

## America's Rush To Help Its Aged Tags 1949 As 'Age Of Security' Start

By STERLING F. GREEN

WASHINGTON, Dec. 5.—(AP)—America's rush to provide for its old age—by act of Congress, by bargaining, or by strikes if necessary—may tag 1949 as the year of departure into a new economic era—the "age of security."

On New Year's day the social security tax will increase by half. By spring Congress will—by all present evidence—complete its present program of raising social security pensions and wrapping perhaps 11 million more workers under protection.

The big unions, scorning what they call "inadequate" federal pensions, are out to nail down security for their own members. The drive has sent most of big industry scrambling to the adding machines.

Counting the plans already in force and those newly won on the picket line, "private" pensions today call for contributions about as great as the Federal government will collect in Social Security taxes.

The total—private and Federal—approaches \$5 billion a year. The sum gives every promise of mounting for years to come. It is becoming an economic force. The government cannot weigh its impact, but can and does worry about it.

Thousands Omitted  
Even that isn't all. It doesn't count the funds poured into pensions for firemen, police, teachers and other city, state and federal workers. It omits the employees of hospitals, churches, charities and non-profit bodies. It doesn't count the railroad redepot the political look of the deposed pensions of soldiers and sailors.

It doesn't include state pensions for residents. In California and elsewhere old age election campaigns gave prosperous 1949 the political look of the depression days, when pension and "30 every Thursday" were bywords. Some states came close to voting themselves into near-insolvency to take care of their oldsters.

Roster dreams lie ahead. Secretary of labor Tobin is planning for a \$100 a month federal pension for "every retired person." President Truman has not called him off the campaign.

The "Mr. Republican" of Capitol Hill, Senator Taft of Ohio, says this would cost \$12 billion a year. (Social Security officials agree it would cost at least that.) Taft says it would have to be paid from taxes, because it would be impossible to amass an insurance fund big enough to swing it. (Most officials, and all insurance men, agree with that, too.)

Taft Offers Alternative  
So Senator Taft, proposes that the Senate Finance committee start an immediate study of the "feasibility" of \$100 pensions for all at age 65. That is \$200 a couple.

This may prolong the Senate hearings on the pending Social Security bill. Modes by comparison, it would raise the minimum pension from \$10 to \$25 a month and boost the maximum for an aged couple from \$85 to \$126.

But passage seems certain. The house approved it last session by a vote of 333 to 14. This is an election year, and both party platform call for improvement of Social Security. The pensions now average only \$26 a month.

Still, in the entire government, nobody knows exactly what gap the government benefits are trying to fill, or what part of the gap is being filled, by the fast rolling drive of the unions. As many as 8 million workers,

the Social Security administration believes, may now be covered by private plans. The insurance trade thinks the total is higher.

About 13,000 pension and profit sharing plans now exist, says the bureau of internal revenue. Most of them are pension plans, but neither the bureau nor any one else knows exactly how many, nor what average pension is paid.

Insurance officials estimate that annual contributions to private plans exceed \$2 billion. They may add up to \$2,500,000,000, which is as much as the government will collect in 1950 from the Social Security payroll tax under the new 1 1/2 percent payments.

Billions Held In Trust  
Figures do not exist, so far as officials know, to indicate how many billions repose in private trust funds in the form of accumulated "reserves" for future pension payments.

The government holds \$11,585,000,000 in trust for the Federal system. The private trusts, at any rate, are big enough to be a major factor in the country's store of capital for investment—and, therefore, a governing wheel on industrial expansion and economic growth.

Federal officials agree that the private pension systems are beneficial as a supplement to Federal pensions.

But they recognize vast problems ahead.  
In the immediate foreground is the question whether 1949's "fourth round" of wage settlements, which turned into pension settlements in some major industries, will produce a flurry of inflation in 1950.

Pensions, Wages Alike  
United States steel already has announced a \$4 a ton price increase. Will that mean higher-priced autos, home appliances and other consumer "hard goods"? And will the auto, aluminum and other industries which also yielded to pension demands find the cost so large that the public must bear it?

The unions—and in the case of steel, a presidential fact-finding board—said the cost could be absorbed. But the steel price boost indicates that the "fourth round" will no more be absorbed than were the first three rounds.

From the company viewpoint, pensions are the same as wages. They are one of a number of "non-wage" labor costs which have soared eightfold in the last 20 years. They include welfare and hospital funds, discounts given workers and the numerous "fringe" demands raised at every bargaining table.

The unions reply—and economists agree—that while the pensions may be inflationary, they are less so than wage boosts of the same amount per worker. They don't put dollars into the worker's pocket for immediate spending.

