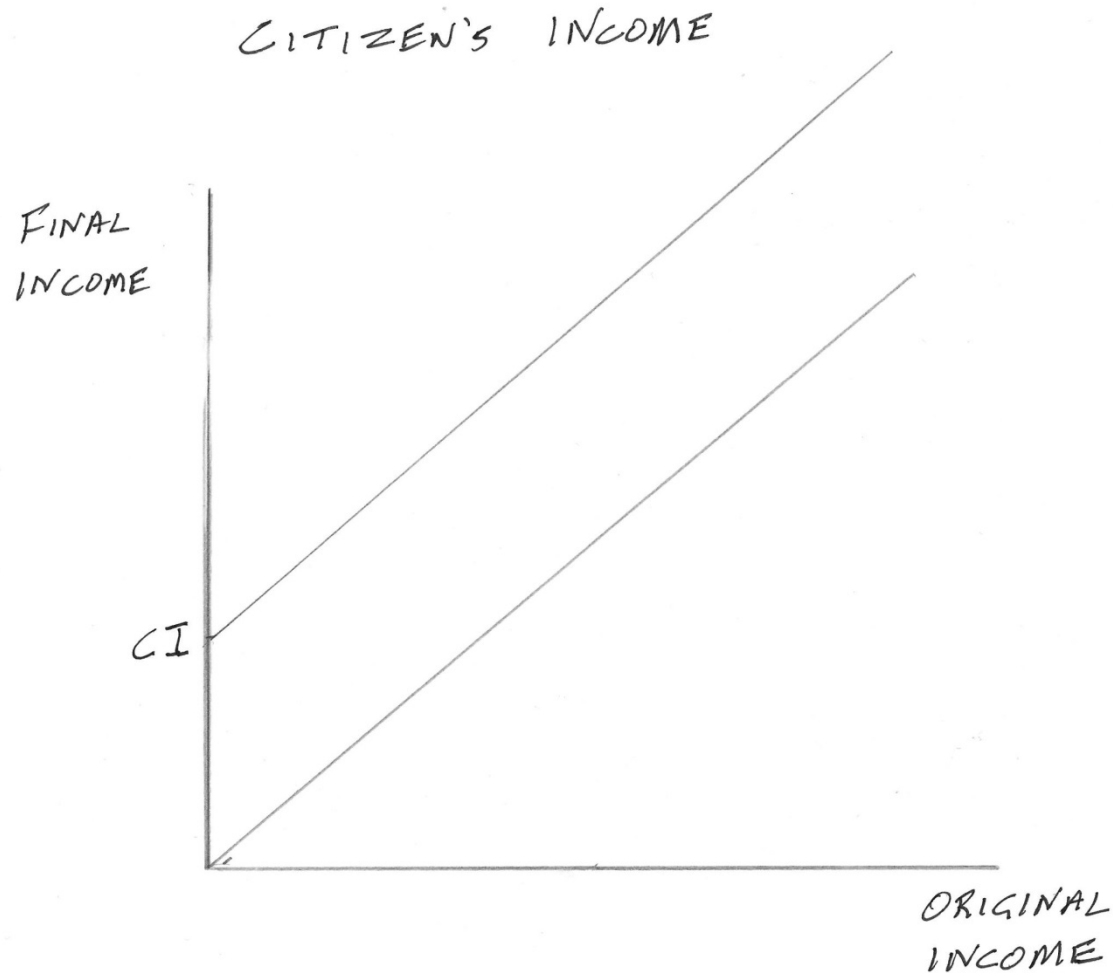
Individualised Simplicity

- Disability
- Housing
- Living Arrangements

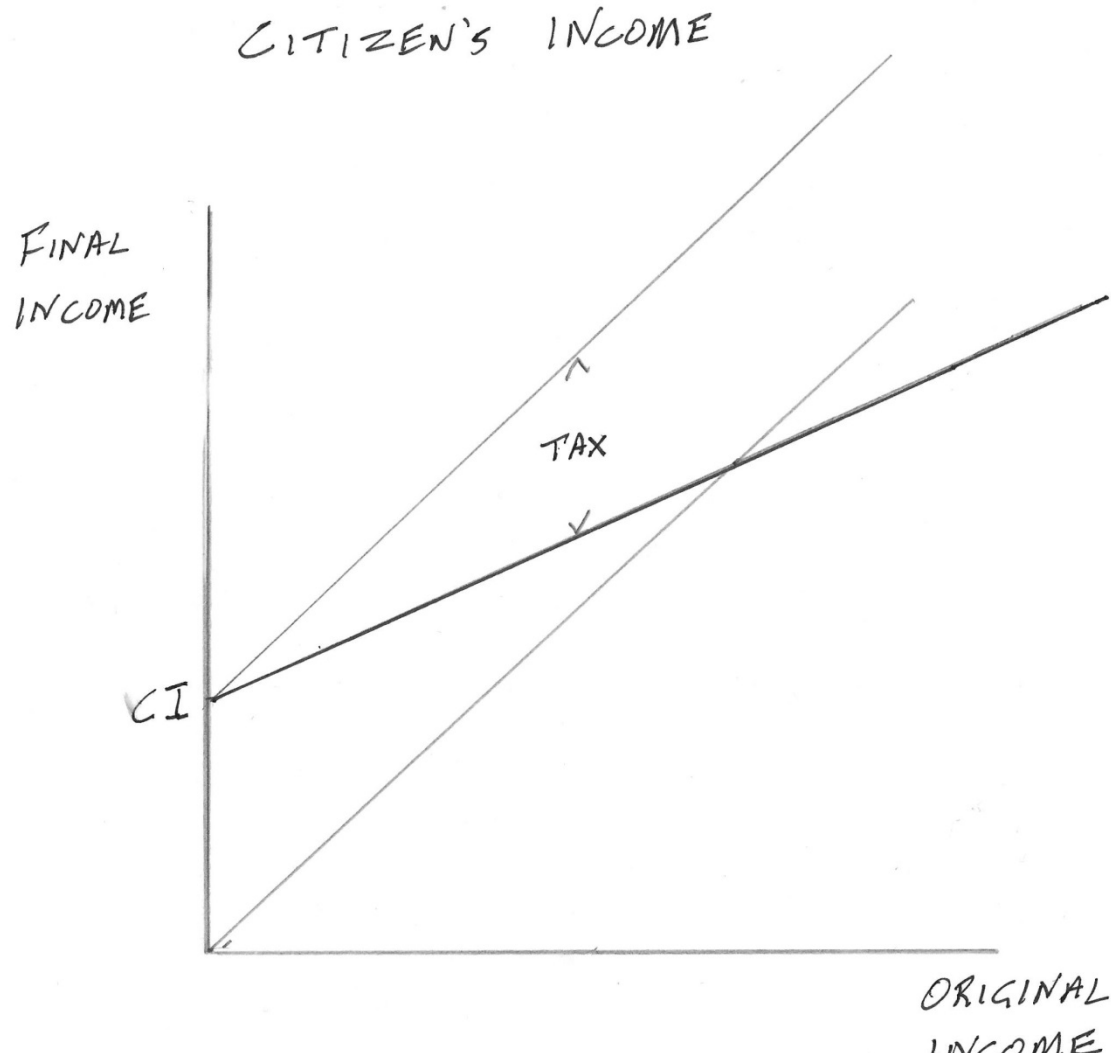
Economic Efficiency



Economic Efficiency

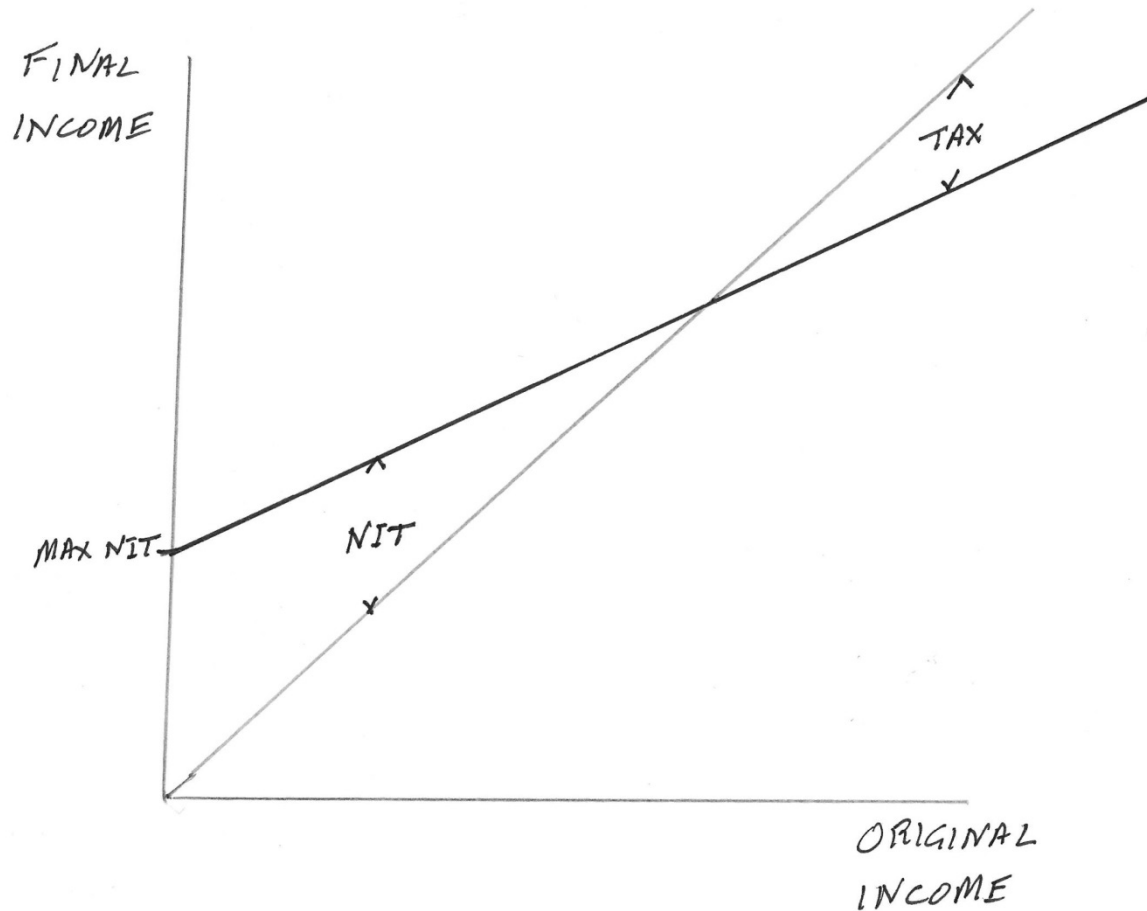


Economic Efficiency



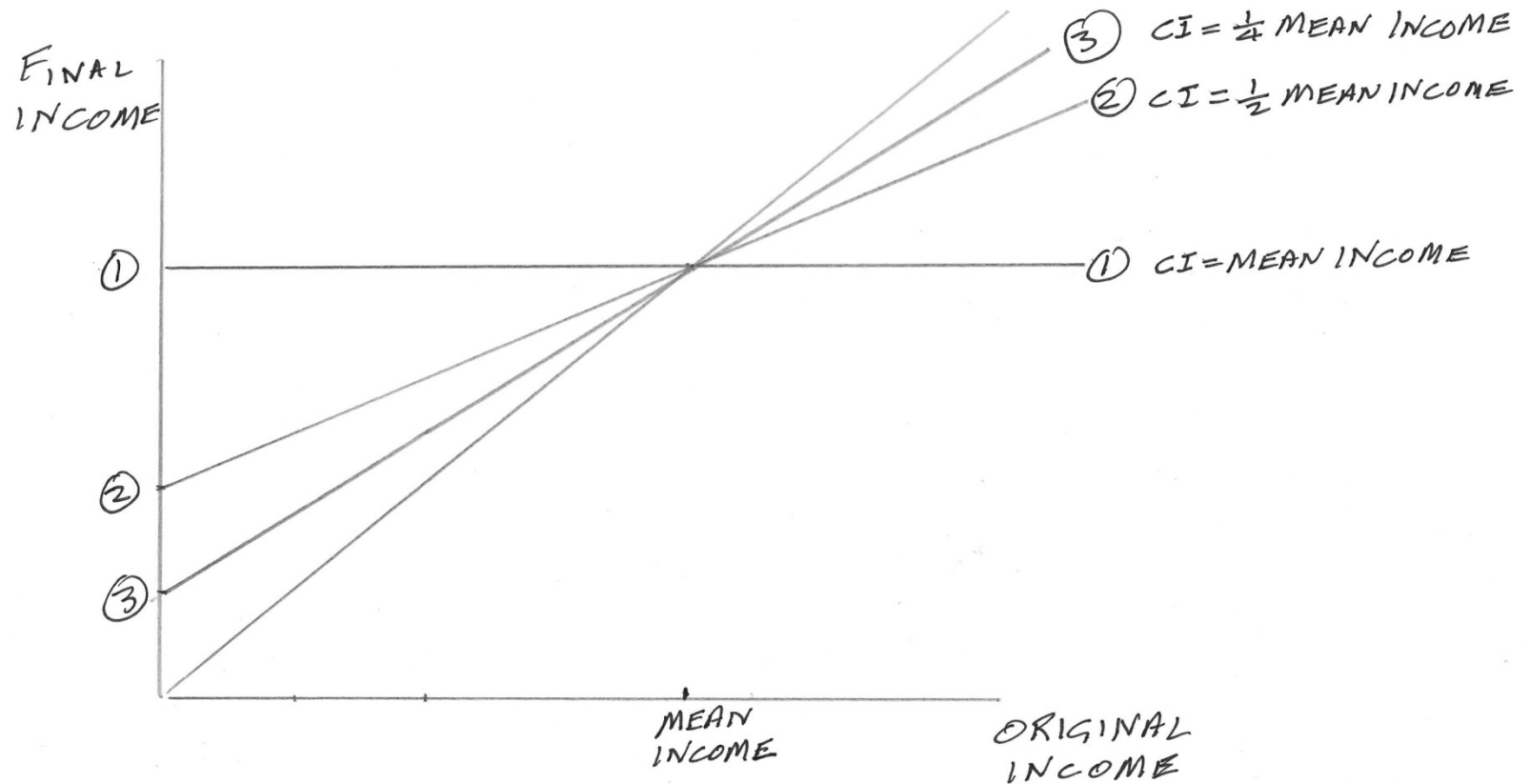
Economic Efficiency

NEGATIVE INCOME TAX



Economic Efficiency

CITIZEN'S INCOMES



- All poor people were left-handed
- All right-handed people were not poor
- Most people were right handed
- Ways to eliminate poverty:
 - A Provide everyone with a CI and raise the tax to pay for it
 - B Provide a benefit conditional on being left-handed and raise much lower tax

Political Feasibility

- Unconditional benefits are not perceived by most people to be fair.
- Providing benefits based on individuals rather than social needs is unfair.
- The cost of a full CI in terms of increased taxes is seen as unacceptable or a very poor way of spending extra taxes.
- Priority should be given to social policies that improve education, health and housing which are capital investments in people's opportunities.

- Unconditionality and justice
- Individualized simplicity
- Economic efficiency
- Political feasibility