

## PENSIONS SOON TO BE BOOSTED

### Widows and Dependent Widowers Benefit

Most, but not all, aged widows and dependent widowers will get increased payments from social security starting February 3, according to Loye M. Copeland, district manager for social security in New Orleans.

Widows don't have to do anything to get these increases, he reported, as each widow beneficiary will have her benefit amount refigured automatically by computers.

"Last weekend, widows in the Metropolitan New Orleans area, whose benefits will be affected, received a letter advising them of the amount of their increase. Some will not receive increases as much as they expected," he stated.

Copeland explained that there has been some confusion about the increases in widow payments, because of a misunderstanding of the new regulations by the public.

Under the recent amendments, increases will go to 89 per cent of the 3.5 million aged widows who get monthly payments based on their late husbands' account.

He said that about two out of five of these widows will get 21.2 per cent more than they were getting, while about half of them will get increases ranging from about one-half per cent to 21 per cent.

"Those widows who did not start to get payments until they were 65 or older, and whose husbands did not take retirement benefits until age 65 or later, or who died before becoming entitled to retirement benefits, will be the ones receiving the 21.2 per cent increases," he stated.

Before the amendments, widows in this category received 82.5 per cent of their husband's benefit amount. Now they will be entitled to 100 per cent.

Smaller increases will be paid to widows who first got checks before 65.

Widows who get no increase under the new law will be mostly sole survivors whose husbands would have qualified by the minimum retirement benefits.

Copeland said that the new law also applies to some 500,000 dependent widowers.

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