

July 5, 2000

REPORT ON THE OTHER ECONOMICS CONFERENCE

Dear Colleague,

The Other Economics Conference 2000 was a great success. Ninety-three people attended the Conference to hear one or more of the sixty-four papers given. All sessions were well attended and some were overflowing with people. At the first plenary, Neil Costello, Head of the Economics Department at the Open University, welcomed the participants to the Conference and to the OU Conference Centre and spoke briefly about the heterodox nature of his Department. Paul Omerod plenary lecture was well received but not entirely agreed with by various members of the audience, as a vigorous debate (to the delight of all) took place during the question and answer period. At the second plenary, Victoria Chick and John Grahl debated whether the U.K. should join the European single currency. The debate was serious as well as humorous and the audience enjoyed it greatly. The BBC taped the debate as well as interviewed both speakers and many of the conference participants as to their views on the single currency. The taped material will be incorporated into the OU distance learning programme. Finally, the Conference dinner was a success largely because of Bernard Corry's witty but serious after dinner speech.

At the Conference a meeting was held concerning the future of the Association for Heterodox Economics and its annual conference. After much debate a working committee was formed which included (if I can remember all the names):

Andrew Trigg--coordinator	e-mail: a.b.trigg@open.ac.uk
Paul Downward--treasurer	e-mail: bstpd@staffs.ac.uk
Neil Costello	e-mail: n.costello@open.ac.uk
Alan Freeman	e-mail: a.freeman@greenwich.ac.uk
Wendy Olsen	e-mail: w.k.olsen@bradford.ac.uk
Karl Petrick--publicity	e-mail: k.petrick@lmu.ac.uk
Bruce Philp	e-mail: b.philp@mmu.ac.uk

Neil Costello has agreed that the OU Department of Economics will provide secretarial support for the Association; thus the Association will be located at the OU. Andrew will be making a further report concerning the future of the AHE.

The cost of The Other Economics Conference will come to approximately £2429.00; and Conference income will be £3934.00. Thus the surplus from the Conference will be around £1505.00. This I hope provides a sound financial basis for the future activities of the AHE.

Finally, without the support of Andrew Trigg, Julian Wells, Deborah Knight, Paul Downward, Alan Freeman and others, the Conference would not have been the success it was. I would also like to thank the Conference of Socialist Economists, Post Keynesian Economics Study Group, and the International Working Group on Value Theory for their support. Lastly, I would especially like to thank Neil Costello and the OU Department of Economics for underwriting the Conference.

Fred Lee