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MILITARY FAMILY PROGRAMS: SOCIETY MODELS?

At this time of fiscal austerity when innovative new approaches are being sought for delivery of services to families, and when both the public and private sectors are searching for ways to improve productivity, the emerging range of military family programs bears close watching.

Recognition by all the armed services and the Coast Guard of the correlation between the quality of service personnel's family life and performance on duty is being translated into creation of high-level family policy offices, rapidly expanding family services programs through the U.S. and abroad - and the establishment of the Military Family Resource Center to support and link these military family programs and to facilitate improved liaison with the civilian community.

Below are summary descriptions of the various armed forces family programs scheduled to reach 360 by 1985. In this issue are also reports on conferences and publications which further reflect the new family commitments of the military. A more complete overview and analysis of the emerging military family policies and programs is published in the August/September issue of the AMERICAN FAMILY, 5018 Allan Road, Washington, D.C. 20016.

Family service programs play a vital role in the military community since military families are often far from extended family and its traditional supports. In addition, stresses commonly encountered in the civilian sector, such as those of the dual career family, are felt more sharply in the military community due to conflicts between military and family life. Most of the military family programs include information services, referral and coordination of family service providers and resources, relocation aid, spouse employment consultation and job information, family financial management education, and aid to families in crisis.

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Navy Family Service Centers

The Navy is currently expanding its network of Family Service Centers from the 22 centers now operating to a possible 62 by fiscal year 1983. Highlights of the Navy program are the two centralized centers in Norfolk, VA and San Diego, CA. The centers will utilize a computerized information system with family service agencies on line, to assist work at the local level.

For more information write: Family Support Branch (OP-152), Department of the Navy, Washington, D.C. 20350 or call: (202) 694-5742.

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Marine Corps Family Service Centers

The Marine Corps has established 16 Family Service Centers at major Marine Corps installations. The centers cover 80 percent of Marine population. For active duty Marines, retired personnel and family members not located near one of the centers, the Marine Corps has established a long-distance telephone referral program, with regional lines in Quantico, VA and Pendleton, CA.

For more information, write: Family Programs Office (Code MPH), Headquarters U.S. Marine Corps, Washington, D.C. 20380 or call: (202) 694-2895.

Army Community Service Centers

There are currently 162 Army Community Service Centers operating world-wide, staffed by over six thousand volunteers (primarily Army spouses) and a trained professional staff. Army CSC policy includes a built-in expansion plan, with the commanders in Army communities exceeding a population of 2000 responsible for establishing a CSC on base. The centers have always been family-oriented, and the newest programs (Child Support Services and Family Advocacy) reflect the increasing military emphasis on family support.

For more information, write: Headquarters, Department of the Army, Community Service Division (DAAG - PSC), Hoffman Building #1, Room 1408, 2461 Eisenhower Avenue, Alexandria, VA 22331 or call: (303) 325-9390.

Air Force Centers Rapidly Expanding

By 1987 the US Air Force expects to have Family Support Centers at every major Air Force base, a total of 124. Four Centers are to be opened by autumn of this year, 13 more during 1983, and 25 additional Centers by 1983. The goal of the FSC effort is to consolidate and improve Air Force family programs in implementation of the Air Force Family Action plan for the 1980's. Strong impetus for the Air Force Family Action plan comes from the September 1980 Conference on Families, held at Randolph AFB, Texas, to reassess Air Force family policies in view of changing needs.

For more information contact Lawrence W. Foley, Col., USAF, Assistant for Air Force Family Matters, DCS/Major and Personnel Headquarters, USAF, Washington, D.C. 20330, (202) 695-0241.

Family Awareness In The Coast Guard

The Coast Guard's Personnel Services Division is responsible for improving awareness and delivery of family services. Its relocation aid program, for example, includes extensive government leasing of homes, house-hunting leaves, and advance payment of relocation and travel allowances. Also, a bibliography of benefits-related publications is available to Coast Guard family members.

For more information, write: Lt. Commander William Protzman, U.S. Coast Guard (G-PS-2), U. S. Coast Guard Headquarters, Washington, D.C. 20593 or call: (202) 426-6460.

WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCESState and Regional Conferences on Children & Youth

The White House Conference on Children & Youth, has now become the State and Regional Conferences on Children & Youth, to be held October, November and December 1981.

