

Other provisions in the bill would increase annuities of spouses and survivors of employees in a way similar to that provided for increasing employee annuities, except that the minimum increase above the amount payable under the 1966 amendments to the Railroad Retirement Act would be about \$5 a month instead of about \$10, and except that the spouse's annuity would not be increased over the maximum amount provided in Section 2(e) of the Railroad Retirement Act.

Further, the bill would provide reduced annuities for disabled widows and widowers who have attained age 50 under roughly the same conditions as monthly benefits would be provided for totally disabled widows and widowers covered under the Social Security Amendments of 1967, except that there would be no waiting period before such an annuity could be paid. The reduction would be by three-tenths of 1 per cent for each month the individual is under age 60 when the annuity begins. This factor will ordinarily produce for the disabled widow a benefit somewhat higher than 110 per cent of the corresponding amount under the Social Security Act. The reduction would remain in effect throughout the individual's life. If the annuity is not paid for some months after it begins (for example, in the case of a recovery from disability) the reduction would be adjusted after age 60 is attained by removing from the reduction period the months for which the annuity was not paid.

This bill would amend Section 1(h) of the Act to increase the amount to be credited for each month of military service after 1967 from \$160 to \$260. This would be in accord with the increase in wage credits under the Social Security Act (as amended in 1967) for military service.

The provisions requiring the loss of an employee's disability annuity payment because of work would be changed so that he could now earn \$2,400 in a year instead of \$1,200 without losing annuity payments for any month in the year; also, as a result of the change, he could earn as much as \$200 in a month instead of \$100, regardless of his total earnings for the year, and not lose his annuity for that month.

Finally, the bill would remove an inequity in present law. Prior to 1957, the Railroad Retirement Act and the Social Security Act required, for the purpose of benefits based on a marital relationship, that there be a marriage valid in all respects. In 1957, the Social Security Act was amended to provide benefits in some cases even if the marriage was not valid as theretofore required. The strict requirements in this respect under the Railroad Retirement Act, however, remained unchanged. This resulted in the denial, under the Railroad Retirement Act, of benefits in cases where, in similar situations, the Social Security Administration would have paid the benefits. There are also other cases where individuals, such as a child, can qualify as having the necessary family status under the Social Security Act to be paid benefits but cannot qualify under the Railroad Retirement Act. Title I of the bill would amend the Railroad Retirement Act to incorporate the provisions of the entire current section 216(h) of the Social Security Act in this respect.

There would be some changes of a technical nature designed to facilitate administration. Some of these changes in regard to determining wage and compensation credits before 1951 by electronic computer, would be in general accord with similar changes in the Social Security Act effected by the amendments of 1967.

The increase in annuities provided by the bill would be effective with respect to annuities accruing for months beginning with the month in which the increases in benefits under title II of the Social Security Act are effective (February 1968) and with respect to pensions due in months next following such month.

TITLE II—AMENDMENTS TO THE RAILROAD UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ACT

Title II of H.R. 14563 would amend the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act as shown below.

(1) Maternity benefits would be eliminated, but the definition of "day of sickness" in Section 1(k) of the Act would be amended so as to specifically include a day on which, because of pregnancy, miscarriage, or the birth of a child, a female employee is unable to work or working would be injurious to her health.

(2) The amount of creditable compensation an employee must earn in a base year, as a qualifying condition for the payment of benefits under the Act, would be increased from the present \$750 to \$1,000. A corresponding increase would be made in the subsidiary remuneration provision, and in the provision stating the minimum amount of compensation which an employee who has voluntarily