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Little Bobby, Left Without Support, Is Not Happy; Mrs. Means, Who Keeps Him, Always Grumbles

[In compliance with duties imposed by the Social Security Act, Government officials have made various studies pertaining to provisions of the Act. These studies have developed the belief that certain changes should be made in the Social Security Act in order to meet the needs of American people. Because the editor of the Charlotte Labor Journal feels that residents of this section wish to know what changes are contemplated and because he thinks that his readers are entitled to such information, this paper in co-operation with the Charlotte office of the Social Security Board is presenting a series of articles explaining the proposed revisions. Given below is the sixth installment of this series.—Editor.]

CHILDREN WHO ARE LEFT WITHOUT MEANS OF SUPPORT

Bobby lives with Mrs. Meanie, though he doesn't like it very much; and she grumbles every day because she has another mouth to feed. Bobby used to stay with his aunt, but she died. Then he had no folks at all and nowhere to stay; so he just went over next door to Mrs. Meanie's house and started living there.

Before very long Mrs. Meanie, who sells things from door to door, moved into a nearby State and Bobby went along. Mrs. Meanie is really fond of the little boy, and even though she is very poor—and sort of fussy—she is glad to have him with her.

One day she heard about "Aid to Dependent Children." She learned that her cousin, who is a widow with two small children, receives a Government check every month for the sup-

port of her children. Mrs. Meanie, thinking that she might as well get the same sort of help for Bobby, went to the welfare department to put in her application. But the welfare director explained that cash payments for the care of children are available only for those children who live with mother, father, or some other close relative; and since Bobby is no kin at all to the person with whom he makes his home, he is not eligible for this

type of aid. The welfare director said also that besides the question of relationship, there is the fact that Mrs. Meanie and Bobby recently moved into the State; and the law requires residence of at least a year before assistance payments can be made.

Welfare workers who come in contact, month after month, with needy families find many cases where little children are in actual want because they are not eligible for aid under existing provisions of the law.

The Social Security Board has recommended changes in the Social Security Act which include provisions for regular cash payments for:

Children whose parents are unemployed as well as those whose parents have died or who have deserted them or are incapacitated.

Children who are in need whether or not they are living with their parents or with their own relatives or in foster homes.

Children who are between the ages of 16 and 18, if in need, whether or

not they are in school. Monthly allowances for Aid to Dependent Children are paid to the mother or father or some other relative who is taking care of the child. Payments are made for the support of a dependent child until he reaches the age of 16, or 18 if he is still in school. The State decides who shall get this aid and how much will be paid to each family concerned. The Federal Government will pay half of whatever monthly allowance the State provides, up to \$18 a month for the first child and \$12 for each of the other children in the same family. The State may pay more than this amount, and it may also pay less.

The Social Security Board believes that this amount of aid to dependent children is inadequate and recommends that the maximum limit on Federal contributions be increased or removed.

—V—
NEXT: "Public Assistance For Those In Need."

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