The deadline for state reports and recommendations to be submitted to the Department of Health and Human Services is January 29, 1982, at which time they will be compiled into a single national report for information sharing among the states. All but the following states are holding conferences.

The seven which do not plan to hold conferences are Alaska, Arizona, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, and Virginia. The money appropriated to help offset the cost of these state conferences, - about \$180,000 - is being returned to the Treasury.

The State Conferences are widely varied in format ranging from comprehensive, traditional type gatherings to those focused on highly specialized themes such as youth unemployment, or strengthening the business and private sector contributions to family services. For topic selection conferences range from top-down decision making to grass-roots approaches based on special citizen polls.

A complete list of state coordinators with addresses and phone numbers may be obtained from HHS HDS, Office of Public Affairs, Room 329D, Hubert Humphrey Building, 200 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, D.C. 20201. Phone (202) 472-7257.

White House Conference on Aging

The White House Conference on Aging will be held November 30 - December 3, 1981 at Washington, D.C. The 2,000 delegates to the Conference, chosen early in September, are divided into 14 committees, and further divided into smaller groups to facilitate discussion for considering the topic assigned to the larger committees. Recommendations proposed by each full committee will be reported after reconvening with the rest of the 2,000 delegates at the end of the conference. There will be no recommendations by the conference as a whole.

The 14 topics are: Implications for the Economy of an Aging Population; Economic Well-Being; Older Americans as a Continuing Resource; Promotion and Maintenance of Wellness, Health Care and Services; Options for Long-Term Care; Family and Community Support Systems; Housing Alternatives; Conditions for Continuing Community Participation; Educational and Training Opportunities; Concerns of Older Women; Growing Number, Special Needs; Private Sector Roles, Structures and Opportunities; Public Sector Roles and Structures; Research.

The Family and Community Support Systems Committee will look at formal and informal networks for independent living, intergenerational relationships and support, and the capacity of the family.

The following are matters of such importance that every committee is being asked to consider them: special needs of minority group members; needs of low-income elderly; differences in urban and rural needs; needs of frail or disabled elderly; access to services; private and public sector roles; means of implementing conference recommendations; role of older Americans in influencing change.

For more information on the Conference or to get on the mailing list, contact Bill Stetson, Director of Public Affairs, White House Conference on Aging, 330 Independence Ave., S.W., (Room 4059), Washington, D.C. 20201. Tel: (202) 755-8001.

FAMILY COALITIONS: UPDATE

The national family coalition field at this time presents somewhat of a kaleidoscopic picture of growth and change. In future issues we will be reporting in more detail on the following:

Coalition for Families
Virginia Martin, Chair
c/o Family Service Association of America
DuPont Circle Building
1346 Connecticut Ave., NW - Suite 712.
Washington, D.C. 20036
(202) 822-8390

This Coalition is the successor to the Coalition for the White House Conference on Families. In its new reconstituted role, with an institutional membership base of 31, it is currently developing a strategy to respond to the Reagan Administration welfare policies.

ad hoc Coalition on Block Grants
1000 Wisconsin Ave., NW
Washington, D.C. 20007
(202) 338-6484
Attn - Ronnie Jill Kweller

This Coalition of approximately 100 civil rights, religious, health, education, social services and community-based advocacy and other groups oppose the Administration's block grant program for "removing federal government oversight and directives as to who will receive the services."

ad hoc Committee to Support Block Grants
c/o Coalition for America
721 - 2nd Street, NE
Washington, D.C. 20002
(202) 546-3000
Attn - Padraic Buckley

The Committee of approximately 80 conservative and new right organizations was active during the period of the block grant debate earlier this year. It is currently awaiting new block grant initiatives from the White House expected early in 1982.

Library Court Group
Connaught Marshner, Chairman
721 Second St., NE
Washington, D.C. 20002
(202) 546-3004

This self-titled "pro-family" group is a family and social issue coalition, one of three major New Right coalitions.

Family Resources Coalition
Lynn E. Pooley, Coalition Coordinator
2300 Green Bay Road
Evanston, Illinois 60201
(312) 869-1500

This new "community-based, grass roots, family-oriented" federation of several hundred U.S. and Canadian family resource programs is aimed at "helping families obtain support services they need."

Friends of the Family
2233 Wisconsin Ave., NW
Washington, D.C. 20013
(202) 333-0700
Attn - William Kelly
or
Martha Keys

This government/industry/non-profit sector consortium seeks "to help strengthen families through a three-year campaign of public service announcements, information dissemination, and an extensive community outreach program."

