

Preface

Improved social facilities and economic prosperity are the major concerns of West Indian Governments. The restless aspirations of the peoples of these countries demand this. For these goals to be achieved, the islands have accepted without exception that economic and social planning is critical.

Over the last ten years, there have been attempts at establishing planning units and other institutions that accompany the planning process. This study which concerns itself with the administrative implications of this process in developing countries, focuses specifically on Jamaica and Barbados.

The choice of countries was dictated by two powerful considerations. Firstly, the countries are best known to the author, and secondly, information on them proved most convenient to collect.

The specific questions treated in this study are the rationale of planning in developing countries, the history of planning in the British West Indies, the location and implications - short run and long run - of establishing planning units, the main problems of planning and the relationship of the private and public sectors. Questions of community participation and priority determination are also raised.

The author is fully aware of the fact that the economic, financial and other dimensions of the planning process are as important as the administrative, but concentration on the administrative aspects was made because it is the one that receives less attention from scholars and observers alike. It is hoped however that a study dealing with the other areas of planning in these countries will supplement this exercise.

Few new findings have emerged from this study. Indeed, this was not the aim. Rather, the study was undertaken to provide a documentary source of reference on the administrative implications of central planning - an aspect of national life not without high significance.

The sources used in this study are newspaper reports and opinions, personal observations, parliamentary debates, files - both government and non-government - and interviews with prominent people involved in the development process both inside and outside the public sector in Jamaica and Barbados. Besides, much of the literature on development planning in other developing countries influenced this study.

The author wishes to express his indebtedness to many people in Jamaica and Barbados - civil servants, politicians and businessmen who granted him full interviews in the preparation of this study. The civil servants for obvious reasons must remain anonymous. Particular mention

must also be made of the Jamaica Manufacturers' Association Ltd. for permission to see a few of their files, and to the Jamaica Chamber of Commerce for permission to use their scrap book of newspaper clippings and other relevant material dating back to the early 50's.

Finally, though the author stands responsible for the views held in this study, mention must be made of the assistance rendered by Mr. G. E. Mills, Head of the Department of Government, U.W.I. who supervised this project and offered several suggestions for its improvement. Miss Joy Carter, Secretary of the Department of Government undertook the tedious job of typing what turned out to be a frequently illegible manuscript. Her services are greatly appreciated.

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1966