

Discussant: Berton H. Kaplan, Ph.D.
Department of Epidemiology
University of North Carolina School of Public Health
Chapel Hill, North Carolina

Summary:

All the papers in this section deal with a common question: What is a health-effective social system? The panel is a Durkheimian celebration: How do social bonds affect health status?

Professor Monroe Lerner's (Ph.D.) paper poses a number of challenges: (1) The need to project futurist implications of health delivery systems on a national, class, and/or ethnic basis; (2) The need to project futurist implications of health policy; (3) The need for looking at new ways of strengthening the social system - to learn to modify deleterious social situations as part of prevention.

Professor Sidney Cobb's (M.D.) paper challenges us to consider how overload situations can be altered as a preventive strategy. Overload is one way of looking at a number of

disease effects through a basic "stressor" of modern life - overload, overstimulation, over-achievement heroics. Overload is also perhaps the Protestant Work Ethic in the act of demonstrating worth.

Professor Selma Muskins (Ph.D.) paper illustrates a basic contribution of the poor - a re-evaluation of health policy and health care. Her research is also a challenging illustration of the evolution of a "right" health care. Her work is policy in the concrete, not as abstract "models". Lead poisoning is real. Policy leads to feedback, to evaluation of effectiveness.

It occurs to me that this panel can be summarized around the need to develop a Leontieff type input-output matrix of the health services system, with an elementary set of "cause" or risk inputs to the basic set of care-taking-preventive parameters of the process of level of health states.