OFFICE FOR FAMILIES' ACTIVITIESCorporate Policy Study

In early July, the Office for Families in the Department of Health and Human Services provided matching funds to the Conference Board, a research organization of the Fortune 500 business community, to study corporate policy and work-place characteristics as they affect family life. Entitled "Corporate Implementation of Workplace Innovations Designed to Assist Families," the one-year project will also explore issues affecting morale and productivity, and develop options for innovative corporate policymaking. A main feature of the project will be four invitational workshops, tentatively scheduled for New York, Chicago, Dallas and San Francisco in late fall and early winter. Results of the project will be disseminated to over 17,000 corporations across the nation.

Mini-Grants for Family Services

The Office for Families has awarded seven mini-grants for projects that emphasize the family and family self-help. Projects selected are all model programs, capable of being implemented in other communities. They address a wide variety of concerns, such as legal, parental, care of the physically impaired, foster care, information dissemination, and crises counseling services.

One innovative project selected to receive funding is the Father Assistance Community Education Service, under the Central Connecticut Community Mental Health Affiliates, in Hartford, Connecticut. This program will provide services to fathers who are single parents.

Each project is to receive \$19,000 over a 12-month period. Funds for the projects come from The Research and Demonstration Child Welfare Project, under Title 426 of the Social Security Act.

For more on Office for Families grants, write Jerry Regier, Acting Director of Office for Families while Martha Kendrick is on maternity leave, at 400 - 6th Street SW, Room 5723, Washington, D.C. 20201. Tel: (202) 472-3853.

OVERVIEW OF BLOCK GRANTS AND BUDGET CUTS

The Administration's impressive Congressional victory this summer in cutting back on the spending limits for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 1981 for programs other than Defense, is but the first act in a multiyear drama, especially over the block grant provisions. The Administration fell short of its goal of merging 90 of 500 federally administered "categorical" programs into nine block grants to the states, and cutting the funding of each by 25%, the concept being to give states greater autonomy and freedom in administering this program, and hence a chance to improve efficiency of management. Although budgets were cut on most, 57 of the 90 programs were kept out of the block grants. Most of the social services programs and 10 of the 30 health programs were kept out, while only 3 of the 40 education programs were merged into one block grant.

The second act began in September when the President turned his attention to the appropriation process for the 1982 fiscal year, calling for additional cuts, including some in defense. He is also threatening to hold spending back to the level of his proposed cuts.

The third act began October 1st when the states took over authority for administering block grants and had to plan to operate with reduced federal government funds. How the states will deal with their new responsibilities and fiscal austerity bears close watching over the next period.

The fourth act will begin early in 1982 when the President submits his budget for the 1983 fiscal year, with further budget cuts proposed and renewed efforts to fold federal categorical programs into block grants to the states.

Public Hearings

The HHS General Counsel has ruled that three of the key family-related block grants - Social Services, Community Services and Energy Assistance - are technically not block grants at all, because they do not consolidate categorical programs. Therefore they are not subject to the implementation provisions of all other block grants (spelled out in Title XVII, the Omnibus Transition Section of the Reconciliation Act of 1981 - (P.L. 97-35)). In this case public hearings at the state level will not be required on Social Service, Community Services, and Energy Assistance grants. The Social Service grant as finally authorized by Congress included the following provisions, all under Title XX of the Social Security Act: Social Services; Day Care; and State and Local Training.

HHS has also taken the position, which is being challenged, that none of its block grants require public hearings for the 1982 fiscal year, but presumably for the fiscal year after the state receives funds, i.e. the fiscal year 1983. The HHS position is that language in block grant legislation supersedes that in Title XVII.

Regulations Out

Regulations to determine how states will carry out provisions of the block grant legislation enacted in August by Congress were issued October 1st. They are brief and simple, reflecting only what the legislation mandates and giving the states a wide degree of freedom to carry out the services broadly covered in the seven Department of Health and Human Services block grants. For copies of the regulations, get in touch with Glenn Kamber, Deputy Executive Secretary for Regulations, Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), 631 Hubert Humphrey Building, 200 Independence Avenue, Washington, D.C. 20201.

