

INSTITUTE FOR SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC RESEARCH

Statement to Senate

October 14, 1981

Dr. Greg Mason
Director

1. INTRODUCTION

The Institute for Social and Economic Research was created by an agreement between the Federal government and the University of Manitoba on July 1, 1981. The Institute is charged with the following objectives:

(a) To conduct basic, evaluative and policy-oriented research in the social sciences encompassing the social, economic, cultural, geographic, psychological and political domains.

(b) To stimulate social science research and an awareness and appreciation of its contributions and potentials for Canadian and international society through:

(i) the provision to researchers of an administrative structure, support personnel and services to facilitate preparation of grant and contract proposals, the design and conduct of research, and technical and support services for the analysis and preparation of research and technical reports;

(ii) the conduct of annual conferences, programmed upon research emphases, interests and concerns of the Executive Board of the Institute;

(iii) the reporting of research through publications emanating from the Institute, in monographs, occasional papers and edited volumes, at meetings of learned societies, in professional and public forums, or in other outlets;

(iv) the provision of an accessible pool of expertise in the area of social science research, available for consultation and interaction with individuals or groups from the public and private sectors.

(c) to undertake, as a first priority, a feasibility study of
Mincome Manitoba data base to determine:

(i) the ease of accessibility of the data for researchers;

(ii) the data modification requirements for useful analysis; and

(iii) the potential costs of analysis necessary for the
the conduct of research.

2. COMPOSITION OF THE INSTITUTE

The Institute is governed by an executive board, whose membership is comprised of a representative from each of the social science departments in the Faculty of Arts, the Dean of Arts (or his/her delegate), the Vice-President, Academic (or his/her delegate) and the Director. An Advisory Board, appointed by the President of the University, on the recommendation of the Executive Board, acts as a policy and advisory group to the Executive Board. Currently, membership in these bodies is as follows:

Executive Board

Dr. P. Thomas, Chairman - Department of Political Studies

Dr. W. Bushuk, Provost(Academic) Research Administration

Dr. R. Currie - Department of Sociology

Dr. R. Lobdell - Department of Economics

Dr. G. Mason, Director - Institute for Social and Economic Research

Dr. D. Perlman - Department of Psychology

Dr. D. Rokala, Associate Dean - Faculty of Arts

Dr. D. Todd - Department of Geography

Dr. R. Wiest - Department of Anthropology

Advisory Board

- Dr. W. Bushuk, Provost (Academic) - Research Administration
- Dr. N. Chappell - Social and Preventive Medicine
- Dr. R. Clifton - Faculty of Education
- Dr. R. Currie - Department of Sociology
- Mr. J. Evans, Director - Research Programs, Solicitor General
- Mr. K. Falk, Relations Officer - Federal/Provincial Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation
- Dr. N. Frohlich - Public Policy, Administrative Studies
- Dr. B. Havens, Director - Program Planning and Research, Department of Community Services and Corrections (Manitoba)
- Mr. J. Hignell, President - Manitoba Chamber of Commerce
- Dr. R. Lobdell - Department of Economics
- Mr. J. MacKay, Director General - Department of Regional and Economic Expansion
- Dr. G. Mason, Director - Institute for Social and Economic Research
- Dr. T. Morrison, Dean - Faculty of ^{Cent.} Education
- Dr. E. Murphy, Assistant Deputy Minister - National Health and Welfare
- Dr. D. Penner - Department of Pathology
- Dr. D. Perlman - Department of Psychology
- Dr. D. Rokala, Associate Dean - Faculty of Arts
- Dr. L. Roos - Faculty of Administrative Studies
- Mr. G. Russel - Manitoba Federation of Labour
- Mr. J. Solohub, Director - Computer Services, University of Manitoba
- Dr. P. Thomas - Department of Political Studies (Chairman)
- Dr. D. Todd - Department of Geography
- Dr. M. Vaisey-Genser, Associate Dean - Faculty of Graduate Studies
- Dr. R. Vogt, Head - Department of Economics
- Mr. L. Vopnfjord, Chief Planner - City of Winnipeg
- Dr. R. Wiest - Department of Anthropology

3. FUNDING

The Department of National Health and Welfare will contribute the sum of \$150,000.00 per annum (beginning in April, 1980 and indexed to the rate of inflation), until 1985. In addition, the Director of the Institute can request that research on the Mincome data base be funded from an operating budget in National Health and Welfare.

4. CURRENT PROJECTS

The Institute has initiated a variety of projects, some associated with the Mincome Guaranteed Annual Income Experiment, others which we hope will provide a foundation for future grant and contract research.

