

Washington Digest

Social Security Need Of Low-Income Farmers



Amazingly Small Cash Marketings of Large Group Leaves Little to Be Put Aside; State Units Carry Relief Burdens.

By BAUKHAGE
News Analyst and Commentator.

WNU Service, 1616 Eye Street, N.W., Washington, D. C.

(This is the first of two articles on "Social Security for the Farmers.")

When the navy announced its plan for the biggest postwar boom in history — its intention to blow a 97-ship fleet skyhigh with the atom bomb—I couldn't help recalling the answer which a little girl gave to a reporter before the war ended. He asked her: "What do you want to be when you grow up?" The youngster replied, "Alive."

In this atomic era, it's pleasant to note, then, that there are at least two groups of people in this country who not only assume that most of us will stay alive for a reasonable period, but who are making plans based on that assumption.

One group comprises the radar experts who earnestly promise we'll be rocketing to the moon and back by 1996—stopping to refuel along the lunar skyway at filler-up stations suspended in space and perhaps plucking moonflowers in a hanging garden.

The second group is the National Planning association — specifically its agriculture committee—which expects the farmer not only to grow up, but to live at least to the age of 65, at which time he will want to retire. Making that retirement possible is the subject of a new NPA bulletin by Murray R. Benedict, professor of agricultural economics at the University of California.

Why is the farmer so favored? Is he the only worker who wants to retire and live out his old age in reasonable financial security? What about the tired-out typists? Isn't the weary welder worthy?

Be that as it may, Mr. Benedict's retirement plan is based solely on bringing the farmer into the federal social security system. Most industrial and white collar workers like typists, welders and butchers, are already covered by social security. When the time comes for them to quit work for good, they can count on a small, but regular monthly income from social security benefits.

Not so the farmer. When he can work no longer, he has to live off what he's saved or by selling the south forty—and if he hasn't saved anything, that's his hard luck—or whoever has to take care of him.

Administration Proves Problem

The farmers were not included in the social security setup when it was inaugurated in 1935, because the lawmakers and administrators felt they couldn't cope with his peculiar problems at the time. For the same reason, they passed over the self-employed worker, the domestic employee, the government and railroad worker, the employee in non-profit organizations. Such workers posed too much of an administrative problem, the legislators felt, so they left them out, as far as social security was concerned.

Now, however, the system has been operating for more than 10 years, and it's high time, Mr. Benedict thinks, to ring farmers in on its benefits. He feels the other uninsured groups mentioned above should be included, too, but he concentrates on the case of the farmer.

The farmer, like everyone else, faces the grim prospect of dependency and want in old age. Like everyone else, he strives to guard against such contingency by working hard and trying to save money. But in 1939, more than half the farm owners of the country marketed less than \$75 worth of products from their land. Deduct from that the products the farmer's wife used at the table, the farm equipment he has to buy, shoes for the children, and an occasional Saturday night trip to the big city—and it's plain there is going to be precious little money left to stow away under the mattress or in the sock.

Hired farm workers fare no better in this matter of saving money than does the man who owns the farm. The hired man may earn \$27.30 a month if he eats "in." If he boards out, his monthly wage may be \$35.32—when he works. It's quite possible he's a seasonal worker—shifting from job to job as crops mature and orchards blossom, which means his annual income is far from fixed or steady.

So the farmer and the hired farm

worker, no matter how hard they work, may find it impossible to save money toward the time when they can no longer wield the scythe and hay fork. Nor is the farmer able, in many cases, to put by a little money to provide for his wife and family, should he die prematurely or be disabled.

Consequently there are more and more aged persons in rural areas who have to be cared for by county and state on a charity basis—a procedure which is not only expensive but unfair, since it treats thrifty and thrifless exactly alike. The charity or "old age assistance" as it's called, lumps together the persons who strove to take care of themselves during their working years but failed, with those who squandered their earnings.

Mr. Benedict guesses there'd be fewer such charity cases and fewer farmers haunted by the spectre of becoming such charity cases were workers in agriculture allowed to participate in the social security system. As everyone knows, the system is really a huge mutual insurance company. Each person makes a regular compulsory payment which is geared to his ability to pay.

