

gation on alleged forgeries of benefit checks and other matters that are of concern to the SSA but are not violations of the Social Security Act.

(vi) Department of State: The Department of State, like the Veterans Administration, functions for SSA outside the United States. The Department performs duties around the world relating to the dissemination of information, the handling of inquiries by potential claimants, the handling of technical claims problems, and the investigation of such matters required by the SSA claims process. SSA finances different aspects of the program, depending upon the local needs of the various countries. Such financing is done under general informal written arrangements with the Department of State to the effect that SSA will reimburse and pay costs if the State Department feels it cannot supply the services without reimbursement or if the workload is too great. In the administration of the disability program, SSA has negotiated with the Department agreements and procedures for processing disability claims by residents of foreign countries. In this process, Department of State staff in foreign countries receive claims, communicate requirements to claimants, certify the qualifications of foreign physicians, and in other ways facilitate the processing of foreign claims.

Other examples of areas in which SSA cooperates with the Department of State are preparing consular reports on foreign social security systems; conducting seminars for foreign social security officials; and assisting in the training of labor attachés.

(vii) Department of Commerce, Bureau of Census: In many instances, the only early sources of proof of age for social security claimants are census records. Coordinated procedures have been established with the Census Bureau for claimants to secure such evidence. In some instances where it is necessary to verify that a claimant is of retirement age, the record is obtained from the Census Bureau, with the claimant's consent. This is a continuing coordinating process.

SSA cooperates with the Bureau of the Census in the preparation of the publication "County Business Patterns." In other areas SSA uses the Bureau in carrying out many of its surveys and for the tabulation of data from the surveys.

(viii) Treasury and Post Office Departments: Among the matters of common concern are problems of loss or theft of benefit checks, special sorting devices to enable expeditious processing by the Treasury and Post Office of the tremendous volume of social security checks, prompt settlement of claims of nonreceipt of checks, and issuance of regulations in accordance with section 205(n) of the Social Security Act, as amended, permitting negotiation of a combined husband-wife check that was not negotiated prior to the death of one of the beneficiaries.

(ix) Other Federal departments or agencies:

(1) The Social Security Act provides for the granting of gratuitous wage credits of \$160 per month for military service during and after World War II service but before 1957 where no other Federal agency (other than VA) is paying or has paid a periodic benefit based on such service. The veteran must have had a certain minimum amount of service and must have been discharged under conditions other than dishonorable. This provision requires extensive coordination with military service departments