

The Incidence and Efficiency Costs of Corporate Taxation When Corporate and Noncorporate Firms Produce the Same Good

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One difficulty confronting Harberger's celebrated model of the corporate income tax is how to treat noncorporate production in primarily corporate sectors and corporate production in primarily noncorporate sectors. The paper presents a two-good model with corporate and noncorporate production of both goods. The incidence of corporate tax in our mutual production model can differ markedly from that in the Harberger model. The difference between the two models in deadweight loss is also striking, with losses in the mutual production model many times larger than those in the Harberger model.

I. Introduction

The year 1987 marked the twenty-fifth anniversary of Arnold Harberger's (1962) celebrated model of the corporation income tax. The

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Harberger model, as it has come to be called, has been remarkably influential. It not only vanquished earlier theoretical analyses but also shifted the debate from one of theory to one of the proper measurement of the model's parameters. There is now a voluminous literature that uses the Harberger model or extensions of it to measure the incidence and efficiency costs of corporate taxation.

One issue confronting all empirical analyses of the Harberger model is how to treat noncorporate production in primarily corporate sectors and corporate production in primarily noncorporate sectors. The Harberger model provides no real guide to this question since it assumes that one good is produced only by corporations and the other good is produced only by noncorporate firms. To state it differently, Harberger models the differential taxation of capital used in the production of different goods rather than the taxation of capital used by corporations *per se*. In empirical work the common finesse, initiated by Harberger, is to assume that all firms in a sector are identical and face taxation of capital at a rate equal to the sector's average rate of capital taxation. This assumption is, unfortunately, far from innocuous. In treating each sector as consisting of identical firms that face the same tax rate, Harberger ignores the within-sector substitution that can arise between corporate and noncorporate production of the same good. Moreover, as Gravelle (1981) and Ebrill and Hartman (1982, 1983) point out, the Harberger model cannot be easily modified to permit noncorporate production of the corporate good. If there is even a single, equally efficient noncorporate producer of the corporate good, corporate production will entirely disappear in response to the imposition of a tax on corporate income.

This paper presents a two-good (sector) model with corporate and noncorporate production of both goods. This mutual production model has three productive factors: capital, labor, and managerial input (entrepreneurial input in the case of noncorporate firms). Each agent is free to be a corporate manager, an entrepreneur, or a worker. While agents are equally productive as corporate managers or workers, they are not equally productive as entrepreneurs. In equilibrium, those agents who are most productive as entrepreneurs will establish their own firms, with the marginal entrepreneur just indifferent between establishment of his or her own firm and employment as a corporate manager or worker. Entrepreneurs manage their firms solely by themselves, and their firms may be quite small. In contrast, corporations must operate at greater than a minimum scale. This minimum scale requirement ensures that the corporate sector will not disappear in the presence of a corporate income tax.

The incidence of the corporate tax in the mutual production model (MPM) can differ markedly from that in the Harberger model. A

hallmark of Harberger's corporate tax incidence formula is its dependence on differences across sectors in elasticities of substitution between capital and labor. In contrast, the incidence of the corporate tax in the MPM may fall 100 percent on capital regardless of sector differences in substitution elasticities. This result holds for a large class of production functions, including the constant elasticity of substitution (CES) function, if each sector initially has the same capital shares as well as the same corporate share of output.

While one might expect that the two incidence formulae would, in general, differ, the implicit suggestion in the Harberger finesse is that the two formulae will converge as one sector becomes more corporate intensive and the other less corporate intensive. Such, however, is not the case. The MPM incidence formula converges to something quite different from that in the Harberger model. The difference in the two models is further illustrated by assuming CES production functions and using Harberger's (1966) and Shoven's (1976) data to calculate pretax and posttax equilibria. With these data, there are significant differences in incidence in the MPM and Harberger model for a variety of combinations of demand and production elasticities. For example, if we assume elasticities of substitution equal to .5 and a demand elasticity equal to one, the share of the corporate tax borne by capital in the MPM is 141 percent while it is only 82 percent in the Harberger model.

The difference between the two models in the deadweight loss from corporate taxation is also striking. If one uses the Harberger-Shoven data and assumes unitary substitution and demand elasticities, the deadweight loss is over 10 times larger in the CES version of the MPM than in the Harberger model. Part of the explanation for this difference is that in empirical applications of the Harberger model, noncorporate firms are included in the "corporate" sector and vice versa, and average corporate tax rates are computed for each sector.¹ The difference between these average tax rates across the two sectors, which may be much smaller than the statutory corporate rate, is taken as the distortionary tax wedge in applications of the Harberger model. In contrast, in applications of the MPM, the statutory rate is the distortionary tax wedge. If each sector is equally corporate intensive, the Harberger analysis predicts zero distortion from the corporate tax, whereas the MPM predicts a potentially significant deadweight loss arising from within-sector substitution of noncorporate for corporate production.

¹ Harberger's distinction between corporate and noncorporate activity was based, in part, on how heavily a sector was taxed. As a consequence, Harberger included the lightly taxed corporate industry, oil and gas, in the noncorporate sector.

The second reason that the deadweight loss is so much greater in the MPM than in the Harberger model involves the elasticity of product demand. A larger elasticity in demand between corporate and noncorporate output appears, *ceteris paribus*, to increase the extent of substitution away from corporate capital and to increase the excess burden. In the MPM the source of excess burden is primarily within-sector substitution of noncorporate for corporate capital, whereas the source of excess burden in the Harberger model is between-sector substitution. In the MPM the within-sector elasticity of demand for corporate and noncorporate output is infinite. In contrast, the between-sector elasticity of demand, which plays an important role in determining excess burden in the Harberger model, is thought to be quite small.²

The paper proceeds in Section II by pointing out the extent of mutual production in particular industries as well as changes through time in the extent of mutual production. This section indicates that at the two-digit level of aggregation all goods are mutually produced. On the other hand, at finer levels of aggregation, for some goods there appears to be production only by firms subject to the corporate tax. For example, there appear to be noncorporate manufacturers of televisions. The fact that there is zero noncorporate production of some goods is not, however, a problem for the MPM. The minimum requirement for the main theoretical results in the MPM presented here is that there be corporate production of both goods, but not necessarily noncorporate production of both goods. There appear to be very few goods that are not produced by firms subject to the corporate tax.³

Section III motivates our modeling of the corporate tax as a tax on capital of large firms that are not owned and operated solely by the same individual or solely by a small number of individuals. While this definition of the base of the corporate tax is multifaceted, it appears to be used in practice. Indeed, Regulation 301.7701-2(a)(1) of the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) code states that "an organization will

² One could modify the Harberger model using the Armington (1969) approach to international trade, which would allow corporate and noncorporate goods of the same type to be close, but not perfect, substitutes. This approach does not explain why the fact of being produced by a corporation would differentiate a good, especially in cases in which products appear completely homogeneous (e.g., crude oil). The Armington approach, like that of this study, would yield a much larger excess burden (see Gravelle and Kotlikoff 1988) than that reported by Shoven (1976).

³ One could develop a hybrid combination of the MPM and the Harberger model (see Gravelle and Kotlikoff 1989) that would permit sectors, such as owner-occupied housing, that are completely noncorporate. Such models would exhibit many of the properties of the MPM developed here.

be taxed as a corporation if its characteristics are such that it more closely resembles a corporation than a partnership or trust.”

Section IV presents the mutual production model. Section V compares the corporate tax incidence formula of the MPM with that of Harberger's model. Section VI describes the calculation of no-tax and posttax equilibria in the MPM and the Harberger model, which can be evaluated using the Harberger-Shoven data. Section VII compares the incidence and excess burden of corporate taxation in the two models. Section VIII summarizes the paper and suggests further applications and extensions of the model.

II. The Extent of Mutual Production

Table 1 indicates that there has been and continues to be corporate production in all two-digit industries as well as all three-digit industries for which data are available. There is also noncorporate production in virtually all the two- and three-digit industries; only four of the 50 two- and three-digit industries listed in table 1 have solely corporate production. In a large number of industries that Harberger includes in the “corporate sector,” the share of noncorporate output has often been quite large. For example, the noncorporate share of output in retail apparel was 38.1 percent in 1957; the 1982 figure is smaller, only 19.6 percent. In retail food, noncorporate production accounted for almost half of output in 1957; more recently it has accounted for over one-quarter of output.

There has been considerable change over time in many industries in the corporate share of production. One example is drugstores, whose corporate share of output rose from 38.4 percent in 1957 to 91.4 percent in 1982. Or consider agriculture, in which the corporate share of output rose from only 9.2 percent in 1957 to 29.3 percent in 1982. While most industries have become significantly more corporate, several, including mining and motion pictures, have become somewhat more noncorporate.⁴ These data certainly suggest a very substantial degree of within-industry substitution of corporate for noncorporate production over the last three decades.

The increase in the corporate share of output since 1957 may, in part, reflect changes in technology. And undoubtedly a small amount of the increase reflects doctors, lawyers, and others in the service sector using pensions and retained earnings to shelter their labor income. But much of the increase in the corporate share of output

⁴ The growth of tax shelters appears to explain a small fraction of these changes in corporate shares of production.

