Managing Change: A Pilot Study in Rural Design and Planning


Managing Change documents a planning project in Tug Hill, New York. Tug Hill is a rural region located between Lake Ontario and the Adirondacks. In 1990, the area received a National Endowment for the Arts grant to fund a design and planning study. The goal of the project was to help the Tug Hill communities take an active role in managing growth. Fundamental to the project was public participation, making the planning a “grassroots” process. Managing Change was published not just to document the project, but also to help other planners and community leaders. “The methods and techniques presented in this report can be used by planners working in rural communities to encourage citizen participation in the local planning process and to empower residents to manage change in their communities.” (p. 5) The report includes a “Retrospective” section, where the lessons learned in the process of planning through local participation are discussed.

Rural Health Challenges in the 1990s: Strategies from the Hospital-based Rural Health Care Program


If you are familiar with National Public Radio news, you know the format of this audio-tape based presentation. Funded (and promoted) by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the tapes and accompanying book provide an overview of the rural health care system through case studies depicting problems and solutions. Real people and situations are part of the “broadcast” style audio presentation. Topics covered include challenges and pitfalls in hospital consortium development, quality-of-care issues, financial management and recruiting and retaining physicians. The last section of the book and tapes provides information on putting Robert Wood Johnson Foundation grants and low-interest loans to work providing the rural community with affordable, quality health care. Case studies range from dealing with uncompensated care in the rural South to recruitment difficulties in the mountain West; from developing a loan pool in Nevada to a section on rural health offices with addresses, suggested program and association resources and publications. For each case study in the book, a rural health contact person is listed from whom the reader may obtain more information and impressions. (three double-sided audio tapes, with a 175-page book together in a three-ring binder)

Permanent Job Loss and the U.S. System of Financing Unemployment Insurance


This monograph presents the authors’ research on the U.S. unemployment insurance system. In particular, Brechling and Laurence look at the experience rating feature of the system. That is, employers who have generated more unemployment insurance claims by laying off more employees pay a higher payroll tax than employers who have laid off fewer employees. Experience rating is intended to provide an incentive to employers to reduce layoffs. The authors question whether experience rating is appropriate in an economy that has more permanent than temporary layoffs. Alternative financing schemes are discussed and policy recommendations are made. The monograph is mostly nontechnical, with the mathematical material confined to an appendix.


The 1995 World Bank annual report focuses on workers in the new global economy. The report states “[t]hese are revolutionary times in the global economy. The embrace of market-based development by many developing and former centrally planned economies, the opening of international markets, and great advances in the ease with which goods, capital, and ideas flow around the world are bringing new opportunities, as well as risks, to billions of people” (p. 1). The impacts of global integration on workers are discussed, including effects of growth on workers, the shift from agriculture to manufacturing and services, the skills that are needed, the role of education, income inequality, discrimination against women, international migration, and the importance of exports. Public policy issues are discussed, and recommendations are made. Projections to 2010 are presented and discussed. The emphasis of the report is less developed countries. About 100 pages of the report are tables of
economic statistics and technical notes; statistics are for both developed and less developed countries.

**From Columbus to Con-Agra: The Globalization of Agriculture and Food**


Papers contained in this volume were originally presented at an international interdisciplinary conference entitled “The Globalization of the Agricultural and Food Order.” The conference was held at the University of Missouri-Columbia in 1991 and cosponsored by the International Sociological Association Research Committee on Sociology of Agriculture and Food. While it does not specifically address Columbus or ConAgra, the editors use both as analogies for the globalization of agriculture and changes that have taken place in agricultural production, marketing, and financing. The book is divided into three parts. The first section addresses the globalization of agriculture through topics such as influence of transnational corporations, labor structure and the mobility strategies of marginal labor in agriculture, and the relationship between technology and agriculture. Part two looks at local cases and consequences of globalization of the agri-food sector. Authors use examples from Great Britain in the regulation of food, the United States’ meat packing industry, Japan’s juice industry, and Latin American development efforts to underscore strategies used by policymakers and corporations in a transnational economic system. Other articles in this section examine horizontal integration and global sourcing, changing dietary patterns, and the impact of liberalization of trade on producers, food processors, and traders. The final section of this volume is theoretical in nature and deals with limits of state action, and the fragmentation of international markets at the same time that global expansion of capital and labor mobility reaches the highest levels recorded. (13 chapters with an introduction and index, 281 pages.)