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*Welfare System Reform: Coordinating Federal, State and Local Public Assistance Programs.* Edward J. Jennings Jr. and Neal S. Zank (Eds).

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to pay increased taxes to support expand the social services. Surprisingly, their study revealed that support for the welfare state extends to both universal and means tested programs. While the food-stamp program was the least popular, programs such as AFDC enjoyed considerable public and congressional support.

This is an important book which offers valuable insights into public opinion towards American social policy. It not only offers a lively discussion of the issues, but unlike many studies reporting survey results, it makes extensive use of the literature and specifically tests established theoretical conventions. Although the survey findings may be somewhat dated, its message remains pertinent.

Robert Mullaly. *Structural Social Work: Ideology, Theory and Practice*. Toronto, Canada: McClelland and Stewart, 1993. \$19.95 papercover.

This textbook, which has been written primarily for students of social work in Canada, offers a profoundly different perspective on social work practice than is commonly found in introductory American texts. Indeed, its emphasis on ideology, structural factors and macro-intervention may lead some to conclude that it should be prescribed for students of social policy rather than social work. But this would be a mistake, for the book's innovative attempt to introduce social work students to a political economy approach should be recognized and included in the social work curriculum. Transcending earlier publications on radical social work, Mullaly manages to provide a balanced exposition of different normative and ideological positions. This permits students to comprehend the world of ideology in a reasoned way, and to identify and understand diverse ideological positions.

Edward J. Jennings Jr. and Neal S. Zank (Eds). *Welfare System Reform: Coordinating Federal, State and Local Public Assistance Programs*. Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 1993. \$55.00 hardcover.

During the 1980s, with the retrenchment of the welfare state, social programs have become increasingly decentralized, fragmented and uncoordinated. This trend characterizes both public

and private programs. As the editors of this book reveal, the United States Federal government administers no less than seventy five programs that provide assistance to poor people. These programs include both monetary and non-cash benefits such as food stamps, housing and medical care and account for more than \$200 billion in annual expenditures. While these programs may be intelligible to those in legislative and administrative authority, the editors contend that they are wasteful, duplicative and friendly to their users.

Jennings and Zank argue that the current vogue for welfare reform, should be accompanied by a major reform of the system itself. Coordination is a cardinal problem that needs to be urgently addressed. Exploring various aspects of this issue, the contributors to this book examine coordination at the federal, state and local levels and discuss issues as diverse as the role of the presidency and Congress in coordination, strategies for local level service coordination, planning human service delivery systems in the states and efforts on the part of the states to facilitate better coordination of federal programs. The book makes a significant contribution to enhancing service coordination and increasing the efficiency of the human services in a increasingly fragmented welfare state.

Paul Scmolling Jr., Merrill Youkeles and William R. Burger.  
*Human Services in Contemporary America*. Pacific Grove, CA: Brooks-Cole Publishing Co., 1993. \$42.75 hardcover.

Although enrollments in schools of social work and human services programs declined significantly during the early 1980s, there has been a significant resurgence of interest in these fields. Today, enrollments at schools of social work are buoyant, and many more undergraduates who do not intend to pursue a career in social work are taking elective courses in the human services.

There is an obvious need for good textbooks which not only orient students towards the field but which inform and engender a better understanding of the subject. Scmolling, Youkeles and Burger have succeeded in writing a good introductory text which covers a very wide subject matter and manages to summarize the salient topics of the field. Some instructors will view the brevity of some of the chapters as an disadvantage but