

The National Outlook Social Security and Public Assistance

By RALPH ROBEY

For many months it has been predicted there would be another Social Security bill passed by Congress this year. Starting in 1950, there has been a Social Security year in every national election year since, including 1952, '54, '56 and now, 1958.

Some weeks ago the House Ways & Means Committee conducted hearings on the general subject of social security without referring to any one particular bill. Out of those hearings came H. R. 13549. This bill passed the House by a vote of 375 to 2 and went to the Senate where it was referred to the Senate Finance Committee. The Committee, probably aware of an early adjournment date, limited hearings on the bill to two days.

In addition to many technical changes in the 106-page document, the bill consists of two major parts; first to increase social security (OASI) payments, and second to increase federal welfare and public assistance payments through grants-in-aid to the state's welfare programs.

In connection with OASI, the bill provides for an increase in benefit payments of seven percent with a minimum of \$3 per month; for social security taxes to be increased effective next January 1; and that the amount of annual earnings subject to the tax and credited toward benefits be increased from \$4200 to \$4800.

The social security system is operated by the Federal Government. In contrast, the public assistance program is a Federal-state matter, with each state determining qualifications for getting payments, and what the state welfare payments to individuals shall be.

The new Social Security bill provides for federal grants-in-aid to state welfare programs to be increased by an estimated \$288 million next year, and probably more in the years which follow. These latter expenditures, incidentally, are derived from general funds of government and not from social security funds and, therefore, will add to the growing annual federal deficit.

Mr. Arthur Flemming, Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare, was the first witness to appear before the Senate Finance Committee. He, naturally, presented the Administration's thinking, which is that the changes in social security—both benefits and taxes—are desirable and should be enacted. He said, however, that on the public assistance issue, the Administration believed the situation to be quite different. Not because present payments to beneficiaries of state welfare are deemed inadequate but because the Administration believes the proportion provided by the Federal Government should be reduced and not increased as provided for in the bill.

It was the Secretary's recommendation that the public assistance part of the bill be deleted, and under questioning he intimated that if this section is permitted to remain the President might conceivably veto the whole bill.

The Secretary was followed on the stand by two AFL-CIO representatives, both of whom expressed the opinion the bill is all to the good, except that it does not go far enough in the way of increasing benefits. Several other witnesses took the same position.

What are the real facts? On the basis of about an 8 percent increase in the cost of living since the last hike in social security benefits, it may even be possible to develop an argument in defense of an increase. On the other hand, it must be remembered the social security system is currently operating at a deficit—its outlay is greater than its revenues.

Existence of this deficit is one of the reasons for increasing OASI taxes. The estimated tax increase would be \$1.8 billion more than 1957. This, it is alleged, will not only eliminate the deficit but will take care of the increased benefits, too. There is room for grave doubt it would do so.

Even more important is the possible effect of such a tax increase on prices. About half on the total would be paid by employers. To them it means an increase in the cost of production. Today's profits are not adequate to absorb such an increase in cost. There would be a strong tendency—in many instances, a necessity—to boost prices.

The Federal-state welfare program would add to the federal deficit. Granted, \$288 million is a small fraction of a currently estimated \$12 billion deficit. But, a small fraction will have an effect, and in this instance it is on the side of inflation.

This is not a matter of believing or not believing in social security. Even the most ardent advocate of OASI must insist the system be operated on a sound basis and not simply result in a paying-out of dollars which have constantly declining purchasing power. For that reason everyone, including beneficiaries, would be better off if we skipped this election year rise in social security and Federal-state welfare through grants-in-aid increases.

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

Continued from Page 3—Section 2
ness in reducing great distances to a matter of hours, no nation in the world-famous Marshall plan,

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ABUNDANT LIFE

by ORAL ROBERTS

THERE IS HEALING FOR THE INCURABLE

"There is no such thing as an incurable disease—and no one need die in pain. . . There is no such thing as an 'easy' or 'difficult' case of healing in Christ's name."

These are the words of an eminent physician, Dr. Christopher Woodward, who is combining spiritual healing with his practice of medicine and producing spectacular results.

My own work as a minister of the gospel who prays for the healing of the sick has brought me to the same conclusion: No disease is hopeless—none is incurable.

Mrs. D. H., from Denver, Colorado, related this story some time ago before our television cameras. At that time, she was holding in her hand two X rays made of her 11-year-old son who had been pronounced incurable with a strange bone disease.

