

Chapter 7: The Level Playing Field

One of the popular ways in which the supposed inequities of the free market system is described is that the participants who benefit more than others are not playing fair...that there isn't a "level playing field". This is a variation on the "spread the wealth" theme.

At the core of this objection is the belief that if the playing field really was level, then wealth would be more evenly distributed throughout society. In other words, the disparity between rich and poor is, by itself, proof that the playing field is not level.

This can be a persuasive argument – if we ignore what is required to build wealth in the first place.

As discussed throughout this book, it is the disparity between rich and poor that provides the incentive to excel. And without allowing people the economic freedom to be rewarded in proportion to how well they meet the needs and wants of people, our current standard of living would have never been achieved.

The playing field is pretty level already, and what people don't realize is that it is a very competitive game going on. There are potholes all over the field. It is a rough and tumble game, and there are many players competing with each other for the ball. Some of the players will not be able to stay in the game.

If this sounds discouraging, it really shouldn't because those players on the field need a support network. The workers are that support network. The employees in a company are critical to the success of their company. They are all on one team, working toward a common goal.

They are competing against other teams (companies) which are finding new and better ways of providing as much stuff as possible that people need and want. And the only way you, the consumer, are going to choose to buy their gadgets over