Chapter 7: Domestic policy advisor

The Life and Work of Arthur (A.J.) Brown

Kenneth Button

Extract

This chapter looks at Brown's role as an economic advisor on a range of UK domestic matters. It initially offers an overview of Brown's own opinions regarding the official advisory role, and then looks at some of his other activities, which included serving on the Advisory Boards of both the new University of Kent and the University of Bradford, created from a former College of Advanced Technology. He also served for many years on the University Grants Committee that advised the Department of Education and Science on university financing. His appointment was linked to his earlier work on the Tress-Brown Index that provided the foundation for assessing university base costs.

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Professor A J Brown – Biography

A J Brown is John F Kearney Professor of Public Law, Griffith Law School, Griffith University, based on the Gold Coast, Queensland, Australia. Prior to joining academia, he worked as a State government ministerial policy advisor; Associate to Justice G E ‘Tony’ Fitzgerald AC, President of the Queensland Court of Appeal; Senior Investigation Officer with Australia’s Commonwealth Ombudsman; and as a public interest environmental advocate. The slow coming together of his personal, professional and public lives, culminates in sharp moments of truth – for Kirby, for powerful institutions, and for a society learning to cope with the challenges of change. ‘A very fine book A J Brown combines great scholarship and great elegance in his writing. Domestic Policy defined and explained with examples. Domestic policy is the decisions made by a government regarding issues that occur within the country. Domestic policy affects how every person in the country lives every day, as it shapes such issues as environmental protection, laws, education, welfare programs, and law enforcement. This is in contrast to foreign policy, which deals with the nation’s relationships with other countries, including international trade, and peacekeeping. Many who started life as yeoman farmers or traders became minor gentry or merchants. Part of their success resulted from a strong interest in farming improvements, which could now be studied in the many new books on the subject. By the middle of the century the government had already begun to control the trade in cereals to make sure that merchants did not export these while Britain still needed them. However, by 1670 Britain was able to export cereals to Europe, where living conditions, particularly for the poor, were much worse than in Britain.