"My son began having aches and pains in his back and hips.

"My doctor looked at the X ray He showed us where the bone in the socket of the hip had begun to deteriorate. Then, sadly shaking his head, he said, 'I'm very sorry to tell you that before he is in his late teens he will be a hopeless cripple. The bone is wasting away; there is no cure for this disease.'"

"What shock and emotion there through me! Then—I saw much pity mirrored in the physician for my child. Suddenly I felt a strange power rise up in me, and I said within myself, 'No! No, my son, you will never be a cripple!

I won't let you. As long as there is a living God you will never be a cripple.' "Strange as it may seem, immediately all my fear and distress left me. I felt tremendously strong.

"Daily I asked God to help. During those days, faith rose higher and higher in my heart.

"One day I felt that I should have my son X-rayed again although only four months had passed since the first X ray. The doctor said, 'It is a little too soon to be able to tell much, but I will check for you.'"

"First he tested him by stretching his legs and giving him various exercises. Each time he asked if it hurt. The boy answered, 'No.'"

"The doctor muttered, 'There is something strange here. Let's see what the X ray says.'"

"As soon as the X-ray film was dry, it was flashed upon a large screen. 'Why,' the doctor exclaimed, 'the cavity had disappeared. New bone has grown in its place!'"

"'Yes,' I answered, 'something has happened,' and I pointed toward the screen. 'Doctor, the Lord has healed my child.'"

"That was two years ago. My son is going to school and has not had one minute's trouble since that time. I am very thankful."

I saw this boy a few days ago. He is perfectly healthy and walks normally. I remind you again—there is nothing incurable with the Lord.

the world can afford indifference towards its aims—world peace and an amicable settlement by vote of disputes between the nations of the world. In it, therefore, we have placed some of our greatest hopes for world survival.

The UN has been able to do some very helpful work in cooperative endeavors in the field of education, culture, and science in order to further justice and promote the rule of law and human rights and freedoms without distinction of race, sex, language, or religion. For these reasons the United Nations is one way of providing a world of law and order instead of one of conflict.

We can recall with pride that America, one of the richest nations in the world, has faced up to, and accepted, the fact that where there is poverty and want, ignorance and injustice, there can be no satisfaction among peoples, and that these conditions will only lead to unrest—a fertile breeding ground for the seeds of war, and that she has shared her bounty with the needy countries of the world, a lot of it through the world-famous Marshall plan,

and a lot of it through individual drives to alleviate world suffering, promoted by public spirited groups of citizens motivated by a truly Christian spirit. As a nation we have truly remembered the words of Jesus: "... every one to whom much is given, of him much will be required." (Luke 12:48) and the saying of John (studied in an earlier lesson this month, but bearing repetition here) "... if any one has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him?" (1 John 3:17). Christian nations should be the most daring and creative in their programs and proposals for world economic development. Trust in

God means, among other things, buying the products of other nations, as well as selling our goods to them. It means trade, rather than economic isolationism. God's view must more and more be our view.

Torn between trust in arms and trust in God to keep this world at peace, this is a good time for us to remember the teachings of the Bible. Isaiah clearly condemns reliance upon arms and alliances. While we recognize as valid the desire of nations to have freedom from aggression or threat of aggression, in this day and age this security cannot be obtained by military strength on national levels, but by confidence in the authority and strength of the United Nations. As Christians each one of us must work individually to bring the power of the churches to support the United Nations in its endeavor to settle amicably the disputes confronting it today. As a God-fearing nation we can do no less.

(These comments are based on outlines of the International Sunday School Lessons, copyrighted by the International Council of Religious Education, and used by permission.)

KNOW YOUR SOCIAL SECURITY

P. E. Bettendorf, representative of the Social Security Administration, is in Edenton every Thursday at the North Carolina Employment Security Commission in Citizens Bank Building.

It has come to the attention of the Social Security Administration that many younger farmers in this area have failed to file social security reports on their farm self-employment. A report should be filed if a farmer grosses as much as \$600, if he elects coverage by option, and must be filed if a farmer has a net income from his self-employment of \$400 or more. Failure to file these reports means that the farmer does not receive social security credits toward retirement or survivor's benefits because the law within a few years bars use of his income for social security purposes. Many people are under the impression that by paying social security for two years, they become eligible for social security payments. This is not true. To qualify for social security benefits after two years under social security is a peculiar situation which affects only the older farmer who has retired in the

last year. As time goes on, the amount of time needed under social security increases with each year until a maximum of at least 10 years under social security is reached. If a young farmer happened to meet an untimely death and has not been reporting his social security, his widow and children would not be eligible for social security.