Evolve Plan For Payments

If the farmers were covered by social security (and Mr. Benedict isn't the only one who thinks they should be, most of the important farm organizations have okayed the idea; both presidential candidates in the last election endorsed it, and the social security board on January 28 once again importuned congress to include farmers in), it would work something like this:

Farmer Jake Duncan adds up his year's sale of farm products and finds he has marketed less than \$75 worth. That's his gross cash income. Under Mr. Benedict's plan, Jake would be brought into the social security system as a self-employed worker on an assumed net income of \$400 a year.

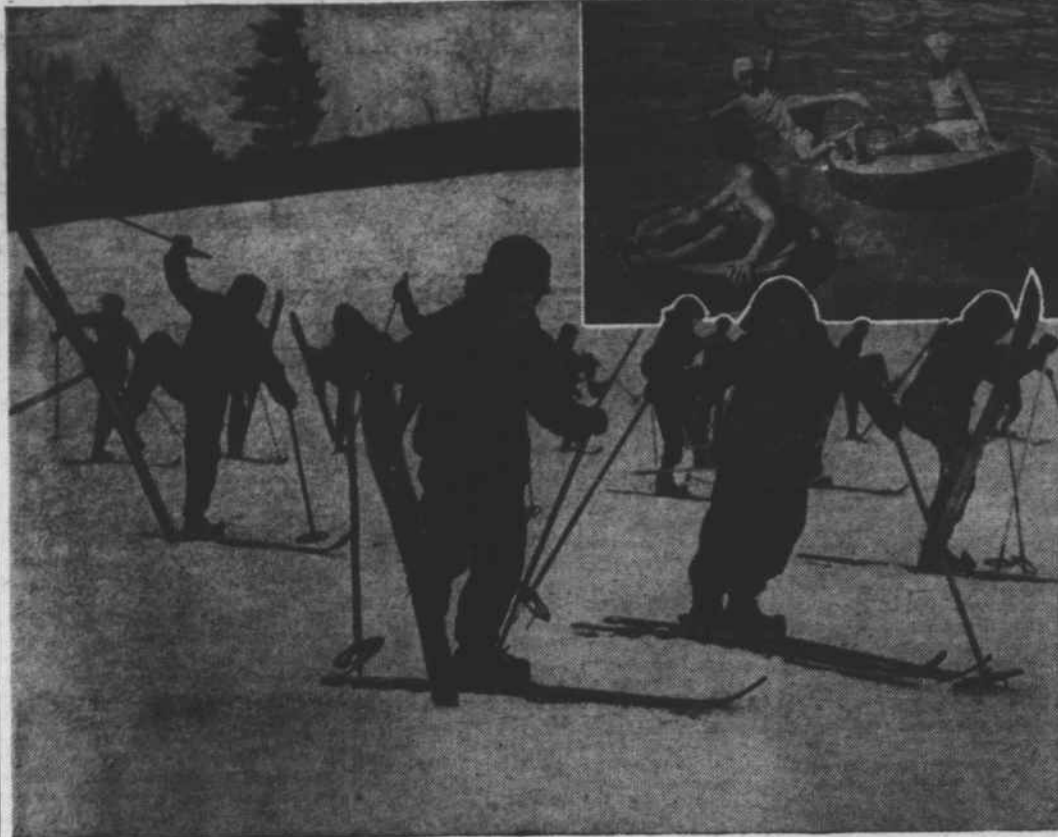
Now Jake is "self-employed"—and at the present time there is no provision in the social security act for insuring the self-employed, either in agriculture or in private business. The way it works now, the employed worker who IS covered pays into the trust fund 1 per cent of his wages; his employer contributes 1 per cent in his behalf.

Since Jake has no employer, Mr. Benedict suggests that Jake contribute both the employer and employee share, in other words, 2 per cent of his net income.

And his net income, as stated earlier, is \$400. So Jake would pay \$8 a year. If he makes these payments continuously for 30 years, he will have paid into the social security fund \$240. At retirement, he would be entitled to approximately \$13 a month. Not a munificent sum by any means, but perhaps just the little bit extra which, added to whatever other assets he has, may keep him from going to the poorhouse in later years. And his social security contributions pay off rapidly. In a little more than two years after he has retired, Jake will have received back every cent he paid in, plus interest. Not only that but during the 30 years he will have had the protection of survivorship insurance. That is, if he should die prematurely, his widow would not be left completely penniless. She would get three-fourths of the monthly sum to which he was entitled at the time he died.

