



SOCIETY OF ACTUARIES

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knowledgeable about health care. Right now in Washington, D.C., congressional aides, many without a health background, are grappling with many of the technical intricacies of our system.

We, the actuaries who have a knowl-edge of health practice, should com-municate with our elected offi-

cial and participate with the efforts of the Society and the Academy whenever possible. Even providing what we view as relatively simple information to the public on health care could be very enlightening to them. As Rep. Newt Gingrich (R-Ga.) stated during a recent talk, "The only way we can stop

the government from creating a new bureau-crazy is for people like us to get involved."

Daniel L. Wolak is vice president and group actuary at American United Life Insurance Company, Indianapolis.

Executive committees hold joint meeting in Salt Lake City

by Jeff Furnish

The executive committees of the six professional organizations representing actuaries in the United States and Canada held their regular triennial meeting in Salt Lake City on March 21, 1994. In addition to the six — Society of Actuaries, the American Academy of Actuaries, the Conference of Consulting Actuaries, the Canadian Institute of Actuaries, the Casualty Actuarial Society, and American Society of Pension Actuaries — representatives attended from the Colegio Nacional de Actuarios, which represents actuaries in Mexico.

While a portion of the agenda focused on global cooperation, most of the discussion related to inter-organizational issues within North America, particularly the United States. Recent efforts in national health care reform were discussed. Risk loads for property/casualty loss reserves were suggested as one area in which cooperative efforts could be improved.

Reports were given on the recent

activity of the Actuarial Standards Board (ASB) and the Actuarial Board for Counseling and Discipline (ABCD). Suggestions were given for increasing each organization's awareness of and input into ASB actions.

The results of the profession's public relations effort, known as Forecast 2000, managed by the Academy, were reviewed. The various actuarial bodies look favorably on moving this effort to a three-year planning and budgeting cycle, making it a more permanent and long-term commitment.

The future of actuarial education and certification in the United States and Canada was discussed. The Mexican delegation provided valuable details about the university-based educational system in Mexico and how it has helped actuaries entering positions in Mexico's financial sector.

The presidents of the various organizations gave brief reports on their activities, and there was a discussion of the future role of the Council of Presidents.

Participants agreed that the most valuable aspect was meeting their counterparts in other organizations. It was interesting to note that each country has many actuarial organizations. Three actuarial organizations exist in Mexico. In Canada, the Canadian Institute of Actuaries is the premier organization representing actuarial practice in that country, but it still relies on the Society of Actuaries and the Casualty Actuarial Society for the educational structure and examinations. The Canadian and Mexican representatives graciously but firmly suggested that the many U.S. organizations with their varying perspectives create a certain parochialism in the United States that may impede efforts to move the profession to a more coherent North American or global outlook.

Jeff Furnish is vice president at Godwins Boone & Dickenson, Portland, Oregon, and the current secretary of the Conference of Consulting Actuaries.

IN MEMORIAM

John M. Burleigh
FSA 1961, MAAA 1965

John J. Finelli
FSA 1937, MAAA 1965

Howard M. Ito
ASA 1962, MAAA 1966, FCA, 1979,
EA 1976

James D. Reid
FSA 1972, FCIA 1972

Dorance B. Weill
FSA 1962, MAAA 1965

William A. White
FSA 1960