

BOB DOLE
KANSAS

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STANDING COMMITTEES:
AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY
FINANCE
RULES

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

June 29, 1988

██████████
3311 N. 70th Street
Kansas City, Kansas 66109

Dear Ms. ██████████:

Thank you for your inquiry regarding the regional management conferences conducted by the Commissioner of the Social Security Administration. I appreciate your taking the time to write.

It is my understanding that Social Security Commissioner Dorcas Harding has recently completed a series of 13 regional management conferences for social security employees and officers. Some program service centers and central office conferences will be held in the near future. ~~At a cost of~~ *I have been assured* approximately \$1 million ^{total} ~~dollars~~, the meetings were well within budget limits and offered important training and technical education that will help improve service to beneficiaries.

I would like to add that I understand your concerns about the solvency of the Social Security system. For millions of Americans, Social Security means the difference between a decent standard of living and poverty. Social Security is their lifeline, and whenever anyone says Social Security is in trouble, senior citizens get understandably worried. But let me set the record straight: Social Security is not in trouble. It is intact and stronger than ever. Social Security will be around for you, your children and your grandchildren.

I am proud to have introduced and shepherded to enactment the 1983 bipartisan plan that rescued the Social Security system from financial insolvency. Prior to enactment of this plan, the system had been teetering on bankruptcy. Now, the Social Security system is running a surplus with reserves approaching 120 billion dollars.

With a necessary surplus to prepare for future beneficiaries, individuals often worry that trust funds will be borrowed to finance other government operations. Responsible members of Congress, myself included, do not favor relying on social security trust funds to back up other government programs. You may be sure that I will never support allowing social security

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investments to be tampered with except for the purposes of meeting our obligation to pay social security benefits, in full and on time.

Toward this goal, I endorsed the the provisions in the 1983 Social Security Amendments and the 1985 Gramm-Rudman-Hollings legislation that removed Social Security from the unified budget and prohibited the Congress from including any changes in Social Security in a budget resolution measure. I see no reason to change this situation.

We have a legal and moral responsibility to make those benefit payments, and you may be sure I will do everything in my power to ensure we honor our commitments to social security beneficiaries, now and for years to come.

Again, thank you for writing.

Sincerely,

BOB DOLE
United States Senate

BD/dw

Dole Institute of Politics Archives and Special Collections

3311 N. 70th Street
Kansas City, KS 66109
June 15, 1988

The Honorable Robert Dole
141 Hart Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Dole:

Recently, I received information about a plan the Social Security Administration has, initiated by Commissioner Dorcas R. Hardy, to hold 13 regional management conferences at the cost of \$4 million tax dollars for the purpose of boosting the morale of Social Security employees. Information about these conferences was gleaned from a flier handed out by members of AFGE Local 1336 at the Federal Building in Kansas City, MO.

Our Social Security system is on shaky ground, as it is, and many of our citizens who may retire in the future (our children) may not have the benefits our retirees enjoy today. Due to waste, such as these SSA regional conferences to boost morale, social security could be seriously jeopardized for our children.

Please investigate the veracity of this matter, and if money is to be spent so wastefully, I implore you to voice your strong disapproval as my representative in Congress.

Also, if something could be done to stop this waste, this taxpayer and registered voter would like to know what you as my Congressional representative can do. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A solid black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of the sender.