

## SUMMARY

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### **Attitudes towards compulsory health insurance**

By Hannu V. Vuori

1499 white Americans identifying themselves as Democrats or Republicans were interviewed as to their attitude towards the proposal to pass a law to provide medical care for old people (Medicare). The point of departure of this study is the notion, frequently advanced in the health insurance issue, that one's attitude towards compulsory health insurance is determined by his social philosophy. Other factors, e.g. party affiliation and self-interest, exert their influence only through social philosophy.

The results of this study do not, however, sustain this hypothesis. Both simple crosstabulations and the results of an analysis of variance indicate that party affiliation is by far the most important factor in shaping one's attitude towards compulsory health insurance. It explains 52 per cent of the total variance in the support of Medicare, whereas self-interest, measured by a self-interest index consisting of state of health, age, and income, explains 31 per cent, and social philosophy only 12 per cent. Rest variance is 5 per cent. An attitude formed according to the original hypothesis could be called ideological. Only respondents identifying themselves as Democrats and having a laissez-faire social philosophy have this attitude. Their attitude is primarily determined by their social philosophy. For all the rest, the issue seems to be a pragmatic and political one. Their attitude could be called pragmatic.

The order of importance of various factors influencing and shaping one's attitude are discussed. It is suggested that the fact that the interviews were made just prior to the 1964 presidential election explains partly the central role that party affiliation plays. Also the fact that the support of compulsory health insurance is historically connected with party politics contributes to this result.

### **The Career of the Finnish Diplomatist**

By Maija Lähteenmäki

The article considers the Finnish diplomatists who served as heads of diplomatic missions in the years 1918—1966 as regards their social background and diplomatic career. The principal findings were the following.

#### **Social Background**

By far the largest part (65 per cent) of these diplomatists came from homes representing the highest social stratum. Over 90 per cent

of the career diplomatists (i.e., of those who chose foreign service as their career even initially) had taken an academic degree prior to entering the diplomatic service. Certain changes in the nature of these degrees took place over the period concerned: the proportion of degrees in the humanities declined steadily, whereas the share of degrees in economics and the social sciences increased. Over half the persons who entered the Finnish diplomatic service during the 1950s had an academic degree of the latter kind. The proportion of lawyers among the entrants was highest in the 1930s. Comparatively few politicians served as heads of diplomatic missions; they accounted for 11 per cent of the total, and most of them entered the foreign service either in 1918—1929 or after World War II. The politician diplomatists of the former period belonged to non-socialist parties almost without exception, whereas those of the latter period mostly represented socialist parties.

#### Diplomatic Career

A majority of the career diplomatists (59 per cent) were between the ages of 25 and 30 on entering the foreign service, and a majority of the »half-career diplomatists» (or those who did not begin their careers from the lowest level) were between 30 and 39. The group that was most advanced in age on entering the foreign service was formed by those who were not members of the career service on being appointed heads of missions; 66 per cent of them were between the ages of 40 and 59. Most of the career diplomatists (59 per cent) were between 40 and 49 on being appointed heads of missions for the first time. The most frequent reasons for leaving the foreign service were the attainment of pensionable age (35 per cent) and a change of field or some other comparable reason (36 per cent).