

BOB DOLE

1ST DISTRICT, KANSAS

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# Congress of the United States

## House of Representatives

August 8, 1966  
Washington, D.C. 20515

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Mr. William Castleman  
Executive Director  
American Federation of Senior Citizens  
22 West Madison Avenue  
Chicago, Illinois

Dear Mr. Castleman:

I wish to thank you for sending me a copy of your latest bulletin headed "Elderly to Seek Increase in Social Security Benefits".

I especially noted item 2 under the heading "National Program" with reference to amending the Social Security Act to meet the increases in the cost of living. In this connection, you may be interested in the enclosed copy of my bill to accomplish this objective, and would appreciate any comments on it you might care to make.

Sincerely yours,

BOB DOLE  
Member of Congress

BD:dr

Enclosure

70-7  
Joc. Sec

# The Senior Citizen

DEVOTED TOWARD HELPING THE  
AGED ATTAIN A MORE SECURE LIFE

BOB DOLE

*Published by the American Federation of Senior Citizens*

22 West Madison Street

Chicago 2, Illinois



Subscription Price \$1.00 a Year

## *Elderly to Seek Increase in Social Security Benefits*

SEEK AN ADEQUATE LIVING INCOME

### NATIONAL PROGRAM

1. A 15 per cent increase in Social Security benefits. Payments to come from the Federal General Revenue and the increases in the Gross National Product.
2. Amend Social Security Act to meet the increases in the cost of living. When the Consumers Price Index shows a 3 per cent increase in living costs, automatically the benefits should be increased to balance.
3. Medicare should cover Prescription Medicine, Dentistry, Optometry, Glasses and Hearing Aids.
4. Decent, low rent housing. Increases in rents are again working a hardship upon the low income elderly. The Supplementary Rent Program passed in 1965, has not been of much help because of the small appropriation made by Congress. Should the next Congress make a much larger appropriation that will enable non-profit organizations to build for the elderly decent homes at rents they can afford, it will give many of our aged a new lease on life.
5. When the Congress increases Social Security benefits to help restore the loss in the purchasing power of the benefit dollar, most states indirectly confiscate the increase from the small Social Security recipients who are also on public aid. This greed of some of the states should be stopped by Congress.
6. Widows who remarry should not face a reduction of 50 per cent in their Social Security benefits. They should have a fair chance to live a little better. Most of our elderly need companionship, someone to look after them when ill.

### STATE PROGRAM

1. Our public aid recipients should receive a \$10 a month increase. The Federal matching funds and the large number that have been taken off of relief rolls, having obtained jobs, due to Viet Nam struggle, has made possible an increase of \$10. This amount will be very helpful to our needy. It is a practicle way to make War on Poverty.
2. Relative Responsibility. The great burden placed upon children to help provide for their aged parents, at a time when they are paying for a home, or the education of their children, is an inhumanity. The burden of life in this period being great and everything so costly. It would be far better and less costly for the State to provide for these aged than to undermine the security of our young men and women. Many aged parents have brought an end to their life rather than to continue to be a burden upon their children.
3. Reduce Bus Fare for aged 62 or over. Many cities have already given the elderly low transportation during hours when buses are not crowded.
4. The taxes on the homes of our elderly should be either reduced, or their home should be given a \$5,000 assessment reduction. Many elderly have not enough money to keep their homes in repair. The result, their deteriorating homes reduce the value of other property in their communities. Should the State government make possible a reduction in the assessment of aged homes, our elderly will be able to keep their homes in repair. We must elect State Representatives who will help them.

(OVER)

# THEY WOULD NOT GIVE a Dime or Lift a Little Finger

There are some senior citizens who would not give a thin dime nor lift a finger to help the elderly in their struggle to obtain adequate Social Security benefits or decent housing at rents they can afford. Yet, they are the ones who rush to be the first to obtain benefits that the organized elderly had been able to obtain through their effort.

Long had been the fight to obtain Medicare. It began some 20 years ago, when the elderly of the state of Michigan had Congressman Dingell introduce a bill for health care for the aged. While the Medicare Act is not 100 per cent to our liking, we will work to improve it to fully meet the health needs of the elderly of our country. We have made a big step forward. The sacrifices of the organized elderly, giving their time and the little money they could spare purchased the literature and the postage to carry on a strong agitation among the elderly and the Congress.

Why had it taken so long to obtain Medicare in the richest nation in the world? Was it because the elderly could not understand the great need for health care? Or, was it a state of indifference among them toward the need of organization? We believe that Medicare could have been achieved in a much shorter period of time had the senior organizations been better financed. The fact that people who are organized do achieve most of their legislative objectives, business, labor and farmers are excellent examples.

The great benefits from Medicare will soon be well known among those who have had to go to a hospital. No more will the life's savings of our aged be wiped out by high doctor and hospital bills as in the days before Medicare. They can now feel secure that their life's savings will be used to maintain a little higher standard of living than what the pre-

sent Social Security check makes possible.

The organized senior citizens organizations are seeking from the next Congress a 15 per cent increase in Social Security benefits, to enable them to have a more adequate income, not only to meet the increases in the cost of living, but also to be able to enjoy a little higher standard of living. The facts are that one-third of all couples with one member 65 or over, had incomes of less than \$2200 a year, and that one-third of all single persons 65 or over, had annual incomes of less than \$800.

We are living in times of rapid change. Should the elderly fail to keep step with our times---fail to better unite together---fail to become a greater political power of 22 million senior citizens---fail to elect their friends to public office who will work to advance their legislation, than again we can look forward to another long struggle to gain our 1967 objectives.

We, therefore, extend to all senior citizens an invitation to join hands with us. Our dues are very small. They will not deter anyone from affiliation. We invite you to attend one of our meetings and learn what we are trying to achieve for all the aged of our country. Our National Office in Washington maintains an able staff to keep in contact with the members of Congress in helping to advance the legislation we have proposed.

We will look for the support of all the senior citizens in Illinois. If we can obtain more support for our cause, we will be able to prove to the other states that the senior citizens of Illinois will be successful in the building of greater political power that will assure our political friends their election in November.

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## Senior Citizens Bulletin

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF SENIOR CITIZENS  
22 West Madison St. - Chicago, Ill. 60602

W.H. CASTLEMAN, Executive Director  
Telephone, 332-4475

You may enroll me as a member.  
Dues, Local 25¢ a month. National  
25¢ a month.

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