TABLE 1
CORPORATE SHARE OF OUTPUT BY INDUSTRY

	CORPORATE PERCENTAGE OF OUTPUT		PERCENTAGE CHANGE, 1957-82
	1957	1982	
Noncorporate	6.2	20.4	227.3
Agriculture	9.2	29.3	219.7
Production	9.6	22.8	136.5
Services	4.0	62.4	1,463.3
Housing	1.3	2.4	25.0
Crude oil and gas	74.7	84.8	13.6
Corporate	75.8	86.4	13.9
Mining	87.2	84.4	-3.3
Construction	55.8	73.1	31.0
Manufacturing	95.8	97.6	1.9
Food	93.9	97.8	4.1
Tobacco	100.0	100.0	.0
Textiles	97.0	99.0	2.1
Apparel	85.7	94.3	10.0
Lumber, wood	70.8	85.0	19.9
Furniture	90.5	97.1	7.3
Paper	100.0	100.0	.0
Printing	89.3	89.3	.0
Chemicals	98.6	97.4	-1.3
Petroleum	100.0	100.0	.0
Rubber	100.0	100.0	.0
Leather	96.9	98.6	1.8
Stone, clay, and glass	92.3	96.8	4.9
Primary metals	98.6	97.3	-1.3
Fabricated metals	94.7	97.8	3.2
Machinery	96.5	98.1	1.6
Electronics	99.1	99.5	.5
Transportation equipment	99.5	98.7	-.9
Other	89.7	88.4	-1.5
Transportation, communication, and public utilities	92.1	92.3	2.0
Transportation	86.0	81.7	-4.4
Communication, utilities	99.0	98.8	-.3
Trade	62.7	82.9	32.3
Wholesale	76.2	91.7	20.5
Retail	52.6	74.5	41.6
Food	52.8	75.5	43.1
General merchandise	84.6	96.9	14.5
Apparel	61.9	80.4	29.9
Furniture	46.5	68.0	46.3
Auto, gasoline	50.9	70.7	39.0
Drugstores	38.4	91.4	138.0
Eating and drinking places	28.5	59.0	106.8
Building materials, hardware	51.0	75.5	47.9
Other	38.8	62.9	62.3
Finance, insurance, and real estate	60.4	74.1	22.8
Securities dealers	13.2	24.5	85.1

TABLE 1 (Continued)

	CORPORATE PERCENTAGE OF OUTPUT		PERCENTAGE CHANGE, 1957-82
	1957	1982	
Other finance	90.5	80.9	- 10.6
Insurance	80.7	94.7	17.5
Real estate	34.0	36.8	8.2
Services	38.4	61.1	59.2
Hotels	52.6	59.2	12.6
Personal services	34.6	47.6	37.7
Business services	62.1	67.9	9.4
Auto repair	32.6	54.9	68.1
Other repair	33.8	50.3	49.0
Amusements	68.2	73.5	7.8
Motion pictures	89.6	79.5	- 11.3
Other	47.0	70.3	49.7
Other services	9.0	53.6	498.4

SOURCE.—Output shares for housing are based on estimates of net stocks of residential capital (Musgrave 1981, 1986). Output shares for all other industries are taken from business receipts reported in Department of the Treasury, Statistics of Income (*U.S. Business Tax Returns: 1957-1958; Partnership Returns, 1978-82; Corporation Income Tax Returns, 1982; Sole Proprietorship Returns, 1982.* SOI Bull. [Summer 1984]). Agricultural business receipts for proprietorships, which is no longer included in the proprietorship returns, is reported for 1982 in "Sole Proprietorship Returns, 1984" (SOI Bull. [Summer 1986], p. 23, n. 4). Data on subchapter S corporations for 1982 are reported only by major industrial division. These receipts were allocated among subcategories on the basis of the distribution of noncorporate output. The table double counts the leasing of residential structures; leasing of residential structures is included in both the real estate industry and the housing industry.

may reflect changes in corporate versus noncorporate tax treatment of capital income. The general shift toward corporate production coincided with a reduction in the differential taxation of corporate and noncorporate capital income. Gravelle (1987) calculates marginal tax rates on corporate and noncorporate source capital income, taking into account both personal and corporate taxes. She reports that the total (personal plus corporate) effective tax rate on corporate capital income exceeded that on noncorporate capital income by .52 in 1957, by .44 in 1962, by .42 in 1971, by .45 in 1975, by .39 in 1982, by .40 in 1986, and by .32 in 1987.⁵

⁵ These tax rates represent marginal effective (personal plus corporate) tax rates on new investment. For the corporate sector the return after all taxes to stockholders and creditors is grossed up by personal taxes on dividends, interest, and capital gains (adjusted for the value of capital gains deferral and the taxation of the inflationary component of capital gains). The marginal tax rate methodology (see Gravelle 1982) uses a discounted cash flow method to determine the pretax real return necessary to pay stockholders and creditors the after-tax return. A similar process is used to measure the noncorporate pretax return required to yield the same after-tax return. The differential between these two pretax returns is used to measure the excess of corporate over noncorporate taxes. This excess tax is given by $1 - (1 - \mu)/(1 - t)$, where μ is the total effective tax rate on corporate capital and t is the total effective tax rate on noncorporate capital.

III. What Capital Is Subject to the Corporate Tax?

The IRS's definition of a corporation as an organization that most closely resembles a corporation becomes a little less circular when we add the IRS's list of corporate characteristics. These include (1) associates, (2) an objective to carry on business and divide the profits, (3) continuity of life, (4) centralization of management, (5) liability for corporate debts limited to corporate property, and (6) free transferability of interests. While these are the corporate characteristics, firms can have these characteristics and still not be subject to the corporate tax. Corporations with 35 or fewer shareholders can elect to be taxed as a partnership. Limited partnerships also fall close to the line with respect to the corporate income tax. Regulation 301.7701-2(a)(2) says that if the limited partnership has "more corporate characteristics than noncorporate characteristics," it will be subject to the corporate tax.

One recent response to the rather vague demarcations between corporate and noncorporate enterprises has been the creation of master limited partnerships, some of which have thousands of partners. The *Wall Street Journal* of June 30, 1987, noted that such enterprises have become sufficiently "corporate" that Congress may soon declare them subject to the corporate tax. As Robert McIntyre of Citizens for Tax Justice told the *Journal*, "If they [the master limited partnerships] want to play with the big boys, they ought to pay taxes with them." In legislation passed later that year, significant restrictions were placed on these partnerships.

One is likely to come away from the preceding two paragraphs with the sense that defining capital subject to the corporate tax is like trying to define money: nobody knows precisely what it is, but they know it when they see it. In "seeing" capital that should be subject to corporate tax, the government appears to be looking at both the size of the enterprise and the diversity of ownership. Enterprises that both are very large and have a large number of owners appear to be fair game.

But if the criteria for "corporateness" are size and number of owners, why don't large firms with multiple owners simply break up into small firms with a single owner or a small number of owners? The answer is surely that for many products there are some economies, at least for a range, in operating on a large scale. Large-scale production does not necessarily mean integrated ownership; that is, in principle, one could imagine different owners of robots, conveyor belts, and so forth in an auto plant assembly line. But in the language of Grossman and Hart (1986), integrated ownership provides residual rights of

control of physical assets that may be important in settings in which complete ex ante contracting is too costly.

But given that some enterprises are large, why should they have more than a very small number of owners? The answer here appears to involve a number of factors: diversification of risk, the desire to limit liability, information costs of becoming fully informed about all the activities of a large enterprise, and liquidity. These reasons for multiple owners are interrelated. For example, it may be very difficult for any one owner to become fully informed about a large firm's activities, but the lack of full information may make investing in a large firm riskier. The limits on full information provide investors with a further interest in reducing their exposure in a particular firm, including limiting their liability.

Granted that many firms are likely to be quite large for technological reasons and that their size induces multiple owners, how is it that proprietorships and partnerships that produce the same good, but are typically small, can compete? Our answer is that there is an offsetting technological advantage to running an enterprise as a partnership or proprietorship and that this advantage involves information and control. Entrepreneurs, with a major stake in their own firm, will have an incentive to stay better informed about their firm's behavior and to control more fully their firm's behavior than shareholders in large companies. In short, the offsetting advantage to proprietorships and partnerships is that there is less of a principal-agent problem than in the case of large-scale corporations. But this advantage to proprietorships and partnerships dissipates with size. In other words, there are decreasing returns in adding additional factors to the entrepreneurial input.

The mutual production model presented in the next section is designed to capture, in an admittedly highly stylized setting, the relative advantages of both large-scale production with multiple owners and the typically smaller-scale production by proprietors and partners. The MPM provides a technological advantage to more efficient entrepreneurs that permits them to compete with large corporate firms, but their advantage is subject to decreasing returns.⁶ The large corporate firms, on the other hand, have a technological advantage relative to less efficient entrepreneurs. In order for the corporate firms to produce, however, they must produce at greater than a specified minimum scale. Corporate firms will thus coexist with more efficient entrepreneurship both prior to and after the imposition of a corporate tax. The corporate and noncorporate technologies, however, dif-

⁶ Williamson (1967) and Calvo and Wellisz (1978) present models that explain the possible limits of entrepreneurial supervision and the attendant loss of control.

fer solely with respect to an efficiency coefficient on managerial (entrepreneurial) input; the forms of the corporate and noncorporate production functions within each sector are identical. In particular, corporate and noncorporate firms within each sector exhibit identical substitution elasticities.

