

A Chinese Kaleidoscope; An American Mosaic

(P219)

Insurance should be purchased while the building is being constructed. Why? First, for worker's security; second, for the quality of the building. During the constructing process, things can be stolen, the workers can injure, and the progress can be delayed etc.

The insurance company is responsible for taking care of these responsibilities. Generally speaking, when you obtain loans from the bank, insurance on these loans can be purchased. If the construction company that you hire gets bankrupt or decides to escape from this project, the insurance company will finish this constructing project by hiring another construction company.

Purchasing life insurance by credit card or for natural disasters is famous here. In conclusion, various kinds of insurance services are available. Perhaps without letting you know, your employer would purchase worker's insurance, even for the poor. Because the insurance companies obtain large payments from various kinds of insurance services, they are very wealthy. Insurance companies have become a crucial part of life nowadays, with various insurance services still developing.

How to purchase insurance? Insurance can be purchased through agents of each insurance company. Insurance companies have large scales, but agents can be large or small. Agents are different for insurance, including cars, houses, life, and medical. These insurance agents have taken exams and pass certain requirements of training.

Insurance agents are considered freelance, the more customers they have, the more commissions they generate. The commissions are mostly based on social networking skills.

Different businesses purchase insurance differently. For instance, insurance purchased for the office includes employees and equipments etc. Insurance for the restaurants are more complicated. The possibilities of having a fire due to existence of the stoves are higher. In addition to fire, food poisoning is another example. So purchasing insurance is very important, especially in the business of a restaurant. There are light and heavy industries in the field of factories. Purchasing insurance in these fields are also crucial.

A Chinese Kaleidoscope; An American Mosaic

(P220)

24. To Claim Compensation from Insurance Company, Lawyers Charge % According to Compensation

Government is responsible for public spaces such as sidewalks and streets. One should call 911 if one falls on the street, gets in a car accident or gets robbed. When a car accident happens, the medical bill of the injured would be covered by the government or the insurance company. In addition, when you hire a lawyer to sue a case, s/he will do the best to obtain the welfare for you instead for the government.

Generally speaking, the lawyer does not charge you at first, but would take approximately 15%-30% of the compensation that s/he fights for you. If you are suing an individual who does not have money, you might not be able to obtain much; however, if you're suing the government or an insurance company, you would get somewhat more than for the individual.

Life insurance is commonplace and is an early product in the society, especially for the head of the household who has the responsibilities of taking care of everyone. If the head dies without insurance, not only does the burial cause problems, the wife and the children would also have difficulties in living. Therefore, buying insurance provides security for a family.

Not only does life insurance provide security to oneself, but also to one's children. The premium for life insurance is based on the age of the person. The older the person is, the more premium it is due to the higher possibilities of having diseases. In addition to insurance, the benefits of the American government are generous. If the head of the household dies, the poor family members can receive aids from the government. These aids include food and housing. For those who are wealthy, they can purchase life insurance on their own. The premium of life insurance needs to be paid till the person reaches 65 with healthy conditions. Once 65 is reached, the person can take out certain amount of money to spend in addition to the retirement security.

The social security (SS) fund was established by the American Government during the Great Depression in 1930's. Since entering the work force, every employee will have a portion of their paycheck to be deducted to social security. Two decades ago, when the fund was still sufficient, the SS deduction of every working person is responsible for two retired people. However, as the baby boomer generation gets aged and becomes retired, the SS deduction of every three working persons becomes responsible for one retired. Therefore, many companies nowadays offer 401K retirement plan in addition to SS deduction. The fund for 401K retirement plan is pre-taxed and is thus very popular.

A Chinese Kaleidoscope; An American Mosaic

(P221)

When you do export trading, you should purchase insurance for the merchandises during the shipping process. The export products in the US are systemic, being numerous agents existing in almost every country in the world. The reason for this is that during the shipping process, accidents such as traffic, robberies, etc could happen. Buying insurance guarantees compensation from the insurance company when these accidents occur. Therefore, purchasing insurance is crucial to trading companies.

Insurance in Healthcare System including large hospitals and private clinics

Doctors in the US are often considered one of the best professionals. The doctors are often busy and of course earn a lot, especially surgeons. However, during the treatment process, wrong diagnoses and/or surgeries could happen. Of course, patients and families cannot do anything when these wrong diagnoses and/or surgeries are unveiled. Nevertheless, the US is a country with transparency, being that the physicians need to inform the patients about their treatment plan and process. When the wrong diagnoses occur, patients can hire lawyers to sue the doctors for compensation. The insurance fee for private clinics could take more than \$100,000, however, there is still a large profit with the doctor's own practice.

