

## ABSTRACTS

JULIEN, P.-A.: "Le développement micro-régional, la PME et la théorie micro-économique": For many economists, it is a double heresy to advocate micro-regional development based on small business, rather than national development based upon large firms, when only the latter enables economies of scale and propulsive effects to create a strong expansion of peripheral regions. The "polarized" development approach seems, however, to be a failure for underdeveloped countries and for many peripheral regions in developed countries. On the contrary, however, the last fifteen years have seen the reversal of concentration trends and a new dynamism of small business in most of the industrialized countries. The principal difficulty in understanding these phenomena comes from the historical bias of economic science towards research on general equilibrium, whereas the small business and the entrepreneur continuously create disequilibrium or instability and profit from it.

COHEN, D. and J. P. LeGOFF: "Regional Development Incentives: A Critical Overview of the Evidence": This paper surveys evaluations of regional development incentive programs, in Canada and other OECD countries, in order to shed some light on the performance of such programs with respect to their economic efficiency and incrementality. Five types of incrementality studies are examined: trend analysis, descriptive studies, micro-simulations, surveys, and econometric estimations. While there are wide variations in the results, the more solid studies in Canada using structured interviews and case study survey approaches indicate an incrementality rate of about 50 percent. The main impact seems to be on smaller and riskier projects, and on project size and timing. The cost-benefit studies show such serious methodological and data problems that one cannot judge the economic efficiency of those programs. Research priority should be more oriented towards economic efficiency analysis of regional incentive programs.

DEAN, J. M. and B. A. SIDDIQUEE: "Out-of-Business Rates of Government-Assisted and Non-Assisted Firms in Manitoba, 1973-1984": This study examines whether the presence of government

assistance under the Regional Development Incentives Act (RDIA) was associated with a lower rate of going out-of-business than occurred for firms that did not receive assistance. The research examines all 310 firms that received assistance under RDIA between 1973 and 1977 and compares them with a sample of 340 non-assisted firms. After correcting for differences in firm size and industrial category, the rate at which the firms went out of business is significantly lower for the government-assisted firms by the end of 1984. Some possible explanations for this result are discussed.

SKABURSKIS, A.: "The Regional Development Implications of Settlement Plans: New Towns Versus Long Distance Commutes": This paper shows how settlement options can affect regional development. The choice between building a new town or engaging in a long distance commute affects a resource company's profit maximizing output level, employment level, and reaction to unforeseen circumstances. It affects the stability of the region and the company's ability to survive depressed resource prices. It affects the venture's risk exposure and the value developed by the government's regional infrastructure investment.

AYDALOT, P.: "Le concept de région dans la définition de la planification régionale": In the fields of regional science, regional economics, regional development policy, and regional planning, the notion of region plays a central role; however, this very notion introduces considerable difficulties. From a theoretical perspective, there is a lack of congruence between the principles that govern the identification of regions and the fundamental tenets of these "regional" fields. From a practical perspective, the regions that are presented to the researcher for analysis cannot serve as the framework for a true regional policy. These contradictions lead us to re-examine the notion of region and the principles of regionalization in regional science and related fields.

SAVOIE, D. J.: "Politicians and Approaches to Regional Development: The Canadian Experience": Students of Canadian regional development have written extensively about the application of the various theories of regional development, the efforts at promoting regional development, and how governments could better organize themselves for regional development. Virtually nothing has been written about the role of politicians. This paper seeks to analyze the role politicians have played in Canada in support of regional development and in implementing the various approaches that have been tried. It concludes with the observation that politicians have played a vital role in sustaining government commitment for regional development measures but that, at the same time, they have played havoc with the approaches that have been attempted.

CHAMBERS, E. J.: "The Income Transfer Effects of a Rent Control Program": Rent controls applied from 1976 to 1979 in Alberta coincided with an energy-based provincial economic boom unparalleled since the agricultural settlement of the pre-1914 era. In such circumstances attention is certain to be on the price and availability of housing, perhaps the key nontradeable sector. This note uses a regression model relating rent changes to vacancy rates to estimate the effect of controls on rental price in the Calgary and Edmonton housing markets. The results are then applied to measure the income transfer from landlord to tenant.