W. Busse von Colbe, G. Lassmann

BETRIEBSWIRTSCHAFTSTHEORIE, BAND 1, GRUNDLAGEN, PRODUKTIONS – UND KOSTENTHEORIE

(Theory of Enterprise Economy, Vol. 1, Theory of Costs and Production)

Springer-Verlag, Berlin-Heidelberg-New York, 1975

The reviewed study represents the last volume of the "Theory of Enterprise Economy" course delivered by the authors at the Ruhr University in Bochum, beginning with 1967. The character of a university course of the work is not only declared but also consistently and systematically achieved. The organization of the subject-matter on chapters, paragraphs, points and subpoints corresponds to the tempo required by the unfolding of the teaching process. The lucidity of the exposée is multiplied by other qualities as well. The big number of graphs and figures accompanying the text illustrates by specific means the verbal exposition, at the same time contributing to a better understanding, on the basis of intuitive representation. The book provides a rich and judiciously organized material for applicative works; in this respect, a big number of problems and exercises are suggested for each solution. All this shows the high methodical and didactic values of the book.

The course is constructed on the problems of the capitalist enterprises in the Federal Republic of Germany. The references quoted both within and at the end of the chapters include in their greater majority works and text-books published in the Federal Republic of Germany. The problems tackled are classified into the three chapters of the book, as follows: the basic problem(the place of the "Theory of Enterprise Economy" in the system of sciences, the content of the discipline, the definition of the notion of enterprise, the decision making process in an enterprise, the models used in the theory of enterprise economy), the theory of production (assets, products and production

factors, structural elements and the outputs of the production models, the properties of the production functions and their economic significance, production models with constrained factors, production models with subtitutable factors, models with indirect connections between factors and product, models with several technologies and production stages) and the costs theory (sizes influencing costs, short-term costs models with direct and indirect connections between factors and costs, long-term costs models, costs models with a stock variation). The treatment is mathematized and econometrized in a rather advanced degree. The character of a text-book and the inherent space limitations have, of course entailed serious constraints in this respect. However, in our opinion, the work is interesting especially from the methodological point of view, under the amplified conditions for the scientific organization of production and labour in our enterprises. For specialists working in the scientific field of the socialist enterprises, the course may arouse interest as a representative work of the West German school of enterprise economy.

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