Dr. Marcu Horovitz

THE OPTIMAL ECONOMIC MODEL

Publishing House of the Academy of the Socialist Republic of Romania,
Biblioteca Oeconomika, 1970, 305 pag.

The modelling of the economic growth has become at present one of the basic problems of the economic theory and practice. The increasing economic part played by the state within the contemporary social structure imposed an extraordinary growth of interest for the analyses and investigation of the factors, correlations, and of the interdependence which determine the structure, balance and dynamics of the national economy, — an action finding its reflection in the actual rhythm of economic development.

The building up of a unitary theory of the economic growth, substantiated from the viewpoint of the Marxist science, represents, at present, a major concern of the economists in this country.

We must mention that, up to the present day, in the "Biblioteca oeconomika" appeared a series of interesting works which aimed at making clear various aspects connected to the economic growth. Among them can be also considered Dr. Horovitz's work work "The Optimal Economic Model", in which the author intends to approach one of the most complex, controversial, but at the same time captivating problem of the contemporary economic science, namely the problem of the economic optimum.

The work acquaints the reader with the main aspects and with the present-stage of the economic optimum, and on the other hand, it presents a series of opinions and original solutions, simultaneously suggesting new investigation areas.

The author critically presents, from the angle of the Marxist economist, the main ideas which appeared in the world's economic thought as concerns the economic optimum problem, and he elucidates, at the same time, certain methodological problems, necessary to the understanding of the approached theme.

Some of the main types of optimization and simulation economic-mathematical models are analysed in the work.

In treating these problems, the author evinces a good knowledge of the literature and a subtle critical sense. Nevertheless, the criticism concerning some models known from the literature are not always convincing, and sometimes they are contestable.

In the last part of the work, the author proposes a series of solutions concerning the national economy optimization. I consider as

suitable — and I associate myself to it — the author's idea of believing that the national economy optimization can be done only by means of a complex system of models, between which a continuous information flow must exist. These models can, obviously, be only dynamic models.

From the proposed models, the author analyses more extensively those concerning prices and foreign trade, bringing an interesting contribution to the debates which take place in this domain.

I consider that the work would have benefited much more by the author's emphasis upon some aggregate dynamic models of long-term economic growth, which render the general development trends of the national economy, and on the basis of which optimal values of the main economic control parameters can be established (i.e. accumulation rate, ratio between sector no. 1 and 2, a.s.o.).

In concluding, we must mention that this work's publication is an important event in the scientific life of our country.

M. Altăr