

ABSTRACTS

BAILLY, A.-S. and J. FERNIE: "Office Location and Urban Development: Is the Western European Experience Relevant to Canada?": The aim of this paper is to analyze office location policies in Western European countries and to ascertain their relevance to the planning of office development in Canada. In most European countries the attraction of large conurbations in response to the advantages of office agglomeration is undermined by government policies of control and dispersal. Governments are therefore the main agents of dispersal. Canadian planners have much to learn from European schemes of office development which form an integral part of city and national policy.

MILLER, F.C.: "The Feasibility of Regionally Differentiated Fiscal Policies": This study develops a simple multiplier model of the Canadian economy which is solved to obtain quantitative estimates of government tax and expenditure multipliers for each of the provinces. The multipliers are then used to analyze the impact on provincial income of a number of changes in fiscal policy. The results of these experiments show that the overall performance of stabilization policy could be improved if counter-cyclical fiscal policies were implemented on a provincial or regional rather than a nationwide basis in Canada.

POWER, G., W. GILLESPIE, D. WITTKOWSKI, and R. RINK: "Computer Modelling of Boomtown Housing: The Fort McMurray Study": Planners who must make analyses and recommendations for resource boomtowns are faced with the problem that the various phases in the boom-bust cycle are extremely brief. Thus, it is difficult to anticipate the likely time sequence of events and the probable response of institutions and markets that are unaccustomed to the rapid pace of a construction boom. This paper provides a brief account of a model that has been developed to simulate the changes that a boomtown undergoes as it responds to rapid development. The purpose of the model is to help industry and government decision-makers anticipate the effects of various proposals for dealing with the severe problems that occur in boomtowns. The model is applied to the case of Fort McMurray, Alberta, during the Syncrude planning and construction phase of 1971-1979.

ISLAM, M.N.: "Impacts of Intersectoral Occupational Mobility on Interregional Disparity in Canada": Based upon an intersectoral oc-

cupational mobility model, this study concludes that shifts in the labour force between industrial sectors are mainly responsive to changes in intersectoral earnings differentials, the growth of the regional labour force, and to variations in unemployment rates. The intersectoral movement of the labour force within regions is found to be more important than the migration of the labour force between regions in explaining the variations in regional per capita income disparities in Canada during the period 1961-1978. The translog system of equations provides a better estimate of the elasticity of regional income disparity with respect to intersectoral labour force movement within regions than linear or log-linear models.

GEORGE, R.E., C.R. DIPCHAND, and R.G. STOREY: "The Location of Offices": The lack of interest on the part of Canadian academics and governments in the location of office activity is unjustifiable. Recent studies (very limited in number and nearly all foreign) of the determinants of office location indicate that many factors are relevant but that ease of communication is of prime importance. Available data about movements of office activity in Canada are inconclusive, although there is some suggestion of a small westward trickle. An empirical study of the factors motivating certain office movements in eastern Canada and New England confirms the findings of previous studies but stresses the haphazard fashion in which office locations are apparently chosen. A government policy to stimulate office activity in order to reduce regional disparities should concentrate on upgrading the environment and improving communication systems in the poorer areas, and on breaking down psychological barriers against such areas.

DRUGGE, S.E.: "A Theoretical Critique of the Standardization Method of Estimating Regional Effect and Industry Structure as Sources of Interregional Income Variations": The standardization techniques devised by F.A. Hanna and Edward F. Denison have been widely used in Canadian studies to measure regional and industrial structure effects on regional income performance. This paper demonstrates that if such basic economic characteristics as consumer taste patterns or factor endowments vary between regions, the method has no theoretical validity. The theoretical invalidity of the method is proven through use of Edgeworth box analysis, and the resulting lack of analytical content in empirical measures of regional and industry structure effects derived from the method is demonstrated.