IV. The Mutual Production Model

A. Profit Maximization

Equation (1) presents corporate output in sector i ($i = 1, 2$), Q_{ci} , as a function of the number of managers, M_{ci} , the number of workers, L_{ci} , and the amount of capital, K_{ci} , in sector i :

$$Q_{ci} = \begin{cases} H_i(D_i M_{ci}, L_{ci}, K_{ci}) & \text{if } M_{ci} \geq \underline{M}_{ci} \\ 0 & \text{if } M_{ci} < \underline{M}_{ci}. \end{cases} \quad (1)$$

The minimum scale constraints in equation (1) are specified with respect to managerial input. The term D_i is the corporate managerial efficiency coefficient in industry i . The function is assumed to be linear homogeneous and quasi-concave. Assuming positive production by corporations, we can express output per manager of corporations in sector i , q_{ci} , as

$$q_{ci} = h_i(D_i, l_{ci}, k_{ci}). \quad (2)$$

Equation (3) expresses output per entrepreneur in sector i for entrepreneurs with efficiency coefficient A_i :

$$q_{ni}(A_i) = h_i(A_i, l_{ni}, k_{ni}). \quad (3)$$

The symbol n stands for noncorporate. The production function expressing output per entrepreneur is identical to that in (2) except with respect to the managerial (entrepreneurial) efficiency coefficient.

Each agent in the economy can potentially become an entrepreneur in one of the two sectors; alternatively, the agent can be a manager or a worker. While all agents are equally productive as managers or workers, as entrepreneurs their productivity depends on their efficiency coefficients.⁷ Each agent has a pair of coefficients A_i and A_j . The number of agents with the pair of coefficients A_i and A_j is given by the joint density function $f(A_i, A_j)$ times the labor force, \bar{L} .

⁷ After developing our model, we became aware of Lucas's (1978) paper, which also models entrepreneurs as managers with differing abilities but demonstrates how such a model can explain secular changes in firm size. Chamley (1983) is another example of an early analysis of differing entrepreneurial abilities and the choice of occupation.

Profit maximization by corporations in sector i implies the following first-order conditions:

$$\frac{\delta h_i(D_i, l_{ci}, k_{ci})}{\delta l_{ci}} = \frac{W}{P_i}, \quad (4)$$

$$\frac{\delta h_i(D_i, l_{ci}, k_{ci})}{\delta k_{ci}} = \frac{R(1 + \tau)}{P_i}, \quad (5)$$

$$\pi_{ci} = P_i h_i(D_i, l_{ci}, k_{ci}) - W l_{ci} - R(1 + \tau) k_{ci} = W, \quad (6)$$

where P_i is the price of good i , τ is the corporate tax rate, π_{ci} is corporate profit per manager in sector 1, W is the wage rate, and R is the net return to capital. Since agents are equally productive as workers or managers, they must receive the same wage in either occupation; equation (6) expresses this point.

Using the fact that the partial derivatives of H_i are homogeneous of degree zero, we can reexpress equations (4) and (5) as

$$l_{ci} = D_i u_i \left(\frac{W}{P_i}, \frac{R(1 + \tau)}{P_i} \right), \quad (7)$$

$$k_{ci} = D_i v_i \left(\frac{W}{P_i}, \frac{R(1 + \tau)}{P_i} \right). \quad (8)$$

Substituting (7) and (8) into (6) indicates that corporate profits per manager in sector 1, π_{ci} , can be written as D_i times a function x_i of W , $R(1 + \tau)$, and P_i , that is,

$$\pi_{ci} = D_i x_i(W, R(1 + \tau), P_i). \quad (6')$$

Since entrepreneurs in sectors 1 and 2 have the same production function as corporations in their respective sectors, except for the efficiency coefficient, their factor demands can be written as

$$l_{ni}(A_i) = A_i u_i \left(\frac{W}{P_i}, \frac{R}{P_i} \right), \quad (9)$$

$$k_{ni}(A_i) = A_i v_i \left(\frac{W}{P_i}, \frac{R}{P_i} \right). \quad (10)$$

Note that these expressions do not include the corporate tax rate, τ .

Profits per entrepreneur in sector i , $\pi_{ni}(A_i)$, can be written using the x_i function as

$$\pi_{ni}(A_i) = A_i x_i(W, R, P_i). \quad (11)$$

B. Choice of Occupation

In deciding whether to be an entrepreneur or to be a worker or a manager, each agent considers the profits he or she would make as an entrepreneur in either industry 1 or 2 as well as the wage paid to workers and managers. An agent who is just indifferent between becoming an entrepreneur in industry 1 and working as either a manager or a worker satisfies

$$\pi_{ni}(\underline{A}_i) = \underline{A}_i x_i(W, R, P_i) = D_i x_i(W, R(1 + \tau), P_i) = W, \quad (12)$$

where \underline{A}_i is the efficiency coefficient that would make an agent just indifferent among the three occupations.

Note that the minimum levels of A_i , $i = 1, 2$, are determined endogenously in the model. The minimum scale of corporate production in equation (1) is, in contrast, exogenous.

Agents who choose to be entrepreneurs in sector 1 must earn profits at least as large as W , but their profits as entrepreneurs in sector 1 must also be at least as large as what they can earn as entrepreneurs in sector 2. Agents who are just indifferent between being entrepreneurs in the two sectors satisfy

$$\pi_{ni}(A_i) = \pi_{nj}(A_j) \quad \text{or} \quad \frac{A_i}{\underline{A}_i} = \frac{A_j}{\underline{A}_j}. \quad (13)$$

Agents with values of A_i and A_j less than \underline{A}_i and \underline{A}_j , respectively, will be workers or managers. Those with $A_i > \underline{A}_i$ and $A_j < A_i \underline{A}_j / \underline{A}_i$ will be entrepreneurs in sector 1. Those with $A_j > \underline{A}_j$ and $A_i < A_j \underline{A}_i / \underline{A}_j$ will be entrepreneurs in sector 2. The terms \bar{A}_i and \bar{A}_j are maximum values of A_i and A_j , respectively.

C. General Equilibrium Conditions

The conditions that the supplies of labor and capital equal their respective demands are

$$\bar{L} = M_{ci} + L_{ci} + M_{cj} + L_{cj} + L_{ni} + L_{nj} + E_i + E_j, \quad (14)$$

$$\bar{K} = K_{ci} + K_{cj} + K_{ni} + K_{nj}. \quad (15)$$

The terms \bar{L} and \bar{K} stand for the total supplies of labor and capital, L_{ni} and L_{nj} are total noncorporate labor demands in sectors 1 and 2, K_{ni} and K_{nj} are total noncorporate capital demands in sectors 1 and 2, and E_i and E_j are the number of entrepreneurs in sectors 1 and 2. Multiplication of equations (9) and (10) yields

$$L_{ci} = M_{ci}D_iu_i\left(\frac{W}{P_i}, \frac{R(1 + \tau)}{P_i}\right), \quad (16)$$

$$K_{ci} = M_{ci}D_iv_i\left(\frac{W}{P_i}, \frac{R(1 + \tau)}{P_i}\right). \quad (17)$$

The noncorporate demands for capital and labor are given by

$$L_{ni} = \bar{L} \int_{\underline{A}_i}^{\bar{A}_i} \int_0^{A_i \underline{A}_j / \bar{A}_i} l_{ni}(A_i) f(A_i, A_j) dA_i dA_j, \quad (18)$$

$$K_{ni} = \bar{L} \int_{\underline{A}_i}^{\bar{A}_i} \int_0^{A_i \underline{A}_j / \bar{A}_i} k_{ni}(A_i) f(A_i, A_j) dA_i dA_j. \quad (19)$$

The limits of integration in, for example, equation (18) may be explained in the following way. For an agent to choose to be an entrepreneur in sector 1, the agent's A_i must be at least as large as \underline{A}_i , and his A_j must be less than $A_i \underline{A}_j / \bar{A}_i$. Equation (18) sums the labor demands of all entrepreneurs whose values of A and B satisfy these conditions. The term E_i ($i = 1, 2$) satisfies

$$E_i = \bar{L} \int_{\underline{A}_i}^{\bar{A}_i} \int_0^{A_i \underline{A}_j / \bar{A}_i} f(A_i, A_j) dA_i dA_j. \quad (20)$$

Following Harberger, equation (21) specifies that the relative aggregate demand for the two goods depends only on their relative price:

$$\frac{Q_1}{Q_2} = V\left(\frac{P_1}{P_2}\right), \quad (21)$$

where Q_i is the respective total supply of good i , that is,

$$Q_i = Q_{ci} + Q_{ni} = Q_{ci} + \bar{L} \int_{\underline{A}_i}^{\bar{A}_i} \int_0^{A_i \underline{A}_j / \bar{A}_i} q_{ni}(A_i) f(A_i, A_j) dA_i dA_j. \quad (22)$$

Finally, equation (23) states that the value of output equals the value of national income I , which is taken as the model's numeraire:

$$P_1 Q_1 + P_2 Q_2 = I. \quad (23)$$

D. Solving the Model and Comparisons with the Harberger Model

The model's solution can be determined as follows. From equation (12) one can write A as a function of W , R , and P_i . These relationships

plus (9) and (10) imply that L_{ni} , K_{ni} , and E_i can each be written as functions of W , R , and P_i . Substituting these relationships for each sector into equations (14) and (15) and also using (7) and (8) for each sector gives two equations in W , R , M_{c1} , M_{c2} , P_1 , and P_2 . Substituting using (2) and (3) as well as (7)–(10) for each sector into equations (21) and (22) for each sector gives two additional equations in these six variables. The final two equations needed to solve for these six variables arise from equating (4) and (6) and substituting in from (7)–(8) for each sector.

