When asked whether they would some day retire and give up all work as farm operators, nearly half in Area 7 and about one-third in Area 5 were uncertain. In both areas about one-third definitely expected to retire, and approximately one-fourth expected not to retire.

Most of the operators expected to live with their spouse or alone on their present farm if they retired or were forced to retire.

Nearly half of the farmers interviewed would hazard no guess as to how much money they would need each month to retire on. Most of those making some estimate choose a figure between $75 and $149 per month.

One of the most important questions asked of the farm operators in this study was whether or not they felt they would be able to take care of themselves if they retired or were forced to retire. Forty percent in both areas were confident that they could. The rest were either uncertain or sure they could not. The proportion of those confident of their ability to retire increased with age. In only one age group, however, those 65 and over, did a majority feel confident they could retire.

Approximately 70 percent of the farmers in both economic areas felt that farming provides no more security in old age than other occupations.

Over one-half the farmers in Area 7 and over two-thirds in Area 5 thought that farm operators should be included in the OASI program.

Financial Interchange Between Railroad Retirement Program and OASI

In February 1954 the first transfer of funds from the railroad retirement account was made to the old-age and survivors insurance trust fund under the terms of the 1951 amendments to the Railroad Retirement Act (Public Law No. 234, 82d Cong., 1st sess.). The legislation provides for a degree of coordination between the railroad retirement and old-age and survivors insurance programs.[1] Under the amendments the railroad wage credits of workers who die or retire with less than 10 years of railroad employment are transferred to the old-age and survivors insurance system, and benefits are paid by that system. Workers who acquire 10 years or more of railroad service are not affected by the legislation; that is, their survivors can, as under the 1946 amendments to the Railroad Retirement Act, receive benefits under one program or the other on the basis of the combined wage records, while retirement benefits will usually be payable under both systems to individuals with 10 or more years of railroad service who also qualify under old-age and survivors insurance.

With respect to the allocation of costs between the two systems, the amendments require the Railroad Retirement Board and the Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare to "determine, no later than January 1, 1954, the amount which would place the Federal Old-Age and Survivors Insurance Trust Fund in the same position in which it would have been at the close of the fiscal year ending June 30, 1952, if service as an employee [of a railroad] after December 31, 1936, had been included in the term "employment" as defined in the Social Security Act and in the Federal Insurance Contributions Act."

The Social Security Administration and the Railroad Retirement Board recently completed a series of joint actuarial studies and analyses, required by this provision. The results show that the addition of $488 million to the old-age and survivors insurance trust fund would place it in the same position as of June 30, 1952, in which it would have been if railroad employment had always been covered under the Social Security Act.

Although the law does not authorize the transfer of the $488 million from the railroad retirement account to the trust fund, the legislation provides that, beginning with the fiscal year 1952–53, and for each fiscal year thereafter, annual interest payments on this amount (less any offsets[2]) are to be transferred from the railroad retirement account to the old-age and survivors insurance trust fund. Interest for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1953, amounted to $11.6 million, and the transfer to the trust fund was made in February 1954, as shown in table 3, page 19, of this issue of the BULLETIN.

[1] See Robert J. Myers, "Railroad Retirement Act Amendments of 1951: Financial and Actuarial Aspects," *Social Security Bulletin*, March 1952.

[2] Ibid., pp. 16–18.