

Helping hand clarified. . .

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That was definitely the sort of thing I was talking about. But it was going in the wrong direction. It seems that all this government welfare to big business can't just be doled out to an ever-increasing national debt because that would be fiscally irresponsible — something our president has sworn faithfully not to do. So, in order to have a balanced budget, insure a healthy economy and provide for the common needs of the huge conglomerates, there have been certain adjustments in the way entitlements are considered in housing allotments. Food stamps and housing will now get smaller allotments.

There's also been what Ronald Reagan himself has called "tragic" unemployment. He probably feels even worse about the reductions in housing allotments.

It seems to me, what with all this money not going to the poor, workers and students, and in view of all the consideration and money-saving the government was doing for IBM, ITT and AT&T, *welfare capitalism* is the wrong term.

Welfare state comes the closest. It is "a social system based upon the assumption of a political state of primary responsibility for the individual and social welfare of its citizens usually by the enactment of specific public policies (as health and unemployment insurance, minimum wages and prices, and subsidies to agriculture, housing and other segments of the economy) and their implementation directly by government agencies."

I especially liked the part about "... and other segments of the economy." I thought you might even be able to fit those big corporations in there. But just to be safe, I coined the term *corporate welfare*. Which is all the above kinds of welfare except that giant corporations get more help and the aged and indigent get less help than they did before. (Makes you wish you were a large corporation, doesn't it? And glad you're not old and poor yet.)

When corporate welfare is working most efficiently, as in the AT&T case, there is immediate transfer of burdens from the large corporations-in-need to those who

thought they had it bad already but are learning all the time how much worse things can get.

And that's corporate welfare.

Now, why, you may ask, do we need another game? And especially one with so many letters? Well, President Reagan may be there manning the safety net under Social Security night and day (And thank God he is, I say. Can you imagine how bad things could get if he went out to lunch?), but we can't expect one man to do it all (see dictatorships above.) We all have to help plug the leaks in the Language Net.

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