Suppose Jake finds it hard to scrape together eight dollars at one specific time? In that case he might use a stamp book. A book perhaps similar to war stamp books. Jake's social security stamp book would probably be issued by the post office or by the social security board. Whenever he had a little extra money, he could buy stamps to paste in it. When the time came for him to make his annual eight dollar payment, he would turn in the stamp book plus whatever cash was needed to make up the balance.

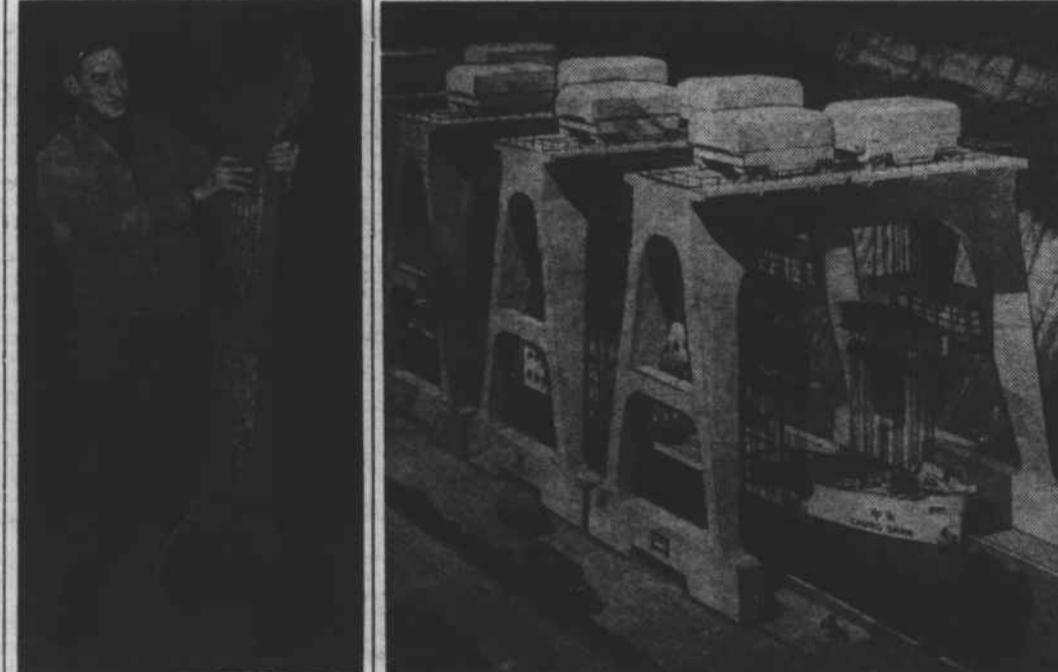
Jake would have a social security account number and he'd have to report his yearly earnings but the report would be very simple. All he'd have to do would be to state how much gross cash income he received for the year, sign his name, and that's all there'd be to it.



WINTER IN FLORIDA OR NEW HAMPSHIRE . . . Regardless of the weather, the younger generation finds plenty of amusement and body-building activities. At North Conway, N. H., the Eastern Slope Ski school, give more than 24,000 ski lessons annually to youngsters who contribute \$2 annually and write a school composition on skiing. At a cabana club pool in Miami, Mary Jane Coucel, New York, goes overboard, while Kent Merkle, Washington, and Mary Jane's sister, Shirley, watch in their "doughnuts."



PARIS . . . Look out your window in a modern Paris hotel and this is what you will see. Houses of crazy architecture and multitudinous chimney pots. George Alexander, Los Angeles, was so much in love with Paris that he reproduced it and brought it home in miniature. Entire streets and blocks of the picturesque quarters of the French capital are included in his collection. He fled Paris in 1936 without his "baby" which, by underground routes, finally caught up with him in Los Angeles.



HANDY WRENCH . . . Weighing 265 pounds, this wrench has been declared surplus by the U. S. army at the Lordstown (Ohio) ordnance plant. Ed Doan of Warren, standing by the wrench, is six feet tall. Civilians may purchase such gadgets as these—to fix their watches.



