

for purposes of ascertaining the type of discharge, the dates of active service, and whether any other benefits are payable based on such service. Coordination with other Federal benefit-paying organizations, such as the Civil Service Commission, becomes necessary in certain cases. In the administration of the health insurance program, coordination with the Civil Service Commission also is necessary to effect coverage of their annuitants.

(2) Continued emphasis is being placed by the Office of Research and Statistics on the development of ways for capitalizing on the potential wealth of SSA statistics as a resource for economic and social research. Information relating to individuals is not released except in specified circumstances as provided in the statute and regulations. Statistical data and other materials not involving disclosure are made available for research use to the maximum extent consistent with other administrative demands. As a consequence, opportunities for coordination and cooperation with other programs or agencies will undoubtedly increase.

(d) *With State governments and their instrumentalities.*—The implementation of the OASDHI program requires continuous close coordination and cooperation with designated agencies of the State governments.

There is a provision for coverage of State and local government employees by contract between the States and the Federal Government. To administer this provision, cooperation is achieved by providing a handbook for State administrators, making available individuals for technical discussions at the State level, and helping the State in disseminating information and assistance to its local reporting officials. SSA meets with, provides information to, and utilizes the cooperation of associations of State administrators.

In the administration of the disability program, the State agencies, under agreements with the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare, make determinations as to the existence of a disability as defined in the law. Payment is made to the States for the cost of this service. Agreements have been negotiated in all States involving 56 separate agencies; on several occasions since the disability program was enacted it has been necessary to modify agreements. Periodically, staff from SSA headquarters and regional offices visit State agencies to confer on adjudicative, administrative, and operation problems. Use is also made of a "States' Council Committee on SSA Relationships," made up of designated members of the "States' Council of VR Directors." At periodic meetings of this Committee proposed policies and procedures are presented to get reactions and to elicit ideas for improving the Federal-State partnership in the disability insurance program.

Also, the disability provisions of the Social Security Act include a section requiring the reduction of the benefits where the claimant is receiving a payment under a Federal or State workmen's compensation statute. To administer this provision the need arises for SSA to work out arrangements with the Federal and State agencies having jurisdiction over the workmen's compensation laws (State workmen's compensation bureaus and commissions) to secure information as to whether a person is a workmen's compensation beneficiary.