And from a longer viewpoint, the money is taken out of the income stream. It is held in trust



### Yoncalla

By MRS. GEORGE EDES  
Mrs. Sidney Lasswell spent several days last week in Portland visiting her mother.

Mrs. Ben Emery and daughter, Sidney Louise, spent last week here visiting her mother, Mrs. Gertrude Stoute. Sunday Mr. and Mrs. Cliff Emery took her home to Grants Pass.

Mac Huntington of Antelope, Ore., and Mrs. Sarah Wertz of Kirby, Ore., spent last week here visiting at the Dare Kingery home.

Mr. and Mrs. Wamsley and two children spent the New Year's weekend visiting friends at Nes-kowin, Ore.

Mr. and Mrs. Earl Davis and two children, Mr. and Mrs. Blodgett, and Mr. and Mrs. Dave Rust and two sons enjoyed New Year's dinner, Sunday at the McArthur home near Drain.

Mr. and Mrs. Russell Scott and two daughters spent last week visiting relatives at Seaside.

Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Beck and family spent last week here visiting at the Lankins home.

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Knight and family are visiting relatives in southern California for a few days.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert McClintock and two children spent last week visiting Mr. McClintock's parents at Aberdeen, Wash.

Mrs. Ruth Moore of Eugene visited her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ed. Newby last week.

Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Talbott of Walla Walla, Wash., Miss Nancy Talbott of Walla Walla and Mrs. Sanford of Dayton, Wash., spent last week here visiting at the Wamsley home.

Mrs. Bertha Smith of Albany visited her son-in-law and daughter.

for safe investment, rather than turned loose for consumption.

So, looking beyond 1950, some economists believe the net impact will depend on business conditions. If we are in for an inflationary decade the funds will tend to curb rising prices. If deflation is the long range problem, the funds will be less help than if the dollars were buying merchandise.

### CAMAS VALLEY OPERETTA—

"Down Among the Fairies" was presented recently by the Camas Valley grade school. It is the story of a discontented mortal child who thought that in fairyland she could escape all work, but found that, as on earth, everyone has a job to do. Director of the cast (shown above) was Mrs. Dorothy Meeks. She was assisted by Mrs. Lucile Counts. The lower picture shows Janet McClellan as the fairy queen, Lynne Jean Standley as the fairy godmother, Rozelle Brown as the mortal child, and Clifford Wiley who portrayed Puck, the mischievous little elf. Sharon Combs played the part of Maidie. Scenery for the operetta was designed by Mrs. Jane Kinnan and committee. A committee of community mothers made costumes. Music was furnished by the grade school chorus. Proceeds from the program were used to purchase a phonograph and records for the music program. (Photos by Bud Mason).

Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Thompson and family, several days last week. Rodney Smith returned home with his grandmother until Sunday when his parents drove to Albany for him.

Mrs. T. P. Otto, Roman and Noma Otto of Eugene visited at the Ernest Thiele home Friday.

Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Hummel and Mr. and Mrs. Karl Hummel drove to Reedsport Sunday to visit with Mr. and Mrs. Hummel's two daughters. They returned Monday.

Jimmie and Rickey Booth of Hillsboro, Ore., spent last week here visiting their father, Fred Booth.

Mrs. Edward Kelso and Mrs. Tom Palmer transacted business in Eugene Thursday.

Albert Cockeram and Jimmie Bottom, Eugene, transacted business here Friday.

Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Dean Hall spent the New Year's weekend and visiting Mrs. Hall's sister and husband, Mr. and Mrs. Joel Holtan in Eugene.

Mr. and Mrs. R. D. Sheets and family visited at the home of Mr. and Mrs. W. S. Nugent at Scottsburg last week.

Luther Martin, who has spent the past eight months in Arizona, arrived here in time to spend Christmas with his daughter.

Miss Betty Lambdin returned to her home in Oakland, Calif., Tuesday after spending Christmas here with her mother and sister.

Mr. and Mrs. Floyd McMichael and family spent the Christmas weekend visiting Mrs. McMichael's parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. Hargan at Elmira.

Miss Lois Parks of Drain spent last week here visiting her grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Sinnock.

Mr. and Mrs. V. L. Applegate spent the Christmas weekend visiting their son, Howard, in Tacoma, Wash.

### Dillard

By ROSA HEINBACH  
Mr. and Mrs. Paul Rummell have just returned to their home in Dillard following a trip to San Leandro, Calif., where they spent the Christmas holidays with the former's brother and wife, Dr. and Mrs. Phillip Rummell. Mrs. Bertha Rummell, mother of the two men, accompanied them to San Leandro and remained for an indefinite stay there with her son and family. While in San Leandro they visited many points of interest among the most outstanding of which was the trip through the Golden Gate park and conservatory. They enjoyed the display of cyclamen blooming in the conservatory there very much.

