

Welfare, SSA Aid Needy, But Programs Cost More

WASHINGTON (AP) — Social security insurance is getting the major credit for taking more and more needy old folks off federal-state welfare roles.

However, both programs are costing more. Expenditures for the old-age assistance program are going up because the monthly payments are increasing. The insurance program is more costly because benefits have been increased and the number of beneficiaries is rising rapidly.

The old-age assistance program is financed from general tax revenues, with the federal, state and local governments all putting up a share. But increases in the federal share in recent years have provided the larger portion of the higher benefits. The Eisenhower administration now wants the state and local governments to put up more money.

The insurance program is financed from special social security taxes on employers, employees and self-employed, and is purely a federal program. It is designed to pay its own way, and its financial operations are not included in the government's annual appropriations budget though they soon will run in the vicinity of 10 billion dollars annually.

The aid for the needy aged is the most costly of four federal-state public assistance programs

under the Social Security Administration. The other three aid needy who are blind, or totally and permanently disabled, or dependent children.

In all, it is estimated the total cost of the four assistance programs in the year beginning July 1 will be \$3,523,600,000, with the federal share being \$2,051,000,000. States also have general assistance, or relief programs in which the federal government does not participate.

The federal expenditure for grants in 1959-60 is put at \$2,018,000,000, or 57 per cent of the total. The budget estimates that the needy aged will receive an average monthly payment of \$65.85 in 1959-60, compared with an estimated \$64.25 this fiscal year and \$60.38 actually paid in 1957-58.

The number of recipients is estimated to average 2,390,000 monthly in 1959-60, compared with 2,442,100 for this year and an actual average of 2,481,934 for 1957-58. The recipients now average 75 years of age, which means that the lengthening life span is having an effect.

The total expenditures for the needy aged in 1959-60 from federal, state and local funds are put at \$1,838,600,000, compared with an estimated \$1,882,900,000 this fiscal year and 1957-58 actual costs of \$1,738,374,143. Of the total, the federal share

is figured at \$1,108,500,000 for 1959-60, \$1,094,600,000 this year and an actual \$1,002,076,381 last fiscal year.

Social security officials said today a further decline in needy aged beneficiaries is expected despite an increase in the number of old people in the population because the insurance system now covers about 9 out of every 10 persons who work for pay.

Benefit payments are expected to total \$10,025,000,000 in 1959-60 compared with about \$9,060,000,000 this fiscal year and \$7,874,932,414 actually paid in 1957-58.

The social security taxes are designed to meet current costs and create trust funds in the immediate years ahead, with income and outgo eventually to just about balance.

Currently employers and employees each pay 2 1/2 per cent in social security taxes on the first \$4,800 of annual earnings, which makes a payroll tax of 5 per cent.

1959-60, compared with \$7,884,000,000 this fiscal year. Both totals are again expected to exceed outgo after the tax less than the estimated expenditure increases next Jan. 1.



"Audrey is taking a terrible chance with her morals. The last three mornings she's worked right through the coffee break!"

Wool Growers Open Meeting

PORTLAND (AP) — The National Wool Growers Assn. opens its annual convention here today as the guest of the Oregon Wool Growers Assn.

The Oregon Wool Growers held their annual meetings here Sunday and reelected Guy Arbogast, Condon, president; Kenneth Johnson, Enterprise, first vice president; Jack Shumway, Powell Butte, second vice president, and Jack Steiwer, Fossil, secretary.

Howard Cohn of Heppner, and Bill Steiwer of Fossil were named delegates to the American Sheep Producers Council.

The Oregon association decided to deduct one cent a pound on wool and lambs to go to the American Sheep Producers Council for promoting wool and sheep and urged delegates to buy cars upholstered in wool.

Expert Sees Moon Circle

WASHINGTON (AP) — America's space chief says there's a good chance we'll circle the moon without landing in the next 10 years.

He said there's an outside chance samples of the moon's surface may be brought back to earth. He didn't say just how.

Dr. T. Keith Glennan, head of prospects for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, predicted in an interview such things within the decade as:

Good progress toward manned space laboratories orbiting the earth for long periods and being supplied by rockets.

Weather satellites with worldwide coverage.

Global systems of communications satellites relaying radio, television and other signals.

Rocket propulsion advances with the probability of developing up to six-million-pound thrust.

Nuclear powered engines for space rockets.

Policy Makers Set Cooperation

WASHINGTON (AP)—Rep. John W. Byrnes (R-Wis) said today the House Republican Policy Committee will cooperate closely with National Committee Chairman Meade ALCORN in setting forth GOP objectives.

Byrnes replaced Rep. Joseph W. Martin (R-Mass) as head of the 32-member policy group, which he said will hold its first meeting Tuesday.

Governors Oppose Hike

AUSTIN, Tex. (AP)—The governors of 28 states have agreed to join Gov. Price Daniel in opposing an increase in the federal gasoline tax.

"The majority of the governors of our sister states feel as strongly as I do against President Eisenhower's proposal for further federal invasion of this tax which should be reserved for the states," Daniel said Sunday.

He wired all state governors Jan. 12, asking them to join in opposing the tax hike and diversion of federal highway use taxes into non-highway channels.

Daniel said that of 35 replies, 28 were favorable and others wanted more time to study the matter. None favored the federal tax increase.

TO VISIT ALGERIA

PARIS (UPI)—French Premier Michel Debre will visit Algeria Feb. 10, informed sources reported today. They said the Gaullist premier who took office two weeks ago is expected to be away for two or three days.

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