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## SOCIAL RELATIONS IN A COMPLEX INDUSTRIAL AREA

An investigation of progressive factors in a mature economy under American political, social, and psychological conditions.

(1951)

### THE GENERAL PROSPECTUS

A research program in four interrelated problems:

1. What are the status and distribution of economic and demographic resources in a mature industrial economy  
-- including comparative materials from England and other parts of America, historical and modern, which provide indices for fixing the status of the Rhode Island economy today?
2. To what extent do the American political structure and political practices determine the role of the economic structure and limit the effects of economic maturity, and to what extent are they determined and limited by the status of the economy?
3. How is the social structure of Rhode Island conditioned by the economic conditions for the employment of human resources and the types of occupations and industry afforded by the economy? How, in turn, does the social structure of Rhode Island determine the use of industrial resources?
4. What are the primary attitudinal conflicts among Rhode Islanders arising from differences among the economic, social, and political roles of the people? On what levels of the different economic, social, and political hierarchies are attitudinal differences greatest and least? What psychological and external (active) consequences do the various conflicts of attitude bring?

The conditions for this research, in the view of the framers of this prospectus, are singularly good. They may be enumerated and described: (insert material from Stoltz memorandum)

### THE GENERAL ORGANIZATION OF THE RESEARCH PROGRAM

The organization of the research: It is the plan of this group to undertake the described research over a three-year period. In the first year of work, the research plans will be perfected in a series of group meetings, the foundation for community cooperation will be laid, historical materials will be gathered and analyzed, exploratory field work will be conducted jointly by the members of the four associated departments for training a student staff. In the second year, the

field studies will be conducted, the training seminar maintained, and the staff released half-time from teaching obligations to devote more attention to the research program. In the third year, the project staff will devote itself to the preparation of five reports (four on the four major aspects of the program and a fifth joint report on the methodology and interrelated substantive findings of the total program of research). The seminar will continue as during the first two years and again the staff will devote only one-half time to teaching.

Since Brown University does not at the present time possess a research laboratory, institute, or group of this kind, a new organization will be created by the President of the University, to be known as the Brown University Commission for Research in Public Policy (Behavioral Dynamics? Social Behavior?). The University, convinced of the potential value of interdepartmental cooperation in the social sciences, will also provide central housing for the staff and materials of the research program. It will authorize the use of University facilities during the summer, when the University as a whole is not in session. The Commission will be self-governing under the over-all rules and regulations of the University, and members of the staff will be subject to departmental regulations in their capacity as members of the departmental staffs. The Dean of the Graduate School will be ex officio member of the Commission when the Commission considers matters affecting the public relations of the University and the regulations of the University. The Commission will be responsible to the President of the University and will report at will or upon his request.

#### USE OF THE RESEARCH PROGRAM IN THE TRAINING OF STUDENTS

The University is especially concerned that the process of this research be related intimately to the education of its graduate and undergraduate students.

Experience with similar programs in departments of the natural sciences encourages the University to believe that the effects of such research on the teaching and preparation of students will be satisfactory, and, indeed, that such a conjunction of research and teaching is necessary today. The University foresees that among the effects of this research will be a steady infiltration of new principles and inspiration into the teaching of undergraduates, an increased emphasis on methodological training in existing courses, changes in the departmental curricula to adjust to newer developments in the social sciences, and an emphatic strengthening of the interdisciplinary interests and abilities of social scientists on the Faculty of the University and among the students. In these respects, the research program will constitute a further extension of the philosophy of liberal arts education behind the major curriculum changes of 19 .

Furthermore, the University expects that the effects of this research program will extend indefinitely beyond the stipulated duration of the program and stands ready to establish permanently the more promising of the changes that occur as a result of the program. It is hoped that the essentials of the program will remain and distinguish the Graduate School of Brown University by a continuing specialization in this type of interdisciplinary community study.