

18 October 1954

De Heer H.C. van Gerwen,
N.V. Noord-Hollandsche Uitgevers
Maatschappij,
Postbus 103,
Amsterdam

Ze^{er} geachte Heer Gerwen,

Bijgaand zend ik U een kort overzicht als gevraagd in Uw brief van 15 October. Het Engels zou nog even moeten worden gecontroleerd. Ik laat van mijn kant het ook nog even nazien en zend U binnen een paar dagen de gecorrigeerde tekst. Het is alleen voor het geval dat U haast hebt, dat ik U deze voorlopige tekst ook al zend.

Hoogachtend,

Heer Van Beusekom heeft geen
opmerkingen

18 October 1954

De Heer H.C. van Gerwen,
Noord-Hollandsche Uitgevers
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kend,

18 October 1924

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N.V. Noord-Hollandische Uitgevers
Maatschappij,
Postbus 103,
Amsterdam

Seer gesechte Heer Gerwen,
Bijgaand zend ik U een kort overzicht als gevraagd in Uw
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Hoogachtend,

Centralization and Decentralization in Economic Policy

The problem to indicate the correct degree of decentralization is one of the fundamental questions of organization generally and very much also of economic organization and of economic policy. In a way it may even be said to be the essence of economic policy itself. The problem presents itself in various forms: in international economic policy as the problem of integration and in national economic policy as the question what activities could best be left to individuals, or groups, and what functions should be part of the government's task.

The author tries to indicate what the consequences of less centralized and more centralized types of policy are and on what criteria a choice should be based. The present study therefore represents an attempt to deal more systematically with these questions of economic policy and thus constitutes a further contribution to the "theory of economic policy" offered in volume I of this series.

The author introduces the concepts of ~~economixpolicy~~ "supporting", "conflicting" and "neutral" instruments of economic policy, thought to be helpful in understanding the essence of the problem of centralization.

The argument is not only theoretical and general in nature but is clarified by a number of examples, taken from the national as well as the international scene. These examples are of the well-known class of "econometric models", as used in modern discussions; the international model being a simple model of ten countries of equal size and equal structure, but not necessarily equal policies. The examples used enable the author to specify his concepts and to show how his method works. Some tentative conclusions on economic integration are drawn.

The author introduces the concept of "neoliberalism" as a new paradigm in economic thought. This paradigm is characterized by a shift from the traditional focus on the state's role in the economy to a more limited role, emphasizing free markets and individual liberties. The author argues that this shift is necessary to address the challenges of globalization and technological change. The text discusses the historical context of neoliberalism, tracing its roots to classical liberal thought and the economic policies of the late 19th and early 20th centuries. It also examines the resurgence of neoliberal ideas in the mid-20th century, particularly in the context of the Cold War and the rise of the welfare state. The author critiques the limitations of traditional economic theory and policy, arguing that they are ill-equipped to handle the complexities of the modern world. He proposes a new framework for economic analysis and policy-making, one that is more flexible and responsive to changing circumstances. The text concludes by outlining the author's vision for a more just and prosperous society, one that is based on the principles of neoliberalism.