The differentials of this last type of equation, presented in (24), as well as the differentials of (12), presented in (25), are important for understanding how the MPM differs from the Harberger model:

$$\hat{P}_i = (1 - \beta_i)\hat{W} + \beta_i(\hat{R} + \hat{\tau}), \quad (24)$$

$$\hat{A}_i = \frac{(1 - \beta_i)\hat{W} + \beta_i\hat{R} - \hat{P}_i}{1 - \alpha_i - \beta_i}. \quad (25)$$

In these equations, a circumflex stands for percentage change ($\hat{\tau}$ is the percentage change in one plus the tax rate). The term β_i is the income share of capital in sector i in the no-tax equilibrium, and α_i is the income share of workers in corporate sector i in the no-tax equilibrium. Note that in the no-tax equilibrium the income shares of corporate and noncorporate firms within a sector are identical; each noncorporate firm looks just like its corporate counterpart except for the scale of its inputs and production.

Equation (24) indicates that if each sector's initial income shares are identical, P_1 and P_2 will change by the same percentage. This result is quite different from that in the Harberger model in which the relative price of the two goods always changes regardless of initial income shares. Intuitively, if corporations in each sector in the MPM are still producing after the tax is imposed, they will both experience the same percentage increase in marginal cost (which equals the price of output) if their initial factor shares are identical. This property that relative output prices are not necessarily affected by the corporate tax holds regardless of the relative corporateness of the two sectors, provided there is nonzero corporate production in each sector both before and after the tax is imposed.

Equation (25) indicates how the minimum efficiency coefficient A_i responds to changes in factor and output prices when the corporate tax is imposed. Combining (24) with (25) indicates that each minimum efficiency coefficient falls in response to the corporate tax; hence, the tax leads to an increase in the number of noncorporate firms.

V. Corporate Tax Incidence in the Mutual Production Model

A. Capital's Share of the Tax Burden

The formula for the incidence of the corporate tax in the MPM is⁸

$$\begin{aligned}
 \frac{\hat{R}}{\hat{t}} = & \left(\phi(\beta_2 - \beta_1)^2 \frac{K_1 K_2}{\beta_1 K_2 + \beta_2 K_1} \right. \\
 & + K_{n2} \{ [\beta_2 \eta_{kw} + \theta_1(\beta_2 - \beta_1) \eta_{kr}] (1 - \beta_2) \\
 & - [\beta_2 \eta_{lw} + \theta_1(\beta_2 - \beta_1) \eta_{lr}] \alpha_2 \} \\
 & + K_{n1} \{ [\beta_1 \epsilon_{kw} + \theta_2(\beta_1 - \beta_2) \epsilon_{kr}] (1 - \beta_1) \\
 & - [\beta_1 \epsilon_{lw} + \theta_2(\beta_1 - \beta_2) \epsilon_{lr}] \alpha_1 \} \\
 & - K_{c1} [(1 - \beta_1)^2 \epsilon_{kr} - 2\beta_1(1 - \beta_1) \epsilon_{kw} + \alpha_1 \beta_1 \epsilon_{lw}] \\
 & - K_{c2} [(1 - \beta_2)^2 \eta_{kr} - 2\beta_2(1 - \beta_2) \eta_{kw} + \alpha_2 \beta_2 \eta_{lw}] \Big) \\
 & \div \left\{ K_1 [(1 - \beta_1)^2 \epsilon_{kr} - 2\beta_1(1 - \beta_1) \epsilon_{kw} + \alpha_1 \beta_1 \epsilon_{lw}] \right. \\
 & + K_2 [(1 - \beta_2)^2 \eta_{kr} - 2\beta_2(1 - \beta_2) \eta_{kw} + \alpha_2 \beta_2 \eta_{lw}] \\
 & \left. - \frac{\theta(\beta_2 - \beta_1)^2 K_1 K_2}{\beta_1 K_2 + \beta_2 K_1} \right\}.
 \end{aligned} \tag{26}$$

In (26), ϵ_{ij} and η_{ij} are the elasticities of demand of factor i in response to a change in the input price of factor j for sectors 1 and 2, respectively. The term ϕ is the elasticity of substitution in demand of good 1 for good 2 in response to a change in the relative price of the two goods. The term $\theta_1 = 1 - \theta_2$ is the share of total national income spent on good 1. Note that the formula is general with respect to the extent of noncorporate production; that is, zero noncorporate production in either one or both industries can be considered simply by specifying that K_{n1} or K_{n2} is zero.

While the incidence formula seems rather formidable, it simplifies considerably in the case $\beta_1 = \beta_2$. In this case the terms involving the demand elasticity, ϕ , drop out, to be expected given (24), which indicates that there is no change in the relative price of the two goods in the case of equal initial shares. Alternatively, a simpler expression results if one assumes that

⁸ A detailed derivation of this result is available from the authors.

$$\begin{aligned}
 \alpha_1 \epsilon_{lw} &= (1 - \beta_1) \epsilon_{kw}, \\
 \alpha_2 \eta_{lw} &= (1 - \beta_2) \eta_{kw}, \\
 \beta_1 \epsilon_{kr} &= (1 - \alpha_1) \epsilon_{lr}, \\
 \beta_2 \eta_{kr} &= (1 - \alpha_2) \eta_{lr}.
 \end{aligned} \tag{27}$$

The equalities in (27) hold for the CES family of production functions given in (28), where D_i is the managerial efficiency coefficient, and H_i , a_i , b_i , and ρ_i ($i = 1, 2$) are production function parameters; they may hold for other production functions as well, at least locally:

$$\begin{aligned}
 Q_i &= H_i [(1 - a_i - b_i)(D_i M_i)^{-\rho_i} + a_i L_i^{-\rho_i} + b_i K_i^{-\rho_i}]^{-1/\rho_i}, \\
 & \quad i = 1, 2.
 \end{aligned} \tag{28}$$

With the equalities in (27), the incidence formula simplifies to

$$\begin{aligned}
 \frac{-\hat{R}}{\hat{\tau}} &= \{[(1 - \beta_2) + (\beta_2 - \beta_1)\theta_1](\sigma_1 K_{c1} + \sigma_2 K_{c2}) \\
 & \quad + (\beta_2 - \beta_1)[\theta_2(\sigma_1 - \phi)K_1 - \theta_1(\sigma_2 - \phi)K_2]\} \\
 & \quad \div \{[(1 - \beta_2) + (\beta_2 - \beta_1)\theta_1](\sigma_1 K_1 + \sigma_2 K_2) \\
 & \quad + (\beta_2 - \beta_1)[\theta_2(\sigma_1 - \phi)K_1 - \theta_1(\sigma_2 - \phi)K_2]\}.
 \end{aligned} \tag{29}$$

The terms σ_1 and σ_2 are the respective factor substitution elasticities in industries 1 and 2; $\sigma_i = 1/(1 + \rho_i)$, $i = 1, 2$. According to (29), as in Harberger's model, if all elasticities are equal, the burden of the tax falls 100 percent on capital. Alternatively, if the capital shares are equal ($\beta_1 = \beta_2$) and if $\sigma_1 = \sigma_2$, the incidence will also be 100 percent on capital. However, unlike Harberger's model, the incidence of the corporate tax can be 100 percent on capital regardless of the elasticities of substitution in production. In (29), if $\beta_1 = \beta_2$, the case of equal capital shares, and if $K_{c1}/K_1 = K_{c2}/K_2$, the incidence on capital is 100 percent regardless of the values of σ_1 and σ_2 .

In the case of equal capital shares but unequal elasticities of substitution and unequal corporate intensiveness, the incidence formula, expressed as capital's share of the tax burden, simplifies to

$$- \frac{\hat{R}K}{\hat{\tau}K_c} = \frac{(\sigma_1 K_{c1}/K_c) + (\sigma_2 K_{c2}/K_c)}{(\sigma_1 K_1/K) + (\sigma_2 K_2/K)}, \tag{30}$$

where K_c stands for total corporate capital. Note that the incidence on corporate capital equals the elasticities of substitution in each sector weighted by each sector's share of corporate capital divided by the elasticities of substitution weighted by each sector's share of total capital. In the extreme cases in which σ_1 (σ_2) equals infinity, the reduction

in the after-tax return to capital is the same that would arise if there was only sector 1 (2).

