

giving children lifts to events would need to be registered. About a quarter of the adults in the country could be included! The Government have agreed to a rethink! (Or should that be: the Government have agreed to think!

On the folk musicians discussion group I belong to CRB checks are a frequent subject of complaint; the main one being that you have to get a different one for every employer you have which could cost you a fortune! I know that is the case *in theory* but I've never experienced it. I've had one ever since they first came in and I updated it a year or two back. I've been asked by various employers if I have one but I have hardly ever been asked to produce it!

If the new data base is as inefficient then it's just another layer of useless posturing.

CELEBRITIES, YES. POETS, NO!

THE \$100 NOTE

This story was doing the rounds via email at the end of July. I received several copies from different people, one of whom was Leslie Melville who added: I found it quite interesting because I know the concept from years ago when it was a five-handed pantomime gag—Widow Twankey borrows a pound from Wishee Washee to repay one of the Chinese policeman who repays the other policeman who repays Aladdin who repays Wishee Washee etc. The piece is known as 'All debts cleared'. Some of these gags go back to the days of the Commedia Del Arte—and no doubt further than that!

It is the month of August in a holiday resort somewhere in the third world. It is raining, and the little town looks totally deserted. Times are tough and everybody is in debt. Everybody is living on credit and the goodwill of their neighbours.

Suddenly, a rich tourist comes to town.

He enters the only hotel, lays a 100 dollar note on the reception counter, and goes to inspect the rooms upstairs in order to pick one.

The hotel proprietor quickly takes the 100 dollar note and runs next door to pay his debt to the butcher.

The butcher accepts the 100 dollar note and runs to pay his debt to the pig farmer.

The pig farmer takes the 100 dollar note and runs to pay his debt to the supplier of his feed and fuel.

The supplier of feed and fuel takes the 100 dollar note and runs to pay his debt to the town's prostitute who, in these hard times, gives her services on credit.

The prostitute runs to the hotel with the 100 dollar note and pays off her debt for the rooms that she's used when she brought her clients there.

The hotel proprietor then lays the 100 dollar note back on the counter so that the rich tourist will not suspect anything.

At that moment, the rich tourist comes down after inspecting the rooms. He picks up his 100 dollar note. None of the rooms are good enough, he says, and leaves town.

No one has earned anything but the whole town is now free of debt and looks to the future with optimism..

And that, ladies and gentlemen, is how governments get by every day!