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SOCIAL RESEARCH CENTER (SCR)

REGIONAL RELATIONS An informal relationship exists between the Center - through its coordinator- and the Institute of Social and Economic Research of the University of the West Indies (UWI). In a two-year project researchers are studying water, electricity, and telecommunications in the small islands of Anguilla, Antigua, the British Virgin Islands, Montserrat, Nevis, and St. Kitts. The water aspect of the study should be especially relevant to the United States Virgin Islands. The ensuing document, intended for government consumption, should also be of interest to public enterprise.

A second study on Public Finance and Monetary Policy in the Caribbean includes the United States Virgins. The study should help to answer questions pertinent to the current financial situation in St. Croix and St. Thomas/St. John e.g. What are the capacities of the islands for fiscal viability? Can they stand alone financially?

CRI/DEPT. OF COMMERCE: V.I. ECONOMY. A Macroeconomic Model of the Virgin Islands Economy, a three part study, is now in preparation under the direction of Dr. McElroy. The first phase, "An Export-Base Employment Model," has been completed. Dr. McElroy has been working closely with the Department of Commerce for some considerable time.

ECOLOGICAL RESEARCH CENTER (ERC)

FACE LIFTING--- LAMESHUR During 1976 the several buildings at Lameshur Bay on St. John underwent some much-needed face-lifting and general repair. The facility should be ready for use by the Spring semester (1977-78).

WATER RESOURCES RESEARCH CENTER (WRRC)

PUBLIC WATER INDUSTRY A two-year project, due to be completed in December of 1978, is underway at the center, being carried out as an integrated effort with the SRC. Initial work on the study, "Cost, Pricing, and Demand in the Public Water Industry, United States Virgin Islands," which was done by Dr. McElroy, is being

continued by Dr. Jones-Hendrickson. The study is looking at alternative systems of technology. It should make a contribution to the improvement of technology and of water management in the Virgin Islands. Dissemination of the study will be made on completion and, hopefully, government departments and agencies concerned with water will welcome it.

LOW FLUSH TOILETS WRRC is also engaged in evaluating the performance of low flush toilets, maintenance requirements of same, and the water economy with a view towards possible application in housing units and single-family housing. The principal investigator is Mr. A. Pratt of the WRRC.

PROFESSIONAL PAPERS

(i) Michael Canoy was invited to deliver a paper at the Second International Symposium on Marine Resources in the Caribbean in San Jose, Costa Rica, in July 1977. The paper, "Ecological and Economic Factors in Developing Mariculture for the Caribbean Region," was an outgrowth of a larger working paper, "Ecological and Economic Factors in Developing Marine Resources for the Caribbean," being prepared by the Institute as part of an analysis of the interactions of man and nature in the Caribbean.

This paper notes that significant suggestion frequently made for the developing nations of the Caribbean is that they develop their potential for aquaculture. It isolates eighteen economic and ecological factors which may significantly affect the outcome of any mariculture scheme. The maximum reasonable boundaries are given for such variables as land cost, product price, volume of available high quality water, and market stability and demand. A matrix is given for evaluation of any aquaculture proposal. A representative management evaluation is developed, for illustrative purposes, comparing the British and United States Virgin Islands in feasibility of a low price (Tilapia) vs. high price (Lobster) crop. A discussion for scientists and planners is provided.

(ii) At the annual conference of the International Institute of Public Finance in Varna, Bulgaria in September S.B. Jones-Hendrickson presented "Subsidies, Tax Reliefs and Public Policy: The Development Aspects." The paper, to be published in the Conference Proceedings, was co-authored with Dr. Compton Bourne, Director of the Caribbean Regional Monetary Studies Program and Acting Director of the Institute of Social and Economic Research, University of the West Indies.

According to the paper, economic under-development is characterized by chronic high levels of unemployment, low levels of living, maldistribution of incomes, acute economic openness, and by economic dependence. Two broad approaches to development are contrasted and the role of subsidies, tax reliefs and public policy are examined within each framework. The first is termed the capital-led models of development. The second focuses on the human factor in development; man is viewed as the object of and as a central instrument of development. Issues of basic needs, income distribution and employment are prominent. Problems in operationalizing the public policy aspects of the second approach are examined. It is concluded that these problems stem from the fact that the State under dependent capitalism has no control over prices, production decisions and distribution. The solution lies in the adoption of a socialist framework. Socialism, however, is no panacea.

PUBLICATIONS

A. The first issue of Microstate Studies came off the press in the summer of 1977. Consisting primarily of studies carried out under mini-grants from the Consortium on Research Training (of which CVI is a member institution), the journal is published for the Institute by the Center for Latin American Studies, University of Florida, and the University of Florida Presses and is available from the latter (Gainesville, Florida) at a cost of \$4.00. This issue carries articles dealing with linguistics, planning, education, and social research. Microstate Studies welcomes scholarly contributions dealing with problems affecting small geographical and/or political entities. Enquiries should be made of the Director of the Institute who serves as Editor.

B. The Virgins: A Descriptive and Historical Profile by Pearl Varlack and Norwell Harrigan is a 72-page booklet which highlights the history of both British and U.S. Virgin Islands from 1493 to 1976. Intended as a "ready reference" for significant events, this first of the Institute's Heritage Series includes also available demographic statistics, various illustrations and lists of islands and governors; it can also serve to enlighten the reader who is interested in the comparative development of two culturally and geologically similar but politically different groups of microstates. The publication was funded by the Virgin Islands American Revolution Bicentennial Commission.

C. A contribution to the Virgin Islands Department of Commerce's Second Quarter (1977) issue of Economic Bulletin was made by Jerome McElroy. "Model Building and Policy" deals with the mechanics and benefits of models as a policy tool in the Virgin Islands.

D. On invitation of guest editor, Keith Henry, Norwell Harrigan and Pearl Varlack co-authored "The U.S. Virgins and the Black Experience" for the June issue of the Journal of Black Studies published at the State University of New York at Buffalo. The article, documented from local and other writers, traces the social development of the people as a group from Danish times through United States Navy rule to the present and points up the position/perceptions of indigenous blacks vis-a-vis other groups in the society.

OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

ENCOUNTER PROGRAM A series of routine "Encounters" was carried out during the Fall semester. Intended as a trial presentation of a research article, the monthly encounter is expected to evoke reaction and criticism from interested participants as additional analytical input into the finished product prior to publication. Drs. Canoy, Jones-Hendrickson, Sprauve and Harrigan presented papers on "Aquaculture in the Caribbean," "Nursing Labor Market in the Caribbean," "Creolizing case," and "The Inter-Virgin Islands Conference"; they were well attended by persons having interest in the respective areas. It is hoped that the Encounters can continue to be a part of the Institute's program of research and out-reach activities.

LECTURE SERIES The Annual David Canegata lecture on public affairs was delivered in December by J.S. Archibald, Esquire, Barrister-at-Law, Tortola, British Virgin Islands, who is an expert in international law. "Congress and the Presidency, Parliament and the Monarchy" proved to be a stimulating and informative address which compared and contrasted the powers and duties of judicial, legislative, and executive areas of government in two of the world's leading democracies. The meeting in St. Thomas was chaired by Attorney Alexander Farrelley and in St. Croix by Judge Antoine Joseph. A lively question and answer period focused mainly on Caribbean countries as the structure of metropolitan government is maintained therein.