

and by material subsequently published by the Soviet Union, the correct range is from 4.4 per cent to 9 per cent.

Summing up, we are criticized for failing to do things that were outside the scope of our assignment.

ROBERT J. MYERS  
 Chief Actuary, Social Security Administration  
 Department of Health, Education, and Welfare  
 Washington, D.C.

PROFESSOR MADISON REPLIES:

Limitations of space confine me to the following points:

(1) The purpose of the trip and the *Report*, the audience aimed at, and the method of study and investigation are not difficult to understand. Twelve years of service for county, state, and federal governments, as producer and consumer of reports, have not left me a novice. I'll admit to being an avid reader, but if Mr. Myers is implying that I rely for whatever knowledge I possess primarily on literature, he is mistaken: during my three months in the Soviet Union, I spent sixty hours in discussions with officials and recipients (without interpreters, since my Russian is fluent). I even talked with some who had talked with Mr. Myers, but sometimes they gave me different answers—especially when confronted with their own writings!

(2) As an income-maintenance device for needy persons, public assistance may (a) provide supplementary aid when social insurance benefits are insufficient or (b) aid those ineligible for social insurance. In the Soviet Union (a) is *not* a function of public assistance but of "social organizations" (*obshchestvennye organizatsii*) such as trade unions, veterans of labor, etc.; (b) is, in two forms: regular, continuing monthly grants (*ezhemesiachnye posobiia*) and lump sum grants (*edinovremennye posobiia*). The law on (b) is clear; it has existed since 1935 and was liberalized in 1957 and 1958 (see A. R. Arkhipov and N. A. Pomansky, *Finansirovanie sotsial'nogo strakhovaniia i sotsial'nogo obespecheniia: Sbornik zakonodatel'nykh i instruktiivnykh materialov*, Moscow, Gosfinizdat, 1958, pp. 207-210). The law is being enforced (see V. Piskov, "Rabotat' bez biurokratizma, formalizma i volokity," *Sotsial'noe obespechenie*, Nov., 1961, p. 52). Since 1958 in the RSFSR, "the number receiving regular, monthly grants increased by 700,000" (V. Zvonarev, "Segodnia i zavtra sotsial'nogo obespecheniia," *Sotsial'noe obespechenie*, Feb., 1962, p. 3). That the Russians were not talkative about their *means test* and their *needy* is surely not surprising. On this one, Mr. Myers has been had.

(3) Contribution rates are *periodically modified*. In 1958, in state enterprises, there were 22, ranging from 4.4 per cent in agriculture to 9 per cent in coal (Arkhipov, *op. cit.*, p. 47); in producers' co-operatives, there were 25, ranging from 2 per cent in lace and rugs to 37 per cent in chemicals (R. R. Kats, *Sovetskoe kooperativnoe strakhovanie*, KOIZ, 1960, p. 39).

BERNICE MADISON  
 San Francisco State College