

NOTE OF ANNUAL CONFERENCE AND A.G.M. 1983

Co-operative College, Stanford Hall,
Loughborough, Leics.

4 p.m., 23 September - 2 p.m., 24 September

LARGE IS BEAUTIFUL?

Coping with Size in Co-operative Enterprise

The future of the largest sector of the British Co-operative movement, retail societies, is evidently one of large scale organisations. For at least twenty five years, a central theme of the mainstream approach to the improvement of Co-operative trading has been that of increasing the scale of the organisations that undertake it. Whether or not planned, the increase in scale has occurred. This increase has become particularly marked with London Society's entry into CRS and the merger of North Midland and Greater Lancastria Societies. Discussions continue about a merger between the CWS and CRS, both already massive organisations.

Despite the increases in scale, however, the looked-for improvements in trade have not always happened. In that regard, the crucial role of management should not be ignored and the management of large scale Co-operative enterprise will be the major theme of this year's conference. The experience of managing a large, successful retail society and the biggest of them all, the CWS, will be considered and an expert outsider will look at the general problems of the management of large scale retailing.

But while the retail movement pursues its path of giantism, a new wave of Co-operatives is growing up which sees the retail movement at best going the way of building societies and friendly societies. Much of this new wave makes a merit of its small scale of operation and the minor theme of the conference will be consideration of this alternative approach to Co-operative development.

Residential : £25
Non-residential : £16

Bookings to Brian Rose,
Secretary,
Society for Co-operative Studies,
26 Crescent Road,
London N11 3LA.

PROGRAMME

Chairman: Professor Tony Eccles

Friday

4 p.m. Reception and Tea

4.30 - 6.15 MANAGING LARGE CO-OPERATIVES:
A SYMPOSIUM

Speakers: John Dawson,
Fraser of Allander
Professor of Distributive Studies, University of Stirling.

George Money,
Chief Executive Officer,
West Yorkshire Co-operative Society.

David Skinner,
Non-Foods Controller,
Co-operative Whole-
sale Society.

6.30 Sherry and Dinner

7.45 - 9.00 MANAGING LARGE CO-OPERATIVES

A discussion of the issues raised
in the symposium

9.15 CO-OPERATION BETWEEN CO-OPERATIVES

An informal session for members
wishing to hear from the Society's
syndicate on this topic a report on
their work with the Co-operative
Development Agency.

Saturday

8.30 a.m. Breakfast

9.15 - 10.45 AN ALTERNATIVE APPROACH TO SIZE

Speaker: John Berry,
Greater London Enter-
prise Board

10.45 Coffee

11.15 - 12.45 SOCIETY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

1.00 p.m. Lunch and Departure