

The level of living of the 23 million people who are now getting social security benefits would be greatly improved, and 1.4 million aged people among them would be moved out of poverty. In addition, the protection of current workers and their families—about 86 million will work under social security in 1967—would be very significantly improved.

Following is a list of the major proposals that the President has recommended:

1. A benefit increase amounting to at least 15 percent for all beneficiaries now on the rolls, with a minimum benefit of \$70.

This provision would result in additional payments of \$3.9 billion in the first 12 months of operation.

2. A special minimum benefit of \$100 for workers with at least 25 years of coverage under social security; the special minimum would be equal to \$4 multiplied by the number of years of coverage up to 25.

About 100,000 people would benefit under this provision. About \$7 million in additional benefits would be paid in the first 12 months of operation.

3. An increase from \$1,500 to \$1,680 in the amount of annual earnings a beneficiary under age 72 can have without having any benefits withheld, and an increase from \$125 to \$140 in the amount of monthly earnings a person can have and still get a benefit for the month. Under the proposal, as under present law, \$1 in benefits would be withheld for each \$2 of the first \$1,200 of earnings above the annual exempt amount, and \$1 in benefits would be withheld for each \$1 in earnings thereafter.

About 750,000 people would get additional benefits under the provision. An estimated \$185 million would be paid out in additional benefits in the first full year of operation.

4. Monthly cash benefits for the disabled widow of an insured worker where the widow becomes disabled before 7 years after the worker's death or before 7 years after termination of her entitlement to benefits as a mother.

About 70,000 widows would benefit immediately and about \$75 million in additional benefits would be paid out in the first 12 months of operation.

5. Health insurance benefits for disabled beneficiaries—disabled workers, disabled adults getting benefits on the basis of disabilities that have continued since childhood, and disabled widows under age 65.