

Three Decades of Social Security Research Publishing: The Bulletin Turns Thirty

- *to record developments in the fields for which the Social Security Board carries responsibility . . .*
- *to summarize data essential to the measurement of social security programs . . .*
- *to present the results of research . . .*
- *to promote a general understanding of the contribution of the social services to the programs of the United States . . .*

THIRTY YEARS AGO this month, Arthur J. Altmeyer, chairman of what was then the Social Security Board, set forth the purposes, summarized above, of a new monthly publication—the SOCIAL SECURITY BULLETIN.

The 94-page first issue (Volume 1, Numbers 1-3) bulged with tables, charts, and analyses of the Nation's still infant social security program. Besides Mr. Altmeyer, who authored the lead article, six other bylines were carried in the issue. The contents was grouped in four major sections: unemployment compensation, public assistance, old-age insurance, and financial data and economic factors. The price for a single copy was 20 cents.

The new magazine, as its editors in the Board's Bureau of Research and Statistics explained, was an effort to bring together in one publication several series of data, some of which formerly were issued only to members of the Board's staff and collaborating agencies. For the most part the earlier publications had been of the desk bulletin variety—compilations of statistics on social insurance, public assistance, and general relief. But in Mr. Altmeyer's words, the new magazine was to become "a link between members of the Board's Nation-wide organization and between the Board and the large number of Federal and State agencies directly concerned" with administering the programs inaugurated by the Social Security Act of 1935.

In Section 702 of that Act, Congress had set forth the duties of the Social Security Board, spelling out the need for basic research. The law referred to

the duty of studying and making recommendations as to the most effective methods of providing economic security through social insurance, and as to legislation and matters of administrative policy concerning old-age pensions, unemployment compensation, accident compensation, and related subjects.

From this provision the Social Security Administration's Office of Research and Statistics has derived its authority and direction. Over the years its research mandate has been discharged within a variety of organizational structures and changes in institutional emphasis. But the basic research task—and the implied mandate to publish the results—has remained unchanged. A primary vehicle of the publication effort, the BULLETIN has continued to be much in the mold of its original issue. Even its price has increased only to 25 cents.

Each of the 359 issues that have followed the first number has been built around two or three special articles, with the remainder devoted to a review of recent changes in program operations, brief analytic notes, a listing of new publications in the field, and current statistics relating to old-age, survivors, disability, and health insurance, unemployment insurance, public assistance, financial data, and economic factors.

Some indication of the extent to which the BULLETIN has become the "link" Mr. Altmeyer envisioned for it is reflected in its current distribution. Some 13 percent of the readers are in Federal agencies, and 23 percent are with State or local governmental units. Thirteen percent of the distribution goes to public libraries and college faculty members, 16 percent to business, union, hospital, and private association officials, 4 percent to physicians, attorneys, clergymen, and certified public accountants, 5 percent to foreign countries, and 26 percent to individuals who indicate no affiliation on their subscription orders.

As a companion to the BULLETIN (carrying calendar-year and cumulative data on the social security programs), the *Annual Statistical Supplement* has been issued each year since 1955 as a separate publication. (The *Supplement* was included in the September issue of the BULLETIN from 1949 to 1955.) The *Statistical Supplement* is the successor to the *Social Security Yearbook*, published annually from 1939 to 1948.

SELECTED BULLETIN ARTICLES

Space does not permit a full listing of BULLETIN articles published over the past 30 years. An updated, cumulative BULLETIN index will be published this year. But the following summary listing of major articles over the past five years reflects the scope of three decades of research and publication effort through the medium of the monthly magazine.

Social Indicator Series*

"National Health Expenditures: 1950-66," April 1968.

"Income-Loss Protection Against Illness, 1948-66," January 1968.

"Social Welfare Expenditures, 1929-67," December 1967.

"Private Health Insurance: Coverage and Financial Experience, 1940-66," November 1967.

"Federal Grants to State and Local Governments, 1965-66," July 1967.

"Growth in Employee-Benefit Plans, 1950-65," April 1967.

"Workmen's Compensation Payments and Costs, 1965," January 1967.

Poverty and Low-Income Index Series

"The Shape of Poverty in 1966," March 1968.

"The Poor in City and Suburb," December 1966.

"More About the Poor in 1964," May 1966.

"Recounting the Poor—A Five-Year Review," April 1966.

"Who's Who Among the Poor, A Demographic View of Poverty," July 1965.

*Represented by most recent annual BULLETIN article.

"Counting the Poor: Another Look at the Poverty Profile," January 1965.