INTERNATIONAL COURT . . . Green H. Hackworth, 63, Chevy Chase, Md., has been elected one of 14 world judges by UNO. A native of Frostonburg, Ky., Hackworth served at the Hague.

HORSEBACK PICKET LINE . . . During the strike at the Los Angeles Union Stock yards, the pickets resorted to true Western style to picket the entrance to the yards. Mounted picket line, left to right: Margie Tavra, "Jug" Harrison, Tex Glover and Besse Evans. This union was seeking a 25-cent-an-hour pay increase. Horsemen took turns at the entrance to stock yards.



AMERICA'S OIL TWINS
WASHINGTON. — Many senators believe that the confirmation row over charming Ed Pauley as under secretary of the navy has taken on new significance now that Sec. Harold Ickes has offered Ralph Davies the job of under secretary of the interior.

It happens that Davies and Ed Pauley are bosom friends. Both are oil men. Both have followed the policy of "scratch-my-back-I'll-scratch-yours." This is important.

Recently, Secretary Ickes, who has a crusading record for guarding the nation's resources, recommended to President Truman that naval oil reserves be transferred from the navy to the interior department. It was just such a transfer by Albert K. Fall in the Harding administration that resulted in the teapot dome oil scandal.

No motive is attributed to the Ickes proposal except that of safeguarding oil. In fact, some people consider it significant that his proposal happened to coincide, by luck or otherwise, with the nomination of Oil Man Pauley to be under secretary of the navy.

But what senators consider important is that, with Pauley's friend Ralph Davies offered the job of under secretary of the interior, the navy's oil lands, no matter where they are located — in interior or navy—will be partially under Pauley or a friend of his.

MEXICAN OIL DEAL

Relationship between Davies and Pauley has been extremely close. Davies was executive vice president of Standard Oil of California. Pauley sold him his own independent oil company. Later Pauley brought Davies to Washington, introduced him to Ickes, following which Davies became Ickes' deputy oil administrator. He did a good job.

However, state department officials say he continued to look out for Ed Pauley.

When Pauley was trying to lobby his high-octane Mexican gasoline plant through the government, it had to pass the hurdle of Secretary Ickes' petroleum administration. Davies okayed it — not only okayed it, but pushed it vigorously. At first Ickes also gave it his blessing. The state department, however, was vigorously opposed.

Showdown came in a secret session between Ickes, Davies, a Davies aid, and the Assistant Secretary of State Dean Acheson. The full story of this session was never really told at the senate hearing. Acheson opened by giving Ickes a very careful diagnosis of why the Mexican high-octane gasoline plant should not be built by Pauley. He took up point after point, his main argument being that the Mexican government would have to pay such a high price to Pauley that it would sour U. S.-Mexican relations.

After Acheson had finished, Ickes turned to Pauley's friend, Ralph Davies, and asked:

"Why didn't you tell me these things?"
"I didn't know them either," replied the red-faced Davies. Then, turning to his aid, he alibied: "Why didn't you tell me these things?"

Ickes immediately reversed himself, threw his weight against Pauley. That is the real inside of how the Pauley octane plant for Mexico was stopped. Davies, of course, is an able, intelligent operator, too intelligent not to have known the main points of the Pauley plan. Pauley is equally able. He would be a good executive almost anywhere. But some senators want to think twice before putting these oil twins near the head of two departments controlling the oil reserves of the nation.

PRESIDENTIAL HUMOR

President Truman has been taking recent criticism in excellent humor. The other day he was talking with a group of friends and said:

"Apparently, no matter what I do I'm always in the middle. I say something about Palestine, and the Jews and the Arabs holler. Labor and capital get in a fight, and I am in the middle. The Russians and the British have an argument, and I am in the middle."

Suddenly the President paused, walked over to the door of his office, which connects with that of his secretary, Matthew Connelly, and called out:

"Hey, Matt, where can I buy a copy of Dale Carnegie's 'How to Win Friends and Influence People'?"