It may be useful to compare (30) with the corresponding Harberger incidence formula in the case of equal capital shares. This formula (see Kotlikoff and Summers 1987) is given in (31), where sector 1 is assumed to be the corporate sector:

$$-\frac{\hat{R}}{\hat{r}} = \frac{K_1}{K} \left[\lambda_k + \frac{(1 - \lambda_k)\sigma_1}{(\sigma_1 K_1/K) + (\sigma_2 K_2/K)} \right], \quad (31)$$

where λ_k is capital's share of total national income.

In contrast to the MPM formula (30), in which the incidence can be 100 percent on capital regardless of the values of σ_1 and σ_2 , in the Harberger formula (31) the incidence will generally differ from 100 percent in the case of unequal elasticities of substitution. For example, if $\sigma_1 = 0$, capital and labor are used in fixed proportions in industry 1. Hence, in the Harberger model, taxing capital in industry 1 is equivalent to taxing both factors at the same rate, and the incidence on capital equals capital's share of national income, λ_k . In the MPM, on the other hand, capital's share of the tax burden when $\sigma_1 = 0$ is $(K_{c2}/K_c)/(K_2/K)$. This term can be greater than 100 percent or close to zero depending on whether sector 2's share of corporate capital exceeds or is less than its share of total capital. The same results for the two models also hold when $\sigma_2 = \infty$. Suppose next that $\sigma_1 = \infty$ or $\sigma_2 = 0$. In this case Harberger's formula predicts that more than 100 percent of the tax burden will fall on capital. In contrast, capital's share of the tax burden in the MPM is $(K_{c1}/K_c)/(K_1/K)$.

The limiting case in the MPM when K_{c2} approaches zero and K_{c1} approaches K_1 is particularly instructive. Here the MPM incidence on capital approaches $\sigma_1 K / (\sigma_1 K_1 + \sigma_2 K_2)$, which is different from (31), despite the fact that the economy looks increasingly Harbergian in that virtually all corporate capital is in sector 1.

While the assumptions given in (27) that lead to (29) are satisfied by a wide class of functions, there are other quite plausible functional forms that do not satisfy (27) and imply a different incidence outcome. For example, equation (32) presents a production function that is Cobb-Douglas between managerial (entrepreneurial) input and a CES function of labor and capital:

$$Q_i = H_i(D_i M_i)^{(1 - \alpha_i - \beta_i)} [\Omega_i L_i^{-\rho_i} + (1 - \Omega_i) K_i^{-\rho_i}]^{-(\alpha_i + \beta_i)/\rho_i}, \quad (32)$$

$$i = 1, 2.$$

Equation (33) gives the incidence formula in the case of equal capital shares ($\beta_1 = \beta_2 = \beta$) that results from assuming that each sector's corporate and noncorporate production functions are of the form

given in (32). This equation is clearly quite different from equation (30):

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\hat{R}}{\hat{\tau}} = & \left\{ (1 - \beta) \left[\frac{(\alpha_1 \sigma_1 + \beta) K_{c1}}{\alpha_1 + \beta} + \frac{(\alpha_2 \sigma_2 + \beta) K_{c2}}{\alpha_2 + \beta} \right] \right. \\ & \left. - \beta \left[\frac{\alpha_1 (1 - \sigma_1) K_1}{\alpha_1 + \beta} + \frac{\alpha_2 (1 - \sigma_2) K_2}{\alpha_2 + \beta} \right] \right\} \\ & \div \left\{ (1 - \beta) \left[\frac{(\alpha_1 \sigma_1 + \beta) K_1}{\alpha_1 + \beta} + \frac{(\alpha_2 \sigma_2 + \beta) K_2}{\alpha_2 + \beta} \right] \right. \\ & \left. - \beta \left[\frac{\alpha_1 (1 - \sigma_1) K_1}{\alpha_1 + \beta} + \frac{\alpha_2 (1 - \sigma_2) K_2}{\alpha_2 + \beta} \right] \right\}. \end{aligned} \quad (33)$$

*B. The Incidence on Workers, Managers,
and Entrepreneurs*

In the MPM the wage rate is likely to fall even in cases in which capital bears more than 100 percent of the tax. In contrast to workers, managers, and capital owners, all of whom are likely to be made worse off by the corporate tax, entrepreneurs who were producing prior to the tax are made better off. The reason is that in the presence of the tax they become a relatively scarce factor input; their productive input is equivalent to that of a larger number of managers, but their productive output is untaxed. In other words, they are the *sine qua non* of nontaxed, noncorporate production.

The formula for the change in the wage rate is

$$\hat{W} = - \frac{\theta_1 \beta_1 + \theta_2 \beta_2}{\theta_1 (1 - \beta_1) + \theta_2 (1 - \beta_2)} (\hat{R} + \hat{\tau}). \quad (34)$$

According to (34), the wage falls unless the rental rate on capital falls by more than the increase in the tax rate, that is, unless the pretax cost of capital falls in the corporate sector. In the CES case with equal capital income shares the wage unambiguously falls. The formula for this case is given by

$$\hat{W} = - \frac{\beta}{1 - \beta} \left(\frac{\sigma_1 K_{n1} + \sigma_2 K_{n2}}{\sigma_1 K_1 + \sigma_2 K_2} \right) \hat{\tau}. \quad (35)$$

Using (35), if both sectors are equally corporate intensive, one can show that the decline in labor income as a share of tax revenue equals the ratio $\alpha/(1 - \beta)$ times the ratio of noncorporate to corporate capital.

VI. Calculating No-Tax and Posttax Equilibria in the MPM and the Harberger Model

A. Method of Initializing Model

In measuring the incidence and efficiency cost of corporate taxation in the MPM, we follow Harberger and Shoven in using observed average corporate tax rates. We acknowledge that the effective marginal corporate income tax may differ from the observed average corporate tax because of debt finance as discussed by Stiglitz (1973) and Gordon and Malkiel (1981). Our purpose here, however, is not to question Harberger and Shoven's choice of data, but simply to illustrate, with their data and procedures, how the predictions of the mutual production model can differ from those of the Harberger model.

We follow Shoven in calculating no-tax and posttax equilibria rather than simply evaluating derivative formulae, such as (29); such formulae are valid only for small tax changes and must be evaluated with data on the pretax equilibrium, which, unfortunately, is unobservable. In calculating no-tax and posttax equilibria we use the CES production function, given in (28), and assume the following CES utility function:

$$U = [dQ_1^{-\gamma} + (1 - d)Q_2^{-\gamma}]^{-z\gamma}. \quad (36)$$

We also assume that the joint density function, $f(A_i, A_j)$, is the product of two independent exponential functions, $\Phi_i \exp(-\Phi_i A_i)$, $i = 1, 2$. The values of the two parameters Φ_i and Φ_j were chosen to produce the observed posttax ratios of corporate to noncorporate capital in each sector. To test the sensitivity of the results to the choice of this joint density function, we also calculated no-tax and posttax equilibria assuming a fixed number of entrepreneurs in each sector.

The observed posttax equilibrium provides us with parameter values that are used in computing the no-tax equilibrium. We measure factors and goods in units such that R , W , P_1 , and P_2 equal unity in the observed (with tax) equilibrium. The values of D_1 and D_2 can be set arbitrarily, although the choice will affect the values of the remaining parameters, H_i , a_i , and b_i . We set D_1 and D_2 equal to one. These conventions together with information on factor and output shares, information on average corporate tax rates in each sector, a specified level of national income, I , the choice of σ_1 , σ_2 , and ϕ , and the calibrated values of Φ_i permit us to solve for the values of \bar{K} and \bar{L} . Given these parameter values, solving for the no-tax equilibrium is straightforward.

