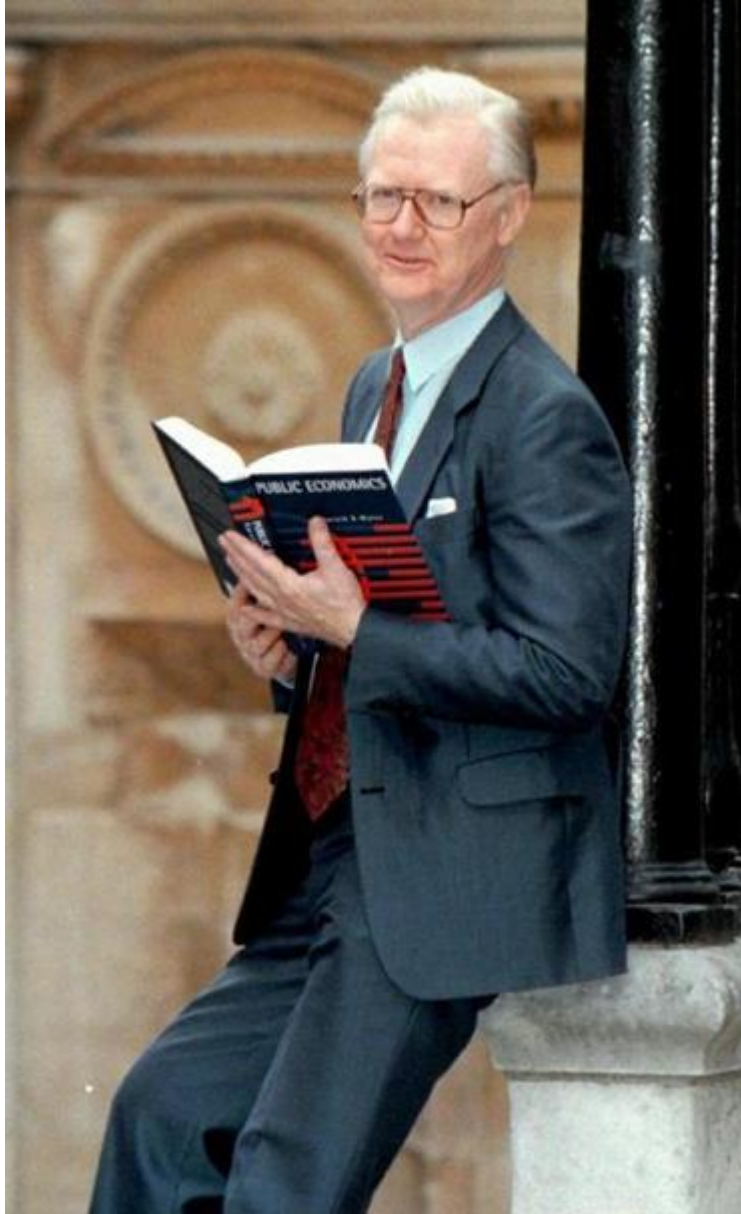


James Mirrlees, 82, Nobel laureate in economics who studied taxation

By Matt Schudel WASHINGTON POST SEPTEMBER 03, 2018



FINDLAY KEMBER/ASSOCIATED PRESS/FILE 1996

Dr. Mirrlees sought to find a point where government taxation would provide a shared benefit to society without being an onerous burden on individual workers.

WASHINGTON — James Mirrlees, a British economist who received the Nobel Prize for his theories of economic incentives, which have been applied to taxation, insurance, and the allocation of public services, died Aug. 29 at his home near Cambridge, England. He was 82.

His death was announced by Nuffield College of the University of Oxford, where he was a longtime professor. The cause was a brain tumor, the London Times reported.

Dr. Mirrlees, who shared the 1996 Nobel Prize with William Vickrey of Columbia University, approached economics from a background in mathematics. He was particularly fascinated by ideas first put forth by Vickrey and others concerning “information asymmetry,” in which one party in an economic transaction is privy to knowledge the other does not have.