

left work must be paid with respect to time after such leaving before his disqualification for unemployment benefits can end.

(3) The benefit rate schedule would be revised, and the maximum daily benefit rate would be increased from \$10.20 to \$12.70 for days of unemployment and days of sickness.

(4) Provision would be made for extended sickness benefits similar to the extended unemployment benefits now provided.

(5) The present provision for the possible early beginning of a benefit year in cases involving days of unemployment would be expanded to provide for the possible early beginning of a benefit year in cases involving days of sickness.

(6) Attainment of age 65 would end all rights to extended sickness benefits. In an accelerated benefit year begun for the purpose of the payment of sickness benefits, attainment of age 65 prior to the beginning of the general benefit year which was accelerated would end all rights to further sickness benefits until the beginning of the general benefit year. These limitations would not deprive any employee of rights he now has to sickness benefits under the present law; such rights would continue unaffected.

(7) Provision is made for the transfer from the Railroad Retirement Account to the railroad unemployment insurance account, at the close of each fiscal year, of the amount which, if added to the railroad unemployment insurance account, would place such account in the same position it would have been in at the close of such fiscal year if every employee who had been paid extended or accelerated sickness benefits in the fiscal year, and who upon application therefor would have been entitled to a disability annuity under Section 2(a) of the Railroad Retirement Act with respect to some or all of the days for which such benefits were paid, had been paid such annuity with respect to all days of sickness for which he was paid benefits which were also days with respect to which such annuity could have accrued.

(8) An additional disqualifying condition would be added, with the effect that an employee who has been paid a separation allowance would not receive any unemployment or sickness benefits for a period following his separation from service. The length of the period would be determined by a formula taking into account the amount of his allowance, his last daily rate of pay, and the number of days in his normal work week.

A more detailed explanation of these changes is given below.

(1) *Elimination of maternity benefits, and provision for days of sickness due to pregnancy, miscarriage, or the birth of a child.*—Under present law, a woman employee could receive the equivalent of 260 days of sickness and maternity benefits in a single benefit year (130 days for sickness, and the equivalent of 130 days of maternity benefits). Under the amendments she could receive no maternity benefits, and the maximum number of days for which she could receive normal sickness benefits in a single benefit year would be 130. For example: if a female employee should be paid for 100 days of sickness during pregnancy and following the birth of her child, she would be entitled to normal sickness benefits for no more than 30 additional days of sickness in that same benefit year (she might be entitled to extended sickness benefits if she had 10 or more years of service and met the other requirements). The statement of sickness that the Board would require with respect to the days of sickness during the pregnancy and following the birth of her child would establish that each day claimed is a day of sickness because it is a day on which, because of pregnancy, miscarriage, or the birth of a child, she is unable to work or working would be injurious to her health.

(2) *Increase in qualifying amount.*—The increase from \$750 to \$1,000 in the amount of creditable compensation which an employee must earn in a base year in order to be qualified to receive benefits under the Act is warranted by the increase in wages since 1963, when such qualifying amount was last increased (from \$500 to \$750). Corresponding changes would be made in the subsidiary remuneration provision, and in the provision stating the minimum amount of compensation which an employee who has voluntarily left work must be paid with respect to time after such leaving before his disqualification for unemployment benefits can end.

(3) *Increase in maximum daily benefit rate.*—Except for the stricter eligibility requirements provided for in the 1963 amendments to the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act (by Public Law 88-133), there have been no changes in the benefit provisions of the Act since those made by the 1959 amendments (Public Law 86-28). Since that time, however, there have been major changes