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RESUME OF RESEARCH CURRENTLY BEING CONDUCTED IN THE
FIELD OF PLANNING IN THE UNITED STATES*

The following work is currently being conducted in the field of economic and social planning in the United States. This work is being conducted primarily by a group of individuals who are currently working in the field of economic and social planning in the United States. The work is being conducted in the field of economic and social planning in the United States.

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Resume of research currently being conducted in the
field of planning in the United States

During my recent vacation in the United States, I attempted to find out what is being done in the field of economic and social planning.

The following list of research projects is the result of conversations with Douglas Paxon of the National Planning Association, Washington D.C.; Albert Watterston of the World Bank; Abdul Rahman, of the United Nations; Louis Lefebvre, of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and other economists. While the list is intended to be as comprehensive as possible, a number of projects undoubtedly went unnoticed.

The general impression from talking with these people is that relatively little is being done. Only a few organized projects are underway and the remaining research is being conducted principally by a single individual. Generally speaking most of the work is centered around problems of executing development plans rather than with their formulation. Unfortunately this concern with implementation does not carry over into the field of economic policy and work in that field seems to be isolated from the concept of national development planning.

1. The largest single project was recently undertaken by the National Planning Association, Washington D.C., under contract with the Agency for International Development. Its major goal is to provide an analysis and evaluation of development planning useful for dealing with actual problems of planning in less-developed areas. This goal includes four specific objectives:

- I. To examine and evaluate the relevance of the existing literature on planning techniques to the problems confronting development planners;
- II. To examine and, insofar as possible, to generalize from the experience of underdeveloped countries in dealing with key planning functions (such as mobilization of critical resources, project selection, and plan monitoring and control) to point up major problem areas in actual planning operations;

- III. To develop improved techniques of plan formulation, implementation, activation and control appropriate to planning in the diversity of conditions found in less-developed countries;
- IV. To indicate, on the basis of these findings, priorities for further research in the field of development planning.

In addition to the above project, the NPA also carries out research on the American economy. These are:

Center for Economic Projections publishes an annual comprehensive report of 5 and 10 years economic projections for the American economy; numerous detailed economic analyses of specific producing and consuming sectors of the economy; regional studies and other periodic reports. The Center has its own staff of 15 economists and statisticians.

PARM (Program Analysis for Resource Management) Project is developing a generalized system for programming the performance of a set of interdependent activities, over time, subject to a variety of restrictions. The initial statistical implementation of the PARM system - a dynamic model of the American Economy - consists of about 2 000 production and service activities PARM has a professional staff of 24 economists, mathematicians and computer programmers.

Center of Priority Analysis makes available data and techniques which are useful in assessing how U.S resources can be allocated to achieve various national goals, domestic and international, and how resources can be expanded and their allocation improved.

2. A second major research program is underway at the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs at Syracuse University, New York State. Under the guidance of Bertram Gross, the project is oriented more to the sociological aspects of develop planning. This behavioral approach is designed to study people and organizations engaged in economic planning. The usefulness of this approach seems questionable, but nothing has been published yet so it is too early to judge.

The project will study behavioral problems such as:

- a) Planners as members of organizations with special problems of survival and performance and varying patterns of internal cooperation and conflict.
- b) Planning organizations in terms of the interactions among them and the environment in which they operate.

The project will also cover such aspects of national planning as:

- a) The cultural, social and political framework of planning;
- b) The different conceptions of the planning process;
- c) The different types of formal and informal organization in the planning process;
- d) The broad spectrum of multiple purposes toward which planning is directed;
- e) The implementation aspects of planning with particular attention to interest groups, power mobilization, communication and information systems and the strategies and tactics of conflict, compromise and integration;
- f) The emergence of planning theories and specialized techniques;
- g) The relation or balance between governmental and non-governmental activities;
- h) The role of science and technology;
- i) The assumed and actual role of foreign advisors, foreign aid and other external influences in the national planning process.

The ten year time table for accomplishing the above objectives is as follows:

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| 1961-64 | Preliminary surveys in a large number of countries; |
| 1965 | A study in depth prepared for 4-5 selected countries; |
| 1965-70 | Make the studies and analyze the results. |

3. Another series of studies is being prepared by the International Development Research Center at the University of Indiana, Bloomington, Illinois. Two people are associated with this project - Stefan Robock and Frederick Riggs - although others are presumably participating. Unfortunately the list of topics does not indicate the purpose of the project:

- a) The potentialities of differing industrialization strategies;
- b) The role of technology in the development process;
- c) Educational and manpower planning;
- d) Function of mass communications in nation building;
- e) Problem of export expansion;
- f) Administrexibility of various (market and non-market) economic control mechanisms.

4. The Yale Economic Growth Center directed by Lloyd Reynolds is currently engaged in a number of country studies. A number of theoretical problems concerned with development will be treated by senior economists, while specific obstacles to growth and the institutional framework of the selected underdeveloped countries will be treated by doctoral candidates.

5. A number of economists have undertaken individual research projects:
- a) Louis Lefebvre at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology has prepared a 4-5 sector "optimization" model for India and is now feeding data into the model. The model is designed to value relative scarcities and is not suitable for guiding economic policy;
 - b) R. S. Eckaus at MIT is working on problems of implementing a multisectoral intertemporal planning model for India;
 - c) Saul Katz, University of Pittsburgh - research on problem of implementing development plans - especially administration;
 - d) Charles Wolf Jr., RAND Corporation, Santa Monica, California, is working on a savings model and testing various hypotheses regarding savings behavior;
 - e) Gustav Papanek, Harvard University, country studies and the use of social accounting prices;
 - f) Benjamin Higgins, University of Texas, Austin, Texas, educational planning;
 - g) Gay Orcutt, University of Wisconsin - Use of simulation models for the U.S. economy;

- h) Albert Watterston, Economic Development Institute, I.B.R.D. Washington D.C., has compiled probably the most complete bibliography on country planning in the world. This material is being sifted to learn more about practical problems of implementing development plans and the results will probably be published next year. Periodic country studies are being published in the process.
- i) Everett Hagen and P. N. Rosenstein-Rodan of MIT are editing books concerned with planning methods and techniques (Rosenstein-Rodan) and case studies on planning (Hagen).
- j) Gunnar Myrdal and Paul Streeten are working on a book for the 20th Century Fund on planning methods and techniques.

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