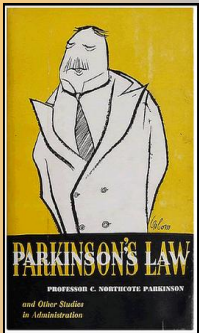


Parkinson's Laws

Parkinson's Law was invented by Cyril Northcote Parkinson; it was the first sentence of a humorous essay published in The Economist in 1955. The original article is here and well worth taking five minutes to read.

Contrary to popular belief, there isn't just one 'Parkinson's Law'. There are, in fact six! [Here](#) they are. Do you recognise any of them where you work?

Here's a suggestion. Print the page and stick it on the office wall! There is a 'crunch' on the way. You never know, the old boy's laws might make a difference to how people think!



- Work expands to fill the time available for its completion; the thing to be done swells in perceived importance and complexity in a direct ratio with the time to be spent in its completion.
- Expenditures rise to meet income.
- Expansion means complexity; and complexity means decay.
- The number of people in any working group tends to increase regardless of the amount of work to be done.
- If there is a way to delay an important decision the good bureaucracy, public or private, will find it.
- The progress of science is inversely proportional to the number of journals published.