FOREIGN HEALTH CARE SYSTEMS: A Bibliography

Of Selected References

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FOREIGN HEALTH CARE SYSTEMS: A BIBLIOGRAPHY OF SELECTED REFERENCES

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Introduction

In the course of recent deliberations on national health insurance legislation, Members of Congress and the public at large have shown considerable interest in the health care systems and health insurance programs existing in other major industrialized nations throughout the world. Of course, differences with respect to such factors as social, economic and governmental institutions, population size, geography, standards of living, modes of living, national priorities, etc., limit to some extent the validity and effectiveness of broad-scale international comparisons. Nonetheless, many authorities in the health field have expressed the view that the experiences of other nations in the development and organization of national health care programs may reveal valuable insights for the United States.

The historical development of national health care programs has been of considerably longer duration in many European countries than in the United States. Compulsory health insurance for a large part of the German labor force was instituted as early as 1883. The social and economic conditions existing in Europe following World War II were significant factors in the development of compulsory health insurance programs in many other European countries. In 1948, Great Britain
inaugurated the British National Health Service, under which the Government assumed ownership and operation of most health facilities. By 1955, Sweden had enacted a compulsory, publicly-financed health insurance program, superseding a nationally-subsidized voluntary insurance program enacted in 1946.

The United States now remains as one of the few major industrialized nations of the world without some form of compulsory national health insurance. Proponents of national health insurance feel that much can be learned from a study of the "successful" implementation of such programs in other countries. On the other hand, opponents of national health insurance are equally convinced that the "flaws and shortcomings" in foreign health care systems should act as a reminder to the United States that national health insurance is not an automatic solution to all the current problems related to health care.

To satisfy the interest in this area demonstrated by the Congress and the general public, the Congressional Research Service has prepared an extensive bibliography of selected references on foreign health care systems. In selecting appropriate citations for this bibliography, emphasis has been given to relatively recent publications of an authoritative nature. The reader will note that many of the references re-
reflect a distinct point of view in regard to the advantages or disadvantages of a particular health care system. The international comparisons of health care systems (found at the end of the bibliography) may be of particular interest.
FOREIGN HEALTH CARE SYSTEMS: A BIBLIOGRAPHY OF SELECTED REFERENCES

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II. Articles

Common Market


Medical education/manpower


Medical Research


National Health Service

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National Health Service

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JAPAN


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NORWAY


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Austria/Czechoslovakia


Austria/Germany/Great Britain


Canada/U.S.A.


Canada/France/Norway


Eastern Europe


Great Britain/U.S.A.


Great Britain/U.S.A./Sweden


Great Britain/U.S.A./USSR


Great Britain/USSR/Sweden

Norway/Sweden Austria


Scandinavia

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Sweden/U.S.A.


General

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