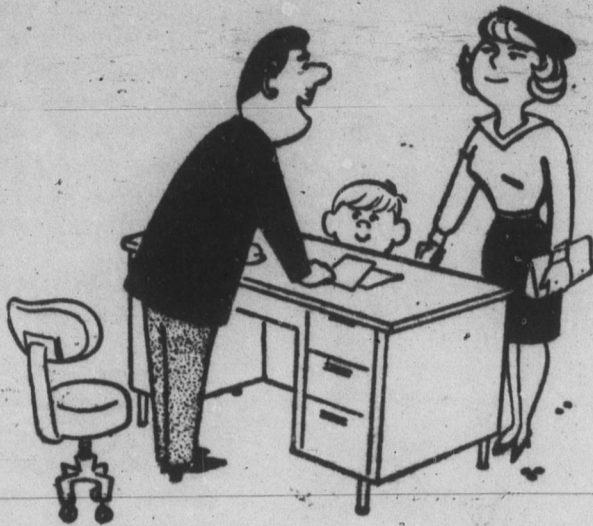


SOCIAL SECURITY

Questions And Answers



By: D. C. Nichols

Q. When, and under what conditions, is a beneficiary required to file an annual report with the Social Security Administration? What form is used for the report, and what earnings or income must be reported?

A. An annual report, on Form 777, must be filed by or before April 15 by everyone who received one or more monthly social security benefits during 1967 and earned over \$1500 during the year — with two exceptions. Beneficiaries who need not file the report are (1) those who were 72 years old or older before January 1, 1967 and (2) those drawing disability benefits. (The latter must report earnings as soon as they go back to work — although their benefits may be continued for several months during a "trial work period.")

Form 777 has been or soon will be mailed to some of the above beneficiaries, who had previously notified us that they expected to earn over \$1500 during the year 1967.

However, those beneficiaries who had not informed us that they expected to earn over \$1500 during 1967 — but who actually did so — naturally will not receive the form by mail. So they should, without delay, request the form from the Social Security

Office, complete and return it safely before April 15.

All cash wages or self-employment income (whether covered by social security or not) earned by the beneficiary in 1967 must be included in the report. But investment income such as interest or dividends, retirement pay or pensions, and generally rental income are not reported.

Three special "types" of rental income are, however, included in this report since they constitute self-employment income rather than simple "rentals from real estate": (1) income from a furnished apartment where hotel-like services are furnished to the tenant, (2) farm rental income received by a landlord who substantially or materially "participates" in producing the farm income, and (3) rental income received by a real estate dealer in the operation of his business.

Failure by a beneficiary to make this report on his 1967 earnings, by or before April 15, may result in the loss of additional benefits.

Q. My neighbor tells me it's easier now for an older person like me, covered by the "doctor bill insurance" of Medicare, to file a claim for payment on medical bills. But he also says there's a deadline date on mak-

ing such claims for payment on old medical bills. How about it?

A. Your neighbor is right on both counts.

Under the old law, if the doctor did not wish to submit his bill to the Medicare carrier, you had to pay him before you could apply for the medical insurance payment. But now, you can file for this Medicare benefit even before you have paid the doctor bill.

Now you simply need an ITEMIZED bill (paid or unpaid) to send with your Request for Payment (Form 1490). But if the doctor's office will fill out Part II of the form, this will even take the place of an itemized bill.

As your neighbor said, there is a time limit and an approaching deadline for filing claims for payment on certain "old medical bills." Specifically, April 1, 1968 is the deadline date for filing requests for payment on medical expenses incurred in July, August, and September 1966.

Announcement

A representative of the Social Security Office, Asheville, will be in the County Courthouse, Burnsville between the hours of 9:30 and 12:30 on the following dates: April 8, 22, 29; May 13, 27; June 10, 24.

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