

ANU PUBLIC LECTURE SERIES 2008

ANU Trevor Swan Distinguished Lectures in Economics INCENTIVES & THE WELFARE STATE

Sir James Mirrlees

Professor of Political Economy, Cambridge University

Thursday 13 March 2008, 4.30–6pm

Lecture Theatre, Innovations Building 124, Eggleston Road, ANU

This lecture is free and open to the public.

A reception will follow the lecture.

Enquiries to E: Robyn.Walter@anu.edu.au or T: 02 6125 0093



Economic orthodoxy claims that welfare payments that are reduced when people earn income from work have bad incentive effects, and should be replaced by a different system. In this lecture, the case for and against will be explored, and reasons given for a welfare system whose benefits to the household do fall sharply with increased earnings. The question of charging for benefits in kind, such as medical care and education, will also be discussed.

Sir James Mirrlees, is Scottish, with degrees from Edinburg and Cambridge in mathematics; an economics PhD from Cambridge, on investment under uncertainty; and a Nobel Prize in 1996, for work on incentives under asymmetric information. He lectured in Cambridge, and has been successively Professor in Oxford, Cambridge, and the Chinese University of Hong Kong (still), and currently visits Melbourne, Macau, and Beijing Universities. He published two books, with Ian Little, on investment appraisal for developing countries; many papers with Peter Diamond on optimal taxation, legal liability, and pensions; and other papers on moral hazard, economies of scale, efficiency wages, incentives, and more.

To join the ANU Public Lectures mailing list, visit www.anu.edu.au/publiclectures