ABSTRACTS

Day, E.E.: "Regional Development Policy: Some Introductory Comments": The seven papers on regional development policy that comprise this edition are reviewed with the purpose of identifying a number of common themes which run through them. One obvious feature of the experience of the nations considered here has been the rapidity with which changes in regional development programs have occurred. The rapidity likely reflects the changes that have taken place in the field of regional science itself. The need for truly comprehensive regional policy is also evident in the national case studies presented.

Cannon, James B.: "Industrial Incentives and Manufacturing Change: the Georgian Bay Region of Ontario": Incentives to influence the location of manufacturing investment have been accepted as an instrument of regional development policy in Canada. The relation of incentives policy to manufacturing change and to regional economies, however, has been investigated only to a limited degree. Between July 1965 and December 1967 incentives provided through the Area Development Act (ADA) program were available to manufacturers investing in the Georgian Bay region of Ontario. A combination of commercial, public, and survey information was used to construct a census of manufacturing employment at two year intervals from 1961 to 1975. Analysis of this information reveals that incentives had a substantial immediate direct impact on both the level and structure of Georgian Bay manufacturing in absolute terms and in relation to trends in the provincial economy. However, the longer term effects of the program on the regional economy have been more equivocal. By the mid-1970s, manufacturing employment growth in Georgian Bay had collapsed to the provincial level, which by this time was disturbingly low. It is impossible to conclude from fragmentary employment and income indicators that general levels of regional economic welfare have improved relative to Ontario norms over the fifteen year period.

Walton, Frank T.: "Canada's Atlantic Region: Recent Policy for Economic Development": Canada's Atlantic Provinces (Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick) are a lagging, underdeveloped region. Before Confederation they enjoyed considerable prosperity, based upon fishing, lumbering and wooden shipbuilding. Canada's National Policy of 1878, however, gave them a remote, peripheral status and, combined with developments in industry, commerce, and technology, retarded their integration within the national economy. Until the 1960s federal regional policy consisted only of various ad hoc measures to deal with specific problems. Recommendations by R.D. Howland and A.K. Cairncross influenced federal development policy in the 1960s. The Atlantic Development Board spent $186 million between 1962 and 1969. The Area Development Agency provided tax incentives and capital grants to manufacturing. The Agricultural and Rural Development Administration, complemented by the Fund for Rural Economic Development, undertook development planning with the provinces for selected areas within the region. In 1969 the new Department of Regional Economic Expansion (DREE) adopted a growth centres strategy for manufacturing expansion, conducted through the Regional Development Incentives Act and "Special Areas" Agreements with the provinces. Present federal-provincial development efforts are the most substantial, comprehensive, and serious ever undertaken. Some problems remain, however, and several policy improvements are proposed.
Burke, C.D.: "Atlantic Region Development in a World Perspective": The author's recent involvement with HABITAT, the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, has led to a questioning of some of the premises on which, up to now, we have built our plans and strategies for the Atlantic Region. This questioning applies particularly to the author's own work. One can begin with a development concept derived from the world scene, stressing the need for conservation and drastic curtailment in the growth of goods consumption. From this, a generalized strategy for the Atlantic Region can be postulated, involving a high degree of self-sufficiency, qualitative rather than quantitative growth, and an emphasis on the wise management of renewable resources. In light of these concerns, recommendations are made regarding decentralization, self-help, the preservation and exploitation of renewable resources, institutional overthrow and reform, and a number of other policy areas.

Munro, John M.: "Regional Economic Policies in Canada": An attempt is made to provide an overview of regional problems in Canada and the measures that have been used to try to overcome them. Four factors confirm the importance of regional policy questions for Canada in the late 1970s: the current economic and political environment, the lack of success in achieving a decisive narrowing of regional disparities, the energy "crisis", and continuing instability and growing protectionism in the international economy. The paper begins with a summary of regional disparities in Canada and continues with a survey of regional development policies, concentrating on the last ten years. This is followed by a summary of various evaluations of Canadian regional development policies. The final part of the paper discusses some impacts of Canada's national economic policies on the various regional economies.

Carter, Robert: "Australian Regional Development Policy in the 1970s": The economic assumptions underlying regional development policy in Australia in the 1970s is the theme of this study. Chronologically, the first set of economic assumptions underlying regional development policies were "least cost" in their orientation. Large cities, it was argued, were past the optimum point of minimum average cost per head of population. The second set of assumptions emphasized the concentration of resources rather than the scattered dispersal of decentralization incentives. Strong priorities in federal spending were attached to designated growth centres; however, a substantial and growing body of academic opinion (including a report of overseas experts commissioned by the federal government) challenged the economic support for growth centre policy. This second set of economic assumptions still dwell on average costs per head of population, but exposed the previous omission of the economic benefits of growth in the larger metropolitan areas. Inputs as well as outputs had to be considered, and the productivity of cities became a crucial component of the debate. As yet, this approach has not supported policy decisions, but it has recently become a contribution to the debate.

Schachter, Gustav: "Regional Policies in Southern Italy since 1945": The impact of the Italian government's policy of economic development in Southern Italy is the focus of this paper. In Italy, the need of policies to close the socio-economic gap between the North and the South has been recognized for the last three decades. The South, like any other underdeveloped region of a "national" state in an open economy, may often be prevented from achieving development. In a market economy under usual oligopolistic conditions, regions may differ drastically in their growth rates if no deliberate policies of regional development exist. A realization of this regional tendency for lopsided growth has driven economists and policy makers to identify the factors that prompt differentiation and to study policies that will narrow the gaps among regions. But identification of the problems and avowed solutions may not be sufficient. This paper attempts to show that in theory the development process in the South vacillates between political and legal premises and resource allocations and group reactions. Regional policies have not affected the socio-economic structure, which has, thus, remained symbolic in character.