

Precursors to IATRC

BY: Tim Josling
and Alex McCalla

Presentation to 30th Annual IATRC Meeting.
Claremont Hotel, Berkeley CA Dec 12, 2010.

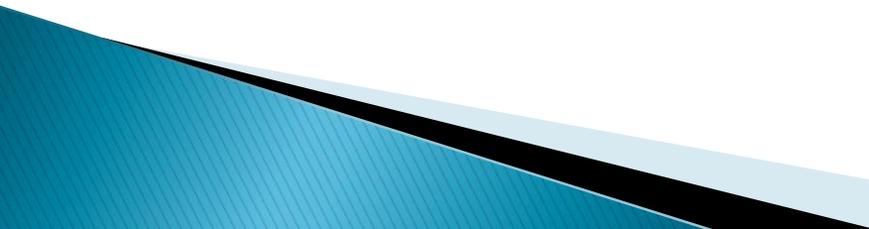
Histor(iography)

- ▶ April 1977 Tucson meeting, organized by Hillman and Schmitz, on International Trade issues: “West-Coast Trade Group” (WTG) met (around piano) to discuss “follow-up”
- ▶ 1978 WTG (**Hillman, Schmitz, Sarris, King, McCalla and Josling – Founding Six**) began periodic meetings – First one –April 11 in Berkeley, then June 2 at Stanford; June 29 at Berkeley; September 21 at Berkeley; November 28 at Stanford
- ▶ September 1979: Applied for Ford Foundation grant–granted \$12,220 on Nov. 14, 1978.
- ▶ February 1979 met at Dillon Beach to cross-review seven papers

Histor(iography)

- ▶ March 1979 WTC meeting at Stanford, to review book chapters: used opportunity to involve other individuals and institutions and plan follow-on (A. McC) 20 people attended including reps from Ag. Canada, ESCS, FAS, Canadian Wheat Board & IFPRI
- ▶ In addition to reviewing the eight papers prepared, a key decision was to seek funding for a Trade Research Consortium which eventually led to first meeting in St Paul, MN in 1980
- ▶ May 1979 meeting at Davis to consolidate book revisions, first submitted to Giannini Fdn and Food Research Institute Studies
- ▶ Eventually Published as **Imperfect Markets in Agricultural Trade** by Allenheld-Osmun in 1981.

Motivation

- ▶ Concern in late 1970s that interface between trade policy and domestic policy was not being adequately addressed
 - ▶ 1970s had been turbulent time and domestic farm policies were held to be partly responsible
 - ▶ Concern that structural issues were not being handled well: assumption of competition in agricultural markets looked out-of-place
 - ▶ CWB and US concentration in grains were seen as clear cases of market power
- 

Motivation

- ▶ Concerns that our trade models (usually partial equilibrium market clearing models with “world price” added in) were inadequate for support of policy analysis
 - ▶ Lack of institutional mechanism for coordinating work to develop ideas, create new models, and share information
 - ▶ McCalla will elaborate ...
- 

IATRC Is Born

- ▶ After Stanford meeting many conversations with Ken Farrell of ESCS about forming a group and getting funding.
- ▶ Had encouragement from Ralph Lattimore of Ag Canada “*to find a vehicle to keep the small group of ag trade researchers in North America together on a regular basis.*” Mar 29, 1979
- ▶ Dec 12, 1979 Meeting in Stanford
- ▶ –first day wrap up of FF grant and agreed to published papers as book
- ▶ – second day to review draft proposal to ESCS– attending Hillman, Hanrahan, Josling, King, McCalla, Sarris, Schmitz, Schuh and Thompson.

The Proposal:

- ▶ “Propose a national consortia of individuals in selected institutions to encourage continuing trade research in the Universities and to build a continuing relationship with ESCS;
- ▶ Objectives:
 - A. To foster sustained efforts in Inter. Ag Trade research– emphasis on trade policy & interface between domestic agricultural policy and international markets;
 - B. To encourage interactions among Univ. researchers doing and/or interested in agricultural trade res.;
 - C. To encourage interactions between Univ. & USDA researchers on a sustained and collegial basis.

The Proposal:cont

- D. To provide a vehicle for U.S. policy makers to seek advice on research needs and policy issues from active researchers and also for policy makers to request and receive research output relevant to national policy issues;
- E. To foster and support graduate student interest and research in international trade policy issues and thereby expand pool of available research talent.

Concluding Comments: Trade research is inherently difficult and expensive. It requires sustained intellectual attention and finding. Long term availability of a vehicle to get such support would do much to sustain faculty & graduate student interest in all aspects of trade policy.

The Rest Is History:

- ▶ ESCS approved grant in spring of 1980;
- ▶ First meeting held at St. Paul Campus of U of Minnesota, June 30 July 2 ,1980;
- ▶ **The Original 13** attended –five of **The Founding Six** plus **Colin Carter, Charles Hanrahan, Scott Pearson, Ed Rossmiller, Ed Schuh, Vern Soreson, Gary Storey and Bob Thompson.**
- ▶ FAS joined in 1981 and began funding the IATRC in 1982–83
- ▶ Agriculture Canada also joined in 1981 and began funding Canadian participation.
- ▶ So 30 years later –here we are having a party just like old times.