"The Aged Negro and His Income," February 1964.

"Children of the Poor," July 1963.

Health Insurance

"Health Insurance for the Aged: Participating Home Health Agencies," September 1967.

"Health Insurance Coverage Complementary to Medicare," August 1967.

"Medicare's Early Months: A Program Round-up," July 1967.

"The Positive Impact of Medicare on the Nation's Health Care Systems," July 1967.

"Medical Care Price Changes in Medicare's First Year," January 1968.

"Health Insurance for the Aged: Participating Extended-Care Facilities," June 1967.

"Health Insurance for the Aged: Claims Reimbursed for Hospital and Medical Services," May 1967.

"Current Medicare Survey: The Medical Insurance Sample," April 1967.

"Enrollment in the Health Insurance Program for the Aged," March 1967.

"Health Insurance for the Aged: The Statistical Program," January 1967.

Early Retirement

"Another Dimension to Measuring Early Retirement," December 1967.

"Early Retirement and Work-Life Experience," March 1966.

Disability

"Identifying the Disabled: Concepts and Methods in the Measurement of Disability," December 1967.

"Disability Insurance and Aid to the Blind," August 1967.

"Childhood Disability Beneficiaries, 1957-64: Characteristics and Geographic Distribution," February 1967.

"Disability Insurance and Public Assistance: A Study of APTD Recipients," August 1966.

International Area

- "New International Instruments on Invalidity, Old-Age, and Survivors Pensions," October 1967.
- "Social Security and Development Planning: Some Issues," June 1967.
- "Social Security Issues: Fiftieth International Labor Conference," November 1966.
- "Income-Tax Treatment of Old-Age Pensions and Contributions Here and Abroad," August 1966.
- "Social Security in the New African Countries," January 1966.
- International Aspects of Social Security, Special Issue, September 1964.

Legislation

- "Social Security Amendments of 1967: Summary and Legislative History," February 1968.
- "Financing Basis of Old-Age, Survivors, and Disability Insurance and Health Insurance Under the 1967 Amendments," February 1968.
- "Improving the Status of the Aged," December 1966.

Organizational Summary

THE Social Security Board, which came into being August 14, 1935, staffed its research arm, the Bureau of Research and Statistics, the following year. Over the years the Bureau remained an entity, while the parent Board was reorganized under the Federal Security Agency and later became the Social Security Administration. By the time the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare was created in 1953, the Bureau had become the Division of Research and Statistics within the Office of the Commissioner, Social Security Administration, and for a 2-year period was called the Division of Program Research. With the reorganization of the Social Security Administration in January 1963, the Office of Research and Statistics was established as a separate organizational unit, no longer a part of the Commissioner's Office. And since 1963 the ORS Director has been an Assistant Commissioner for Research and Statistics. The directors of the research and statistics effort over these years have been: Walter Hamilton, (1936-37), Ewan Clague (1937-40), Isidore S. Falk (1940-54), Wilbur J. Cohen (1954-56), and Ida C. Merriam from 1956 to the present.

- "Policy Issues in Social Security," June 1966.
- "Railroad Retirement Act as Amended in 1965," February 1966.
- "Social Security Amendments of 1965: Summary and Legislative History," September 1965.

1963 Survey of Aged

- "Differences in Sources and Size of Income: Findings of the 1963 Survey of the Aged," May 1965.
- "Potential Income From Assets: Findings of the 1963 Survey of the Aged," December 1964.
- "Assets of the Aged in 1962: Findings of the 1963 Survey of the Aged," November 1964.
- "Retirement Patterns Among Aged Men: Findings of the 1963 Survey of the Aged," August 1964.
- "Medical Care Costs for the Aged: First Findings of the 1963 Survey of the Aged," July 1964.
- "Work Experience and Earnings of the Aged in 1962: Findings of the 1963 Survey of the Aged," June 1964.
- "Income of the Aged in 1962: First Findings of the 1963 Survey of the Aged," March 1964.

Miscellaneous

- "Social Security Statistical Data, Social Science Research, and Confidentiality," October 1967.
- "OASDI Benefits, Prices, and Wages: 1966 Experience," June 1967.
- "Workers Entitled to Minimum Retirement Benefits Under OASDHI," March 1967.
- "The Family Cycle and Income Development," February 1966.
- "Income Maintenance and the Birth Rate," December 1965.
- Thirtieth Anniversary Issue, August 1965.
- "Women Household Workers Covered by Old-Age, Survivors, and Disability Insurance," July 1965.
- "Role of Redistribution in Social Policy," June 1965.
- "Earnings Test Under Old-Age, Survivors, and Disability Insurance: Basis Background, and Experience," May 1964.