Under the terms of the agreement between the Federal Government and the University of Manitoba, the Institute is assessing the Mincome data base with a view to providing maximum access to interested researchers. Mincome was a complex social experiment jointly sponsored by the Federal Government and the Province of Manitoba from 1974 to 1979. An experimental population was placed on a programme of income maintenance (guaranteed annual income and periodic surveys were administered, primarily to analyse job search and other labour market data. Each of these periodic surveys produced rich vectors of socio-economic data, of wide interest to social scientists. It is anticipated that by the summer of 1982, a series of "flat analysis" files will be produced for research. The Institute is also investigating the optimum procedures for handling custom extract requests from this data base.

At this time, there are approximately 10 individuals working on various aspects of Mincome data base development. The concept of the Mincome data base is quite complex; roughly speaking, it is composed of three tiers.

Tier 1 comprises what most researchers consider "the data base". Some 13 individual surveys are "compressed" into a data management system (System 2000) which permits the extraction of a variety of custom research files both cross-sectional and longitudinal.

Tier 2 is a large set of computer tapes containing the original survey information. These surveys may be viewed as cross sections taken at different points in time and these form the basic building blocks for the Tier 1.

Tier 3 consists of the original, completed survey instruments (approximately 1500 boxes at the Federal Archives in Winnipeg) and about 150 boxes of administrative files, research memoranda, and field operation reports. The latter group of material at the Institute has considerable research potential with respect to the management of complex social policy experiments, and is especially crucial for understanding

many of the field operation decisions which have subtle, but important influences on the definition of most variables contained in the data base.

Projects underway in connection with Mincome include:

1. Tier 2 Feasibility Analysis (Principal Investigator, D. Scuse, Department of Computer Science, University of Manitoba)

- the preparation of a report on the electronic integrity of Tier 2 files, their documentation and preparation of some initial flat SPSS type research files
- the preparation of cost estimates for developing a comprehensive and widely accessible set of research files, along with user documentation

2. Tier 3 Catalogue (Principal Investigator, M. Oepkes, I.S.E.R.)

- the sorting and cataloguing of all Tier 3 material
- preparation of a computerized index to facilitate research, and the preparation of additional user documentation

3. User Documentation (Principal Investigator, A. Anderson, Senior Scientist, Mincome)

- preparation of an overview of the Mincome experiment
- preparation of a detailed data dictionary, variable description and index

4. Time Series Analysis (Principal Investigator, A. Anderson, Senior Scientist, Mincome)

- preparation of a study of the time series structure of the Mincome data
- preparation of recommendations on requirements of a data management system for Mincome data with respect to the longitudinal editing problems

Other Projects

In addition to Mincome, the Institute has initiated a number of projects designed to provide at the University of Manitoba a high profile for the social science research capabilities and hopefully to develop the infrastructure for further grant and contract research.

1. Western Economic Reports

- the first issue of this report "The Structure and Evolution of the Western Canadian Economy" is in press and expected to be released in November

- issue number two, a report on bankruptcies and commercial failures, is anticipated for January
2. Winnipeg Area Study (1983)
 - the director of the Winnipeg Area Study is Ray Currie, of Sociology, who chairs a research working group with the responsibility of directing the overall survey, constructing the instrument, and identifying future themes to be undertaken in the survey. A workshop on the Winnipeg Area Survey is to be given to all interested researchers at the University of Manitoba in the near future
 - the theme for the 1983 Winnipeg Area Study has been identified as "folk medicine". This study will attempt to analyze the use of non-institutional medical services among a modern urban population
 3. Workshop in Survey Research
 - as part of the program to introduce social science techniques to research analysts and directors in the public and private sector, the institute will be providing a workshop in survey research and its management in mid-February
 4. Collected works of C.L. Barber
 - to mark the 65th birthday of Professor C.L. Barber, the Institute, in co-operation with the University of Manitoba Press, will publish a collection of his works. Professors Waterman and Hum from the University of Manitoba and Professor Brian Scarfe from the University of Alberta will co-author a survey paper summarizing the contribution made by Professor Barber to Canadian economic policy, and the theory of international trade

Funding Activities

To date, the Institute has assisted in and sponsored grant contract grant and contract proposals to the following departments

1. Social and Humanities Research Councils
2. National Health and Welfare
3. Energy, Mines, and Resources
4. Solicitor General