Spending Cuts and Block Grants: Recommended Reading

As yet there are few comprehensive reports and analyses of the impact of the federal budget cuts and the transfer of programs consolidation and transfer of federal programs to the States, in the form of block grants. As far as we know none of the analyses examine the impact on families in particular. The following are useful:

Brief "Fact Sheets" on the seven Health and Human Services block grants have been prepared by the Department of Health and Human Services. They include a background statement, a statement on transition and a summary of the following broad features of the block grants: funding formulas; transferability; spending limitations; application and reporting; maintenance of effort; audits; matching; nondiscrimination, withholding and funding of Indian tribes. The seven block grants covered are: Preventative Health, Maternal and Child Health; Alcohol, Drug Abuse and Mental Health; Primary Care; Social Services; Community Services; and Energy Assistance.

The Fact Sheets may be obtained from the HHS Press Office, Room 638E, Hubert Humphrey Building, 200 Independence Avenue SE, Washington, D.C. 20201. Phone (202) 245-7204.

A more extensive description of the nine block grants of HHS and those of the Departments of Education, Agriculture (food stamps) and Housing and Urban Development (community development), consolidating 57 categorical programs, is being prepared as a "Block Grant Info Packet" by the Congressional Research Service of the Library of Congress. Copies may be ordered through your Congressional representative after October 15, when the Info Packet will be ready.

For the impact on states the National Governors Association, 444 N. Capitol Street, Washington, D.C. 20001, has prepared:

- o Governor's Guide to Block Grant Implementation, published August 1, 1981, which examines the impact of the Block Grants as originally proposed on all 50 states; and the just published report:
- o FY 1982 - Spending Reductions: Effect on States. This summarizes the President's additional budget cut proposals and gives an overview of Congressional action through October 5, 1981, program by program, including block grants. A revision of the report, reflecting appropriations this fall, is expected early in the next year.

The following is the first comprehensive study of the impact of the Reagan Administration's fiscal policies on the whole range of human services programs - 250 in all. It examines the impact on both the substance of and the fiscal authorization process for these programs under the Budget Reconciliation Act of 1981, carrying the examination through September 5 of this year. Covering the fiscal years 1980 through 1984, the report not only reviews all the block grants, but reaches out to cover income maintenance, food stamps, nutrition programs, community development, aid to families with dependent children, and a wide variety of other human services programs.

CITIZENS' GUIDE TO CHANGES IN HUMAN SERVICE PROGRAMS, edited by Julie M. Sugerman, Human Services Information Center, 1408 North Fillmore, Arlington, VA 22201, October 1981, 114 pp. \$7.95. (202) 785-0353 or (703) 527-0134.

"CHASTITY BILL" ENDORSED

Senator Jeremiah Denton's (R-Ala.) so-called "chastity bill" has received light treatment from much of the media, although this Adolescent Family Life Demonstration Projects legislation enjoyed bi-partisan support from Congress during its enactment as Section 955 of the Omnibus Reconciliation Act, which amends the Public Health Service Act.

In an analysis prepared by Theodora Ooms, Deputy Director of the Family Impact Seminar, the new bill is seen as a "considerable improvement" over the Carter Adolescent Pregnancy program and deserving of federal support for several reasons:

- There is a stronger emphasis on research and evaluation under the new bill
- There is a stronger emphasis on prevention of the problems of teenage pregnancy, which includes delaying the onset of sexual activity
- There is a stronger emphasis on working with and through families - parents as well as other family members

- The passage of this bill assures the continuation of the federal Office of Adolescent Pregnancy Programs.

Dr. Ooms expresses some reservations about other aspects of the Bill:

- The parental notification and permission provision may serve to deter teenagers from using the programs
- The restriction on funding all programs that are connected with hospitals that perform abortions is regrettable.

For a complete copy of the analysis, write:
The Family Impact Seminar, 1001 Connecticut Avenue,
NW, Suite 310, Washington, D.C. 20036; or call:
(202) 822-8405.

SPOUSES CLAIM SHARE OF MILITARY PENSIONS

Several bills before Congressional Armed Services Committees regarding spousal rights to military pensions have important implications for divorce cases and for marital property rights of women everywhere. Their passage or defeat could be a Congressional signal to the Supreme Court, which recently ruled that a military retiree's pay is not to be included in divorce settlements, because benefits are technically considered 'retainer fees' paid to personnel on inactive reserve status.

