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His book is a collection of essays on economic development prepared for delivery at various meetings or seminars. Most of them deal with general problems of policy and strategy for economic development and several are related to the Indian situation only.

These essays (18 in number) discuss a wide range of specific subjects. They are grouped under three headings: (1) Agricultural Development, (2) Techniques of Planning, and (3) Commodity Problems and Policies.

In the first group of essays the strategy for economic development, the adoption by the Planning Commission of the Ford Foundation recommendations for Indian Agricultural development, and forestry and agriculture in India are elaborated.

The second group includes discussions on techniques of planning, the Indian planning machinery, and some policy implications of the plans that have as their goal a self-generating economy.

Under the third heading the essays deal with commodity problems and policies, price policy, effects of price supports, economic consequences of restrictive policies, and the influence of foreign agricultural surplus disposal on underdeveloped economies.

The listing of selected subjects under the major divisions of this book is not exhaustive, but gives some indications as to the general contents of the whole package.

William F. Hall

Farms and Farmers in an Urban Age

By Edward Higbee. The Twentieth Century Fund, New York. 183 pages. 1963. Cloth $3, paper $1.45.

FEW BOOKS on farm affairs have won such quick and eminent attention as Professor Higbee's. Scarcely was it released when summary articles appeared in the New York Times and the Congressional Record. Its reception is attributable to its qualities of being timely and easily readable—even delightfully so.

In an effort to explain farming to city people and city viewpoints to farmers, the book records the nature of modern capital-using agriculture. It tells "what has happened to the farms as a result of the substitution of capital for people."

The telling includes a running commentary on policy. However, the basic and best part of the book is reportorial, not analytical.

The book opens with a dramatizing of new technology. The author treats of the wide diversity within agriculture: "American farmers are n one species but many . . . anything from a weekend hobbyist in Bermuda shorts . . . to a corporation executive with a million acres of land woven by teletype into a transcontinental empire." As a Professor of Land Utilization (at Rhode Island University), he reports, disapprovingly, Federal policies that bring new lands into cultivation and lease public range at cut rates when land is surplus to agriculture and deficit to such nonagricultural uses as recreation.

All this has been told before, but seldom so stylistically. Professor Higbee turns a phrase with the best. The book's point-counterpoint serial form makes for light reading. Unfortunately, it sometimes gives the appearance of equally light reasoning.

For his central policy theme, the author sees Federal farm subsidies as intended to preserve the small farmer who is undercapitalized and technologically outclassed. Those farmers, although numerous, produce so little that the effort is vain. Subsidies help only the larger farmer who does not need them, he says, and therefore are an indefensible drain on the city taxpayer. Further, he predicts their early demise, as city dwellers ga representation and farmers lose it.

Nevertheless, while basically impatient with subsidies that tend to hold farmers on too-small farms, he adds that "neither is it desirable that more inefficient farmers be cast off to swell the rolls of the urban unemployed." He would make allotments and some income subsidy available to small farmers, as a concession.

Professor Higbee holds Census definitions partly accountable for misunderstandings about farming. He seems to oppose creating statistical "farms" below minimum welfare standards. Yet he himself does not see that much of the difficulty lies in failure to distinguish between "farmer" and "farm." Any person should have the right of career selection irrespective of its statistical effects. The author is justified in deploring demagogic misuse of farm income statistics. But it would seem more sensible to set up income tables by class intervals than to force all farms into a single class.

Further, it is false logic to end the farm problem by definitional removal of farms having a problem. Any economic sector can look healthy if the roster of its membership be selective enough.

Among other flaws, to conclude that farm programs are futile because the larger farmers now show good incomes fails to take into account the contribution of present programs to those incomes.

There are offsetting sagacities. One is the observation that the question of rural values is not so much how to preserve them in the country as to establish their equivalents in the city. "One of the urgent tasks of contemporary industrial-city culture is to create within its own context compensatory values to replace those destroyed by the passing of the small family farm."

And the author points out that the Committee for Economic Development was mistaken in stating that surplus-producing resources in agriculture are small farmers, who produce little, instead of big capital, which produces much.

In sum, the book is readable and well worth reading. It is an interesting book, even though not a profound one.

Harold F. Breimyer