

## Appendix B

### The nomenclature of large numbers

“Billion” and other large numbers are used with their correct meanings, not the devalued, incorrect and illogical meanings beloved by politicians and economists and used in the USA, and insidiously creeping into use in other parts of the world.

This is how the correct numbering system works, and why numbers have the names they have:

<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>ROOT</u>	<u>MEANING</u>
million	1	(million) <sup>1</sup> a million
<u>bi</u> llion	bi = 2	(million) <sup>2</sup> a million million
<u>tri</u> llion	tri = 3	(million) <sup>3</sup> a million million million
<u>quad</u> rillion	quad = 4	(million) <sup>4</sup> a million million million million
<u>quin</u> tillion	quin = 5	(million) <sup>5</sup> a million million million million million
<u>sex</u> tillion	sex = 6	(million) <sup>6</sup> a million million million million million million
<u>sept</u> illion	sept = 7	(million) <sup>7</sup> a million million million million million million million

and so on, with the following as examples of the names of very large numbers:

<u>dec</u> illion	dec = 10	(million) <sup>10</sup> a million to the 10 <sup>th</sup> power (= 1 followed by 60 zeroes)
<u>cent</u> illion	cent = 100	(million) <sup>100</sup> a million to the 100 <sup>th</sup> power (= 1 followed by 600 zeroes)

If a specific name is desired for a thousand million, one exists: a thousand million is a milliard. To call a million million a “trillion” is comparable to saying that a woman who has just given birth to two babies has had triplets.

Similarly, a quadrillion is a million million million million, whereas the American system says a quadrillion is a thousand million million. Around the world a quadruped has four feet, whereas under the American system the poor creature has only 2½ feet. It is nonsense.

It is not normal for Americans to stick doggedly to something when they know that it is wrong. They are usually progressive: they will reject the wrong presumption, and embrace the truth. Most Americans have been brought up to believe that a billion means a thousand million, and have never queried this. We must hope that they will come to realise the falseness of this belief, and that in the traditional American spirit they will embrace rationality and adopt the correct meaning of billion.