

# C. Northcote Parkinson Quotes

*Men, Law, Work, Body, Numbers, Expenditures, Poison, Decision, Discovery,  
Firsts, People, Mean, Opportunity, Political, Income, Agendas, Expansion,  
Organization, Married, Members*

Delay is the deadliest form of denial.

~C. Northcote Parkinson

The void created by the failure to communicate is soon filled with poison, drivel and misrepresentation.

~C. Northcote Parkinson

The man who is denied the opportunity of taking decisions of importance begins to regard as important the decisions he is allowed to take.

~C. Northcote Parkinson

The Law of Triviality... briefly stated, it means that the time spent on any item of the agenda will be in inverse proportion to the sum involved.

~C. Northcote Parkinson

Expenditure rises to meet income.

~C. Northcote Parkinson

Administrators make work for each other so that they can multiply the number of their subordinates and enhance their prestige.

~C. Northcote Parkinson

The vacuum created by a failure to communicate will quickly be filled with rumor, misrepresentations, drivel, and poison.

~C. Northcote Parkinson

Parkinson's First Law: Work expands to fill the time available.

~C. Northcote Parkinson

Perfection of planned layout is achieved only by institutions on the point of collapse.

~C. Northcote Parkinson

Parkinson's Fourth Law: The number of people in any working group tends to increase regardless of the amount of work to be done.

~C. Northcote Parkinson

When any organizational entity expands beyond 21 members, the real power will be in some smaller body.

~C. Northcote Parkinson

The man whose life is devoted to paperwork has lost the initiative. He is dealing with things that are brought to his notice, having ceased to notice anything for himself.

~C. Northcote Parkinson

Expansion means complexity and complexity decay.

~C. Northcote Parkinson

Work expands so as to fill the time available for its completion. General recognition of this fact is shown in the proverbial phrase "It is the busiest man who has time to spare."

~C. Northcote Parkinson

The basic quality for the diplomat is not intelligence but loyalty.

~C. Northcote Parkinson

The chief product of an automated society is a widespread and deepening sense of boredom.

~C. Northcote Parkinson

Expenditures rise to meet income.

~C. Northcote Parkinson

Imagination is essential and it comes first, for without imagination we are aimless.

~C. Northcote Parkinson

If there is a way to delay an important decision, the good bureaucracy, public or private, will find it.

~C. Northcote Parkinson

Perfection of planning is a symptom of decay. During a period of exciting discovery or progress, there is no time to plan the perfect headquarters.

~C. Northcote Parkinson

Make the people sovereign and the poor will use the machinery of government to dispossess the rich.

~C. Northcote Parkinson

The smaller the function, the greater the management.

~C. Northcote Parkinson

Deliberative bodies become decreasingly effective after they pass five to eight members.

~C. Northcote Parkinson

It is now well known, however, that men enter local politics solely as a result of being unhappily married.

~C. Northcote Parkinson

The matters most debated in a deliberative body tend to be the minor ones where everybody understands the issues.

~C. Northcote Parkinson

The nice thing about standards is, there are so many to choose from. Work expands to fill the time available for its completion.

~C. Northcote Parkinson

It is the busiest man who has time to spare.

~C. Northcote Parkinson

In the foundation and development of a successful enterprise there must be a single-minded pursuit of financial profit.

~C. Northcote Parkinson

The onset of one religion can be resisted only by another.

~C. Northcote Parkinson

A committee grows organically, flourishes and blossoms, sunlit on top and shady beneath, until it dies, scattering the seeds from which other committees will spring.

~C. Northcote Parkinson

The mind reels at the multiplication of books intended to justify the author's promotion from assistant to associate professor.

~C. Northcote Parkinson

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