In response to this ruling Representative Patricia Schroeder (D-Colo.) has introduced the Military Spouse Retirement Equity Act (HR 3039) which would establish a pro rata share formula to protect military spouses. The Schroeder formula, which treats husbands and wives as equal partners during the overlapping years of marriage and military service, would often put military wives in a more favorable position than that of other wives.

Of the two other bills being introduced in Congress, the simplest is Senator Dennis DeConcini's (D-Ariz.), S 1453, which would entitle the military wife to whatever property, including pensions, is awarded her under state divorce law. Bill HR 1711, introduced by Kent Hance (D-Tex.), addresses the problem of collecting state awarded pension distributions, as well as alimony and child support, by guaranteeing payment of awards with checks sent directly from the Pentagon.

NEW TAX ACT EASES "MARRIAGE PENALTY"

The elimination of the "Marriage Penalty Tax" was signed into law by Congress on August 13, 1981 as part of the Economic Recovery Tax Act (PL-97-34) but will not become effective until tax year 1982 - not soon enough to relieve married taxpayers who file this coming April. The new marriage tax will not equalize federal tax rates for married and single taxpayers, as some believe. It does create an exemption of five percent of the income of the "lower earning spouse" - up to \$1,500 in 1982, and 10 percent - up to \$3,000 in 1983 and thereafter. Such eligible taxpayers will also get an additional break on their state income tax, where their state adopts federal tax deductions. However, several states are considering passing legislation to block the application of the Reagan exemptions at the state level.

PUBLIC POLICY: FOCUS ON ADOPTION

A new public policy book, a model state code and recent Congressional hearings are all focusing public attention on adoption issues.

Family Impact Study

The new book, *Foster Care and Families: Conflicting Values and Policies*, by Ruth Hubbell, is a critical analysis of the foster care system in the United States, showing how it often operates in ways to keep families apart rather than reunite them; it comes at a propitious time. Both its substantive findings and the author's methodology, "Family Impact Analysis," should be especially valuable as serious efforts are made to assess the effect of public policy changes involved in decentralizing federal foster care and many other social and health programs from federal government to state and local jurisdictions.

The design of the author's research is based on a methodology developed by the Family Impact Seminar in Washington, D.C. It is a systematic way of examining the effects of public policies on families.

In the case study which forms a key part of the book Hubbell examines federal, state and local policies and practices that control the foster care system in one key state, anonymously named "Big River."

The study shows that when agency budgets are cut, funds are most likely to be reserved for the placement process, for chaperoning visits between natural parents and their children in foster care and for administrative duties connected with those tasks.

Funds to support families in trouble, such as counseling, homemaker or day care of children while the parents solve their problems are generally cut.

FOSTER CARE AND FAMILIES: CONFLICTING VALUES AND POLICIES, by Ruth Hubbell, Published June 1, 1981, by Temple University Press, Broad and Oxford Streets, Philadelphia, Pa. 19122. 190 pp., hardcover, \$16.00.

Model State Code

A Model State Adoption Act prepared by a Department of Health and Human Services Advisory Committee, published in the *Federal Register*, Part II, Oct. 8, is narrower in scope than that originally considered by the Carter Administration. The original model code dealt with all adoptions and took a strong stand on whether adoptees should have access to records identifying natural parents. The new version focuses on children with special needs - older children, children with physical or emotional handicaps or multi-ethnic backgrounds. The proposed code says only that adoptees and adoptive families should have access to records on an adoptee's medical and genetic history.

States can incorporate, modify or ignore this proposed model code.

Congressional Hearings

The Senate Finance Committee is scheduled to hold hearings October 16 on three adoption bills as part of its consideration of miscellaneous taxes. The Bills are: S.608, "Individuals, A Deduction for Certain Expenses Paid or Incurred in Connection with the Adoption of a Child," introduced March 3d by Senator Max Baucus (D-Mt); S.1479 "A Bill to Amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 to Exclude from the Income of an Employee Certain Adoption Expenses Paid by an Employer to Provide a Deduction for Adoption Expenses Paid by an Individual," introduced

by Senator Howard M. Metzenbaum; and S.1580 "A Bill to provide a personal exemption for childbirth or adoption . . ." introduced July 31, 1981 by Senator Roger Jenson (R-Ia), originally as Title II, Section 17, of the Family Protection Act of 1981 (S.1378). The Administration is expected to oppose these tax credit proposals.

