

Growth Of Social Security System, Recommendations For Expansion Are Set Forth

Growth of the old-age and survivors insurance system in the U. S. as just reported to Congress in the 1948 Federal Security Agency annual report, is reflected in this area by data from the local social security office. Paul F. Johnson, manager, stated that as of June 30, 1948, when data in the agency report was compiled, 833 people in Douglas county were receiving \$9,185 monthly in old-age and survivors insurance benefits. He said that by the end of April, 1949, these figures had increased to an estimated 818 people receiving \$10,685 monthly, or a general increase of about 16 per cent during the 10-month period.

The Social Security Administration section of the report, prepared by Arthur J. Altmeyer, commissioner for Social Security, showed that in the United States on June 30, 1948, there were 2,183,000 persons receiving monthly benefits amounting to 2,183,000 persons receiving benefits go to insured, retired workers over 65, their wives if over 65, and their dependent children, and to the widows, children, and dependent parents of insured wage earners who have died.

Interim reports which have been prepared show that by April 30, 1949, the number of these insurance beneficiaries had climbed on up to 2,480,000 men, women and children getting benefits at the rate of \$49,750,000 per month. As Altmeyer observed in the preface to his report, "the social security programs . . . operated during the fiscal year 1948 in a setting of full employment, a record peacetime production of goods and services, and rising prices. . . . Earnings were higher, and the aggregate volume of savings increased."

The Social Security Administration's section of the report, covering operations of the Children's Bureau and the Bureau of Public Assistance, Employment Security, and Old-Age Insurance, is being received with special attention this year because of several proposals for changes in these programs now under study in Congress. Under mandate from Congress to submit recommendations for needed revisions in the law, the administration proposed in the report, with respect to old-age and survivors insurance, that:

- (1) Coverage for wage earners be extended to farm people, the self-employed, domestic workers, and most other gainful workers now excluded.
- (2) The rate of benefits be substantially increased, from the present maximum for a family of \$85 up to a possible \$150. Most beneficiaries, present and prospective, would have their monthly payments increased 70 per cent or more.
- (3) The age of eligibility for women to receive benefits be reduced from 65 to 60.
- (4) Beneficiaries be permitted to earn as much as \$50 per month in employment without losing eligibility for their monthly payments. The present limit is \$14.99 per month.
- (5) A worker's earnings up to \$4,800 per year be subject to tax—and corresponding credit toward benefits—rather than the present limit of \$3,000 per annum.

The Social Security Administration also urged enactment of a system of cash benefits for disabled insured workers. This plan, integrated with the present old-age and survivors insurance, would provide monthly benefits on a similar basis when a worker incurred a period of extended disability or was permanently dis-

abled. Legislation embodying such proposals has been the subject of hearings in the House of Representatives during recent months.

The agency report submitted to the Congress, as well as a separately published section on social security alone, will be available as public documents. Johnson said that summaries he had received show an array of facts on administration of the social security plan, which has been in effect since Jan. 1, 1937.

A total of 76.9 million living wage earners had earned some wage credits under the system by Jan. 1, 1948. The study shows that of these 36.8 million persons were fully insured, including 11.6 million who are both fully and permanently insured. An additional 5.7 million persons have worked long enough to be currently insured, for protection of their families.

Mr. Johnson said that benefits being paid here highlight the family protection offered by old-age and survivors insurance, as emphasized in the report. At this time, he said, approximately 37 per cent of the Douglas County beneficiaries are children and mothers with children in their care. The remaining 63 per cent are insurance beneficiaries 65 years of age or over.

Elks Swarm To Klamath Falls For State Meet

KLAMATH FALLS, June 4.—(AP)—Elks of Oregon swarmed over Klamath Falls today as the annual state Elks Association convention opened its business sessions with a registration that exceeded all expectations.

Convention headquarters reported registration of more than 2,500 when the first business session began. Elks were expected to arrive from throughout the state during the remainder of the day.



THE NEW AND THE OLD—Incoming Roseburg Senior High Associated Student Body officers on the left and outgoing officers on the right clap during an important announcement by Principal Alva Laws, in the background, at a student honor assembly this week. The new officers are, on left, Barbara West, Zona Wilshire, George Packard, President Durward Boyles and Vic Sanders, while retiring officers are Dona Mears, President Dick Bonbrake, Rae Burghardt, Irwin Stritzke, Dale Blanck and Bob Roger.

Senator Morse Offers His Own Economy Program

EUGENE, June 4.—(AP)—Across-the-board percentage cuts in government spending are "the lazy man's way" toward economy, Sen. Wayne Morse said in an interview here.

Blanket cuts, such as those proposed by Sens. Wherry (R.-Neb.) and Ferguson (R.-Mich.), are "playing politics with the economy," Morse declared.

He suggested instead his own three-point economy program:

- 1—Adoption of the Hoover Commission report on executive reorganization.
- 2—An end to politics on the tax issue.
- 3—True unification of the armed services.

Morse said the Hoover report should be adopted without major change—"I intend to vote for the whole project as the most intelligent step toward economy"—and expressed alarm over what he viewed as the tendency of most groups to favor the report except for portions which cut out locally important agencies.

He warned that in considering economies, no across-the-board cuts in foreign aid should be made. American aid is essential to the free people abroad, he said, and "if they can't get help from America they have only one place to turn—and they will."

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Pro-Truman Democrats In Senate Ready To Yield To T-H Act Repeal Amendments

By MAX HALL.
WASHINGTON, June 4.—(AP)—Senate Democratic leader Lucas of Illinois came out Friday for some amendment of the Truman administration's bill for repeal of the Taft-Hartley act.

In the first official indication that President Truman's hard-pressed forces in the Senate are ready to support a compromise in a last-minute effort to win votes, Lucas said in an interview:

"In principle, I approve of some amendments." He wouldn't go into detail.

His statement came as the Senate's disrupted Democrats gathered behind closed doors for what might be an all-day conference on labor legislation. The Senate itself starts its labor debate Monday.

Mr. Truman himself has stoutly maintained that he opposes any compromise. The CIO and AFL have announced they aren't dead set against all amendments, but they say they will never agree to anti-strike injunctions.

The administration measure—which would replace Taft-Hartley with a modified Wagner act—was compromised in the House, but lost anyhow.

The compromise, introduced by Rep. Sims (D-S.C.) with the vigorous backing of Speaker Sam Rayburn (D-Tex.), added a few Taft-Hartley provisions to the Truman bill, including 80-day injunctions in national emergency strikes.

Senator Sparkman (D-Ala.) told a reporter today he favors "some such measure" as the Sims bill. He added, however, that he is "open-minded" concerning the national emergency provision and might be persuaded to support some kind of plant-seizure proposal instead of the 80-day Taft-Hartley injunctions.

Authority for federal seizure of plants is what some Democrats, like Senator Humphrey (Minn.), are advocating as a means of dealing with strikes which imperil the national health or safety.

In an interview Humphrey said he would propose a seizure amendment to the Truman bill at today's Democratic conference.

He said he also would propose amendments for (1) a specific guarantee of free speech in labor relations; (2) a requirement that both unions and employers bargain in good faith, and (3) filing of financial reports by unions, corporations, and employer associations.

The Sims bill in the House contained clauses roughly similar to those. The Sims bill also would have required union and company officers to file non-Communist oaths.

A non-Communist provision was expected to be proposed today at the Democratic conference, but not by Humphrey.

Lucas said there would be no attempt to bind the Democrats to vote for anything.

Apparently the leadership's plan was to sound out all the Democrats, and write a new bill that would capture as many votes as possible.

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