

even when benefits are based on as many as 40 years of service and on average monthly remuneration as high as \$450. As a result, the same survivor annuity is payable for average monthly remuneration higher than \$400 and for averages of exactly \$400. In general, only survivors of employees with relatively low pay will receive survivor annuities based on the formula in the Railroad Retirement Act.

Amendments to the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act*

Public Law 88-133, in addition to amending the Railroad Retirement Act, makes several changes in the railroad unemployment insurance program. The program has had to borrow funds from the railroad retirement account for several years to meet its obligations, and at the end of October it owed more than \$300 million to that account. The new law is intended to eliminate the need for further borrowing and to permit the gradual repayment of the existing loans.

Although no increase is made in the maximum taxable earnings base (\$400 a month), the maximum rate for contributions, which are payable entirely by the employer, is increased from 3¾ percent of taxable payroll to 4 percent, effective January 1, 1964. (The 4-percent rate was in effect throughout 1962 and 1963 under temporary legislation adopted in 1961 to finance the temporary extended unemployment compensation benefits for railroad workers.) The maximum rate is currently applicable and apparently will continue to be effective for at least a few years because of the condition of the railroad unemployment insurance account.

The interest on funds borrowed from the railroad retirement account is changed from 3 percent to rates equal to the average rate of interest earned by the special obligations in the account.¹ The amount of contributions set aside for administrative expenses is increased from 0.20 percent of taxable payroll to 0.25 percent, since the former rate had proved inadequate.

The conditions for receipt of benefits are made

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¹ See page 17.

somewhat more restrictive by increasing from \$500 to \$750 the amount of base-year earnings required and by disqualifying workers who voluntarily leave work without good cause from receiving railroad unemployment insurance benefits until they return to work and have earned not less than \$750 in railroad employment.

Recent Publications*

SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

DIVISION OF THE ACTUARY. *Actuarial Cost Estimates for Hospital Insurance Bill*, by Robert J. Myers. (Actuarial Study No. 57). Washington: The Division, July 1963. 33 pp.

Includes data and methods used in developing actuarial cost estimates. Limited free distribution; apply to the Division of the Actuary, Social Security Administration, Washington, D.C. 20201.

HESS, ARTHUR E. *Social Insurance Disability Benefits and Rehabilitation in the United States*. Baltimore: The Administration, 1963. 15 pp.

Paper presented before the Ninth World Congress of the International Society for Rehabilitation of the Disabled, held in Copenhagen in June 1963. Limited free distribution; apply to the Social Security Administration, Baltimore, Md. 21235.

PERKINS, FRANCES. *The Roots of Social Security*. Baltimore: The Administration, Aug. 1963. 34 pp.

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WELFARE ADMINISTRATION

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Designed to "help welfare agency staff improve the effectiveness of their work with the ill and disabled." Limited free distribution; apply to the Welfare Administration, Bureau of Family Services, Washington, D.C. 20201.

BUREAU OF FAMILY SERVICES. DIVISION OF MEDICAL CARE STANDARDS. *Home Health Care Services*. (Medical Care in Public Assistance, Guides and Recommended Standards.) Washington: U.S. Govt. Print. Off., 1963. 21 pp. Limited free distribution; apply to the Bureau of Family Services, Welfare Administration, Washington, D.C. 20201.

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