

## PROBLEMS OF HYGIENE AND MEDICAL CARE PLAN IN ECONOMIC PLAN

(Vol. 8, No. 4)

SABURO NISHI

A social security plan and a plan on medical care and public hygiene are included in the economic plan so that national welfare can be promoted. This plan on medical care and public hygiene is called the hygiene and medical care plan. My study of this plan is as follows:

The hygiene and medical care plan has been worked out so that hygiene and medical care services can be offered effectively and properly to the people on the basis of newly developed medical science and technology and in response to the change in hygiene system and people's life. In order to carry out this plan, it is necessary to form a composite hygiene and medical care system which is organically composed of hygiene and medical care facilities, people, government and other factors concerned.

However, the present hygiene and medical care system has no structure strong enough to promote

systematization. It is not easy to form a hygiene and medical care system because of an increase in private sector in material facilities for hygiene and medical care and a lack in health man power. Therefore, it will be important in the future to study the revision of the system, to diversify the function of hygiene and medical care facilities, to train health man power from the long-range viewpoint and to introduce the idea of right to health which is a basis for presenting proper hygiene and medical care service.

In order to work out such a hygiene and medical care plan with limited resources, it will be necessary to introduce a method of economic analysis, to combine the plan with the whole economic plan and to shift the emphasis of the economic plan from productivity to welfare.

## POLICY OF RELIEVING THE POOR IN BRITAIN AND THE UNITED STATES

### —PROPOSAL FOR NEGATIVE INCOME TAX—

(Vol. 8, No. 4)

NOBUYA HOSHINO

The discussion on the negative income tax came to the fore in Britain and the United States in 1960's. Actual, official proposals for the negative income tax were made in these countries between the end of 1960's and the beginning of 1970's. These proposals were made as the expansion of the old

public help system. This article is aimed at explaining the background of these proposals made in these countries while reviewing the improvement of the public help system in these countries in 1960's and at clarifying differences between these proposals and the present program on the negative income tax.

In Britain, the public help system was united into the social insurance system in 1966 so that the number of those old age pension recipients who failed to get public help would decrease. However, this proved not so successful. In the wake of the improvement of the public help system, in order to solve the problem of poverty of families which had difficulty in bringing up children, the family allowance system was revised by taking universality and selectivity into consideration. Nevertheless, it was made clear by social investigation that there were many poor families suffering from low wages. As a result, a family income subsidy system was adopted temporarily in early 1970's. Furthermore, a proposal was made for a negative income tax system called the tax credit system in order to solve the "trap of poverty" which was created by the problem of those who failed to get public help and by the accumulation of these negative policies.

In the United States, there has consistently been an antagonism between the conservatives calling for decrease in the number of the helped persons and cut in expenses and the progressives calling for public help without stigma. The revision of services

in the social welfare law, which put trust in social work, was carried out in 1963 but proved to be unsuccessful because of resistance of the poor and needy. Poverty war and community action gave rise to their sense of right. As a result, the number of the helped persons increased drastically. With incentive revised in 1967, the emphasis in the strategy of decreasing the number of the poor and needy was shifted from service to incentive. Also, coercion was added to the strategy. The family help program, which was drafted up in these circumstances, was aimed at establishing a national minimum and an incentive strategy. However, this program was discarded as a result of antagonism between the conservatives and progressives.

Probably the negative income tax was also aimed at settling the problem of the poor and needy. Therefore, it is impossible for Japan to derive valuable suggestions from the negative income tax. However, Japan should learn lessons from the fact that in the western countries a system was revised in accordance with the realities of life of persons who are the object of the system.