FAMILY MEDIATION: WAVE OF THE FUTURE?

Is family mediation the wave of the future - the salvation of the American family? Can success of the burgeoning movement lay the ground work in the family - society's basic building block - for much wider use of mediation as a method of peaceful conflict resolution?

Will mediation bring about major changes in family and domestic court procedures, cut court case loads significantly and reduce costs just at this critical time when ways are being sought to cut public expenditures?

Will it touch off a destructive turf war among the professionals and professional associations of law, mental health, and social work?

These questions and many others are addressed in this special Family Mediation issue of the AMERICAN FAMILY, the national newsletter on family and public policy. Although the editors of the four-year-old AMERICAN FAMILY are bullish on family mediation, they do not believe it offers a panacea. But rather that it urgently needs much wider debate and public understanding at this time.

Prepared in cooperation with the Family Mediation Association with the help of a grant from the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, this special issue of the AMERICAN FAMILY places the new movement in its historical, social and cultural context. It reveals the major national organizations and professions entering the field, the thrust of current services, research and publications and the emerging and varied family mediator training programs. And it looks at family mediation as a new career, and seeks the answer to the puzzling question, "Who will be tomorrow's mediators?"

The essence of the entire issue is synthesized in the issue in an original 8-page essay "Mediation: The Wave of the Future."

AMERICAN FAMILY, Vol. IV, No. 4, June/July Issue, published October 10, 1981, by Wakefield Washington Associates, 5018 Allan Road, Bethesda, Maryland, 20016. (301) 320-4800. 20 pp. Single copy price \$6.

PHILANTHROPY AND "REAGANOMICS"

With severe cutbacks in federal and state social programs anticipated, an increasing number of Americans will turn to those private sector organizations, especially non-profit organizations, which might be expected to pick up support of local programs having lost federal funding. These in turn will be going in increasing numbers to foundations and other philanthropic institutions for help.

A study prepared by Lester M. Salamon and Alan J. Abramson, of the Urban Institute, in Washington, D.C. reports that non-profit organizations, especially those involved in social welfare and education, would be among the hardest hit by federal cutbacks, losing \$4.8 billion in revenues in Fiscal 1982, and \$27 billion during Fiscal 1981-84.

Also, report Salamon and Abramson, for private philanthropy to keep pace with inflation and offset the loss of revenues to the non-profit organizations, private donations would have to increase by the unrealistic rate of 26 percent above its 1981 level - a rate three times faster than its rate of growth in the past.

Fundraisers Challenge Urban Institute Study

Quite the opposite view emerges from another study. New federal tax cuts will encourage bigger gifts to higher education, say fund raisers at the eight Ivy League schools, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and Stanford University. Their opinion was founded in part on data presented by Michael T. Boland, of Harvard University, which showed that the reduced tax incentive for giving would be small in comparison with the increase in after-tax income.

This optimistic view, contrary to the Urban Institute study that forecasts a 3.3 percent reduction in gifts to educational institutions over a four-year period due to lower tax incentives, is supported by results of a Gallup survey. The survey found that 58 percent of taxpayers who itemize deductions said tax advantages in giving were "not very important," and 80% said they would give the same amount to charity despite a reduced tax advantage.

Special Corporate Private Sector Task Force

To encourage private sector philanthropy, President Reagan has established the Special Task Force for Private Sector Initiatives, announced at the October 5 meeting of the National Alliance of Businessmen, where Mr. Reagan stressed Corporate responsibility. The Task Force is comprised of 35 leaders from corporations, foundations, volunteer organizations, and religious groups. Its goals are to promote private sector responsibility and to foster public/private partnership. The task force is chaired by Bill Verity, President of Amco Steel, Middletown, Ohio.

PUBLICATIONS

APPROACHES TO CHILD AND FAMILY POLICY, Harold C. Wallach, Editor, Published 1981 by Westview Press, Inc., 5500 Central Avenue, Boulder, Colorado, 80301. 170 pp. hardcover, \$20.00.

This collection of Essays, representing the diverse disciplines of social and behavioral sciences, history, philosophy, and law, presents an unusually broad view of the field of social policies affecting children and families in the United States today. Three themes are recurrent throughout: the role of government in addressing family issues and problems; the values, beliefs and ideologies involved in the social science/social policy process; and the extent and the means of social science influence on policy formulation.

