

OLD AGE BENEFIT CHANGES SOUGHT BEFORE CONGRESS

Eleven specific recommendations for the expansion of the old-age and survivors insurance program have been made to congress in the tenth annual report of the Social Security board, Howard J. Nelson, manager of the Klamath Falls office of the board, reported today.

Heading the list is a recommendation that coverage of the program be expanded to include "all gainful workers, including agricultural and domestic employees, public employees and employees of nonprofit organizations, and self-employed persons, including farmers."

Mr. Nelson said that "the social and economic welfare of the area served by his office of the board will be strengthened whenever action is taken to extend the benefits of the system to the millions not covered now."

Credit For Vets Urged
"And, I am glad to say, the board has recommended—incidentally, for the fifth consecutive year—that credit be given to servicemen for their period of service in the armed forces."

Recommendations of immediate importance to persons already covered by the act include one for an increase in benefit amounts, particularly for low-paid workers, and one for an increase from \$3,000 to \$6,000 a year in the amount of earnings subject to contribution and counted in computation of benefits, Nelson pointed out.

"At present levels, monthly benefit payments amounting to approximately \$26,339.53 went to 1418 men, women and children in this area last year," Nelson said.

Three recommendations by the Social Security board are for changes in provisions of the act that experience has shown cause hardship to beneficiaries and potential recipients, Nelson said.

They are for a reduction of the qualifying age for all women beneficiaries to 60 years, from the present 65; deletion of the requirement of school attendance as a condition of receipt of benefits by children aged 18 and 17, and increase in the amount of earnings permitted a beneficiary without suspension of benefits.

Would Ease Penalty
Benefit payments now are suspended for any month in which the person on whose wages the benefits are based earns more than \$14.99 in covered employment, and a sum equal to a month's benefit is assessed as a penalty for knowingly failing to report any such earnings.

Two additional insurance provisions have been urged by the board Nelson said, to improve the health of the nation and to compensate the worker for wages lost during periods of sickness or other disability. These provisions are:

Cash benefits to insured workers and their dependents

during temporary disability (less than six months) and extended disability (six months and over). Insurance against costs of medical care, including payments to physicians and hospitals, with provision for decentralization of administration and possible utilization of state administration.

HESS REBUFFED IN CRIMES TRIBUNAL

Nuernberg, Jan. 31 — (U.P.) — The war crimes tribunal today rejected a request by Rudolf Hess for permission to act as his own defense counsel.

The court appointed Dr. Otto Stahmer of Kiel, who also represents Reichsmarschal Hermann Goering, to defend Hess. The former Nazi deputy fuhrer had asked to be allowed to defend himself after his attorney was forced to withdraw because of a broken ankle.

The Hess ruling was handed down after French prosecutor Charles du Bost had resumed his case against the Nazis. He charged that slave laborers from concentration camps were forced to live and work in underground V-1 and V-2 factories in order to guard the secrecy of the flying bombs.

PITCHER INJURED
New York, Jan. 31 — (U.P.) — Freddie Fitzsimmons, former Major league pitching star who resigned in mid-season last year as manager of the Philadelphia Phillies, was injured seriously today in an automobile accident.

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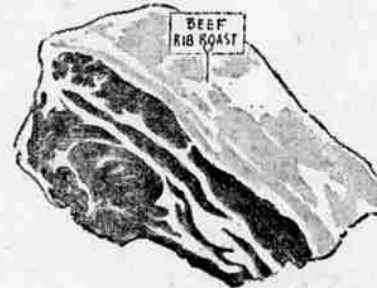
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