

An estimated additional 1.5 million social security beneficiaries—1.2 million disabled workers, 200,000 people getting disabled child's benefits, 100,000 disabled widows under 65—would be eligible for health insurance benefits. Benefit payments under this proposal in the first year are expected to be \$225 million under the hospital insurance program and \$100 million under the medical insurance program. (Similar protection would be provided for qualified disabled railroad retirement annuitants.)

6. Social security credit, through transfers of credit, for Federal employment of workers whose Federal service is subject to the civil service or the foreign service retirement system if benefits are not payable to the workers or their families under such system at the time they retire, become disabled or die.

Adoption of this proposal would prevent losses of protection by employees who leave Federal service in the future.

7. An increase from \$35 to \$50 (from \$52.50 to \$75 for a couple) in the special payments that were provided under the 1965 amendments and the Tax Adjustment Act of 1966 for certain people age 72 and over who cannot meet the regular insured status requirements of the program.

The increase in these payments would amount to about \$240 million in additional benefit payments during the first 12 months of operation. Of this amount, \$215 million would be met from general revenues. (The old-age and survivors insurance trust fund pays for the cost of benefits only for those who have worked for more than half a year under the program.) About 1.2 million people would qualify for some payments or higher payments as a result of this proposal.

8. A change in the present coverage requirements for agricultural workers which would provide coverage for the farmworker if he was paid at least \$50 (instead of the present requirement of \$150) in a year for farmwork by an employer or if he worked at least 10 days (instead of the present requirement of 20 days) in a year for that employer.

This proposal would improve the social security coverage of 500,000 agricultural workers, including migratory workers, who in many instances do not meet the coverage requirements in present law.

9. Coverage of podiatrists' services under the supplementary medical insurance program where the services are of the type now covered if performed by a physician.