

**Table 3.—Number and average monthly amount of old-age benefits in current-payment status at the end of each half year, by benefit-computation method, June 1952–June 1953**

[Numbers in thousands]

Half year ending—	Total		New-start formula			Conversion table	
	Number	Average monthly amount	Number	Average monthly amount	As percent of all old-age beneficiaries	Number	Average monthly amount
June 1952.....	2,372	\$41.98	2	\$42.59	(1)	2,371	\$41.98
December 1952.....	2,644	49.25	235	66.16	9	2,409	47.60
June 1953.....	2,977	50.42	537	65.17	18	2,440	47.17

<sup>1</sup> Less than 0.5 percent.

benefits awarded in the first half of 1953 to persons attaining age 65 or 66 during 1953 comprised 69 percent of the benefits determined by use of the conversion table and 30 percent of the benefits figured by the new-start formula.

The average old-age benefit awarded in January–June 1953 was \$56.91, an increase of 43 percent from the average amount awarded in the first half of 1952 (table 1). This higher average was the result partly of the higher benefit amounts payable under the 1952 amendments and partly of the large number of benefits computed under the new-start formula. The average benefit figured by use of the new-start formula was \$63.99; for benefits determined by use of the conversion table the average was \$40.08. The average benefit amount was \$61.57 for men and \$44.85 for women.

The minimum monthly amount of \$25 was payable in 38 percent of the awards in which benefits were figured by use of the conversion table, in contrast to only 3 percent for benefits computed under the new-start formula (table 2). For the benefits computed under the new-start formula, 25 percent of the men and 4 percent of the women received the maximum monthly amount of \$85.

*Benefits in current-payment status.*—The rapid growth in the number of persons receiving old-age benefits computed by means of the new-start formula is indicated in table 3; by the end of June 1953, they comprised 18 percent of all old-age beneficiaries. The average amount payable to all old-age beneficiaries has increased continuously—from \$48.79 in September 1952 (when the benefits were increased) to \$50.42 in June 1953—as

the proportion of benefits determined by the new-start formula has increased.

### Proposed Budget for Social Security Programs, 1954–55

The Budget of the United States Government for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1955, was submitted to Congress by President Eisenhower on January 21, 1954. The budget for the Social Security Administration provides for the continuance of existing programs. It also includes cost estimates for the proposals to extend old-age and survivors insurance and to provide a new formula for public assistance grants in aid; these proposals were set forth in the President's special message on social security of January 14. The President's health message of January 18 carried his proposals relating to the Children's Bureau grant programs; since these proposals do not call for new authorizations, they are not reflected

in the Budget document. The recommendations made by the President were reported in the February BULLETIN.

The Budget includes estimated expenditures for the fiscal year 1954–55 of \$1,328 million from budget authorizations and operating funds for the Social Security Administration, a decrease of \$96 million from the current fiscal year (table 1). These estimates do not take into account the operations of the old-age and survivors insurance trust fund. The decrease is concentrated in public assistance, where the expected decline in estimated expenditures results from a drop in the number of recipients, from the proposed changes in the public assistance matching formulas, and from the changes proposed in old-age and survivors insurance that will, the President said, reduce "the need for supplementation by public assistance."

Of the total expenditures, \$1,323 million or almost 100 percent represents grants to the States—for public assistance, \$1,185 million under existing legislation and \$108 million under proposed legislation, and for maternal and child welfare grants, \$30 million.

The balance of \$4.7 million is for salaries and expenses of the Social Security Administration. Of this amount, \$1.5 million is expected to be spent by the Bureau of Federal Credit Unions, mainly for supervision of Federal credit unions, out of the operating fund composed of fees collected for services. In addition, the old-age and survivors insurance trust

**Table 1.—Expenditures for the Social Security Administration, excluding the old-age and survivors insurance trust fund, fiscal years 1952–53, 1953–54, 1954–55**

[In thousands]

Bureau	Actual, 1952–53	Estimated	
		1953–54 <sup>1,2</sup>	1954–55 <sup>3</sup>
Total, including proposed legislation.....	\$1,366,023	\$1,423,411	\$1,327,718
Total, excluding proposed legislation.....	1,366,023	1,423,411	1,219,718
Bureau of Public Assistance:			
Existing legislation.....	1,331,572	<sup>1</sup> 1,390,488	1,186,540
Proposed legislation.....			108,000
Children's Bureau.....	33,066	31,265	31,500
Bureau of Federal Credit Unions.....	1,172	<sup>2</sup> 1,485	<sup>3</sup> 1,505
Office of the Commissioner.....	213	174	173

<sup>1</sup> Includes \$58,000,000 for public assistance grants from new authorizations proposed for later transmittal.

<sup>2</sup> Includes \$1,432,889 for the Bureau of Federal Credit Unions, from operating fund receipts.

<sup>3</sup> Includes \$1,505,000 for the Bureau of Federal Credit Unions, from operating fund receipts.

Source: *The Budget of the United States Government for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 1955.*

**Table 2.—Old-age and survivors insurance trust fund operations, fiscal years 1952-53, 1953-54, and 1954-55<sup>1</sup>**

(In millions)

Fund and item	Actual, 1952-53	Estimated	
		1953-54	1954-55
Receipts:			
Present program:			
Appropriation from general receipts . . .	\$4,086	\$4,600	\$5,369
Deposits by States . . .	44	100	135
Interest and other . . .	387	442	477
Proposed legislation . . .			100
Payments of benefits, construction and administrative expenses, and tax refunds:			
Present program . . .	-2,748	-3,368	-3,809
Proposed legislation . . .			-408
Net accumulation . . .	1,769	1,774	1,864
Total assets at end of year	18,364	20,138	22,002

<sup>1</sup> Treatment of certain items here differs somewhat from that in the monthly *Bulletin* table on the status of the old-age and survivors insurance trust fund, which shows receipts net of reimbursements to the general treasury of refunds of employee taxes and administrative expenses net of receipts for sale of supplies and services.