If you purchased insurance for your house in the past, there would be no compensation when encountering tornadoes, hurricane, or other natural disasters. However, the policies have been changed recently.

How to obtain the compensation? The process can be complicated, for example, if the house of an insurance policy holder burns down, there would be an ambulance, policeman and fireman coming to the scene. The policy holder needs to obtain the incident number from the police station, and then proceeds to the next step of the compensation process.

When there is a fire, Adjuster Co. is the representative in helping the policy holder to obtain the compensation. The company would charge 5% of the total compensation in which they would aid the policy holder with the entire process without hiring a lawyer. In addition to compensating the house and injured people, the insurance company will indemnify damaged clothes, furniture and electronics accordingly after a fire.

A Chinese Kaleidoscope; An American Mosaic

(P222)

People working in insurance are generally smart and nimble-minded. They think of every means possible to sell their insurance products and receive insurance premiums. After receiving their commission, they invest the money into real estate or stock before spending anything. There is a new type of savings insurance in which each amount of coverage has a set fee. If the policy holder dies, complete compensation will be given according to the amount insured for. This type of insurance has a monthly fee. When the policy holder is sixty five or older, he or she can start receiving money from the insurance company. For example, if someone needs to renovate his or her home, but doesn't have the amount necessary, a loan can be taken out from the insurance company. This type of savings insurance policy is very flexible, and the rate of return is higher than that of interest from savings in the bank.

Twenty five: American leaders come from the Democratic and Republican parties, but the parties themselves do not hold any power. One cannot switch parties casually.

In order to be reelected for a second term in 1978, President Carter personally attended a fund-raising dinner banquet in New York's Chinatown. The banquet was arranged by a famous American Chinese businessman, and was the only time in American history that a president in office has personally visited Chinatown. People could buy tickets to eat at the same table as the president for one thousand dollars, and there were thirty people that bought tickets.

The United States is a free and democratic country. Common people can spend a little money and have a meal together with the president and take a photo with him. That night a monk at the banquet made a prediction that Carter's reelection campaign would be a success, but it in fact failed.

In 1998, members of the New York Ningbo community went back to their hometowns in Ningbo to visit relatives and friends, and met an official from the Overseas Chinese Affairs Office. The official was very welcoming of their visit to their hometowns. The official decided to send a group to New York to examine the lives of overseas Ningbo people in the United States. Before the trip could be arranged, the group needed an official letter of invitation from a relevant American organization. They tried unsuccessfully until they decided to establish and register with New York State the Ningbo Hometown Association.

A Chinese Kaleidoscope; An American Mosaic

(P223)

Although they had contacted a number of immigrant organizations in New York, they were unable to get the letter of invitation. Therefore the main purpose of starting the Ningbo organization was to write a letter of invitation to the group in China to allow them to come to the United States and observe the lives of other Ningbo people there. A group of representatives from the Ningbo group in China were the first to visit. They visited and observed several cities including New York and other large cities, and the visit was smooth and successful.

The major political parties in the United States are the Democratic Party and the Republican Party. There is also the Libertarian Party, the Conservative Party, and other small parties, which rarely have many representatives voted into office. No matter whether it is the office of president, or a seat in the Senate or House of Representatives, the politicians all tend to be from the Democratic or Republican Parties. The ratio of members from either party tends to be around forty percent to sixty percent, or closer, for instance when both parties have nearly fifty percent of the seats. Currently the Democratic Party is performing relatively better than the Republican Party. The focus of Democrats is on the welfare of the common people. Although the United States is a capitalist society, the politicians represent the people, so politicians make policies that serve the common people. Moreover, it is not necessary for politicians of either party to always stick with the party line on every issue. Politicians can vote against their party in certain decisions and do not have to fear punishment from party leaders. Another odd phenomenon is that if a candidate in the Democratic primaries is not successful, he or she can enter the general election under another political party.

The American president is chosen through general elections, and each term lasts four years. Moreover, a president may only hold office for at most two terms. The president holds the most powerful office, so the reason for the term limitation is in order to prevent an autocracy from arising.

Besides the office of the president, other major political positions, such as local government, governors, and mayors are all elected in democratic elections. While the salary in other government positions, such as judges, is not high, they can give one the authority to allocate government money and contracts, so many people wish to hold such offices. The electoral process is much the same in local elections as it is in general elections.