RESEARCH REPORT SERIES

The year 1938 not only saw the birth of the *Social Security Bulletin*, it also marked the release of the agency's first Research Report.¹ These monographs present the results of major research studies and material requiring more comprehensive treatment than a single BULLETIN article can provide. Occasional special reports outside the numbered research report series have also been released. The Social Security Administration's Office of Research and Statistics has published the reports listed below (with the most recent first).

1968 (scheduled):

*No. 25. *Social Welfare Expenditures Under Public Programs in the United States, 1929-66*, Ida C. Merriam and Alfred M. Skolnik, 264 pages (estimated). Price and date of release not yet available.

*No. 24. *Retirement Systems for Employees of State and Local Governments, 1966—Findings of a Survey of Systems Whose Members Were Not Covered Under the OASDHI Program*, Saul Waldman, 88 pages (estimated). Price and date of release not yet available.

*No. 23. *The Economic Status of the Retired Aged in 1980—Simulation Projections*, James Schulz, 72 pages (estimated). Price and date of release not yet available.

*No. 22. *Lifetime Allocation of Work and Leisure*, Juanita Kreps, 40 pages (estimated). Price and date of release not yet available.

*No. 21. *Employment After Retirement—A Study of the Postentitlement Work Experience of Men Drawing Benefits Under Social Security*, Edna Wentworth, 48 pages (estimated). Price and date of release not yet available.

1967:

*No. 20. *Some Economic Effects of Seasonality in OASDHI Tax Payments*, Joseph M. Bonin, 55 pages. 25 cents.

¹ Most of the reports published before 1963 are now out of print, and a few of the later publications as well. Only those items marked with an asterisk are now (or soon to be) available from the U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402.

*No. 19. *The Aged Population of the United States: The 1963 Social Security Survey of the Aged*, Lenore A. Epstein and Janet H. Murray, et al., 423 pages. \$1.25.

*No. 18. *Interindustry Labor Mobility in the United States—1957 to 1960*, Lowell E. Gallaway, 330 pages. \$1.

Social Security Programs Throughout the World, 239 pages. (Earlier editions, 1964, 1961, 1958.) \$1.75. Predecessors to the current series appeared unnumbered in 1954 and as Bureau Reports No. 19 (1954), No. 16 (1949), and No. 5 (1940).

1966:

*No. 17. *Independent Health Insurance Plans in the United States—1965 Survey*, Louis S. Reed, Arne H. Anderson, and Ruth S. Hanft, 98 pages. 35 cents.

*No. 16. *Widows With Children Under Social Security*, Erdman Palmore, Gertrude L. Stanley, and Robert H. Cormier, 96 pages. 35 cents.

*No. 15. *State and Local Government Retirement Systems—1965*, Joseph Krislov, 82 pages. 30 cents.

*No. 14. *Sweden's Social Security System*, Carl G. Uhr, 159 pages. 50 cents.

*No. 13. *Old-Age and Sickness Insurance in West Germany in 1965*, Paul Fisher, 56 pages. 25 cents.

*No. 12. *Financial Experience of Health Insurance Organizations in the United States*, Louis S. Reed, 64 pages. 30 cents.

*No. 11. *Insured and Disabled Workers Under the Social Security Disability Program: Characteristics and Benefit Payments, 1957-1963*, Jacob Schmulowitz and Henry D. Lynn, 37 pages. 20 cents.

1965:

*No. 10. *The Extent of Health Insurance Coverage in the United States*, Louis S. Reed, 67 pages. 30 cents.

*No. 9. *The Retirement Decision: An Explora-*

tory Essay, Lowell E. Gallaway, 62 pages. 30 cents.

*No. 8. *Age and the Income Distribution*, Dorothy S. Brady, 62 pages. 25 cents.

*No. 7. *Social Security and Social Services in France*, Alvin L. Schorr, 48 pages. 35 cents.

1964:

*No. 6. *The Disabled Worker Under OASDI*, Lawrence D. Haber, et al., 368 pages. \$1.25.

*No. 5. *Employment and Earnings of Self-Employed Workers Under Social Security*, George H. Trafton, 30 pages. 20 cents.

1963:

No. 4. *Blue Cross-Blue Shield Nongroup Coverage for Older People*, Louis S. Reed, 36 pages.

No. 3. *Income Security Standards in Old-Age*, Lenore A. Epstein, 26 pages.

