

## ABSTRACTS

COFFEY, W. J.: "Regional Policy in North America: Introduction to the Symposium": The symposium on regional policy in North America has been published with two purposes in mind. First, it seeks to elicit a comparative account of both the perceived nature of regional problems in the United States and Canada and the respective approaches that have been employed to deal with these problems. Second, through the juxtaposition of the views of a number of experienced regional analysts, the symposium is designed to identify a broad spectrum of regional policy issues and to stimulate further discussion of these issues. This introduction attempts to synthesize the views expressed in the individual papers and to identify common themes.

BOLTON, R.: "Regional Policy in the United States": In surveying U.S. regional policy, several themes emerge. First, the greatest regional impacts are produced by the *implicit* effects of federal policies which are not designed to have regional effects. Second, the long-run relative decline of older industrialized core regions is the largely unavoidable consequence of a number of factors. Third, a variety of options for adjustment and/or transition are available to the older regions. Fourth, the issue of how Ricardian rents on natural resources should be shared has strong implications for the amelioration of regional inequalities. From a normative perspective, the concept of people-prosperity is likely to be more effective than place-prosperity in dealing with regional problems.

HARRISON, B.: "Reassessing Policies for Reducing Regional Disparities in North America: The (Misplaced) Emphasis on Government Subsidies in Private Industry": In both Canada and the United States, a major policy concern has been the reduction of income and employment disparities between regions. Nearly all such policies have had as their long-term objective the increased integration of all regions into a well-connected national economic system, as opposed to promoting greater local self-sufficiency. The range of policy instruments employed in both countries has been largely equivalent. Under certain circumstances, several of these instruments have

manifested some degree of effectiveness. It is clear, however, that direct government subsidies to business simply do not work. Not only do they fail to create behaviour that would not have occurred anyway, but they also represent an opportunity cost for government.

HICKS, D. A.: "The Rise and Fall of Regional Policy in the United States": In the U.S. context, regional policy has little legitimacy left. First, it has become evident that regional problems are beyond the influence of the federal government. The 1960s and 1970s saw events that did much to reconfirm the potency of unplanned determinants of growth. Second, "region" - connoting a multistate identity - is a scale of economic organization which lacks a companion political category. Therefore, regional policy will likely remain implicit and secondary, if not an analytical indulgence. Due to structural changes and the distance-dissolving capacities of technology, place matters less and less. Is it not wiser to adopt policies whose goal is to assist people, rather than places?

MARTIN, F.: "Canadian Regional Policy: An Overview": Regional policy in Canada is constrained by the federal system of government; thus, certain methods of alleviating regional disparities in a unitary state are not acceptable. Since the early 1960s, Canadian regional policy has consisted of both strictly defined and broadly defined elements which have been implemented by either the federal or provincial levels of government. Broadly defined policies are significantly more important than those defined in strict terms. Difficulties in devising effective regional policies are compounded by the special characteristics of interregional relationships in Canada. Since national transportation and industrial policies are now less potent instruments, resource rents become the main focus of regional policy. Due to constitutional limitations, however, the federal government may fail to adequately utilize the pervasive effects of resource rents in the area of regional development.

LITHWICK, N. H.: "Canadian Regional Policy: Undisciplined Experimentation": Canadian policymakers have failed to assert a clear and tenable conception of the nature of regional problems. A matrix of four regional approaches may be identified, based upon alternative views of both temporal orientation and regional autonomy. History reveals a series of moves between these approaches; when they have been pursued in an uncoordinated fashion the various efforts have simply cancelled each other out. Despite this lack of a disciplined conception of regional policy, Canada has undertaken a variety of institutional innovations: fiscal federation, the General Development Agreement instrument, and the integration of spatial with sectoral policy. Without some effort being devoted to building public institutions with a clear and tenable sense of direction, there

can be little hope for significant improvement in regional public policy.

BOURNE, L. S.: "Regional Policy in Canada: An Urban System Perspective": Some regional problems are contained within discrete regional units (e.g., provinces); most, however, are not. A highly urbanized society requires a very different theoretical perspective on the nature of the space economy from that upon which regional policies are typically based. One such perspective is that of an urban system, which views the space economy and its constituent regions as organized around a network of functionally interdependent urban centres. These centres act as control points in the economy, sending out and receiving goods, capital, labour, and information. Intermetropolitan linkages represent the principal mechanisms for changing levels of well-being.

VERMOT-DESROCHES, B. et J. H. NIEDERCORN: "Comparaison empirique des approches probabiliste et comportementale du modèle de gravité de flux de marchandises : le cas des produits pétroliers français" : This article presents a gravity model which explains the distribution of commodity flows on the basis of a hypothesis about economic behaviour. This avenue of attack, disaggregated by region, is compared to the aggregated approach based on entropy maximization. Both theoretical and empirical aspects of the analysis are discussed. The empirical data describe the transport of French petroleum products by railway.

POLESE, M. et R. STAFFORD : "Une estimation des exportations de services des régions urbaines : l'application d'un modèle simple au Canada" : On the basis of a simple model, we are able to estimate service exports for a given city to the rest of the Canadian urban system, as well as the total value of interurban trade. The model, whose basic logic is derived from the location quotient approach, is applied to 1971 Canadian census data. An analysis of the results permits us to compare service structures for the twenty-two metropolitan regions of Canada and to consider the factors underlying the locational patterns of urban service activities.

PHILIPPE, J. : "Redéploiement industriel et spécialisation des régions" : This article is first an attempt to place the redeployment of French industry in the more general framework of the deindustrialization process. Concretely, we try to answer two questions: does France undergo a deindustrialization process, and what are the structural changes caused by the redeployment? The second part measures the results of the regional forms from 1969 to 1976 and tries to estimate their present importance compared to national and foreign corporations.