

Bio Book

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Biographical Note

ALBERT COPPE

Professor of Economics  
University of Louvain, Belgium

Mr. Coppé was born at Bruges in November 1911. He studied economics and political science and received Bachelor degrees in Commerce and Finance and Political and Social Sciences as well as a Ph.D. in Economics.

He began his academic career as lecturer for Economics and Sociology in 1941 at the University of Louvain.

His political career goes back to his activities in the 1940's in the Belgian underground movement. In 1946, he was elected to the Belgian Chamber of Representatives as Christian Social Deputy for Brussels where he was a member of the Finance and Economic Affairs Committee. In 1947, Mr. Coppé participated in the first post-war pan-European conference at Gstaad with members of parliaments from France, Germany, Italy, Britain, and other European countries. In 1950, he became Minister of Public Works. From 1950 to 1951 he was Minister of Economic Affairs and in 1952 he became Minister of Reconstruction.

At the inception of the European Coal and Steel Community in 1952, he became Vice President of the High Authority, in charge of energy affairs, transport, antitrust matters, and information.

With the merger in 1967 of the three Executive Commissions of the European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC), Atomic Energy Community (Euratom) and Economic Community (EEC), Mr. Coppé was appointed member of the 14-member Commission of the European Communities. His portfolio of responsibilities included budget, investment affairs, and information.

In 1970, he was reappointed by the Belgian government to the 9-member Commission of the European Communities, and in 1973, when the Community was enlarged to include Denmark, Britain and Ireland, he returned to the University of Louvain.

Mr. Coppé is the author of Problèmes d'Economie Charbonnière (Problems of a fossil fuel economy), Economics and Standards of Living (published in Flemish) and a number of articles in the political and economic sciences. He holds honorary degrees from the University of Montreal and St. Mary's University, San Antonio, Texas. He has been awarded many civilian honors from the governments of Belgium, Luxembourg, Venezuela and Italy.

Mr. Coppé is married, has eight children, and makes his home in Tervueren, Belgium.

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BIOGRAPHY OF M. ALBERT COPPE.

Belgian Member and Vice President of  
the European Coal and Steel Community.

Born at Bruges on 26 November, 1911, married on 30 June, 1940. Has six eight children.

EDUCATION: Studied the humanities at Bruges.  
Degree in commercial and financial sciences at the University of Louvain, 1933.  
Degree in political and social sciences at the University of Louvain, 1934.  
Degree in economics at the University of Louvain, 1935.  
Doctor of economics, 1940.  
Winner of the inter-university competition in 1940. This entitled him to a scholarship enabling him to go to the United States. The events of 1940 prevented his taking advantage of it.

Professional career: Professor in the School of Economic Sciences in the University of Louvain, 1941.  
Member of the Supreme Council of Statistics since 1949.

Social career: M. Coppe is a member of the Education Commission of the Confederation of Christian Trade Unions.  
President of the Federation of the Christian Mutual Society of the Brussels district.  
Member of the Supreme Council of the Family since 1947.

Political career: Deputy of the P.S.C. (Christian Social Party) for the Brussels district since 1946.  
In Parliament he has dealt principally with financial and economic affairs and was the rapporteur of the budget for Economic Affairs and of the Pensions budget.  
As a member of the Finance Commission, he was particularly active in connection with the problem of import duties and excise, and took an interest in the problem of Benelux.  
Minister of Public Works in the first exclusively P.S.C. cabinet of Premier Duvieusart of 8 June, 1950.  
Minister of Economic Affairs and Middle Classes, 6.8.1950. (Second exclusively P.S.C. cabinet - Premier M. Pholien.)  
Minister of Reconstruction since 15 January, 1952. (Third exclusively P.S.C. cabinet under the premiership of M. van Houtte.)

8/20/52.

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CURRICULUM VITAE

Nom            Albert COPPE

né le 26 novembre 1911 à Bruges - marié - huit enfants

Docteur en Sciences économiques, licencié en Sciences commerciales et financières, licencié en Sciences politiques et sociales.

1941 - Professeur à la Faculté des Sciences économiques et sociales de l'Université de Louvain.

1946 - Membre de la Chambre des Représentants.

Membre des Commissions des Finances et des Affaires économiques

1950 - Ministre des Travaux publics.

1950-1951 Ministre des Affaires économiques.

1952 - Ministre de la Reconstruction.

1952 - Vice-Président de la Haute Autorité de la Communauté européenne du Charbon et de l'Acier, chargé plus spécialement des problèmes de l'énergie, des transports, des ententes et concentrations et de l'information.

juillet 1967 - Membre de la Commission des Communautés européennes.

Auteur d'un grand nombre d'études scientifiques et politiques parmi lesquelles il faut citer "Problèmes d'économie charbonnière", "Economische Politiek en Levensstandaard" etc..

Docteur honoris causa de l'Université de Montréal et de l'Université de San Antonia.

Cadet d'honneur du Travail de Belgique

Commandeur de l'Ordre de Léopold, Grand-Croix de l'Ordre de la Couronne du Chêne (Luxembourg), Grand Cordon de l'Ordre du Libertador (Venezuela) Grand Officier de l'Ordre "al Merito della Republicca" (Italie).  
Grand Officier de l'Ordre du Mono (Togo)

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