*No. 2. *Independent Health Insurance Plans in the United States: 1961*, Donald G. Hay, Louis S. Reed, and Robert E. Melia, 45 pages. 25 cents.

*No. 1. *Slums and Social Insecurity*, Alvin L. Schorr, 168 pages. 50 cents.

1962:

The Health Care of the Aged—Background facts relating to the financing problem, 159 pages.

Independent Health Insurance Plans—A List by States, Medical Economic Studies Unit, 54 pages.

1961:

Economic Assumptions Underlying the Medium-Range Projections of the Federal Old-Age and Survivors Insurance and Disability Insurance Trust Funds, 1966–75, Moses Lukaczer, 40 pages.

A Research Program for the Social Security Administration—Report of Advisory Group to the

Commissioner of Social Security, Eveline M. Burns, et al., 30 pages.

1960:

The Costs of Hospital and Surgical Services 1947–59: Charges Made to an Insured Group, Agnes W. Brewster, 50 pages.

Filial Responsibility in the Modern American Family, Alvin L. Schorr, 45 pages.

1959:

Measuring Income Security of the Aged—A Source Book of State and National Data Related to the Income Needs of the Older Population and Their Sources and Amounts of Income, Dorothy F. McCamman, 113 pages.

1956:

No. 20. *Health Costs of the Aged: A Source Book on the Use of Hospital and Medical Services and on Health Insurance and Other Methods of Financing Medical Care Among the Aged*, Agnes W. Brewster and Dorothy F. McCamman, 126 pages.

1953:

No. 18. *Hospitalization and Insurance Among Aged Persons: A Study on a Census Survey in March 1952*, I. S. Falk and Agnes W. Brewster, 82+ pages.

1952:

No. 17. *Social Security Financing*, Ida C. Merriam, 204 pages.

1948:

No. 15. *Outline of Federal Retirement Systems*, Thurza J. Brannon, 144 pages.

1946:

No. 14. *Mobility of Workers in Employment Covered by Old-Age and Survivors Insurance*, Franklin M. Aaronson and Ruth A. Keller, 80 pages.

1945:

No. 13. *Cash Benefits Under the New Zealand Social Security Program*, Jacob Fisher, 42 pages.

1944:

No. 12. *Scope of Protection Under State and Local Government Retirement Systems*, Dorothy F. McCamman, 150 pages.

1941:

No. 11. *Unemployment Compensation Rights of Workers Employed in More Than One State*, Ida C. Merriam and Elizabeth T. Bliss, 87 pages.

No. 10. *Analyzing the Use of Staff Time in Public Assistance Agencies: A Handbook on Time-Study Methods*, Joel Gordon and Byron T. Hipple, 47 pages.

1940:

No. 8. *Trends in Public Assistance, 1933-39*, 98 pages.

No. 6. *Cash Benefits Under Voluntary Disability Insurance in the United States*, E. L. Otey, 117 pages.

No. 4. *Seasonal Workers and Unemployment In-*

urance in Great Britain, Germany, and Austria, Franz Huber, 167 pages.

1938:

No. 3. *Unemployment and Health Insurance in Great Britain 1911-37*, Marianne Sakmann, 44 pages.

No. 2. *A Plan for a Case Census of Recipients of Public Assistance*, Margaret C. Klem, 92 pages.

No. 1. *Tabular Summary of Statistics of Public Assistance Under the Social Security Act for the Calendar Year 1937*, 52 pages.

BUREAU MEMORANDUMS

In addition to the monographs in the research report series, another type of publication was issued in earlier years—the technical studies published as Bureau Memorandums in a numbered series (1-73). Some of the significant items in that series include:

No. 67. *A Budget for an Elderly Couple*, 1948, 38 pages.

No. 66. *The Principle of Equalization Applied to the Allocation of Grants in Aid*, Byron L. Johnson, 1947, 225 pages.

No. 63. *Social Insurance Financing in Relation to Consumer Income and Expenditures*, Selma J. Mushkin, Anne Scitovsky, and Leila N. Small, 1946, 105 pages.

No. 56. *Survey of Social Security Statistics*, Herman Sturm, 71 pages.

No. 52. *Economic Perspectives, 1943-48*, W. S. Woytinsky, 1943, 176 pages.

No. 51. *Medical Care and Costs in Relation to Family Income: A Statistical Source Book*, Helen Hollingsworth, Margaret C. Klem, and Anna Mae Baney, 1947, 349 pages. (First edition, 1943.)

No. 43. *The Fiscal Capacity of the States: A Source Book*, 1940. (Revision of 1937 and 1938 editions.)