FUTURE DIRECTIONS IN POSTAL REFORM

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FUTURE DIRECTIONS IN POSTAL REFORM

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Springer Science+Business Media, LLC

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Future directions in postal reform / edited by Michael A. Crew and Paul R. Kleindorfer.

p. cm. -- (Topics in regulatory economics and policy series)

"Eighth Conference on Postal and Delivery Economics: "Future Directions in Postal Reform," held in Vancouver Canada, June 7-10, 2000"--Pref.

Includes bibliographical references.

ISBN 978-1-4613-5670-7 ISBN 978-1-4615-1671-2 (eBook)

DOI 10.1007/978-1-4615-1671-2

1. Postal service--Congresses. 2. Postal service--Management--Congresses. 3. Postal service--Automation--Congresses. 4. Postal service--Cost control--Congresses. 5. Postal service--Law and Legislation--Congresses. 6. Postal service--International cooperation--Congresses. I. Crew, Michael A. II. Kleindorfer, Paul R. III. Conference on Postal and Delivery Economics (8th : 2000 : Vancouver, Canada) IV. Topics in regulatory economics and policy.

HE6011 .F88 2000

383'.24--dc21

00-053088

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Originally published by Kluwer Academic Publishers in 2001
Softcover reprint of the hardcover 1st edition 2001

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Printed on acid-free paper.

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Finland Ministry of Transport and Communications

PREFACE AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This book arises out of the Eighth Conference on Postal and Delivery Economics: "Future Directions in Postal Reform," held in Vancouver Canada, June 7-10, 2000. Leading practitioners, postal administrations, and the courier industry, as well as a number of regulators, academic economists, mailers, consultants, and lawyers came together to examine some of the major policy and regulatory issues facing the industry. Issues addressed included international postal policy; the universal service obligation; regulation; competition, entry, and the role of scale and scope economies; the nature and role of cost analysis in postal service; productivity; interaction of law and economics; future technologies; and service standards.

The conference and the book follow our earlier conferences. In 1990, a conference was held at Coton House, Rugby, England, July 22-25, 1990, in honor of the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the Penny Post and the contributions of Sir Rowland Hill. The ensuing book, *Competition and Innovation in Postal Services*, was published by Kluwer Academic Publishers in 1991. In 1992, *Regulation and the Evolving Nature of Postal and Delivery Services: 1992 and Beyond* was held at Village PTT, La Londe les Maures, France, on March 18-21, 1992. This conference resulted in *Regulation and the Nature of Postal and Delivery Services*, published by Kluwer in 1993. Both conferences were recognized by the European Express Organization with the Hermes Award 1992 at its annual award dinner in Munich on June 22, 1992. The first workshop, The Workshop on Postal and Delivery Economics, was held June 23-26, 1993 in Daun, Germany. In 1994 a Conference in Stockholm, Sweden, May 18-21, 1994, and a workshop, in Hakone, Japan, June 1-4, 1994 combined to produce the volume *Commercialization of Postal and Delivery Services*, published by Kluwer in 1995. A workshop was held in Naantali, Finland, June 7-10, 1995. A Conference was held in Monterey, California, May 22-25, 1996, and resulted in the book *Managing Change in The Postal and Delivery Industries*, published by Kluwer in 1996. The next book, *Emerging Competition in Postal and Delivery Services* was a direct result of the Fifth and Sixth Conferences on Postal and Delivery Economics: *The Evolving Structure of Postal and Delivery Industries* held in Helsingor, Denmark, June 11-14, 1997; *Emerging Competition in the Postal and Delivery Sectors* held in Montreux, Switzerland, June 17-20, 1998. These combined to produce the book *Emerging Competition in the Postal and Delivery Services*. The Seventh Conference on Postal and Delivery Economics, *Current Directions in Postal Reform*, was held in Sintra, Portugal, June 23-26, 1999. This resulted in the book *Current Directions in Postal Reform*

PREFACE AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The 2000 conference was made possible by the support of the following organizations: CRRI—Center for Research in Regulated Industries, Graduate School of Business, Rutgers University; Center for Risk Management and Decision Processes, The Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania; Royal Mail/U.K. Post Office; Canada Post Corporation; Deutsche Post; La Poste; R.R. Donnelley & Sons Company; United Parcel Service; Federal Express; CTT Correios (Portuguese Post); Pitney Bowes; PricewaterhouseCoopers; Siemens Electrocom; Australia Post; Sweden Post; Finland Post; ICP—Instituto das Comunicações de Portugal; Linx (A Division of A.T. Kearney); Post Danmark; Correos y Telégrafos (Spanish Post); United States Postal Rate Commission; United States Postal Service; Poste Italiane; New Zealand Post; Association for Postal Commerce; National Association of Letter Carriers; Postal Services International; Finland Ministry of Transport and Communications. We would like to thank sponsors not only for financial support, but also for their advice and encouragement, and for serving on the organizing committee. In particular, we would like to thank John Allen, Mary Bundy, James Campbell, Catherine Churchard, Ken Churchill, Robert Cohen, Jeff Colvin, João Confraria, Gene Del Polito, John Dolling, Edward Gleiman, Rob Gray, John Haldi, Gary Jensen, Peter Johnson, Matti Linnoskivi, Lynn Malcolm, Rohan Malhotra, José Marcos, Heikki Nikali, Virpi Palo, Alberto Pimenta, Bill Price, Sarah Prosser, Oluf Raldorf, David Rawnsley, Ian Reay, Kevin Richardson, Frank Rodriguez, James Sauber, John Schmidt, Christian Schunck, Nancy Sparks, Børge Spong, David Storer, Joëlle Toledano, David Treworgy, Vincenzo Visco-Commandini, Sture Wallander, Tim Walsh, and Anton van der Lande.

The host country plays an important role in these conferences. This year's conference, the *Eight Conference on Postal Delivery Economics*, benefited greatly from the efforts of our hosts Canada Post. Bill Price provided advice, reminders, and assistance on numerous occasions in his role as Canada Post's representative on the organizing committee. In addition, Louis O'Brien and Gerard Power were helpful to us with their advice and assistance.

In the tradition of these conferences we very much enjoyed the speeches by three distinguished executives in the postal sector. We thank John M. Nolan, Deputy Postmaster General, United States Postal Service; Luis Jimenez, Vice President of Global Growth and Futures Strategy, Pitney Bowes; and Peter T. McInenly, Q.C., Vice President—Strategic Planning, Canada Post Corporation. Each, at his dinner speech, provided a unique perspective on the problems facing postal and delivery networks.

Finally, we must thank Jeremy T. Guenter, Administrative Assistant in the Center for Research in Regulated Industries, for his efforts in making this book possible. He performs his typesetting tasks in addition to his day to day administrative tasks. These include administrative support for all of the Center's conferences and workshops. This is the third book he has typeset in a little over a year at the Center. He was of considerable assistance to us several ways, particularly the development of the *Style Instructions*, which were a great help in helping us meet the tighter deadlines and generally improved the production process. We would like to thank him not only as editors but on behalf of the authors too. As an extension of his work on the book this year he is developing a research tool available to all through the CRRI web site. This will provide access to the many references used in this and other postal books in the series. Researchers will not only be able to use this as a means of searching the literature but also be able to download them for listing in their papers. This is a continuing project involving frequent updating of the database. Visit us on the web at <http://www.rci.rutgers.edu/~crri>.

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