To make these statements precise, table 2 lists the equations of the MPM for the case of CES production and utility functions. In the

TABLE 2
EQUATIONS OF MPM

$K_{c1} + K_{c2} + K_{n1} + K_{n2} = \bar{K}$	(37)
$L_{c1} + L_{c2} + L_{n1} + L_{n2} + M_{c1} + M_{c2} + E_1 + E_2 = \bar{L}$	(38)
$\frac{L_{ci}}{M_{ci}} = \frac{\alpha_{ci}}{1 - \alpha_{ci} - \beta_{ci}}$	(39)
$\frac{K_{ci}}{M_{ci}} = \frac{\beta_{ci}}{1 - \alpha_{ci} - \beta_{ci}} (1 - t)^{\rho/(1+\rho)} \left[W \left(\frac{1-t}{R} \right) \right]^{1/(1+\rho)}$	(40)
$P_i = \left\{ (1 - \beta_{ci}) W^{\rho/(1+\rho)} + \beta_{ci} \left[R \left(\frac{1-t}{1-t'} \right) \right]^{\rho/(1+\rho)} \right\}^{(1+\rho)/\rho}$	(41)
$A_i = \left(1 + \frac{\beta_{ci}}{1 - \alpha_{ci} - \beta_{ci}} \left\{ \left[\frac{R}{W} \left(\frac{1-t}{1-t'} \right) \right]^{\rho/(1+\rho)} - \left[\frac{R}{W} (1-t) \right]^{\rho/(1+\rho)} \right\} \right)^{-(1+\rho)/\rho}$	(42)
$K_{ni} = \frac{\beta_{ci}}{1 - \alpha_{ci} - \beta_{ci}} (1 - t)^{\rho/(1+\rho)} \left[\frac{W(1-t')}{R} \right]^{1/(1+\rho)}$	(43)
$\times A_i^{-1/(1+\rho)} \bar{L} \int_{A_i}^{\infty} \int_0^{A_i \Delta_i / \Delta_i} A_i \Phi_i \Phi_j e^{-(\Phi_i A_i + \Phi_j A_j)} dA_i dA_j$	(43)
$\frac{K_{ni}}{L_{ni}} = \frac{\beta_{ci}}{\alpha_{ci}} (1 - t)^{\rho/(1+\rho)} \left[\frac{W(1-t')}{R} \right]^{1/(1+\rho)}$	(44)
$\frac{Q_i}{Q_j} = \left(\frac{d}{1-d} \right)^{1/(1+\gamma)} \left(\frac{P_j}{P_i} \right)^{1/(1+\gamma)}$	(45)
$P_i Q_i + P_j Q_j = \bar{I}$	(46)
$E_i = \bar{L} \int_{A_i}^{\infty} \int_0^{A_i \Delta_i / \Delta_i} \Phi_i \Phi_j e^{-(\Phi_i A_i + \Phi_j A_j)} dA_i dA_j$	(47)

table the tax rate t levied on pretax capital income is related to the tax rate τ on posttax capital income according to $t = \tau/(1 + \tau)$. We express these formulae in terms of t since the U.S. corporate tax is levied on pretax capital income. The equations include the tax rate t in the observed equilibrium and the tax rate t' in the new equilibrium. When we calibrate the model, t' is set to t ; when we solve for a no-tax equilibrium, t' is set to zero. The parameters α_{c1} and α_{c2} are the income shares of workers in the two industries in both corporate and noncorporate firms in the posttax equilibrium. While we subscript α here by c , the corporate and noncorporate labor shares within a sector are identical. Note also that the α_{ci} terms here are posttax shares, whereas the α_i 's used above are no-tax shares. The parameters β_{c1} and β_{c2} equal the corporate ratios in industries 1 and 2 of pretax capital income to the value of output.

TABLE 3

PARAMETER VALUES FOR THE MUTUAL PRODUCTION AND HARBERGER MODELS

$\sigma_1 = .5, .75, 1, 2$	\bar{L} (described in text)
$\sigma_2 = .5, .75, 1, 2$	$\bar{K} = \$59.5$ billion
$\phi = .5, 1$	$\theta = .15$
$\alpha_{c1} = .19$	$f(A_i, A_j) = \Phi_i \Phi_j \exp[-(\Phi_i A_i + \Phi_j A_j)]$
$\alpha_{c2} = .57$	Φ_i (described in text)
$\beta_{c1} = \frac{.60[.017 + .983(1 - t)^{\sigma_1}]}{.017 + .983(1 - t)}$	$\left(\frac{d}{1 - d}\right)^{1/(1 + \gamma)} = \frac{\theta}{1 - \theta}$
$\beta_{c2} = \frac{.20[.630 + .370(1 - t)^{\sigma_2}]}{.630 + .370(1 - t)}$	$\rho_i = \frac{1 - \sigma_i}{\sigma_i} \quad (i = 1, 2)$
$t = .45$	
$I = \$296$ billion	
$\gamma = \frac{1 - \phi}{\phi}$	

The parameters α_{ci} and β_{ci} ($i = 1, 2$) are related to the underlying CES production function parameters as well as the tax rate t according to the formulae

$$\alpha_{ci} = a_i^{1/(1 + \rho_i)} H_i^{-\rho_i/(1 + \rho_i)},$$

$$\beta_{ci} = b_i^{1/(1 + \rho_i)} [H_i(1 - t)]^{-\rho_i/(1 + \rho_i)}.$$

Given the values of α_{c1} , α_{c2} , β_{c1} , β_{c2} , t , d , γ , I , ρ_1 , and ρ_2 as well as the parameters Φ_1 and Φ_2 , (37)–(47) can be readily solved for the values of \bar{K} and \bar{L} . Once we have these total factor supplies, we can solve for the new no-tax equilibrium, setting t equal to zero and allowing output and factor prices to be endogenous. In table 2 there are 18 equations in the unknowns K_{c1} , K_{c2} , K_{n1} , K_{n2} , L_{c1} , L_{c2} , L_{n1} , L_{n2} , E_1 , E_2 , R , W , P_1 , P_2 , M_{c1} , M_{c2} , \underline{A}_1 , and \underline{A}_2 . The two outputs Q_1 and Q_2 are not additional unknowns since they can be expressed via the production functions in terms of the factor inputs.

B. Parameterization of the Model

Table 3 lists the parameters, their calibrated values, and the data to calibrate the parameters that are used to calculate the no-tax equilibrium. In the 1957 data used by Shoven (1976), I is \$296 billion, with the capital income share equal to .60 in the “noncorporate” sector and .20 in the “corporate” sector. In analyzing the MPM, we let sector 1 correspond to the noncorporate sector and sector 2 correspond to the

corporate sector. The 1957 posttax share of total national income of sector 1, θ , equals .15 (Shoven 1976). The MPM requires knowledge of the posttax shares of income paid to workers in the two sectors, α_{c1} and α_{c2} . Note that for the CES model these shares are identical for corporate and noncorporate firms within each sector. The values of α_{c1} and α_{c2} were determined using the 1959 proprietorship tax returns, which report labor payments for the industries in the two sectors.⁹

Determining the values of β_{c1} and β_{c2} is a bit more involved. To calculate the values of β_{c1} and β_{c2} we use the following relationships:

$$\beta_{ci} = l_i \left| \frac{(K_{ci}/K_i) + (K_{ni}/K_i)(1-t)^{\sigma_i}}{(K_{ci}/K_i) + (K_{ni}/K_i)(1-t)} \right| \quad \text{for } i = 1, 2, \quad (48)$$

where l_i stands for the sector i 's share of capital income (.60 for sector 1 and .20 for sector 2). This equation simply relates capital's (unobserved) tax income share for corporate firms to the overall pretax share of capital income in the sector (which is observed). Not surprisingly, the equation involves the corporate and noncorporate shares of capital in the sector as well as the tax rate t . It also uses the following relationship between noncorporate and corporate net of tax capital shares: $\beta_{ni} = \beta_{ci}(1-t)^{\rho/(1+\rho)}$.

The value of t , the average corporate tax rate, for 1957 is .45 according to data reported in *The Economic Report of the President, 1987*.¹⁰ To solve for the posttax corporate and noncorporate shares of capital within each sector entering (48), we use the following relationships:

$$\frac{K_{ci}}{K_i} = \frac{t_i(1-t)}{t(1-t_i)}, \quad \frac{K_{ni}}{K_i} = \frac{t-t_i}{t(1-t_i)}, \quad i = 1, 2, \quad (49)$$

where t_i is the average corporate tax rate reported in 1957 in sector i . The specific values determined from Rosenberg's (1969) data are $t_1 = .014$ and $t_2 = .340$. Equation (49) simply exploits the idea that if the

⁹ Harberger and Shoven measure capital income as the sum of interest, profits, rents, and property taxes. These items, except for property taxes, appear on the proprietorship tax returns. Property taxes were inputted on the basis of their fraction of capital income as reported in Rosenberg (1969). Labor payments as a share of total factor income were weighted by industry. Lessors of real estate were used to determine values for housing. For this industry there appears to be an error in the 1959 data (the first year for which the necessary detail is available). For this reason the ratio of labor income to total factor income for the next available year, 1962, was used.

¹⁰ The revenue base for measuring this tax rate is corporate profits plus interest. Note that the .45 tax rate, which does not consider personal taxation, is smaller than the .52 tax rate cited in Sec. II, which corresponds to the 1957 differential tax on corporate vs. noncorporate capital income taking into account both personal and corporate taxation. Hence, considering personal taxes would increase the estimates of excess burden in the MPM reported in Sec. VII.

tax t is levied only on corporate firms and one observes the average tax rate t_i in sector i , where the average is computed using total sector i capital, one can infer the corporate share of the sector's capital, that is, the share of the capital that is subject to the tax t . The calculated values of K_{c1}/K_1 and K_{c2}/K_2 are .017 and .630, respectively. These values as well as the values for l_i appear in equation (48) and table 3's formulae for β_{c1} and β_{c2} . Note that for a given value of t , β_{ci} depends on the value of σ_i .

