

DIAL R-326 ALL DEPTS.

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SECTION B—PAGE 1

In Old-Age-Survivors Insurance Improvements Are Recommended

Eleven specific recommendations for the expansion and improvement of the old-age and survivors insurance program have been made to Congress in the Tenth Annual Report of the Social Security Board, Mrs. Ruth Duffy, manager of the Rocky Mount office of the Board, said yesterday.

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

Mrs. Duffy said that the social and economic welfare of the area served by the Rocky Mount office will be strengthened whenever action is taken to extend the benefits of the system to workers who are not covered now.

"Aside from the fact that the Social Security Board has had appeals from many persons and from groups, now in noncovered employment, for inclusion in the system we have seen how periods in noncovered employment can effect qualifications for benefits. And, I am glad to say, the Board has recommended — for the fifth consecutive year — that credit be given to servicemen for their period of service in the armed forces."

It is pointed out in the Annual Report of the Social Security Board that in an average week in 1944 only about three fifths of all gainfully employed civilians were in jobs covered by old-age and survivors insurance. More than 21,000,000 civilians and between 11,000,000 and 12,000,000 servicemen were excluded.

One recommendation of importance to persons already covered by the Social Security Act is for an increase in benefit amounts particularly for low paid workers. Another proposed change is an increase from \$3,300 to \$3,600 a year in the amount of earnings subject to contributions and counted in computation of benefits.

Three other recommendations by the Social Security Board concern provisions of the Act which experience has shown cause hardship to those who claim benefits:

(1) Reduction of the qualifying age for all women beneficiaries to 60 years, from the present 65; (2) deletion of the requirement of school attendance as a condition of receipt of benefits by boys and girls aged 16 and 17; (3) increase in the amount of earnings permitted a beneficiary without suspension of benefits.

In addition, the Board has recommended:

Greater uniformity in defining purposes of the insurance system, family relations qualifying members of a worker's family for benefits.

Provisions for assuring uniformity in coverage decisions relating to liability for contributions and eligibility for benefits, which are based on identical language but are made by two separate Federal agencies—the Bureau of Internal Revenue and the Board.

Adoption of a long-range plan for financing old-age and survivors insurance, which looks toward an eventual three-way division of costs among employers, employees and the Government.

Benefits during periods of extended or permanent disability like those for old-age retirement.

Two additional insurance provisions have been urged by the Board Mrs. Duffy said, to improve the health of the Nation, and to compensate the worker for wages lost during periods of sickness or other disability.

Those provisions are:
Cash benefits to insured workers

and their dependents during temporary disability (less than 6 months) and extended disability (6 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.

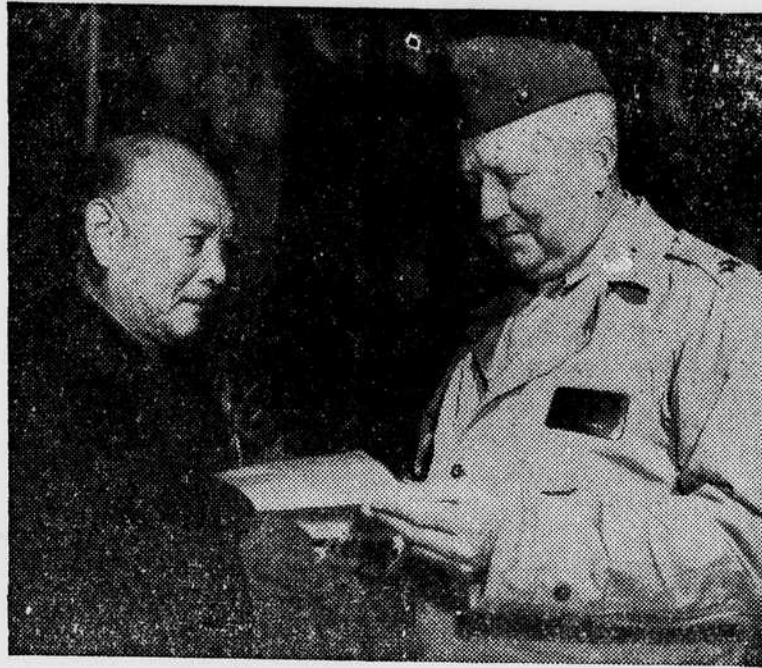
"These recommendations and others concerning the unemployment insurance and public assistance systems show the course that the Board has said it believes to be 'feasible and necessary as the United States faces forward to peace,' Mrs. Duffy said.

"In a summary recommendation the Social Security Board is urging the establishment of a 'comprehensive basic national system of social insurance, covering all major risks to economic independence and all workers and their dependents to whom such risks apply."

"It is urging the establishment of a 'comprehensive program of public assistance, on a State-Federal basis, under which payments financed from State irrespective of the reason for need or the place of residence.'

"The Board would extend the Social Security program to the millions of families that now are partly or wholly unprotected, it would cover risks against which little or no provision has yet been made, and it would strengthen present provisions of the program. It has made recommendations for improving and simplifying administration and financing."

Chinese Houseboy Returns



(U. S. Marine Corps Photo)

Wang Yu, left, a houseboy with more than a score of years service to Marine Corps officers stationed at Peiping, China, was rehired when Leathernecks returned to the Chinese city. When he applied to Brigadier General Louis R. Jones of Indian Head, Md., for his old job, he presented a recommendation signed by Colonel A. A. Vandegrift, now Commandant of the U. S. Marine Corps.

Advice Is Given Peanut Farmers

D. S. Matheson, State Agriculture Department marketing specialist, advises producers who are still marketing peanuts to leave the damaged nuts in the field.

He says that bad weather during the past three months has "materially affected" the quality of the peanuts in the top few

inches of the stack and at the bottom of the stack. Matheson expressed the opinion that farmers will receive a better overall price for their peanuts if the damaged varieties are not included in the sale.

From five to 10 per cent of this State's peanut crop is still in the field, Matheson reports.

That scornful snort of derision is the noise made by ignorance in the presence of a new fact.

Killed In Action

Mrs. Dorothy Shearin of this City has received a message from the War Department, stating her husband, Pfc. Latt Harris Shearin, Jr., better known as "Harvery Shearin," was killed in action in France on December 17, 1944. Shearin was a member of General Patton's 3rd Army.

He entered service in March, 1944, was sent overseas in October and was reported missing on December 17, the same year.

Harvey was born on August 2, 1915, in the Hawkins Chapel Community. He was the son of Mrs. Grady Jenkins of this City, and the late Latt Harris Shearin, Sr., of Halifax County. In 1929 his family came to Roanoke Rapids. He made his home here until entering service.

Young Shearin was a boy of good standing, highly esteemed by all who knew him. He had hosts of friends in and around Roanoke Rapids, who shares his loss.

On August 4, 1936 he was married to Miss Dorothy Askew, who resides here, and now holds a position in the City Clerk's Office.

Before entering the Armed Forces, Harvey held a position with the Rosemary Meat Company, later being employed in the Ship Yard in Newport News, Va.

He is survived by his wife, his mother and step-father, Mr. and Mrs. Grady Jenkins who reside at 912 Jackson Street; one sister, Mrs. Robert E. Walsh of Newport News, Va., three brothers, J. Wallace and L. Irwin Shearin, both of this City and Pfc. David Loy Shearin, serving somewhere in France, one nephew and five nieces.

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