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Tax Avoidance Industry Go Now! email.php?news.119

Our Jersey businesses, who do pay tax, are fast going to the wall and being taken over by giants from outside the Island whose shareholders, many of whom live outside the Island, will not pay tax here. Whatever utter nonsense our government is telling us the figures just don't stack up.

Jersey Telecom is being sold and Normans is being sold. Blue Coach, the last remnant remaining of the Jersey Motor Transport Company, has just lost its school bus service to Connex after having run it for 30 years - this with very little difference in their pricing structure. How many more of our companies will be taken over? This is only the beginning. It is more important than ever to know how many Jersey based companies have non-resident shareholders who will not be paying tax here.

With the loss of our own local businesses and local shareholders finances will not be available for reinvestment.

The more multi-national companies are allowed into Jersey the more life becomes impossible for our own small businesses to survive. The small businessman has to pay high rents for his premises, he can't compete in inevitable price wars and has to pay tax.

The local company has a higher burden of administration in preparing accounts for the Comptroller of Income Tax and having to agree them, which the offshore owned company does not have.

It is totally unfair to destroy our small businesses in this way. The big excuse that we're supposed to believe is that this is all about avoiding monopolies and giving the customers choice and low prices. This is a small Island. Just how many more large companies do we need? One company will inevitably eat up the other until we are left with not one small Jersey "monopoly" but a giant monopoly from outside contributing little or nothing to the Jersey coffers and charging the customer exactly what it wants.

Bringing large companies into the Island makes an uneven playing field where it is impossible for our small local businesses to compete fairly among themselves. This distorts the market to the detriment of Jersey business and Jersey customers.

A land-based tax for business wouldn't work because many trading companies use post box addresses. So that doesn't look too promising! RUDL has been dismissed. Where's Plan B please?

Our Government Ministers pretend to consult with us. Rubbish! What we get is PR, spin, call it what you like. They do what they want and don't seem to have a

clue what they're doing. The black hole simply gets bigger and the situation more dire.

We've had enough of this.

The tax haven was set up here to help earn a living for the Island. Now Jersey is supporting the tax haven! Far better that this tax avoidance industry go now while we still have something left to build on than to wait for another 3/4/5 years until we are bankrupt. If they go now we will all suffer but, with the help of colleagues on both sides of the Channel, we'll have a chance to climb back up out of the hole. If we wait much longer we'll have nothing left.

Go on. Go now. We'll help you pack your case!

Pat Lucas President Attac&TJN Jersey