CAPITAL CHAFF

Assistant Sec. of State Spruille Braden is being muzzled by the cautious pink-tea diplomats regarding some sensational documents seized in Germany showing how certain Latin-American diplomats aided the Nazis during the war. . . . Forty-five small steel companies have now increased steel wages, thus sending more than 50,000 steel workers back to work. . . . Southern senators seem to like the filibuster method. Last week Senator Bilbo served notice he intends to use it against the British loan.

OLDER PEOPLE!
Many Doctors Advise
HIGH ENERGY TONIC

Older people! If you haven't the stamina you should—because your diet lacks the natural A&D Vitamins and energy-building, natural oils you need—you'll find good-tasting Scott's Emulsion helps build stamina, energy and resistance to colds. See this wonderful difference—by Scott's at your drugstore today!

SCOTT'S EMULSION
YEAR-ROUND TONIC

CAN'T YOU SLEEP?

WHEN the stress of modern living gets "on your nerves" a good sedative can do a lot to lessen nervous tension, to make you more comfortable, to permit restful sleep.

Next time a day's work and worry or a night's wakefulness, makes you Irritable, Restless or Jumpy—gives you Nervous Headache or Nervous Indigestion, try

Dr. Miles Nerveine
(Liquid or Effervescent Tablets)

Dr. Miles Nerveine is a time-tested sedative that has been bringing relief from Functional Nervous Disturbances for sixty years yet is as up-to-date as this morning's newspaper. Liquid 25¢ and \$1.00. Effervescent tablets 35¢ and 75¢. CAUTION—Take only as directed.

PAZO for PILES
Simple
Relieves pain and soreness

PAZO IN TUBES!
Millions of people suffering from simple Piles, have found prompt relief with PAZO ointment. Here's why: First, PAZO ointment soothes inflamed areas—relieves pain and itching. Second, PAZO ointment lubricates hardened, dried parts—helps prevent cracking and soreness. Third, PAZO ointment tends to reduce swelling and check minor bleeding. Fourth, it's easy to use. PAZO ointment's perforated Pile Pipe makes application simple, thorough. Your doctor can tell you about PAZO ointment.

SUPPOSITORIES TOO!
Some persons, and many doctors, prefer to use suppositories, so PAZO comes in handy suppositories also. The same soothing relief that PAZO always gives.

Get PAZO Today! At Drugstores!

BUILD UP RED BLOOD
TO GET MORE
STRENGTH
If your blood LACKS IRON!

You girls and women who suffer so from simple anemia that you're pale, weak, "dressed out"—this may be due to lack of blood-iron. So try Lydia E. Pinkham's TABLETS—one of the best home ways to build up red blood—in such cases. Pinkham's Tablets are one of the greatest blood-iron tonics you can buy! At all drugstores. Worth trying!

Black Leaf 40
KILLS LICE

JUST A BASH IN FEATHERS . . . OR SPREAD ON ROOSTS

USE **666**

COLD PREPARATIONS
LIQUID, TABLETS, SALVE, NOSE DROPS
CAUTION—USE ONLY AS DIRECTED

Kidneys Must Work Well

For You To Feel Well

24 hours every day, 7 days every week, never stopping, the kidneys filter waste matter from the blood.

If more people were aware of how the kidneys must constantly remove surplus fluid, excess acids and other waste matter that cannot stay in the blood without injury to health, there would be better understanding of why the whole system is upset when kidneys fail to function properly.

Burning, scanty or too frequent urination sometimes warns that something is wrong. You may suffer nagging backache, headaches, dizziness, rheumatic pains, getting up at night, swelling.

Why not try Doan's Pills? You will be using a medicine regulates the function of the kidneys and help them to break out poisonous waste from the blood. They contain neither alcohol, nor opium, nor any harmful drugs. Get Doan's today. Use with confidence. At all drug stores.

DOAN'S PILLS

BARBS . . . by Baukhage

At the rate we are demobilizing, we ought to be on an equal footing with Nicaragua before long—and of equal influence in international affairs.

Tugucigalpa, capital of Honduras, is the only city in the world without any railroad connections. But it's just as much fun to watch the plane come in.

The Triple "A" says that landing ships which once dropped tanks on far away enemy beaches may be used as auto ferries. They could carry a hundred autos per trip—and still skippers wouldn't be afraid of bursting peanut shells.

Poor Richard would probably say today: Take off price controls and you lose your purse-control.