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COLLEGE OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS, CARIBBEAN RESEARCH INSTITUTE, ST. THOMAS, V.I. 00801

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## CONFERENCES

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE** Dr. Norwell Harrigan, Director, C.R.I. and Dr. Jerome McElroy, Senior Research Associate were participants in the Conference on Economic Development of Small States with special reference to the U.S. Off Shore Areas in the Caribbean, sponsored by the Institute of International Law and Economic Development at the Condado Beach Hotel, San Juan, Puerto Rico March 12-15, 1978. Dr. Harrigan was discussant for a paper "The Economic Development Strategy of the U.S.V.I." presented by Mr. John Tinsley, Chief Economist and Dr. McElroy presented a paper on "Internal and External Policy Constraints in Small Island Context." Dr. Harrigan stated that attending the Conference had served to reinforce his long-held view that solutions to our peculiar problems can be successfully attacked only by our own initiatives. Attempts to adopt models constructed for other places are not likely to assist in our development quest.

**HISTORIANS CONFERENCE** Institute staff participated in the Tenth Annual Conference of Caribbean Historians held on the St. Thomas campus from 26-30 March, 1978. The director was moderator for the conference session dealing with Economic History at which Dr. S.B Jones-Hendrickson presented a paper on "Public Policy in the U.S.V.I., 1917-1946."

**CARIBBEAN STUDIES ASSOCIATION CONFERENCES** Dr. S.B. Jones-Hendrickson attended as an invited panel discussant, in the economic section, the 3rd. Annual Caribbean studies Association Conference, Universidad Catolica, Madre y Maetra, Santiago des Caballeros, Dominican Republic, January 11-13, 1978.

## ECOLOGICAL RESEARCH CENTER

**LARVAL REARING LABORATORY** Dr. F. D. Martin of the University of Maryland visited the Institute to discuss cooperative efforts in establishing a fish Larval Rearing Laboratory. Further work will be necessary before any decision is taken.

ORNITHOLOGICAL  
SURVEY OF  
ST. JOHN

The study was undertaken by Robert Norton of University of Connecticut as a doctoral dissertation. The Institute contributed to his work and looks forward to approval of the dissertation.

ENERGY EXTENSION  
SERVICE PROGRAM

A grant of \$30,000 has been received from the Department of Energy to develop an Energy Extension Service plan. Dr. Michael Canoy, Director of the ERC will be principal

investigator. Arrangements are being made to appoint a coordinator for the program.

PROPOSAL FOR  
RUM EFFLUENT  
STUDY SUBMITTED

The Institute has submitted a proposal to Energy Protection Agency to conduct a study on the effects of the discharge of rum effluents into the sea on St. Croix. A positive response is anticipated.

#### WATER RESOURCES RESEARCH CENTER

ANNUAL REPORT  
SUBMITTED

The annual report of the Center has been submitted to the Office of Water Research and Technology. The report outlines the status of projects undertaken during the past fiscal year ending September, 1977.

WRRC/VIPO  
NEWSLETTER  
PUBLISHED

bimonthly.

The first issue of a newsletter sponsored by the Institute and prepared jointly by the V.I. Planning Office and the Water Resources Research Center has been circulated. It is anticipated that the newsletter "WATA" will be published

WRRC PERSONNEL  
INVOLVED IN  
WATER PROBLEMS

The Institute's Water Resources Research Center although primarily concerned with research has offered to contribute in whatever way it can to the chronic water shortage in the Territory. Staff members have accordingly participated in several meetings including a meeting with the Governor to discuss the water crisis.

#### PROFESSIONAL PAPERS

A. Dr. McElroy's paper "Internal and External Policy Constraints in the Small Island Context" delivered to the Development Conference focused on lack of internal public decision-making because of the high foreign trade orientation of the economy, the influence of large corporations and outside large-scale technology, the absence of ordinary fiscal and monetary policies, and the power of international events in general. Some evidence was drawn from the V.I. experience to emphasize the substantial impact U.S. government policy and legislation has had on the local planning. These included dual island policies, greater regional integration (especially with the BVI and Puerto Rico), strengthening the local service sector, and constructing more accurate models adaptable to very small and environmentally fragile Microstates.

B. A Paper "A Tourism Economic Model" was prepared for Social Sciences Division by Dr. S.B. Jones-Hendrickson. The basic aim of the paper was to develop a model of tourism economic planning for Microstates. Essential to the core of the model is the issue of density of tourists vis-a-vis the size of the economies and the population of the economies in question. Summary statements are: (1) decision regarding any tourism development should have all of the inputs of as many residents of the tourist resort, as is feasible; (2) active planning should be implemented to avert destruction of the resort, such destruction that may emanate from ecological and environmental damages; and (3) there has to be a trade-off between revenues deriving from tourism and socio-economic damage resulting from tourism.

C. The fundamental underpinning of the paper "Public Policy in the U.S. Virgin Islands, 1917-1946" presented by S.B. Jones-Hendrickson at the 10th Conference of Caribbean Historians, C.V.I., March 26-April 1978, was that much of the socio-economic upheavals in the V.I. today are closely linked to the policies and attitudes of "company" policies towards the administration in the period 1917-1946. Evidence for this view centers on the salient discernable features of naval administration, the dominance of the Virgin Islands Company and the Virgin Islands Corporation in the affairs of the territory, and finally, the big business attitude of Washington towards the Virgin Islands. The paper argued that the historical cum sociological forces of 1917-1946 have conditioned, in the Pavlovian sense, the public policies of today's political directorate.

#### OTHER NEWS

Dr. S.B. Jones-Hendrickson was appointed for a three year term to the Committee on Public Utility and Transportation Taxation of the National Tax Association-Tax Institute of America, January 1978.