The establishment of public policy as a law or as a government program is often accompanied by controversy. Failure to enact laws or establish programs is interpreted as lack of concern, while formal statements of policy are interpreted as intrusions into the sanctity of the family. Both sides of the controversy are discussed in these essays, along with analyses of specific legislation, court decisions, and existing programs.

The question of the suitability of the role of advocate or lobbyist to the social scientist is addressed in several essays, with varying opinions. Almost all the authors agree, however, that research findings, clothed in the mysterious, sometimes obscure language peculiar to social science must be made understandable to the policy makers, in order for the social scientists to contribute more effectively to the formulation of public policy.

Co-Parent: The Survival of the Post-Nuclear Family has just published its first issue. Its mission is to enhance the involvement of men in the lives of children, especially within reconstituted families.

Noting the increase in the number of men who are serving as step-parents with wives who have children from a previous marriage, editor Mark Kendall said, "More men find themselves in this role, as the fission products of the exploded nuclear families of the past recombine with new elements in new ways. These men are, in many cases, taking the place of men who flunked the job. Those doing the firing are women who found their companions unwilling to uphold a truly equal partnership". More generally, *Co-Parent's* editor believes that "An unbegrudged involvement in the lives of children is, indeed, one of the few known antidotes for the male condition." The premiere issue includes a potpourri of articles, book reviews, "News and Notes" and poetry. *Co-Parent* will be published five times a year, with subscription set at \$1 per \$1000 of annual household income.

For a complimentary copy, write: *Co-Parent*, P. O. Box 92262, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53202.

FAMILY AND PUBLIC POLICY: TWO PERSPECTIVES

Reviewed below are two excellent current books on family and public policy that counter-balance each other in many respects. *Family and Public Policy* gives an excellent introduction to the emergence of the family as a public policy issue in an enthusiastic optimistic, yet objective style. *Futility of Family Policy* offers a brilliantly written, caustic commentary, which presents a bleaker view of the development of family policy.

THE FAMILY AND PUBLIC POLICY: THE ISSUE OF THE 1980'S, by Dr. John J. Dempsey, Public Health, published May 1981, by Paul H. Brookes Publishing Co., P. O. Box 10624, Baltimore, MD 21203, (301) 433-8100, \$16.95 hardcover.

This comprehensive chronicle describes the maturation of professional and scientific and political interest in the family, the resultant policy "commitments" to the family, and the public's uncertainty about the effects of implemented policy. The book is filled with data and statistics making it particularly good for educational purposes, but the text is clear and easily readable by professional and lay people.

The author attributes much of the shortcomings in family public policy to the orientation of the professional world toward pathology, rather than normalcy, to treatment and rehabilitation than to prevention and promotion. Included in Dr. Dempsey's prognostications for the future are:

- o Family policy is here to stay and will continue to grow into a larger and more serious effort.
- o Initial efforts probably will proceed issue by issue, creating the need for assessments of the balance of the total effort.
- o Not all will be satisfied with the efforts in the years ahead, and progress will be very slow, with many a backward step.

Dr. Dempsey concludes, however, that "The stakes are high, and it is well worth the effort for all to participate."

THE FUTILITY OF FAMILY POLICY by Gilbert Y. Steiner, Published by the Brookings Institution, 1775 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036. Single issue prices: \$15.95 hardbound; \$6.95 paperback.

Mr. Steiner begins his book by documenting the evolution of family policy as a political theme. Using the Family Impact Seminar and the White House Conference on Families as examples, Steiner argues that the theme never attained any clarity of definition, nor has there been any evidence of benefits accruing to families in need. Unable to resolve what constitutes a family or even to define the desirable characteristics of family life, Steiner concludes that "family policy stalled at the discussion stage."

The author supports this interpretation by reviewing recent history of public policy in the areas of abortion, adolescent pregnancy, child care, public assistance, child support enforcement, foster care and domestic violence.

HOUSING DESIGNED FOR FAMILIES, John Zeisel and Polly Welsh, Published May 1981 by the Joint Center for Urban Studies, 53 Church Street, Cambridge, MA 02138, (617) 495-4676, 186 pp., 45 figs., \$12.00.