In addition to observing indirectly the ratios of corporate to non-corporate capital in each sector, we can also indirectly observe each sector's share of total capital.¹¹ Taken together, these ratios determine the observed ratios K_{n1}/\bar{K} and K_{n2}/\bar{K} as well as the ratios K_{c1}/\bar{K} and K_{c2}/\bar{K} . These four ratios can be used to determine \bar{K} in the following manner: the four ratios plus equations (39)–(40) and (44) can be substituted with the production function into equation (46), yielding one equation in the unknown \bar{K} . Given this value, we can determine the levels of K_{n1} , K_{n2} , K_{c1} , and K_{c2} . Next these capital values can be used together with equations (39)–(40) and (44) to determine L_{c1} , L_{c2} , M_{c1} , M_{c2} , L_{n1} , and L_{n2} . Plugging these six values into equation (38) and using (47) for E_i yields a single equation in the remaining unknown parameters \bar{L} , Φ_1 , and Φ_2 . Equation (43), which gives the value of K_{ni} , represents the form of the other two equations needed to solve for these three remaining parameters. Note that these three equations involve ρ_1 and ρ_2 ; hence, the values of \bar{L} , Φ_1 , and Φ_2 will differ with each choice of the two elasticities of substitution in production.

VII. A Comparison of Tax Incidence and Excess Burden in the MPM and the Harberger Model

A. Tax Incidence

Table 4 presents the share of the tax burden borne by capital for different combinations of demand and production substitution elasticities for the MPM CES example and the Harberger model. For many combinations of elasticities the incidence in the two models is quite different. For example, if the demand elasticity is unity and both production elasticities equal .5, capital bears only 82 percent of the tax burden according to the Harberger model, but it bears 141 percent of the tax burden according to the MPM. The difference in the predicted incidence in this case is over half the total tax.

Capital's share of the tax burden can be both larger and smaller in

¹¹ $K_1/K_2 = \theta_1 l_1 (1 - t_1) / \theta_2 l_2 (1 - t_2)$.

TABLE 4
 COMPARISON OF THE INCIDENCE OF THE CORPORATE INCOME
 TAX IN THE MPM AND THE HARBERGER MODEL

ELASTICITY OF SUBSTITUTION IN PRODUCTION		SHARE OF TAX BURDEN FALLING ON CAPITAL (by Demand Elasticity)			
		Mutual Production Model		Harberger Model	
		$\phi = .5$	$\phi = 1$	$\phi = .5$	$\phi = 1$
Corporate	Noncorporate				
1.00	1.00	.94	1.00	1.08	1.00
2.00	2.00	1.02	1.03	1.15	1.12
.75	.75	1.00	1.10	1.04	.93
.50	.50	1.23	1.41	.97	.82
1.00	2.00	.60	.63	.93	.87
1.00	.75	1.11	1.20	1.13	1.04
1.00	.50	1.37	1.47	1.19	1.08
2.00	1.00	1.26	1.29	1.27	1.22
.75	1.00	.79	.88	.99	.89
.50	1.00	.58	.71	.84	.73
2.00	.50	1.53	1.57	1.34	1.27
.50	2.00	.21	.27	.68	.61

the Harberger model compared with the MPM; in the case in which the corporate and noncorporate substitution elasticities are .5 and two, respectively, and the demand elasticity is unity, capital's share of the tax burden is 61 percent in the Harberger model but only 27 percent in the MPM. Another difference in the incidence results is that, *ceteris paribus*, a higher demand elasticity raises capital's share of the tax burden in the MPM but lowers capital's share in the Harberger model.

The incidence in the MPM is a bit different for some parameters if one assumes that the number of entrepreneurs is fixed in each sector. For example, in the case in which both corporate and noncorporate substitution elasticities equal .5 and the demand elasticity equals unity, capital's share of the tax burden is 131 percent of the revenue (compared with 141 percent in the case of a variable number of entrepreneurs). Another example is the case of a unitary demand elasticity and respective corporate and noncorporate substitution elasticities of two and one. In this case the incidence on capital is 129 percent of the tax revenue when entrepreneurs are in variable supply but 134 percent of revenue when they are in fixed supply.

Table 5 presents the incidence of the corporate tax in the MPM on workers and managers as a group and on entrepreneurs. The results are very sensitive to the choice of elasticities. For the case of unitary elasticities the income of workers and managers falls by 28 percent of

TABLE 5
INCIDENCE OF THE CORPORATE INCOME TAX ON
WORKERS AND MANAGERS AND ON ENTREPRENEURS IN THE MPM

ELASTICITIES OF SUBSTITUTION IN PRODUCTION		INCIDENCE AS SHARE OF TAX BURDEN			
		Workers and Managers		Entrepreneurs	
Corporate	Noncorporate	$\phi = .5$	$\phi = 1$	$\phi = .5$	$\phi = 1$
1.00	1.00	.34	.28	-.28	-.28
2.00	2.00	.12	.12	-.14	-.15
.75	.75	.32	.22	-.32	-.33
.50	.50	.16	.00	-.39	-.41
1.00	2.00	.63	.61	-.23	-.24
1.00	.75	.18	.10	-.29	-.31
1.00	.50	-.05	-.14	-.32	-.33
2.00	1.00	-.10	-.12	-.16	-.17
.75	1.00	.51	.43	-.30	-.31
.50	1.00	.73	.61	-.31	-.32
2.00	.50	-.34	-.38	-.19	-.19
.50	2.00	1.04	1.00	-.25	-.27

the tax revenue in response to the corporate tax, while the profit of entrepreneurs rises by 28 percent. For the case in which the corporate and noncorporate substitution elasticities are one and two, respectively, the loss to workers exceeds 60 percent of the tax revenue, while the gain to entrepreneurs is almost a quarter of tax revenue. Finally, if the corporate and noncorporate elasticities are two and .5, respectively, the income of workers and managers rises by over one-third of revenue, while that of entrepreneurs rises by almost one-fifth of revenue.

B. Excess Burden

1. Estimates

Table 6 compares the deadweight loss in the two models. Our excess burden measure is based on a compensating variation. We determine the amount of additional income needed in the posttax equilibrium to regain the no-tax level of utility. Measuring the distortion based on an equivalent variation, which determines the amount of pretax income that needs to be taken away to achieve the posttax utility level, yielded quite similar results.

The excess burden measured as a fraction of tax revenues is more than 10 times larger in the MPM than in the Harberger model for all elasticity combinations. For most of the combinations, the deadweight loss in the MPM exceeds the tax revenue. Consider the case of unitary

TABLE 6
COMPARISON OF THE EXCESS BURDEN OF THE CORPORATE
INCOME TAX IN THE MPM AND THE HARBERGER MODEL

ELASTICITY OF SUBSTITUTION IN PRODUCTION		EXCESS BURDEN DIVIDED BY TAX REVENUE (by Demand Elasticity)			
		Mutual Production Model		Harberger Model	
		$\phi = .5$	$\phi = 1$	$\phi = .5$	$\phi = 1$
Corporate	Noncorporate				
1.00	1.00	1.22	1.23	.07	.08
2.00	2.00	1.22	1.22	.11	.13
.75	.75	1.24	1.26	.05	.07
.50	.50	1.29	1.30	.04	.05
1.00	2.00	.99	1.00	.08	.10
1.00	.75	1.29	1.30	.06	.08
1.00	.50	1.37	1.38	.06	.07
2.00	1.00	1.39	1.40	.07	.10
.75	1.00	1.16	1.18	.06	.07
.50	1.00	1.10	1.13	.05	.06
2.00	.50	1.50	1.51	.11	.13
.50	2.00	.84	.85	.06	.06

production and demand elasticities. In this case the excess burden in the Harberger model is only 8 percent of revenue, while it is 123 percent of revenue in the MPM. Even if all elasticities are smaller, for example, .5, the MPM predicts a sizable distortion, 129 percent of revenue, while the Harberger model's predicted distortion is only 4 percent of revenue.

The excess burden in the MPM is considerably smaller if one assumes that entrepreneurs are in fixed supply. For example, in the case in which all elasticities are unity, holding fixed the number of entrepreneurs reduces the excess burden from 123 percent to 74 percent of revenue. If all elasticities equal .5, the excess burden is reduced from 129 percent of revenue to 66 percent of revenue. But even with the supply of entrepreneurs fixed, the excess burden in the MPM is still at least seven times that in the Harberger model.

2. Understanding the Differences in Excess Burden

One reason that the excess burden in the MPM is so much greater than in the Harberger model involves the size of the distortionary tax rates in the two analyses. Although the MPM results are based on the same tax data, including the same tax revenue, the effective distortionary wedge in the MPM is 82 percent, while it is only 50 percent in

the Harberger-Shoven procedure. Since excess burden roughly rises with the square of the tax rate, the difference in effective distortionary taxes can, by itself, account for an MPM excess burden that is 2.6 times the Harberger model's excess burden.

To understand these differences, note that in the MPM the economywide average corporate tax rate, calculated as total corporate revenues divided by total corporate income, is .45. In terms of the model's tax variable τ , this value of .45 for t corresponds to a value of τ of .82 since $\tau = t/(1 - t)$. With such a large distortionary tax, the considerable size of the distortion in the MPM is not surprising. In contrast, in the Harberger-Shoven analysis the distortionary corporate tax is the difference between the average corporate tax rates in the two sectors. But this average tax in each sector is computed on the basis of total sector capital income, not simply the corporate income in the sector. By averaging over noncorporate as well as corporate capital in determining the tax rates in each sector, Harberger and Shoven dilute the effective distortionary corporate tax. Since $t_1 = .014$ and $t_2 = .340$, the effective distortionary tax in the Harberger-Shoven procedure is only .50, which corresponds to $(.340 - .014)/[(1 - .340)(1 - .014)]$.

