

The end of Beveridge. The retreat is complete

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[Yesterday's vote in Parliament](#) marks, in a very real way, the end of the Beveridge era. [As Beveridge said](#):

Social insurance fully developed may provide income security; it is an attack upon Want. But Want is one only of five giants on the road of reconstruction and in some ways the easiest to attack. The others are Disease, Ignorance, Squalor and Idleness.

Now the Coalition has decided to permit want, whilst abandoning the attack on disease, privatising education, promoting unemployment and withdrawing from the investment needed in housing. The retreat is complete.