Mr. and Mrs. Flocchini of Dillard spent the holidays visiting friends and relatives in Klamath Falls.

FINNS HAVE TROUBLES  
By The Associated Press  
A trade union federation in Finland is demanding a 10 percent general increase from Premier Fagerholm's government. The government is already smarting under Russian charges of peace treaty violation. The Agrarians,



a strong rightwing party threat. Presidential elections will be held Feb. 15.

### Camas Valley

By MRS. JAMES COMBS  
Mr. and Mrs. Dale Russell have returned from a business trip to Portland.

Albert Wafer went back to Ashland on Monday where he will attend school.

Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Wafer have gone to Newport.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Cummings spent Christmas in Otis.

Mr. and Mrs. Jack Harding and infant daughter of Coquille and Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Harding and two sons of Tenmile recently visited at the home of Mr. and Mrs. John Harding.

Mr. and Mrs. Allen Standley and daughter Karen, of Sutherlin, visited during Christmas at the home of Mrs. Standley's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Philip Standley. They all spent New Year's in Sutherlin.

Mr. and Mrs. Adrain Standley of Roseburg visited and attended to business in the Valley on Thursday.

Oran Standley and Bob Cummings visited one day last week with Mr. and Mrs. Oliver Standley at Glendale.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Denn and son Tommy, visited in the Valley for several days.

Billy Dunham is spending his vacation in Portland.

Dale Wheelock is home from Eureka for the holidays.

Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Barker and daughter Sharon, of Eugene, are visiting in the Valley.

Mr. and Mrs. William Alken have moved into the house in Upper Camas where Gus Geller formerly lived. They plan to build a home on some property they have purchased from Allen Church.

Mr. and Mrs. Bob Wheeler have been visiting in Portland.

Kay Lee and Joyce Merchem of Powers spent the weekend at the home of their grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Noble Standley.

Mr. and Mrs. Pete Naiman and two sons from Hood River visited Mr. and Mrs. Rudy Naiman this week.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Vining of Forest Grove spent the New Year's weekend with Mary Jane Kinnan and family.

Harry Boyle was dismissed from the Veterans' hospital Friday where he had been confined for a week with pneumonia.

Mrs. Amanda Combs has returned from a visit to North Bend.

Mr. and Mrs. W. S. Martindale spent several days in Eugene on business.

Mr. and Mrs. Earl Edgemon and son Kenneth, of Madras, spent Friday afternoon in the valley visiting relatives. They were en route to Arago.

Mr. and Mrs. William Meeks and daughter Linda spent Sunday at Bandon.

### Paper Reveals Near-Abdication Of George V

LONDON.—(AP)—A London weekly said Wednesday King George V threatened in 1922 to quit the throne—as one of his sons actually did 14 years later. The story in "The Recorder" said the cause was a personality clash between the bearded king and strong-willed David Lloyd George, Welsh liberal leader who was then premier.

The late Stanley Baldwin—who later as premier in 1936 was to usher Edward VIII out of Buckingham Palace—saved the throne for George V, the newspaper added.

The Recorder said it can now "reveal for the first time" what happened.

Headed Coalition  
Lloyd George headed a coalition government formed after the election which followed World War I.

King George did not get on very well with Lloyd George," the Recorder said.

The prime minister was so much of a dictator that his attitude became intolerable; and King George V said: If Lloyd George comes back to power, I shall abdicate.

The calamity was averted by the revolt of the conservative members of Lloyd George's government.

"At a meeting at the Carlton club, led by Stanley Baldwin, the Conservatives broke away, and in November, 1922, Bonar Law formed a Tory government.

Never Came Back  
"Lloyd George never came back."

The Recorder circulates largely in the financial center of London. It did not disclose the source of its story. Buckingham Palace was considering whether to comment on the account.

Baldwin became prime minister in 1935. He retired in 1937 and was made a peer—Baldwin of Bewdley. He died in 1947.

As head of the government, he handled the crisis which arose from Edward VIII's determination to marry U. S.-born Wallis Warfield Simpson.

Edward refused to give her up and abdicated to become the Duke of Windsor.

### GUN TRUMPS BOTTLE

CHICAGO.—(AP)—A man who kept his hand in a coat pocket in a menacing manner walked into a liquor store. He turned to Abraham Yanes, the manager, and ordered him to open the cash register. Yanes opened it and took out a pistol. That was the trump that turned the trick in that game of wits. All the frustrated robber had in his hand was the neck of a broken bottle.

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