Source: *The Budget of the United States Government for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 1955.*

fund will pay \$123,500 for contractual services performed by the Office of the Commissioner; this amount is not reflected in table 1.

Both the receipts and expenditures of the old-age and survivors insurance trust fund are estimated to be substantially higher in 1954-55 than in the two preceding fiscal years (table 2). One reason is that the fiscal year 1954-55 will be the program's first full year of operation under the increased contribution rate. The rate, effective January 1, 1954, is 2 percent each for employers and employees and 3 percent for the self-employed. The other reason for the increase is the President's proposals, which would raise receipts in the fiscal year 1954-55 by an estimated \$100 million. The assets of the fund are expected to total \$22 billion by June 30, 1955.

The continued growth in the number of beneficiaries—the result of the gradual maturing of the program and the new-start provisions of the 1950 amendments—and the increase in benefits as a result of the 1950 and 1952 amendments account for the bulk of the rise in trust fund expenditures in 1954-55. Benefits under the existing program are expected to total \$3,675 million in 1954-55, compared with \$3,238 million in the current fiscal year and \$2,628 million in 1952-53. The President's proposals

would increase benefits by an additional \$400 million in 1954-55.

The salaries and expenses of the Bureau of Old-Age and Survivors Insurance are expected to amount to \$65 million in 1954-55. In addition, the trust fund will reimburse \$1 million to the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare and \$25 million to other Federal agencies for administrative expenses attributable to the old-age and survivors insurance program. The President's proposals would increase total administrative expenses in 1954-55 by \$8 million.

for sickness, maternity, old-age, invalidity, and work accidents.

SHAFFER, HELEN B. "Cost of Living." *Editorial Research Reports*, Washington, Vol. 1, Jan. 2, 1954, entire issue. \$1.

SPAIN. *Legislación de Seguridad Social (Vigente en 19 de Marzo de 1953)*. Madrid: Instituto Nacional de Previsión, 1953. Vol. 1. 1,554 pp. Text of laws, decrees, and orders governing compulsory social insurance, family allowances, pension plans by industry groups, and voluntary insurance programs in Spain.

## Retirement and Old Age

"Aging and Retirement." *American Journal of Sociology*, Chicago, Vol. 59, Jan. 1954, entire issue. \$1.25.

Includes Retirement Problems in American Society, by Clark Tibbitts; Flexibility and the Social Roles of the Retired, by Robert J. Havighurst; Changes in the Labor-Force Participation of the Older Worker, by Philip M. Hauser; Social Relations, Activities, and Personal Adjustment, by Ernest W. Burgess; The Migration of Older People, by Charles R. Manley, Jr.; and Economic Aspects of Aging and Retirement, by Robert K. Burns.

CHAPMAN, LEROY E. "The Problem of the Aging: From a Report by the Subcommittee on Aging of the Pennsylvania Joint State Government Commission." *Industrial Medicine and Surgery*, Chicago, Vol. 22, Dec. 1953, pp. 587-590. 75 cents.

CIVIC, MIRIAM. "Aid to Aged: How States Differ and Why." *Conference Board Business Record*, New York, Vol. 10, Dec. 1953, pp. 472-479.

MAYERS, HAROLD J. "The Problems of Ageing Encountered in a Large Medical Care Program." *West Virginia Medical Journal*, Charleston, Vol. 49, Dec. 1953, pp. 352-356. 50 cents.

MEANEY, THOMAS A. "Pension Plans for Small Enterprises." *New York Certified Public Accountant*, New York, Vol. 23, Dec. 1953, pp. 751-756. 50 cents.

## Public Welfare and Relief

ANDREWS, F. EMERSON. *Attitudes Toward Giving*. New York: Russell Sage Foundation, 1953. 145 pp. \$2.

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## Recent Publications\*

### Social Security Administration

CHILDREN'S BUREAU. *Medical Social Services for Children in the Maternal and Child Health and Crippled Children's Programs*. (Children's Bureau Publication No. 343.) Washington: U. S. Govt. Print. Off., 1953. 49 pp. 20 cents.

### General

AMERICAN PARENTS COMMITTEE. *Handbook on Federal Grants-in-Aid*. New York: The Committee, 1953. 216 pp. \$1.50.

BECKER, JOSEPH M. *The Problem of Abuse in Unemployment Benefits: A Study of Limits*. New York: Columbia University Press, 1953. 412 pp. \$6.50.

BIGELOW, HOWARD F. *Family Finance: A Study in the Economics of Consumption*. (rev.) Chicago: J. B. Lippincott Co., 1953. 502 pp. \$7.50.

BURGESS, ERNEST W., and LOCKE, HARVEY J. *The Family, from Institution to Companionship*. (2d ed.) New York: American Book Co., 1953. 729 pp. \$5.75.

FRANCE. MINISTERE DU TRAVAIL ET DE LA SECURITE SOCIALE. *Rapport . . . De Sécurité Sociale. (Statistiques du 1er Janvier 1951 au 31 Décembre 1952.)* Paris: The Ministry, 1953. 90 pp.

Detailed information on insurance

\* Prepared in the Library of the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare. Orders for items listed should be directed to publishers and booksellers; Federal publications for which prices are listed should be ordered from the Superintendent of Documents, U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C.