

Nanny's really a ninny

By Andrew Bolt

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First the Government came for your alcopops. Then it decided it didn't like your pizza, either . . . or even the plastic bag you carried it in.

And suddenly a new breed of puritan is swarming all over you, figuring new taxes to punish you for not leading the pure life they preach.

How did we let so many nannies get so much control over even our dinner?

The near doubling of the tax on alcopops this month is the latest sign that fingerwaggers of the organic-sandals faith need muzzling. That tax slug by the Rudd Government will steal \$500 million a year from drinkers on the sole grounds that it's for their own good -- to save them from the risk they'll get blind. But once that excuse is accepted, there's no limit to what other pain may be inflicted on you to make you a finer, healthier, kinder, greener citizen.

And, bingo, the Australian Medical Association instantly called for more taxes on soft drinks and junk food, too, to stop you dining on stuff that makes you happy but has a health Nazi hyperventilating over the fatty you may one day become.

Even that's not enough for the Government's preventative health task force, which is demanding a 300 per cent increase in beer and wine taxes. For your own good, of course. Oh, and task force chairman Rob Moodie also wants another 2.5c tax on each cigarette.

Now there's barely a political busybody in the land that hasn't got this bug for taxing other people's pleasures of which they disapprove.

Anti-pokies crusader Nick Xenophon, for instance, wants the Government to whack a big new tax onto poker machines, also for your own good, which is a marvellous catch-all excuse for pushing noses into other people's business.

So drunk have such busybodies got on the idea of ordering around people (for their own good, etc) that the 1000 "best and brightest" at the Prime Minister's ideas summit even proposed a scheme -- last introduced by the Chinese dictator Mao Zedong -- to get bosses to give office workers 30 minutes a day of exercises. Forced exercises? Are these people insane?

Well, no. They merely demonstrate how dangerous that "for-your-own-good" excuse is when plied by the social reformer. It's as author and philosopher C.S. Lewis warned:

"Of all tyrannies, a tyranny sincerely exercised for the good of its victims may be the most oppressive . . . The robber baron's cruelty may sometimes sleep, his cupidity may at some point be satiated; but those who torment us for our own good will torment us

without end for they do so with the approval of their own conscience."

So here's a warning to all these modern "for your own good" puritans. It cuts both ways, people.

In fact, for your own mental and physical good, I propose a new 300 per cent tax of my own - to be slapped onto all "global warming" conferences, "positive thinking" seminars, "sustainability" courses, globalism institutes, alternative medicines, "ideas" summits, John Pilger books, divorce lawyers, "restorative justice" lecturers, libel payouts, pilates classes and rich couples who hand pass their babies into full-time care.

My list is as good as yours, if not more. But perhaps now you'll see it's just as offensive, too. So back off.