Housing Designed for Families is a summary of research collected from the growing field of environment-behavior studies. Unfortunately, the wealth of information on how to make housing more suited to residents' requirements is not reflected in many types of living environments, particularly in federally funded housing projects. The aim of the authors is to organize this research and summarize it in an easy-to-understand way, so that it is accessible and useful to such decision makers as developers, architects, planners, housing code regulators, and social scientists. Some questions answered in this report are:

- Where on a site can designers plan for children's playing and teenagers' hanging-out to avoid unwanted damage from these activities?
- How important is it for a family to park its car within view of its apartment windows?
- What are the differences between the ways families use their front yards, which are public, and their back yards, which are more private?

Unfortunately this book does not tell the reader how to overcome the critical problem of today's high cost of housing:

MILITARY FAMILY - Published quarterly by the Military Family Resource Center, 6501 Lotzville Court, Suite 200, Springfield, Va. 22150 (703) 922-7671. 12 pp. Free.

The aim of *MILITARY FAMILY* is to encourage the exchange of ideas and program information that will affect military families in a positive way. Its publication is part of the Military Family Resource Center's effort to enhance interservice cooperation, strengthen cooperation between military and civilian agencies, and provide information and technical assistance to those who serve military families. Its immediate constituency is the growing number of family services programs supported by the Armed Services and the Coast Guard.

Established a year ago, the MFRC was funded as a three-year demonstration project under a grant from the National Center for Child Abuse and Neglect, under the auspices of the armed services YMCA. It is an international center that supports family advocacy in military services around the world. If successful, the center expects continuing funding from the Armed Services. In its continuing effort to build bridges between the military and civilian sectors, MFRC has been in touch with the social service commissioners or program directors in all the states to determine which future state-level agencies and programs will be able to serve military families.

MEETINGS

NOVEMBER 2-4, 1981 - Washington, D.C.

Home Economics: Outlook for the Future. U.S. Department of Agriculture Building, Room 104-A

The second day session, November 3, will focus on Family Support Network (Federal Family Programs, Establishing Family Support Network and Family Matters), Household Production: Goods and Services (Measuring Household Production for the GNP and Dual Roles at Work and Home), Reforms in Family Finance (Bankruptcy, Mortgage Market, and the President's New Economic Plan's Impact on Families), and National Data Sources (Continuing Consumer Expenditure Survey and the 1980 Census).

Textiles and Clothing will be the subject of the first day and Human Nutrition the third day.

For additional information get in touch with Dr. Kathleen Scholl, Agricultural Outlook Conference U.S. Department of Agriculture, Family Economic Research Group, Phone (301) 436-8461.

JANUARY 7, 1982 Washington, D.C.

"The Policy Implications of Changing Households and Family Patterns" will be the subject of this 9:00 a.m. Symposium at the Capital Hilton at the annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, arranged and presided over by Harold C. Wallach, principal statistician, General Accounting Office. The half-day symposium will focus on two objectives: (1) characterizing some of the recent changes in household and family patterns and estimates of the near future prospects, and (2) highlighting some of the key policy implications of these changes.

Topics covered by panelists include "Overview of Trends," Andrew Cherlin; "Trends in Child Care in the U.S.: 1958-1977," Martin O'Connell; "Current Patterns of Divorce: Impacts on Children," Oliver Moles; "A Conceptual Model: Teen Family Formation," Kristin Moore; "Emerging Research Techniques for Studying Families," Nicholas Zill.

For more information, call: AAAS, Meetings Office, 1776 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. 20036, (202) 467-4488.

ARMY FAMILY SYMPOSIA

Army wives have taken the initiative in starting a series of important changes in the way the Army views its families in general, and the role of spouses in particular. Together with an ad hoc family Action Committee the Association of the United States Army and Army Wives Clubs has sponsored two Army Family Symposia, held in Washington, D.C. in October, 1980 and 1981. The first symposium dealt primarily with the identification of issues. Attention was focused on such problems as relocation, family support programs, medical care, child care, and the role and identity of family members in the Army community.

The second symposium, Oct. 10, focused on developing professional methods and attitudes through self-assessment, leadership training, and the acquisition of communication skills and problem-solving techniques - qualities deemed essential in today's increasingly family-oriented Army by Dr. Hamilton McCubbin, of the University of Minnesota Family Studies Center, the keynote speaker at Symposium II.

The military policy changes resulting from these symposia reflect the willingness to assess problems frankly and to initiate improvements within the system. Spouses and families in the military community, no longer passive "dependents" are becoming active "family members" who want to learn to take responsibility themselves for improving the environment in which the military family can thrive.



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