

Security Bills
(Also filed
individually)

COMMENTS ON PENDING BILLS

1. HR 160 It would extend widows/widowers benefits to people from age 50 - 62.

 This would obviously benefit some Federal employees and their families, as well as many others.

 The cost would be enormous so this provision is almost certainly not going to become law, especially since it makes little sense. After all, why should someone in their 50's, not disabled, without small children, receive government payments?

2. HR 159 It would extend disabled widows/widowers benefits to any age group, rather than just to those over age 50 as under current law.

 This also would obviously benefit some Federal employees and their families, as well as others.

 This bill makes more sense than HR 160, but it also would be extremely expensive and therefore probably won't pass.

3. HR 158 This bill, referred to as "The Social Security Modernization Act" would combine and split evenly husband/wife earnings during the course of a marriage. It would phase out various types of benefits, such as those for non-working spouses, because such spouses would become eligible for benefits in their own right due to the earnings credited to them.

 This bill could have an effect on benefits paid to employees, but not for many years, due to the phase-in provisions.

 A close look at the way records would be kept under this provision might be needed later.

 The sort of plan worked out in this bill has been discussed for years. It may well pass this year or in the near future. It is not a costly bill and it is perceived as adding fairness to the system.

4. HR 157 This would give child care credit for up to 10 years in order to help some people meet the eligibility requirements for the special minimum benefit.

 Although this may well pass, as other child care provisions have already been implemented, its effect on Federal employees in most cases, would be nil.