

6. *Prospective changes in program orientation*

(a) *Pending legislative proposals.*—In the immediate future, preparation for administering the health insurance proposals will be of first priority. The history of the social security programs would, however, indicate that the Congress will continue to make additions and improvements, and to fill gaps in coverage when they become apparent.

(b) *Proposed administrative and organizational changes.*—In July 1965, a reorganization of the Social Security Administration went into effect. The reorganization made certain basic improvements in organization structure which the passage of time and the growth of the social security programs, in size and complexity, made increasingly desirable, and also was sufficiently broad to fully accommodate the new responsibilities growing out of the 1965 amendments to the Social Security Act.

The primary objectives of the reorganization are:

(i) Accommodate within the overall structure of the Social Security Administration the important new units with special responsibility for the hospital and supplementary medical insurance programs.

(ii) Modify existing units to accommodate additional responsibilities because of these programs.

(iii) Provide for greater efficiency and economy and fuller utilization of scarce skills in the new technical area of electronic data processing and transmission by centering responsibility for this function in a single headquarters unit.

(iv) Strengthen the role of the management unit at the top level of the agency in order to better assure the most effective, efficient, and economical administration of both old and new program responsibilities.

(v) Increase the technical support for district offices, payment centers, and State agency operation by assigning responsibility for functional supervision of technical work to specialized bureaus and their representatives.

(vi) Strengthen the administration of the social security program in the field by placing responsibility for coordination and leadership of all social security activities in a given geographical area under a Regional Assistant Commissioner reporting directly to the Office of the Commissioner.

As reorganized, the Social Security Administration headquarters now consists of seven bureaus and five staff offices, with eight Regional Assistant Commissioners in the field having broad responsibility for all social security activities in a geographic area, reporting to the Commissioner of Social Security.

The seven bureaus, each headed by a Bureau Director reporting to the Commissioner, are: Bureau of Data Processing and Accounts, Bureau of Hearings and Appeals, Bureau of Federal Credit Unions, Bureau of Health Insurance, Bureau of Retirement and Survivors Insurance, Bureau of Disability Insurance, and Bureau of District Office Operations. Each of the latter four Bureaus has a regional representative in a given geographic area, and is responsible for the SSA-wide effectiveness of their respective programs in the headquarters and the field. The Regional Assistant Commissioners assure