The second reason that the excess burden is so much larger in the MPM than in the Harberger model involves differences in the two models in the source of the inefficiency in conjunction with differences in within-sector and between-sector demand elasticities. To understand this point, first note that the approximation formula for excess burden is the same in both models, namely $.5\tau^2\partial K_c/\partial\tau$, where K_c stands for total corporate capital. But the change in corporate capital in the MPM is due, ultimately, to within-sector substitution of noncorporate capital as well as other factors for corporate capital. Indeed, were there no within-sector substitution, that is, were there no noncorporate production either before or after the tax, $\partial K_c/\partial\tau$ in the MPM would be zero. In contrast to the MPM, in the Harberger model, $\partial K_c/\partial\tau$ is negative because of between-sector substitution of capital.

The fact that the MPM's ultimate source of the inefficiency is within-sector rather than between-sector changes in capital does not by itself suggest that excess burden is larger in the MPM. But one needs to consider these differences in the source of excess burden in the light of differences in the within- versus between-sector elasticities of demands for corporate and noncorporate goods. In the MPM the within-sector demand elasticity between corporate and noncorporate output is infinite. In contrast, in both models, the between-sector demand elasticity between corporate and noncorporate goods is assumed to be small, typically unity or less. To appreciate how this difference in demand elasticities may affect the reduction in corpo-

rate capital and, thus, excess burden, consider how excess burden in the Harberger model changes as the between-sector demand elasticity increases. Under the assumption of unitary elasticities of substitution in production, raising the demand elasticity in the Harberger model from unity to 10 increases the excess burden by a factor of three. Together with the 2.6 factor arising from differences in effective tax wedges, this factor of three suggests an excess burden in the MPM that could easily exceed that in the Harberger model by a factor of seven.

3. Does the Method of Aggregation Affect the MPM Results?

Harberger allocated U.S. industries to corporate and noncorporate sectors on the basis of the size of their average tax. While this method was appropriate for Harberger's purposes, his two-sector division is not necessarily the most appropriate two-sector division from the perspective of the MPM. Hence, it is important to understand how the MPM results would differ if the two sectors were chosen differently.

If all production functions of the underlying products are locally identical (all own and cross-factor demand elasticities as well as factor shares are the same for all goods), the method of aggregation affects neither incidence nor excess burden in the MPM. To see this, consider the general formula of tax incidence, equation (26). In the case in which sectors 1 and 2 have the same technology locally, the incidence on capital is independent of both the ratio of K_1 to K_2 and the degree of corporate intensity in the two sectors. Next consider the triangle approximation formula for excess burden in the MPM. As in the Harberger model, this formula is given by $.5\tau^2 dK_c/d\tau$. Some additional differentiation of the MPM leads to the following formula for $dK_c/d\tau$:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{dK_c}{d\tau} &= \hat{k}_{n1}K_{n1} + \hat{k}_{n2}K_{n2} + \left(\frac{\beta_1}{1 - \alpha_1 - \beta_1}\right)^2 W \underline{A}_1 \int_0^{\underline{A}_2} f(\underline{A}_1, A_2) dA_2 \\ &+ \left(\frac{\beta_2}{1 - \alpha_2 - \beta_2}\right)^2 W \underline{A}_2 \int_0^{\underline{A}_1} f(A_1, \underline{A}_2) dA_1 \\ &+ \left(\frac{\beta_1}{1 - \alpha_1 - \beta_1} - \frac{\beta_2}{1 - \alpha_2 - \beta_2}\right)^2 W \frac{\underline{A}_1}{\underline{A}_2^2} \int_{\underline{A}_2}^{\bar{A}_2} A_2^2 f\left(\frac{\underline{A}_1 A_2}{\underline{A}_2}, A_2\right) dA_2. \end{aligned} \quad (50)$$

When sectors 1 and 2 have the same technology locally, the percentage change in k_{n1} equals the percentage change in k_{n2} . Hence, equation (50) indicates that when the two technologies are locally identical, $dK_c/d\tau$ is independent of the ratio of K_{n1} to K_{n2} . In this case the MPM's excess burden is the same regardless of whether one allocates all

noncorporate production to one sector or spreads the noncorporate output between the two sectors.

This last statement may seem surprising in the light of the argument above that it is the infinite within-sector corporate-noncorporate demand elasticity that explains the large excess burden; how can the MPM excess burden be large if the within-sector demand elasticity is not relevant for one of the sectors because the sector is totally corporate? The answer is that in the case of identical local technologies, all that is needed is one sector in which the demand elasticity between corporate and noncorporate goods is infinite provided that sector has all the noncorporate capital.

From equation (50) and some additional calculations with the model, it appears that excess burden in the MPM is larger if one chooses the two sectors to maximize the difference between capital income shares. In other words, aggregations that do not maximize the differences between capital income shares will understate the excess burden. Oddly enough, Harberger's division of output into two sectors produces two sectors with quite different capital income shares. Hence, we believe that the excess burden reported above for the MPM would be only slightly larger for other choices of the two sectors with even more divergent capital income shares. This discussion and our additional calculations also suggest that disaggregating the MPM into more than two sectors would also increase the excess burden.

VIII. Summary and Suggestions for Additional Research

The model developed in this paper exhibits mutual production of each good by corporate and noncorporate firms. Noncorporate firms arise endogenously; those individuals who choose to become entrepreneurs are more efficient than corporate managers, but since their managerial input is fixed, their output is subject to diminishing returns. In addition, entrepreneurs can produce only by themselves. Corporate firms have a technological advantage relative to less efficient entrepreneurs in producing at a large scale. Hence, corporate firms coexist with the limited number of more efficient entrepreneurs both prior to and after the introduction of a corporate income tax, although the tax induces production by less efficient entrepreneurs. While the efficiency of their managerial input differs, both corporate and noncorporate firms within each sector have identical production functions.

In contrast to the mutual production model, Harberger's model of the corporate tax collapses in the presence of corporate and noncorporate production of the same good, with the corporate sector disap-

pearing. Harberger's model is really not a model of a tax on the income of corporations per se. Instead of analyzing a tax on the corporate firm, Harberger models the differential taxation of capital used in the production of different goods. The U.S. corporate income tax, however, does not apply differentially to producers of different commodities; rather it is levied on corporate as opposed to noncorporate firms. By ignoring noncorporate production in primarily corporate sectors and corporate production in primarily noncorporate sectors, Harberger's model ignores the potential substitution of noncorporate for corporate production within each sector.

This within-sector substitution permits a source of inefficiency not included in Harberger's formulation, namely the substitution of less efficient noncorporate production for more efficient corporate production. The within-sector substitution explains why the deadweight loss from corporate taxation is many times larger in the MPM than in the Harberger model. Indeed, the excess burden in the CES illustration of the MPM is typically larger than the corporate tax revenue.

The within-sector substitution also obviates much of the source of relative price changes arising in the Harberger model and alters the effects of sector differences in substitution elasticities. These are the major reasons why the incidence of the corporate income tax can differ so greatly in the MPM and the Harberger model. In contrast to the Harberger incidence formula, demand effects drop out of the MPM incidence formula if both sectors have CES production functions and also have the same initial shares of capital income. If, in addition, each sector is equally corporate intensive, the MPM's tax incidence is 100 percent on capital regardless of differences in substitution elasticities between the two sectors.

The CES results for 1957, while striking, must be viewed in perspective. First, we have followed Harberger and Shoven in using average rather than effective marginal tax rates in the calculations and in ignoring personal taxes. Using Gravelle's (1987) estimates of the total (corporate plus personal) marginal tax wedge would raise our estimate of excess burden for 1957. Parenthetically, Gravelle's estimates indicate a much lower excess burden for 1987 and a much larger efficiency gain from the 1986 Tax Reform Act than has previously been suggested. Second, like Harberger and Shoven, we have ignored depreciation; proper adjustment for depreciation would reduce the deadweight loss estimates. Third, if marginal debt/equity ratios differ from average debt/equity ratios, the marginal effective tax wedge would differ from the average corporate tax rate considered in this paper as well as the total (personal plus corporate) tax wedge calculated by Gravelle (1987). Fourth, the results might differ if the model were disaggregated to include many sectors, as in Shoven

(1976) and Ballard et al. (1985). Fifth, the joint density function determining entrepreneurs' abilities should be estimated empirically. Sixth, the model could be expanded to treat managerial and entrepreneurial input, on the one hand, and labor, on the other hand, as distinct production factors. And seventh, the assumption that corporate and noncorporate production functions are identical within a sector needs to be tested and potentially relaxed. These issues provide ample scope for additional research.

In conclusion, perhaps the best celebration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of Harberger's remarkably influential model would be a rebirth of analytical attention to the questions of what constitutes a corporation and what the corporation income tax precisely does tax.

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