

EBRI:NOTES

EBRI Notes is published six times a year by the Employee Benefit Research Institute to apprise policy makers, scholars, businessmen, workers, the press, and the public of current employee benefit studies, activities, and legislation. EBRI is a nonprofit, tax-exempt association organized to encourage effective and responsible national policy for public and private employee benefit programs through objective research, analysis, and educational activities.

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National Journal Schedules Conference on Retirement Income Policy

On November 17 and 18, the National Journal is sponsoring a conference entitled "Retirement Income: Who Gets How Much and Who Pays?" The Conference is to be held at the Mayflower Hotel, Washington, D.C. Contact Ms. Barbara Norris, Conference Director, National Journal, 1730 M Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036. Telephone: (202) 857-1400.

HHS Publishes HMO Bibliography

A two-volume bibliography on HMO's has been prepared by the Group Health Associations of America for the Department of Health and Human Services. Volume I, Comprehensive Bibliography on Health Maintenance

Organizations, lists entities in alphabetical order, and Volume II, Selected Annotated Bibliography on Health Maintenance Organizations, under subject categories about 500 sources from Volume I. Volume I, Stock No. 017-002-00131-3 may be ordered for \$5.50 and Volume II, Stock No. 017-002-00132-1 for \$4.75 from Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402, (202) 783-3238. Further details may be obtained from Mr. Ken Lindy, Division of Program Promotion, Office of HMO's, Department of Health and Human Services, 12420 Parklawn Drive, Room 3-32, Rockville, Maryland 20857, (301) 443-2300.

ASPA Examines Compensation Reform

The Federal Employee Compensation Reform Act could very well alter the salaries and benefits of almost two million Federal workers and effect state and local employees as well, concludes the American Society for Public Administration in their report, Federal Compensation Reform, An Examination of Issues. This 50 page report, prepared for ASPA by a task force of personnel and budgeting experts, which included Dallas Salisbury, Executive Director of EBRI, analyzes the adjustment of Federal salaries to local pay scales, the inclusion of Federal fringe benefits in pay comparability and the inclusion of State and local employees in Federal wage surveys. Copies may be obtained for \$5.00 each by contacting Mr. Don Ahern, JLARC, Suite 1100, 910 Capitol Street, Richmond, Virginia 23219. Telephone: (804) 786-7929.

AEI and ALEC Release Unemployment Compensation Studies

Two timely studies on unemployment compensation have been released, both of which examine various proposals and recommendations regarding unemployment benefits. The American Legislative Exchange Council's study by Edgar Vash is entitled The National Commission on Unemployment Compensation: Analysis of the Recommendations. For information, contact Ms. Kathleen Teague, Executive Director, ALEC, 418 C Street, N.E., #200 Washington, D.C. 20002. Telephone: (202) 547-4646. Unemployment Benefits: Should There Be a Compulsory Federal Standard, by Professor Joseph Becker for American Enterprise Institute, analyzes proposals to impose a Federal standard on state unemployment insurance benefits. Information may be obtained from Ms. Ilse Hinckley, AEI Publications, 1150 17th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036, Telephone: (202) 862-5800.

NCHS Reports on National Death Index and Information Needs of National Health Insurance

A one-of-a-kind national index on death statistics is being established by the National Center for Health Statistics. Medical and health investigators conducting mortality studies will find this national registry a more convenient reference tool than contacting each state vital statistics office for facts on death. Distribution of this manual will likely begin in early 1981. Potential users should contact Mr. Robert Bilgard, Division of Vital Statistics, NCHS Rm. 1-44, Center Building, 3700 East-West Highway, Hyattsville, Maryland 20782. Telephone: (301) 436-8500. "Information Needs of National Health Insurance: A Discussion of Principles, Issues and Legislative Recommendations," by the National Committee on Vital and Health Statistics, reports that national health insurance information will be needed to address fundamental questions raised by program management, Congress and the public. Regardless of

the form of insurance, the Committee concludes that information should be population based (expressed in terms of persons enrolled and persons using services) and the administrative organization of data activities should promote accuracy, effectiveness and efficiency in collection, processing and analysis of data. Copies of this report, DHEW Publication (PHS) 80-1159 may be obtained by writing to NCHS, Scientific and Technical Information Branch, Center Building, Rm. 1-57, 3700 East-West Highway, Hyattsville, Maryland 20782. Telephone: (301) 436-8500.