P U B L I C A T I O N S

of

INSTITUTE FOR SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC RESEARCH

MINCOME MANITOBA

TECHNICAL PAPER SERIES *

- MMTP-1 The objectives & Design of the Manitoba
 basic Annual Income Experiment
- MMTP-2 The Sample Design and Assignment Model
- MMTP-3 The Design of the Payments System of MINCOME
 Manitoba
- MMTP-4 The Administration of the Payments System
 of MINCOME Manitoba
- MMTP-5 An Evaluation of the Experimental Sample
 of MINCOME Manitoba
- MMTP-6 Sample Development Over Time, Participation
 Attrition
- MMTP-7 An Analysis of Non-Response to the Manitoba
 Basic Annual Income Experiment
- MMTP-8 Program Participation in the Saturation Site
 of the Manitoba Basic Annual Income
 Experiment
- MMTP-9 Income Reporting Behaviour in a Negative Tax Program:
 A Comparison of Retrospective and Prospective
 Reporting Methods in MINCOME Manitoba
- MMTP-10 The Accuracy of Income Reporting in MINCOME
 Manitoba
- MMTP-11 Issues in the Administration of MINCOME Manitoba:
 Three Preliminary Assessments
- MMTP-12 MINCOME Field Operations and Interviewing Techniques
- MMTP-13 Quality Control and MINCOME data

* These papers are available at a cost of \$3.00 each.

INSTITUTE FOR SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC RESEARCH

OVERVIEW

PURPOSE

The Institute for Social and Economic Research is a new research organization, funded by National Health and Welfare (Canada), and designed to undertake grant and contract research in:

1. Basic social science
2. Applied policy analysis and programme evaluation
3. Development and maintenance of socio-economic data bases

RESOURCES

The Institute assembles study teams from the social scientists and computer and statistical professionals at the University of Manitoba. In addition, the Institute maintains a machine-readable data base library consisting of, among others, selected series from Statistics Canada, the Census, the Mincome data base and the Winnipeg Area Study.

Research is also supported by a library of technical papers, monographs and texts on methodology, income maintenance, social policy design, programme evaluation, and computer software. A complete portfolio of computational procedures such as SPSS, SAS, SHAZAM, OSIRIS, TSERIES, PACK and a variety of specialized custom software is available to enable sophisticated research. Technical advisors from the Department of Computer Science assist researchers with specialized programming and the implementation of data base management procedures.

CURRENT PROJECTS

1. Mincome Feasibility Analysis

The Institute is assessing the Mincome data base with a view to providing maximum access to interested researchers. Mincome was a complex social experiment jointly sponsored by the Federal government and the Province of Manitoba from 1974 to 1979. An experimental population was placed on a programme of income maintenance (guaranteed annual income) and periodic surveys were administered, primarily to analyse job search and other labour market data. Each of these periodic surveys produced rich vectors of socio-economic data, of wide interest to social scientists. It is anticipated that by the summer of 1982, a series of "flat analysis" files will be produced for research. The Institute is also investigating the optimum procedures for handling custom extract requests from this data base.

2. Winnipeg Area Study

This year the Institute, jointly with the Population Research Laboratory (University of Alberta) and the Department of Sociology (Manitoba) supported a detailed demographic study of the Winnipeg population. This study is intended to be administered annually beginning in 1983, and will provide researchers in the public sector and academics with a rich, statistically accurate cross-section of the urban population. Patterned after the Detroit and Edmonton Area Studies, this survey consists of a core quality of life/socio-economic module administered each year. Over time, these components provide a valuable longitudinal view of the population. In addition, with each survey a principal investigator designs a module to intensively research one particular issue. Finally, interested public planning agencies can adhere modules and "piggy-back" on the survey assured that the highest level of

scientific design criteria have been met.

3. Western Economic Report

Beginning in the fall of 1981, the Institute will undertake a series of reports on the Western Canadian and National economies. Each report will consist of a digest of current economic indicators, forecasts, and an in-depth report on some aspect of current policy interests. Contemplated for 1981/82 are reports on:

- a. Structure and Evolution of Western Canadian Economy (Nov. 1981)
- b. An Analysis of Bankruptcies and Commercial Failures (Jan. 1982)
- c. Fiscal Federalism and Western Canada (Mar. 1982)
- d. Developing the Industrial Base of Western Canada (July 1982)

An important aspect of this project is the presentation and analysis of data not normally featured in economic intelligence available to management in the public and private sectors.

WORKSHOPS

The Institute is also engaged actively in the training of academics, private and public sector managers and the media in social science methodology. Planned for 1981/82 are workshops in:

- a. Survey Design
- b. Economic Forecasting
- c. Programme Evaluation for Health and Social Policy

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