

## ABSTRACTS

WEAVER, C. and T. I. GUNTON: "From Drought Assistance to Megaprojects: Fifty Years of Regional Theory and Policy in Canada": Regional problems have always been of major political and economic importance in Canada. Explicit regional development policies over the last fifty years, beginning with drought assistance during the 1930s, have come in response to this changing reality. Yet while the Canadian staple tradition, in its several variants, provides a conceptual framework for debate and policy formulation, regional planning has either tended towards practical problem solving or has been informed by imported theories and models not necessarily appropriate to the Canadian context. Recent changes in the federal approach to economic planning, emphasizing large-scale natural resource development through megaprojects, seems to be a continuation of this pattern, leaving the regional question with its troublesome implications for national unity unresolved.

WELLAR, B. S.: "Urban Impact Assessment in Public Policy Processes: The Canadian Record, 1968-1982": For the past thirty years, but particularly since the mid-1960s, two pervasive forces have been present in Canada: increasing urbanization throughout the country, and increasing intervention by governments at all levels in virtually all aspects of Canadian society. The period 1968-1982 covers a period of proclaimed effort by governments to address our "urban problem" or "urban problems" at the national and regional scales. The end years of the period have a striking, indeed shocking commonality: little if any difference exists between the state of the urban problem or parts thereof, nationally or regionally, for the respective years. This paper documents the place and treatment accorded to urbanism and urbanization processes in the policy processes of federal, provincial and municipal governments. As demonstrated through the impact assessment approach, public policy processes at all levels have not sufficiently appreciated, respected and accommodated urbanization processes. Consequently, for the 1968-1982 period many government policies, urban-oriented and otherwise, were ineffective and counter-productive, as were the associated programs.

HOMENUCK, P. and A. PARKER MARTIN: "The Impact of New Technology: New Pressures on Urban and Regional Planning": This paper describes the advances in technology, such as the microchip and robotics, and analyzes their impact on society and settlement patterns. Jobless growth, a bi-modal labour force, and poverty among plenty are possibilities which are discussed. The necessity for massive new income distribution policies and societal planning on the macro-level, as yet unexperienced in this country, are suggested. In contrast to the comprehensive national planning required in the future, current planning mechanisms, especially with regard to social objectives and land use planning, are examined to demonstrate the unreadiness of planners and policy makers at all levels to anticipate and cope with the dislocation and societal upheaval likely to occur in the future.

O'BRIEN, A.: "The Ministry of State for Urban Affairs: A Municipal Perspective": During the 1960s, when the American urban crisis drew the attention of Canadian policy makers, the municipalities perceived an opportunity for help, financial and otherwise. But the provinces, which had long neglected the urban scene, began to defend their jurisdiction against pressures from above and below. MSUA was an attempt to coordinate federal policies affecting cities, to conduct research to inform such an effort, and to consult with the other two levels of government on joint approaches. Neither the federal nor municipal actors, political or otherwise, had the negotiating skills, the discipline or the sustained commitment required to create a genuine three-way partnership.

DOERR, A. D.: "Organizing for Urban Policy: Some Comments on the Ministry of State for Urban Affairs": The establishment of the federal Ministry of State for Urban Affairs was an innovative experiment in policy coordination within the federal government and with other levels of governments. The organizational design of the Ministry involved the separation of the functions of research, policy and coordination, although these units were expected to coordinate and integrate their respective activities. In practice, internal coordination was a problem and inhibited effectiveness in dealing with external constituencies. The experience of the Ministry, nevertheless, provides important lessons for other policy research agencies.

CROWLEY, R. W.: "The Design of Government Policy Agencies: Do We Learn From Experience?": In this article, the Ministry of State for Urban Affairs (MSUA) is compared to the Ministry of State for Economic and Regional Development (MSERD). The similar rationales for the two agencies, in 1971 and in 1979, are examined; this is followed by a discussion of the factors that led to the

demise of MSUA in 1979 and an analysis to determine whether the same factors are present, and will ultimately contribute to the demise of MSERD. The article concludes that those responsible for establishing MSERD appear - by accident or by design - to have avoided building into the mandate and mode of operations the same "fatal flaws."

MARKUSEN, A. R. and D. WILMOTH: "The Political Economy of National Urban Policy in the U.S.A., 1976-1981": The political and economic determinants of national urban policy in the USA since 1976 fall into several stages. At first, in response to an "urban" political constituency and a shaky recovery from the 1974-75 recession, the Carter Administration proposed counter cyclical assistance to local government and economic development programs targeted to areas "in distress." The latter proposals fared poorly in congress as fiscal conservatism and fears of another economic recession grew. After a confused period of reassessment, and realization of the seriousness of problems of economic structure, urban and regional policy was eclipsed by "reindustrialization" policy with a rationale of regional laissez faire and tripartite corporatist politics. With such a reversal of spatial priorities in the face of a darkening economic and political outlook, the Carter Administration's urban policies paved the way for the Reagan Administration's abandonment of spatial policies.

DOWNEY, T. J.: "Ontario's Local Governments in the 1980s: A Case for Policy Initiatives": This article challenges the assumption that public dissatisfaction with government is provoked mainly by problems obvious at the federal and provincial levels in Canada and is, therefore, principally a senior government issue. Ontario's local governments are neither readily understood nor service efficient. Consequently, public dissatisfaction is a serious problem at the local level as well. The author makes a plea for new approaches and policy initiatives deemed necessary to revitalize the public's confidence in Ontario's local governments and emphasizes that if faith is to be restored in governments at all levels, it must be revitalized first at the local level.

CHUNG, J. H.: "Système urbain et politique de développement régionale": The recent declaration of Mr. De Bané, Minister of DREE, could be a new departure for Canadian regional development policy. Among other things, the minister underlines the importance of the spatial variable as one of the determinants of regional development. This study is intended to measure the impact of key spatial variables on regional growth. The dependent variable is the growth of tertiary and secondary sectors (1961-1971) and the expansion of

manufacturing employment in Quebec cities. The explanatory variables include spatial and economic characteristics of urban systems. The results show that the growth of the tertiary sector, especially that of quaternary activities, appears to be strongly affected by key spatial variables such as spatial integration of cities, the profile of the urban system, and so on. The policy implication is that the efficiency of regional development policy is best assured by giving due allowance to spatial behaviour of each group of activities and each industry.

DIVAY, G. et M. GAUDREAU: "L'agglomération de Montréal: vellités de concentration et tendances centrifuges": At the beginning of the 1980s the expansion of the Montreal urban area has entered a new context which owes more to the recent changes in its political and institutional framework than to the general circumstances which affect all North American metropolitan areas. The government policies that favoured suburban expansion in the past decades have been counterbalanced at the end of the 1970s by other measures which have clearly facilitated a concentration of urban development. What is the extent of this change in orientation? What are the chances of success of these new directions? In this article, the authors explore the answers to these questions, first by reviewing the political and institutional framework of suburban expansion in Montreal, and then by relating the principal planning attempts in the metropolitan area, up to the recent provincial government options.