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Benefits Available for Disabled Unable to Work

"Are you disabled and unable to work? If so, you may be eligible for social security benefits," according to Edward B. Jacobson, district manager of social security.

"If you are unemployed because of an illness or accident which will prevent you from working for an indefinite period, you should get in touch with your local social security office," he added.

He explained that the social security program provides cash monthly benefits to disabled people who are unable to work. Inability to work must be a result of a disabling condition; and this condition must be severe enough to prevent a person from being able to engage in any gainful work activity, not just his usual job.

Another Requirement
Another requirement is that the disabled person must have worked in covered employment or self-employment for at least five of the last 10 years before he became disabled, Jacobson said. If a person is disabled within the meaning of the Social Security Act and has worked long enough, he can receive cash monthly payments beginning with the seventh full month of disability.

Jacobson emphasized that even though benefit payments cannot begin before the seventh month of disability, it is important to apply for the benefit prior to the time so the Social Security Administration can make a decision before the seventh month of disability. By filing early, the first benefit check will arrive on time, he added.

He also stated that failure of the disabled worker to apply early, especially those disabled over 1 1/2 years ago, may cause a reduction in the amount of benefits received and, in some cases, loss of all benefits.

Referred To Agency
In addition, all applicants for disability benefits are referred to the State Vocational Rehabilitation Agency to see if the disabled person can be trained in a new type of job within their capabilities.

Disability payments continue until there is medical recovery permitting the worker to return to work, Jacobson said. Even though there has been no medical recovery and he shows he can work and earn a gainful living, disability payments would continue for up to 12 months. An attempt to work will not immediately stop his payments.

A trial work period is allowed in which his ability to work will be evaluated and payments can continue as long as 12 months while the disabled person is working.

Cash monthly payments, Jacobson added, are also paid to certain dependents of the disabled worker.

Additional information may be obtained from the social security office, 1017 N. Riverside Ave., Medford.

Local People on Hospital Groups

Appointment of committees for the Oregon Association of Hospitals for the current year was recently announced by Sister Ernestine Marie of Providence Hospital in Portland, president of the state organization, and the list includes several local persons. They have been named to a number of committees.

B. J. Stormberg, Sacred Heart Hospital, will serve on the by-laws committee.

Charles Gustafson, Rogue Valley Memorial Hospital, was assigned to the legislative and government relations committee, and to the group hospitalization (or welfare) committee.

Sister Luke of the Savior, Sacred Heart Hospital, was named to the membership committee.

The Hill-Burton advisory-dialysis committee is headed by Gustafson as chairman. The two other members are Wesley Lamer, physicians and surgeons, Portland; and S. O. Kivle, Pendleton Community Memorial Hospital, Pendleton.

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VISITS LUNCHEON — President Johnson is shown above with Rep. Wright Patman (D-Texas) after Chief Executive made a surprise visit to the weekly luncheon of the Congressional delegation at the Capital Wednesday. The President ate a meal and swapped jokes and best wishes with the men he served with in Congress for three decades. (UPI)

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