



SOCIETY OF ACTUARIES

Article from:

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Letters*(Continued from page 5)*

(2)) Comments, in advance of publication are not usually solicited from the entire membership.

(3)) A committee meeting open for interested members to attend and speak, is rarely held.

(4) Final texts of opinions sometimes are available in such limited quantities that members don't even know exactly what was decided.

(5) Too many significant decisions are made without being voted upon by the membership.

With those who plead urgency or who say that the issues are clean-cut, I am sympathetic. But the question is fundamental—how shall we run our own professional organizations, democratically or not?

Barnet N. Berlin

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Actuary Needed in Public Service

The Health Care Financing Administration of H.E.W. in Baltimore has a new management post open for an actuary. The position is Director of its Office of Financial and Actuarial Analysis.

Naturally our profession is keenly interested in this senior post being filled by a well-qualified actuary. If you desire particulars on your own or somebody else's behalf, please write to:

Ms. Nancy Peters
Room G-59 East High Rise
6401 Security Boulevard
Baltimore, MD 21235.

Death

Lawrence R. Schiff—ASA 1966

JOINT EXAMINATIONS

The Joint Board for the Enrollment of Actuaries issued on June 13th a News Release covering the Status Report on the examination program. This explains the jointly administered program, discusses the standards for passing the examinations, and gives details of plans for holding the next examinations in the relatively near future.

This is important for all students taking the examinations. Copies of the Release may be obtained from the Joint Board. □

Actuarial Meetings

Nov. 15, Southeastern Actuaries Club
Nov. 20, Actuaries Club of Philadelphia
Dec. 13, Actuaries' Club of Hartford

RECENT SOCIAL SECURITY DISABILITY EXPERIENCE — by Bruce D. Schobel

The Social Security disability experience seems to be heading into a plateau. Several important indicators of changes have been generally stable for nearly a year; others have reached levels where further improvement seems unlikely.

The table herewith displays statistics for years 1970-78, and projections for 1979 based on data available through June.

Applications for disability benefits, generally declining since the peak years 1974-75, have now stabilized. The total

number for 1979 is projected to be about the same as in 1978.

Although the application rate has levelled, the approval rate, and, therefore, the disability incidence rate, have continued to drop steadily. The total number of 1979 awards is expected to be about 8% below 1978, but no further significant improvement seems likely. The current gross incidence rate is the lowest experienced in the 1970's.

Numbers of recoveries and the gross recovery rate are continuing their recent

upward trend. The projected recovery rate for calendar year 1979 is very near the high levels of 1970-71.

The decreasing disability incidence rate and the increasing recovery rate have caused the size of the disabled worker population to remain relatively constant. The number of primary beneficiaries has varied less than 0.3% in the last twelve months, and even decreased in six of those months. No significant change is expected for the remainder of this year.

SOCIAL SECURITY DISABLED WORKER EXPERIENCE

Number Recorded in Year
(thousands)

Gross Annual Rates

Calendar year	Number Recorded in Year (thousands)			Beneficiaries at Year-End (thousands)	Gross Annual Rates	
	Applications	Awards	Recoveries		Incidence (per thousand insured)	Recovery (per thousand exposed)
1970	868	350	41	1,493	4.84	27.9
1971	924	416	43	1,648	5.58	27.1
1972	949	455	39	1,833	5.98	22.5
1973	1,066	492	37	2,017	6.32	18.9
1974	1,330	536	38 1/2	2,237	6.66	17.7 1/2
1975	1,285	592	39 1/2	2,489	7.11	16.4 1/2
1976	1,233	552	40 1/2	2,670	6.47	15.4 1/2
1977	1,235	569	60 1/2	2,837	6.54	21.7 1/2
1978	1,185	457	64	2,880	5.14	22.3
1979 2/	1,200	420	75	2,880	4.64	25.9

1/ From September 1974, through June 1977, procedures for identifying recovery terminations were defective. Numbers of recovery terminations have been estimated for years 1974 through 1977.

2/ Projected based on data through June.