NCGA Addresses Application of FASB Statement 35

Since governmental units and statewide public employee retirement systems are unsure of the applicability of FASB (Financial Accounting Standards Board) Statement 35, the National Council on Government Accounting has added this issue to its technical agenda. FASB Statement 35 "Accounting and Reporting by Defined Benefit Pension Plans," applies to employee benefit plans provided to employees of one or more employers, including state and local governments. The concerns regarding FASB 35 relate to its effect on financial statements of public employee retirement systems at both the state and locally administered levels. Information on this report may be obtained from Mr. James Remis, NCGA, 180 North Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60601. Telephone: (312) 977-9700.

Private Pensions Can Survive High Inflation

Martin Feldstein, President of the National Bureau of Economic Research, Inc. has concluded that the private pension system can continue to function effectively even if the inflation rate continues uncomfortably high. In a speech before the American Economic Association, Dr. Feldstein focused on the way in which pensions are likely to evolve in a future that expects continued inflation. For information write to Martin Feldstein, President, NBER, Inc., 1050 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02138. Telephone: (617) 868-3900.

SSA Studies Income and Resources of the Aged

The Social Security Administration's survey, Income and Resources of the Aged gives necessary data for evaluation of Social Security's contribution to the economic well-being of people during their retirement years. With 55 as the age cut-off, the survey found that the aged's income comes from four sources: earnings from work, Social Security benefits, pensions (public and private) and income from assets. Other interesting conclusions listed in the study are that one tenth of the aged receive public assistance, single women over 55 are the most likely to be classified as poor, and 40% of the aged have incomes of \$20,000 or more. Copies of the survey Income and Resources of the Aged, SSA publication #13-117-27 may be obtained free of charge from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Social Security Administration, Office of Policy, Office of Research and Statistics, 1875 Connecticut Avenue, Washington, D.C. 20009. Telephone: (202) 673-5580.

Insurance Industry Launches Study of Health Insurance

The American Council of Life Insurance and the Health Insurance Association of America announced that a three year study determining the most cost-efficient system of health care for consumers is currently underway. This \$1 million program will use the life cycle or age grouping

approach to develop and test preventive health procedures which can be performed efficiently and economically by physicians or other health personnel. The project is being conducted by INSURE (Insurance Network for Social, Urban, and Rural Efforts) a nonprofit organization made up of life and health insurance companies. Funding for the first year of the program will come from Metropolitan Life, Aetna Life and Casualty, the Equitable Society, Prudential Life, Connecticut General Life and Bankers Life and Casualty Insurance Companies. For more details, contact Mr. Neil Swan, ACLI, 1850 K Street, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20006. Telephone: (202) 862-4063.

Book Contradicts View that American Elderly are Financially Helpless

The elderly in America are not in desperate need of money, meals, housing, health care and other services; rather they are self-supporting adults who live in dignity and independence. This is the conclusion found in Old Folks At Home, by Alvin Rabushka and Bruce Jacobs. The authors' idea to write this book stems from the national debate and discussion on the choice of appropriate policies and programs for the elderly. The book was published in 1980, by The Free Press, a Division of Macmillan Publishing Co., Incorporated.

AEI National Health Insurance Conference Proceedings Published

"National Health Insurance? - What Now, What Later, What Never?" edited by Mark V. Pauly for the American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research illustrates the character of the debate which has occurred over the past 10 years regarding National Health Insurance. The paperback version can be obtained for \$8.25. For information, write to Publications Department, AEI, Inc., 1150 17th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036. Telephone: (202) 862-5800.

