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The
Sovereign
Individual™

Article 004 - The Japanese Healthcare System -
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PREFACE: Our staff was discussing the concept of healthcare and decided to see if we could come up with a workable solution - and discovered that Japan already has a very robust system right in front of our noses. With that in mind, we decided to offer up some of the high points for the consideration of our readers.

But first, I would like to remind The Sovereign Individual readers that this Newsletter was designed for helping to get people *involved* in the process of keeping America free. That means not only keeping yourself informed but also acting on that information once you know what you are talking about. Just reading information - and then doing nothing about it - is, to put it bluntly - a pitiful waste of time.

So, after reading this Newsletter why not go on-line and get your representative's email address and send that person your ideas - and ask for a logical response to your inquiry. Remind your representative that you are a voter - and intend to vote on November 3, 2020.

A tip of the hat to Richard Bachert for supplying me with the **Main Congressional Telephone Number**, if you care to call directly and voice your concern:

(202) 224 - 3121

THE JAPANESE HEALTHCARE SYSTEM

In Japan, there are actually three systems of healthcare:

Company Sponsored Healthcare

Private Healthcare

Government SUBSIDIZED Healthcare

COMPANY SPONSORED HEALTHCARE

In short, this is a system in which the employer offers total healthcare to its employees. The employee and the employer share in the premiums - but the company takes care of the major bulk of the cost.

PRIVATE HEALTHCARE

This type of healthcare is available to anybody who wishes to pay for their own healthcare. The individual is allowed to craft the type of healthcare system that they wish to be covered for, and pay for that healthcare coverage out of their own pocket.

GOVERNMENT SUBSIDIZED HEALTHCARE

A note, before I go any further. It is required by LAW, that you are covered by one of the three systems of healthcare. In other words, by LAW, everybody is covered.

This government *subsidized* system is what the

majority of Japanese citizens are covered by, and the one I will discuss today.

Please note, the word SUBSIDIZED. This means that the government pays the bulk of the cost of healthcare. But the government does NOT control the doctors, or the hospital, that you choose to go to. In other words - the citizen is FREE to choose their own practitioner. The government does not tell you where you have to go.

The government SUBSIDIZES - but does NOT CONTROL healthcare.

The cost to the citizen is based on their income, and can go up to the government paying for 100% of the cost of healthcare for those people who are poor or designated legally destitute. In other words, everybody has healthcare, whether they like it or not.

At this point I want to let the readers know that this government sponsored healthcare covers **basic dental care** and also **eye care**. This is one

of the amazing aspects of the Japanese healthcare system, in which the citizens are truly FULLY covered.

As for the costs, I will relate to you, from my own personal experience, what we have to pay. We are on a retirement program, and therefore pay only 20% of the total cost of our medical/dental/eye care services.

Recently, I went to the doctor, here in Kobe, had a doctor's consultation, a full health readout, via blood and computer related health check. I was given medicine to reduce my uric acid. Everything else was OK, this time around.

My cost for the doctor's visit was the equivalent of US\$4.00. The cost for the prescription was US\$20.00 - for a TWO month supply.

SUBTOTAL COST: US\$24.00

No, that is not a misprint. That was the total cost. Now the fun part. I went to see the doctor by taxi cab - US\$12.00. We walked to the

pharmacy and got the prescription filled - in 10 minutes.

TOTAL COST: US\$36.00

Awhile back, my wife went to a *specialist* for a lung examination. She had a doctor's consultation, had an **MRI** right there in the same hospital, got the results, went back to get a reading of the MRI, was given a medical prescription, walked across the street to the pharmacy, picked up the medicine and we took a short train ride back home.

SUBTOTAL COST FOR THE DOCTOR'S
(two consultations in one day)
/MRI/PRESCRIPTION: US\$ 110.00.

The train ride was US\$16.00 for TWO - round trip.

TOTAL COST: US\$126.00

Three years ago, I broke a tooth - on a piece of sushi, no less! I went to the dentist, he ground

down my broken tooth, they took a mold of my tooth, gave me a temporary cap, I came back in a week, had the permanent cap fitted, adjusted to perfect bite and paid the bill.

TOTAL COST: US\$40.00, including bus fare for two.

My wife has had *two* laser eye operations, can see perfectly now, and the cost was approximately US\$200.00

I could go on, but you start to get the picture.

The healthcare here in Japan is simply the best I have ever seen. We can compare it to the care in China, New Zealand, Australia, Panama - and America. Having visited/lived in all those countries, and requiring basic healthcare I can attest to how wonderful the Japanese healthcare system really is.

An additional cost, that people over 65 years old are required to pay, is for future elderly healthcare (assisted living healthcare) which

costs us about US\$40.00 for two, per month.

About now, the reader is probably fuming at the above prices. They are the truth. We have the receipts to prove it!

When I tell people these prices, and the wonderful care that we receive here in Japan, they simply do not believe it.

But, there is a totally rational reason for this
FULL COVERAGE.

The Japanese economic miracle cannot sustain itself with sick workers. It is that simple. The Japanese government is smart enough to realize that it has to **SUBSIDIZE** their citizenry to keep them healthy - so they can continue to work and make the whole country prosper.

The Japanese government realizes one thing - that Socialist and Communist systems have not yet learned.

ONE SIZE NEVER FITS ALL!

In the Japanese healthcare system - the *people* choose where they wish to go for their personal healthcare needs. The government helps by Subsidizing the total cost of Medical, Dental and Eye care, to keep the wheels of the Japanese economy turning smoothly.

Are there problems with an aging society? Of course there are - but the government is trying to work out those problems as I write. The cost of future payment for eldercare is just one of the long range solutions. There are more in the pipeline.

NOW IS THE TIME TO ACT

At the beginning of this Newsletter, I implored you, the reader, to get involved. Now it is your turn.

If Japan can have this type of healthcare system - then why can't every country do the same thing?

In America, the richest country on earth, there are millions of people suffering simply because they cannot afford the sky-high cost of medical care - not to mention dental/eye care.

It is a National Shame that America does not implement a similar system like the one here in Japan.

So there you have it. A system that works, gives everyone the CHOICE which system they want to be covered by and all of it SUBSIDIZED - **NOT CONTROLLED** - by the government.

I urge you to now get in touch with your representative, or actually call the phone number at the beginning of this Newsletter, and demand that he or she make a commitment to providing this type of affordable healthcare to all *legal* American citizen in the country.

We, here at LawrenceKlepinger.com can only do so much from this end. It is now up to you, The Sovereign Individual to *get involved*.

Then again, you *do* have the choice to just sit back and complain.

That is it for now.

Take care, stay safe and keep thinking positive.

This is Lawrence Klepinger, saying sayonara from Kobe, Japan.