The only way to make yourself covered under social security, and in that way protect yourself at your retirement and your survivor's is to file a self-employment farm report with your income tax at the close of each taxable year.

The man of integrity is one who makes it his constant rule to follow the road of duty, according as Truth and the voice of his conscience point it out to him. —Mary Baker Eddy.

CHAPPELL SELLS BULL

Clarence Chappell, Jr., of Belvidere has sold the registered Guernsey bull, Chappell's Lucky Bill, according to the American Guernsey Cattle Club.

This bull was sold to Henry Martin, Jr., of Wadesboro, N. C. The dam is Bayville Margaret Nettie and the sire, Bayville Lucky Nick.

VICTORY WITHOUT TOTAL WAR

George Fielding Eliot, a recognized authority on Military Affairs and author of the book, "VICTORY WITHOUT TOTAL WAR, 1958 - '61," outlines his plan by which the United States can maneuver the Soviet Union into a military stalemate in three years. Be sure to read this fabulous and frank article and see if you agree or disagree with his plan concerning World Peace—in the August 24th issue of

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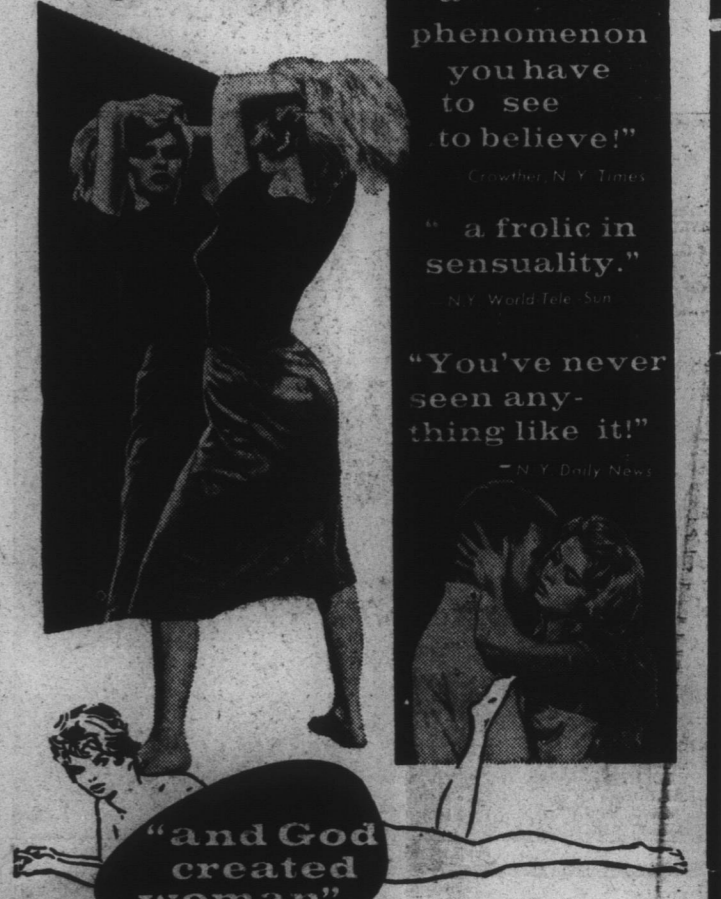
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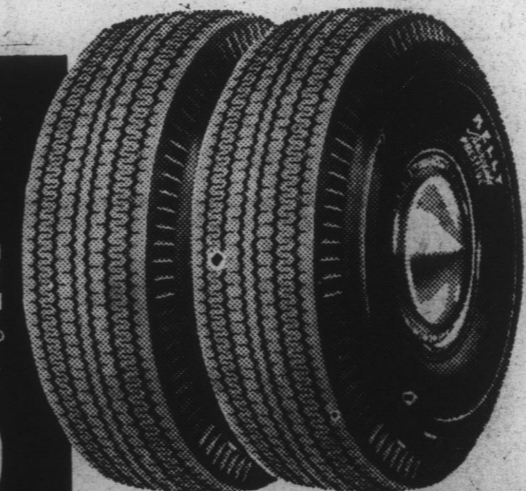
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