

Fischer, Paul

Fischer, Paul S. (City U. of New York, 1972.) "Transfer of Manpower from Agriculture in Hungary: 1949-1963." 149 pages. Microfilm and xerox order no. 72-13,461."

Fischer examines the process of off-farm migration in a command-type economy, i.e., the roles that collectivization, manpower planning, the availability of employment in the non farm sector and other variables played in transferring labor out of agriculture.

A two-sector model, of the Fei-Ranis type, provided the general framework within which the thesis had been worked out. The decision to use this type of model was dictated by the fact that Hungary was thought to have had labor surplus in agriculture. The policymakers regarded their country as having an abundance of cheap labor in agriculture and believed that the farm sector could release the needed manpower for industrialization without a loss in farm output. Fischer shows

that there was actually no surplus labor in agriculture within the institutional setup. The attempt to collectivize agriculture and the continued diversion of labor into industry caused difficulties which continued to plague the Hungarian economy throughout the entire period.

The dissertation makes a distinction between migration of young single persons and that of married men with dependents. Migration of the former group, by far the largest, was encouraged by the fact that the urban wage rate was above their per capita consumption in the village; migration of the latter group was encouraged by the collectivization drive.

The principal conclusion of the thesis is that the "collectivization push" of the farm sector and the "employment pull" of the non-farm sector were the two crucial variables explaining the manpower transfer, but operating with somewhat differing importance during the years of this study.