

Social Security Board Urges All To File Application At Once

The Social Security Board today urged all eligible workers who have not yet applied for social security account numbers to do so promptly to expedite the setting up by June 30 of wage records for their participation in the Federal Old-Age program under the Social Security Act.

For more than 6 months the Post Office Department has cooperated in this program of obtaining applications for social security account numbers from workers in the fields of commerce and industry, Mr. Stacey W. Wade, in charge of the Social Security Board field office at 116 South Salisbury Street in Raleigh, said. The Department's Machinery now is operating so that on the average only two days elapse from the time a worker files his application until he receives his account number, Mr. Wade pointed out. In Raleigh, account cards are delivered at once to those who apply for them at the Post Office or at the Social Security Board offices at 116 South Salisbury Street, and applications by mail are executed and sent out the day they are received, Mr. Wade said.

After June 30, the Post Office Department will, under present plans, be assisted in receiving applications for social security account numbers by Social Security Board field offices in Raleigh and others located in strategic centers throughout the country. More than 100 such offices are now open and others are to be opened soon.

"Obtaining a social security account number is an important step in providing protection against the hazards of old-age for any wage earner who might at a future time be entitled to Federal benefits," LeRoy Hodges, Director of the Federal Old-Age Benefits Bureau of the Board, said in a statement given Mr. Wade.

"Workers in covered employments who have not applied for account numbers," Mr. Hodges warned, "may be creating difficulties in determining the proper amount of old-age benefits to which they will be entitled. Employers will make periodic reports to the Bureau of Internal Revenue of wages paid to each of their employees. Account numbers assigned will appear on returns. A record of the wages so reported will be kept by the Board for use whenever a claim based on the employee's wages is filed.

"Employers on June 30 must be prepared to file their first periodic report on wages earned by their employees since January 1, 1937, when this part of the social security program got under way. Thereafter, these informational returns will be filed quarterly. In order properly to make the return, an employer must have the social security account numbers of all his employees which should have been previously reported to him by each worker.

"Reporting of the social security account number on the information return due June 30, is necessary for proper recording of the worker's wages."

Mr. Hodges directed attention to a Treasury regulation requiring employers of one or more employees in all those occupations covered by this part of the Social Security Act to file an application for an account number.

"Inasmuch as employers will have to make sure that every employee has a social security account number to make the required report to the Treasury Department, it is evident," Mr. Hodges said, "that the more employees in possession of account number cards now, the fewer will be the cases in which the employers will have to take action on June 30."

The bureau director emphasized that employer-employee participation in old-age benefits is not—as erroneously assumed in some quarters—dependent on the number of persons working for an employer.

"Even if an employer," Mr. Hodges pointed out, "has only one worker engaged in a covered occupation, that worker is required to apply for a social security account number. This includes employees in small establishments such as restaurants, drug and grocery stores, beauty parlors, and tailoring shops, as well as employees of doctors, lawyers, and similar professional people.

"See your Postmaster at once if you have not yet filed your application for a social security account number.

Mr. Hodges urged that inasmuch as the Post Office Department's machinery is so geared now as to assign an account number properly employees who have not applied for account numbers should at once take advantage of these facilities.

Eligible workers may file their applications either through their employer, through a labor union, or through a local post office.

THE CAPITAL WEEK

Washington, D. C.—One of Harry Hopkin's strongest backers in the fight for more W. P. A. money is David Lasser, head of the Workers Alliance, who threatens a general strike if the W. P. A. Administrator cuts more people off relief—Adroitly suspecting that Nazis might

charge the Hindenburg tragedy to U. S. Jewish or Communist sabotage, State Department officials arranged for immediate messages of sympathy from the President and Secretary of State Hull—in conversation with friends, Postmaster-General James A. Farley has indicated that in his opinion, all those so far suggested for the next Presidential nomination are politically unsound.



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