Western Europe in the 1980s

A conference sponsored by the Cambridge Journal of Economics to be held at Cambridge in late June/early July 1982

In the two decades after the war, Western Europe experienced rapid economic growth with virtual full employment against the background of progressive unification of internal markets, increasing capital mobility and expanding trade with the rest of the world. By contrast, in the 1970s most Western European countries have suffered serious unemployment, recession in major industries, financial instability and higher inflation. Orthodox prescriptions to relieve these problems are proving damaging and largely ineffective.

The purpose of the conference is to examine the causes and consequences of these developments in Western Europe and to analyse alternative responses.

The conference will be limited to around 50 people so as to allow useful discussion. People wishing to attend should send a 1500 word synopsis of an intended paper to the CJE Conference Sccretary, Department of Applied Economics, Sidgwick Avenue, Cambridge CB3 9DE, UK, to arrive by the 1st February 1982.

It is hoped that papers will examine one or more of the following issues:

- (i) Problems in areas such as the labour market, inflation energy, industry, agriculture and relations with other parts of the world.
- (ii) Existing institutions and policies and their effect within Europe and outside.
- (iii) The problems and possibilities of new approaches to, for example, fiscal and monetary policy, industrial and regional planning, unemployment, inflation, trade and financial relations with the rest of the world, multi-national companies and international capital mobility.
- (iv) The political and economic framework in the 1980s.

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The Journal publishes theoretical and applied articles on major contemporary issues, with strong emphasis on the provision and use of empirical evidence and the formulation of economic policies. In this respect it differs from most existing journals, which are devoted to a sterile body of theory divorced from practical questions. The editors break with conventional practice by including a regular commentary on current affairs. There are also review articles and commissioned articles on subjects of importance.

Supplement to Cambridge Journal of Economics

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This new annual publication will print articles on the theory and history of political economy which fall broadly within a critical tradition in economic thought and associated with the work of the old classical economists, Marx, Keynes and Straffa. An important function of the journal will be to review the more important books published in the preceding year the subject matter of which falls within the scope of the journal.

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