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The Meaning of Population Policy

by Takuma Terao

The Japanese Government is going to lay down some effective Population policy. But the contents of the plans are, so to say, too rich to be consistent and practicable. Moreover, the government has been advised by the P. Council to promote the Family Planning as a means of P. policy. But how to do it, remains dubious. This, I think, is the natural outcome of the ambiguity in the concept of P. policy. Having examined the current opinions, I came to the conclusion that we should understand under the word P. policy those measures which were designed to cope with P. problems. Then, such measures as are to be pursued without regard to P. problems, such as the reduction of death-rates, sterilization of the hereditary-defects &, can never be P. policy in its proper sense.

But what is P. problem? Here again we meet a serious confusion. Generally it is understood as the unbalance between P. and economy. But the relation between A and B has two sides; A to B, and B to A. And these two are not always the same. The unbalance of economy to P. is nothing but an economic problem, and is not the concern of P. policy. Then the numerous economic measures proposed as P. policy, such as the rationalization of industry, expansion of foreign trade & are all to be regarded as economic policy. Added to that, it is a theoretical mistake to think that the P. problems might be overcome by such economic measures.

I understand under the name of P. policy only those governmental measures designed to affect the P. in order to cope with P. problems. Concretely said, the control of birth-rates and migration, and nothing else.

Now, a word on the relation of family planning to P. policy. From the above said, it is clear that to encourage the family planning in all its aspects is neither objective nor task of P. policy. The protection of motherhood, the emancipation of women, the raising of standard of family life and so forth, which the family planning pursues, however important they may be, are not the concern of P.

policy. And the sole concern is its effects of reducing the birth-rates. This is the only aspect, through which the family planning can be connected with P. policy.

Then, if the family planning is to be adopted as P. policy, the sole concern should be, how to make it effective in reducing the birth-rates. But this causes a serious problem. The method recommended in the family planning is confined to contraception only. But in Japan, the conspicuous reduction of birth-rates in recent years owes to a great extent to abortion and sterilization. Then, if the family planning rejects them, it can not be an effective policy. But to acknowledge them contradicts the orthodox idea of family planning. To avoid such contradiction, we have to choose between the following two; one is, to alter the orthodox idea; and the other is, to make utmost effort of bettering the method of contraception so as it may easily take the place of abortion and sterilization in the nearest future.

Changes in Productivity and the Distribution of Income

by Ryoichi Suzuki

The aggregation problem is one of the most interesting branches of economics. While conventional economic theory is micro-theory, e. g. decreasing marginal utility, modern economic theory developed as macro-dynamics. There is a need to combine these different theories into one complete and comprehensive theory.

The most important fault in past aggregation theories is that they have all assumed a stable economic system and had established macro-theory by the simple summation of micro economic functions. This method cannot explain the changes made in an economic system and solve the dynamic problems.

The second defect in these theory is that they treat the representative firm's behavior. I suspect what means the average of marginal productivity of each firms. Economic development is achieved by an excellent firm.

From this point of view, I tried to give meaning to the law of distribution of income which was established by a statistical method. If through innovation, large-scale firms employ new labor and small-scale firms employ new methods of production, then the tendency is for average productivity of labor of the firms to draw together, or to equalize. If this innovation is accomplished by capital-saving methods, then the average productivity of capital between the firms tends to widen, or to unequalize. The degree of difference depends on the substitutional elasticity between capital and labor.

We assume that, 1) the income of each productive factor is proportional to its marginal productivity, that 2) the rich are capital owners and the relatively poor are laborers and that, 3) the disparity of average capacity of labor is larger than that of marginal capacity. From these assumptions, with a capital-saving invention, labor income tends toward equalization while capital-income tends toward unequalization.

If we apply Pareto's law at the starting point, its upper draft becomes unequal and its lower part becomes equal. Thus the Pareto line becomes a curve concave to the original point. Then α that is computed by the least square method is smaller than the true index of inequality. In the same way, Gini's index is smaller than the true index, and the approximate value of Gini's index computed by Pareto's index is larger than the true index of inequality.

Thus we obtain the upper and lower limits of the economic index of income distribution, as price index numbers. This is at the same time giving economic meaning to Pareto's and Gini's laws which were established by statistical methods. Gini's and Pareto's indexes have been employed in Japan from 1926 to 1934 with satisfactory results.

With labor savings inventions we can reason similarly as to capital saving inventions. When the change of income distribution is clarified, we will have reached the first step of the aggregation between consumers. Our next study is the change in distribution of firm scales, and then macro-investment functions.

The Analysis of the *Lohnarbeit* Problems in the Classical School

—Adam Smith—

by Kiyoko Imura

Adam Smith considered labour to be the only source of wealth, and examined the difference between "the produce of labour" and "the recompence of labour" (wage), and the class relation between master (capitalist) and labourer, etc. But he could not understand that the labour-process figures but as a means towards the self-expansion of capital under the capitalist mode of production, and the "deduction" of profit from "the produce of labour" and the class relation are an historical state of a specific kind. Then, he treated that state as the order of nature, and could not recognize sufficiently the characteristic and necessary outbreak of the *Lohnarbeit* Problems.

This report tries to clarify the achievements and flaws in his analysis of the *Lohnarbeit* Problems, and show how they were limited by his recognition of the characteristic of the capitalist production. Therefore, its aim is not only to point out the nature and limit of his analysis, but through examination of the foundation which conditioned his analysis, to search for the correct basis upon which an analysis of the *Lohnarbeit* Problems should be made.