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*European Welfare Policy: Squaring the Circle.* Vic George and Peter Taylor-Gooby (Eds.).

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on welfare. Revealing an impressive knowledge of the history of welfare organizing, Abramovitz argues that various women's and welfare organizations are already challenging the attack on the welfare state. They need to be supported and joined by progressives everywhere to ensure that the needy and most vulnerable are protected.

This lively and informative book deserves to be widely read. It provides an excellent history of AFDC and the activities of various women's groups who have campaigned hard over the years for improvements in services to the poor. While it remains to be seen whether popular movements can indeed resist the powerful anti-welfare forces at work in American society, the book's message is a powerful one.

Vic George and Peter Taylor-Gooby (Eds.), *European Welfare Policy: Squaring the Circle*. New York: St. Martin's Press, 1996. \$49.95 hardcover.

There is much more recognition today of the complex interactions that take place between social welfare and the economy. While social policy analysis previously paid little attention to economic issues, the dramatic changes which have taken place in the Western industrial nations over the last few decades demand a new analysis of the way social policy decisions affect and are affected by economic events. A discussion of this kind is needed everywhere but especially in Europe where high rates of unemployment, increased global competition and disagreements about the economic implications of a single currency require extensive debate and new perspectives.

In their introduction to this book, the editors emphasize the need for a proper understanding of the way economic and social policy concerns relate to each other. However, the book does not succeed in providing an incisive analysis of the issues or in presenting any significant new ideas. Rather, it offers country case studies of social welfare in seven European countries. In addition to the usual emphasis which is placed in comparative studies on Britain, France, Sweden and Germany, there are informative accounts of developments in Italy, Greece and Spain. While these accounts do touch on the costs of social programs, taxation and increasing demands for efficiency, the book could have addressed

economic issues more directly and made a much more significant contribution to the limited literature on this subject. It will, of course, be a useful resource for those who are interested in international developments in social policy.

Margaret Gibelman and Philip H. Schervish, *Who We Are: A Second Look*. Washington, DC: NASW Press, 1996, \$27.95 papercover.

Social work is today well established in the United States where its leading professional association, the National Association of Social Workers (NASW), now has no fewer than 150,000 members. While this number is less than a quarter of the country's estimated 650,000 professionally qualified social workers, the association's membership data base provides a useful opportunity to study those who belong to NASW and to draw wider inferences about the profession's characteristics.

This informative book presents the results of an in-depth analysis of NASW members. It reveals some very interesting trends. Because it only covers NASW's membership, it does not claim to provide a generalized account of the social work profession as a whole. Nevertheless, its findings are instructive and suggest that significant changes are taking place in social work today.

The book's findings are presented around four major topics. Firstly, it analyses who the members are. Next, it reports on the settings in which the members are employed. Thirdly, it analysis the tasks and functions NASW members perform, and finally it reports on their earnings. A concluding chapter contains a particularly useful discussion of the major trends and issues facing the profession today. The authors note that while social work has become increasingly feminized over the years, it has not become more ethnically diverse. They point out that the vast majority of NASW members are white and that the association has not been very successful in recruiting more people of color. The authors found that more and more social workers are employed in mental health settings. Social workers are engaging more frequently in private practice and fewer than ever before are employed in statutory agencies. In addition, the numbers of social workers employed in for-profit agencies is increasing. These data are indicative of a gradual trend within social work to work with middle class clients rather than the poor. They also