History of Retirement Published

A History of Retirement, The Meaning and Function of an American Institution, 1885-1978, by William Graebner has just been published by the Yale University Press. It is the first summary of the history of retirement in America which analyzes the economic, political, and social pressures behind the institution of retirement. It explores such issues as the relationship of retirement to unemployment and the development of Social Security. The cost of the publication, #LC 79-28849, ISBN 02356-1, is \$22.50, and is available by writing to the Yale University Press, 92A Yale Station, New Haven, Connecticut 06520.

International Foundation Issues Report on Pension Fund Operations

The International Foundation of Employee Benefit Plans has published Pension Fund Operations and Expenses: The Technical Report, by Robert D. Cooper, Ph.D., and Melody A. Carlsen. This study broadly examines the fund expenses and operations of defined benefit plans. This book may be obtained at a cost of \$15.00 per copy, by writing to the International Foundation of Employee Benefit Plans, 18700 W. Bluemound Road, P. O. Box 69, Brookfield, Wisconsin 53005. Telephone: (414) 786-6700.

Federal Agencies Award New Research Studies

The Office of Pension and Welfare Benefit Programs, U.S. Department of Labor, has awarded the following research studies:

1. "An Analysis of Why Business Firms Offer Employee Pensions," to be conducted by the Ohio State University Research Organization.
2. "The Relationship Between Expected and Actual Labor Supply Responses of Older Workers," to be conducted by the Vanderbilt Institute for Public Policy Studies.
3. "A Dynamic Econometric Model of Retirement," to be conducted by the Rand Corporation.
4. "Analyses of the Effects of Pensions on Wage Levels and Savings and Retirement Decisions," to be conducted by Mathematica Policy Research.
5. "The Valuation of Private Pension Benefits," to be conducted by the National Bureau of Economic Research.
6. "Financial Incentives for Early and Disability Retirement," to be conducted by the Urban Institute.
7. "Pensions and the Age of Retirement," to be conducted by Cornell University.

The Department of Health and Human Services, Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluations has approved the award of the following grants for research:

1. "Program for Research on Retirement and Aging," to be conducted by the Brookings Institution.
2. "Planning Study for the Analysis of Retirement Security Issues Using Simulation Models," to be conducted by the University of Michigan Institute for Social Research.

DOL Issues Paper on Retirement Decision of Older Workers

The Employment and Training Administration, Department of Labor, released a study paper by Jeffrey Carliner, "Effects of Social Security on the Retirement Decision of Older Workers." The paper examines how the existence of Social Security benefits affects the work behavior of benefit recipients. Limited copies are being made available. For information contact Al Mapou, Employment and Training Administration, Department of Labor, Office of Policy Evaluation and Research, Washington, D.C. 20213. Telephone: (202) 376-6521.

AT EBRI...

EBRI July Modeling Workshop Proceedings Available

Copies of The Application of Modeling Techniques to Retirement Income Policy Issues, which outlines the proceedings that took place at EBRI's Modeling Workshop are available for \$10.00 each. The background research paper by Joseph M. Anderson, of ICF, Incorporated, "Modeling Analysis for Retirement Income Policy: Background and Overview" is also available at a cost of \$10.00 per copy.

December Policy Forum

EBRI Education and Research Fund will sponsor, on December 10, 1980, a Policy Forum entitled "Retirement Income and the Economy - Analyzing Proposals for Increasing Income in Retirement." A number of papers are

being prepared on such issues as coverage and benefit receipt, the international experience, implications for employers, assessing pay-as-you-go vs. advance-funded approaches, and implications of alternatives for the economy.

EBRI Article in Print

"Retirement Income and the Economy" by Dallas L. Salisbury, appeared in the September 20, 1980 issue of the National Journal. Dallas Salisbury will moderate a panel on the subject: "How Much Federal Control Over Private Plans," at the upcoming National Journal conference.

Bibliography of Research on Health Care Programs

EBRI Education and Research Fund will soon award a contract for development of a bibliography of research on health care programs. The bibliography will contain approximately 1,200 abstracted citations. The bibliography will be available in late 1981.

EBRI to Move to New Office

EBRI headquarters, after November 15, 1980 will be located at 1920 N Street, N.W., Suite 520, Washington, D.C. 20036. Our telephone number will remain the same.