

children who, for at least 9 years before their sixteenth birthday, were brought up by the deceased and were dependent on him. The general scheme also provides a lump sum death grant, equal to 90 days' earnings of the deceased.

Adjustment of Pensions in Pay

Old age, disability and survivor pensions in pay are adjusted automatically with changes in national average wages. Before April 1 of each year, and with effect from that date, the Minister of Labour and the Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs issue an order that fixes the amount of the adjustments to pensions being paid. The adjustments are based on the ratio between the average contributory wages of insured persons in the past year to the corresponding average in the preceding year.

Financing

The general old age, survivor and disability insurance scheme for non-agricultural employees is financed entirely by employer and employee contributions and does not involve any financial participation by the government. In 1964 contributions were made by insured persons at the rate of 6 per cent on the first 970 francs of monthly earnings. Employer contributions were set at 11.25 per cent of the same wages and salaries. These contributions also finance sickness and maternity benefits.

II—PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

In addition to the general scheme for non-agricultural employees there is also provided under the French social security system a series of old age, survivor and disability assistance payments to retired wage-earners who do not have the right to pension. The program is financed mainly by contributions from the existing social security schemes.

To receive old age assistance, the claimant must be a French national, resident in France on the date of claim, and age 65 or, if incapacitated, age 60. He must also show evidence of having been a wage earner for 15 years after age 50 or for 25 years during his working life. The conditions for entitlement to dependent's supplements are similar to those applying to old age pensioners.

The amount of assistance granted is fixed by law. The maximum rate in 1964 was 900 francs a year for a man and 50 francs a year for his dependent wife. When his wife reaches age 65 or, if unable to work, age 60, the supplement is increased to 900 francs a year. A further supplement of 10 per cent can be granted where the claimant had raised or is raising three children.

Where the income of the pensioner and the allowance exceed maximum allowable levels the amount of assistance is reduced accordingly.

(d) Old Age, Survivors and Disability Pensions—West Germany

In the Federal Republic of Germany, old age, disability and survivors pensions are provided to wage-earners and salaried employees under two separate social insurance systems. In addition, there are special systems for miners, public employees, and self-employed farmers. The following comments refer to the social insurance schemes for wage-earners, salaried employees, and miners, which are similar in a great many ways, and to the public assistance scheme organized for farmers.

Sources:

International Social Security Association, *Old Age Insurance, National Monographs, Volume 1*, Geneva, 1959.

United States, D.H.E.W., *Social Security Programs Throughout The World*, Washington, 1964.

France, Fédération nationale des Organismes de Sécurité sociale, *Guide du Correspondant de Caisse de Sécurité sociale, jusqu'à 1964*, Paris.