

## REDISTRIBUTION OF INCOME

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Redistribution of income is the most basic problem of social security. However, this problem is apt to cause a struggle resulting from a clash of interests among people, because it affects their interests directly. An agreement among individuals of a community is indispensable for the smooth realization of redistribution of income. Redistribution of income is justified when coordination of interests of individuals is satisfactory. Social security is based on the spirit of mutual aid resulting from solidarity among individuals of a community. The strengthening of solidarity and the formation of national consensus are

necessary for the completion of social security. In order to strengthen solidarity and form national consensus, it is necessary to establish self-responsibility, to restore democracy, to develop and change people's view of value and to convey correct information. What must be done by social security scholars to realize these matters seems to be completion of data, continuation of steady studies, conveyance of correct information to people, and contribution to the information of national consensus based on correct information.

## OLD PEOPLE OF FARM HOUSEHOLD

MASAYOSHI NAMIKI

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Old people of sixtyfive or more account for 7.1 per cent of Japan's population in 1970—old people of farm household 11.7%, and old people of non-farm household, 5.6%. The percentage of old people of farm household is almost the same as that in the developed western nations where the population of the older generation is larger than that of the younger generation. The percentage of old people of non-farm household is that between under and medium developed countries. Geographically speaking, the population percentage of the older generation is comparatively high in the Chugoku and Shikoku districts—21.6% in Kochi Prefecture. This percentage is also high particularly at the mountainous villages. The employment percentage of old people is also high in Japan.

They engage mainly in agriculture and forestry. Side jobs, including daily employment and independent enterprise, are also increasing. The population of old people engaging in agriculture is likely to continue increasing until the end of the 20th century. According to the public opinion survey conducted in 1967 and 1972, farm household members' interest in social security is still low. As a result of the development of side jobs, there is a tendency that agricultural income of farm household is treated as pocket money for old people. They live with family members. There are a lot of light labor works for them. They are enjoying association with their neighbors. Under these circumstances, they need not be interested in social security. However, the survey in 1972 also

tells us that old housewives of farm household take a more serious view of pension and policies for the older generation than rice prices and other problems in the government's farm community policy. What

this survey shows is widely different from the 1967 survey. We would like to pay attention both to the unchanged and changed aspects of the thinking of old people of farm household.

## ECONOMIC PLAN AND PENSION

SUMIO YAMAMOTO

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To work out a basic policy on economic society, preparatory works have been made for forecasting the situation of social security in the target year 1977 and for deciding on the scale of distribution of sources necessary for it. As a link in the chain of the works, the Round-Table Conference on Social Security Problem was established, and the Conference has continued its study of problems of social security. As a result of the study, the Conference announced a report on the estimate of expenditures required in fiscal 1980.

The basic policy can be said to be an extension of the past policy rather than to take a serious view of the Conference's estimate and a premise for it, probably because the policy's target year was 1977, a comparatively near future. However, 8.8%, the ratio of transfer income to national income, which represents the scale of distribution of sources, is very close to the case No. 2 of the Conference report.

Also, the premise for the estimate, which can be said to be an important proposal of the Conference, was one of the problems studied in working out the economic plan.

The report is aimed at explaining social security works and forecasting their future. However, the Conference's basic way of thinking about social security is also stated in the report. Therefore, while touching on the basic way of thinking, I would like to discuss its way of thinking about pension so that you can examine and criticise it.

The problems dealt with in this article are the evaluation of the existing universal pension system, a limit of the possibility of the pension system being improved and strengthened, and priority among various problems to be caused when the pension system is improved.