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TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM H. MIERNYK

The purpose of this issue of the *International Regional Science Review* is to honor William H. Miernyk on the occasion of his retirement for his numerous and lasting contributions to regional science and economics. Virtually everyone who has had any exposure to input-output analysis is familiar with his classic introductory treatment, *The Elements of Input-Output Analysis* (1965). His role in the development of this field, however, has not been limited to providing a concise, readable explanation of the basics. For example, his 1965 input-output model for West Virginia is widely recognized as one of the best regional models ever constructed, largely because of the unusual care with which the parameters of the model were estimated. As Professor Miernyk explains in *Simulating Regional Economic Development* (1970), the West Virginia model was based on data covering inter-industry sales and purchases obtained from a probability sample of establishments.

In constructing the 1965 West Virginia model, Professor Miernyk also collected data on the capital stocks and capacity utilization of the West Virginia economic sectors. Those data enabled him to construct one of the few existing operational dynamic regional input-output models. Moreover, in implementing that model, he developed the method for identifying "best practice" establishments. Information from those establishments became instrumental in estimating the probable impact of technical change on production relations in the economy of West Virginia.

Professor Miernyk's contributions in the area of regional analysis also extend to methods for examining the economic consequences of rising energy prices, environmental pollution, and the location of facilities associated with the space program. For example, in *Regional Impacts of Rising Energy Prices* Professor Miernyk employed an input-output framework in an analysis of the windfall gains enjoyed by the energy-producing sectors and the energy-producing states from 1967 through 1974. In the same volume, attention was drawn to the particularly severe dislocations experienced by the northeastern states during this period. In *Air Pollution Abatement and Regional Economic Development* (1974), Professor Miernyk developed methods for estimating the economic impacts of environmental protection and coal gasification. Another book, *Impact of the Space Program on a Local Economy*, contains excellent chapters on the appropriate methodology to be used in economic base and input-output studies; in Chapter V he developed the Type III multipliers in which households are treated as neither exogenous nor endogenous sectors.

This discussion can highlight only a selection of Professor Miernyk's impressive contributions to the development of methods for regional analysis. It does not adequately reflect the context in which most of these contributions were made. In particular, Professor Miernyk has

not fallen into the trap of developing and then refining a set of non-operational or never-to-be-implemented modeling approaches for their own sake. Rather, his contributions to methods of analysis have arisen naturally, in the course of examining broad issues of regional economic development. Since his arrival at the University of West Virginia in 1965, a substantial share of Professor Miernyk's writing has focused not only on the topics of air pollution abatement and energy prices, but also on questions relating to unemployment, labor force participation, and migration in the Appalachian states. At the forefront has been a concern for understanding why that region has experienced a slower rate of economic development than the rest of the United States, what policies are available to rectify the problems encountered, and how the impacts of federal policies on that region are appropriately measured. In short, Professor Miernyk has adopted the very useful perspective that the policy questions to be analyzed must dictate the analytical methods to be developed.

Professor Miernyk's reputation for developing useful methods for addressing significant policy questions undoubtedly was a key consideration in his election as President of the Southern Regional Science Association in 1975 and also played an important role in his appointment to the original editorial board of the *International Regional Science Review*. Professor Miernyk was never content to be a figurehead board member, though his professional standing as a regional scientist would have allowed him to do so. Instead, he played an active role in the developmental stages of this journal and has continued to serve as one of its most reliable and insightful referees.

In addition to this issue of the *Review*, a special symposium issue of *Socio-Economic Planning Sciences* will be published in 1984 in Professor Miernyk's honor. That issue will consist of papers by (1) Geoffrey J. D. Hewings on "The Role of Prior Information in Updating Regional Input-Output Models," (2) Jarvin Emerson on "Modeling Resources Depletion Impacts — The Ogallala Aquifer Study," (3) Eliahu Romanoff on "Interindustry Analysis for Regional Growth and Development: The Dynamics of Manpower Issues," (4) Adam Rose on "Technological Change and Input-Output Analysis: An Appraisal," and (5) Sajal Lahiri "On Reconciling Purchases and Sales Estimates of a Regional Input-Output Table." Most of the papers in both of these special issues were among those presented in honor of Professor Miernyk at the North American Meetings of the Regional Science Association held in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, in November 1982.

These papers are dedicated to Professor William Miernyk in gratitude for his important contributions to regional science as a scholar, teacher, and colleague.

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Books by William Miernyk

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