

speaker of the United States House of Representatives with a request that this resolution be officially entered in the Congressional Record, and to all members of the Texas delegation to the United States Congress, as an official request to the federal government by the 74th Legislature of the State of Texas: And, be it further

Resolved, That if and when such replicas are received from the National Archives and Records Administration, the Texas State Library and Archives Commission be hereby directed to place them in the holdings of the state archives to be available for public viewing and photocopying and in all other respects to be treated as any other material worthy of archival storage and retrieval.

THIRTEENTH PRECINCT HONORED
FOR WORK WITH KENMORE HOTEL

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 7, 1995

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to New York's 13th Police Precinct and its valiant efforts on behalf of the Kenmore Hotel, its tenants and the surrounding community.

The Kenmore is the largest single room occupancy hotel in New York City. On June 8, 1994, it was seized by the Federal Marshalls and police officers, thereby becoming the largest building ever seized under the Federal Forfeiture Act. During the 9 years prior to its seizure, the Kenmore had steadily fallen into disrepair and become a haven for crime and drugs. The sad fact was that a once great landmark of New York, a place where Nathaniel West and Dashiell Hammett once lived and wrote, had become a crime-ridden residence. Drug dealing, prostitution, robberies, burglaries, and serious assaults are common in the building. The problems of the Kenmore became a source of concern not only to its residents, but to the surrounding community.

Due to the efforts of the personnel of the 13th Precinct and, in particular, one community policing officer, Scott Kimmins, major efforts were taken to inform and involve other local and Federal agencies regarding these developments. Officer Kimmins, whose beat included the Kenmore, walked the halls of its 23 floors daily for several years. On July 11, 1994, I was joined in front of the Hotel by Attorney General Janet Reno, New York Governor Mario Cuomo and others to personally honor Officer Kimmins and his colleagues at the 13th Precinct for their courageous efforts in cleaning up the Kenmore. Nearly a year after that auspicious day, the 13th Precinct continues to maintain a presence at the Kenmore, ensuring greater safety for its residents and neighbors.

Thanks to Federal intervention and under the auspices of the Federal marshals, the Kenmore is now under new management. Though still far from perfect, conditions are improving. Indeed, I am hopeful that the U.S. Attorney's office will be successful in stripping the current owner of his ownership and reversing this sad chapter in the Kenmore's history.

It is because of the extraordinary efforts of Captain Michael Darby, Officer Scott Kimmins, and others at the 13th Precinct that the conditions at the Kenmore have improved so dramatically. Indeed, I am pleased to report that

all incidents of drug and non-drug-related crimes, including assaults, have dropped substantially since the seizure.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting the 13th Precinct and its officers for their courageous effort to improve conditions at the Kenmore and to make New York City a safer, better place in which to live.

SOCIAL SECURITY

HON. LEE H. HAMILTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 7, 1995

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to insert my Washington Report for Wednesday, May 24, 1995, into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

SOCIAL SECURITY: QUESTION AND ANSWERS

When I meet with Hoosiers I often hear from those concerned with Social Security insurance and benefits. Older persons seek assurance for secure payments at adequate levels. Younger persons question how program changes could affect their plans for retirement. Questions also arise concerning the solvency of the program and the nature of proposed reforms.

What are the various parts of the Social Security program and how is the program run?

Social Security, also known as the Old Age, Survivors, and Disability Insurance (OASDI), is the nation's largest retirement and disability program. It pays benefits when a person retires, becomes disabled, or dies, if eligibility requirements are met. Family members may also be eligible for benefits. It is financed through taxes on wages and self employment income. More than 95% of the work force is required to pay these taxes on the first \$61,200 of income. Benefits are dispersed through a trust fund dedicated exclusively to the payment of Social Security benefits. The Social Security Administration, which manages the program, is an independent agency accountable to Congress. The administrative costs of the program are less than 1% of benefit payments.

How is the money in the Social Security trust fund managed?

In the past, Social Security has worked on a pay-as-you-go basis: workers' payroll taxes went out almost immediately as benefits to retirees. However, as of 1983, baby boomers are paying for benefits of current retirees while also contributing funds to finance their own future benefits. The trust fund's \$400 billion surplus is invested in U.S. government bonds, the only investment allowed by law. The federal government has never defaulted on its payments to the trust fund.

Is the Social Security trust fund included in the federal budget?

The answer to this question is both yes and no. In 1990 Congress took action to exclude the trust fund from budget calculations. However, this has not prevented economists and others from including the trust fund in their budget calculations as a way to obtain a more accurate portrayal of the federal budget and its impact on the economy.

Which seniors are affected by recent changes in the Social Security program?

The 1993 budget deficit reduction package increased the portion of taxable benefits for wealthier beneficiaries from 50% to 85%. This higher tax applied only to the top 13% of Social Security recipients—couples with a retirement income of \$44,000 and individuals with income over \$34,000.

The House recently passed a bill amending the Social Security earnings limit and income tax level. The bill includes provisions that would raise the Social Security earnings limit over five years to \$30,000 and reduce the level of income tax on Social Security benefits for higher-income recipients. The Senate has taken no action on this bill.

Will Social Security be used to balance the budget?

The inclusion of the Social Security program in a balanced budget amendment has greatly concerned seniors. The House considered several versions of a balanced budget amendment this year. I voted for measures to exempt Social Security from a balanced budget amendment. The version that passed the House does not exclude Social Security. The Senate did not pass a balanced budget amendment.

The budget resolution drafted by the House Leadership proposes a 0.6% reduction in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) as a means of slowing the Social Security program's growth. Social Security COLAs are based on the CPI. Therefore, an adjusted CPI would reduce the COLA starting in 1999.

Is the Social Security program stable for the years ahead?

The program is projected to be solvent only for the next 35 years. After that point, the amount of benefits being paid will exceed receipts. As the baby boom generation ages, the reserves are projected to be drawn down by the year 2030.

What can be done to ensure that our children and grandchildren will receive benefits?

A number of proposals to ensure the solvency of Social Security has been mentioned, such as reducing benefits for future recipients, raising the payroll tax, increasing the retirement age, or instituting a means test denying full benefits to those with large incomes from other sources. Various proposals have been made to privatize the system, such as requiring workers to place part of their Social Security contribution into a system of mandatory IRAs. Some Members of Congress have proposed major changes in the program, such as allowing trust fund monies to be invested outside of the U.S. Treasury. No one solution is likely to cure all the problems, and a good argument can be made for doing several things at once.

The Bipartisan Commission on Entitlement and Tax Reform studied the stability of Social Security but was unable to reach a consensus on solutions to the problem. The President has created the Advisory Council on Social Security to examine Social Security financing and other program issues.

How confident can we be about the future of Social Security?

Social Security is important to the 42 million people who count on the benefits for their income, as well as those planning their future retirement. If future generations are to receive benefits, we must recognize that some difficult decisions must be made to prevent Social Security insolvency. The future of Social Security is a test of democratic government. A clearly foreseeable disaster lays ahead, but it is not imminent. The question is whether an agreement can be reached on some reasonable reforms so that older persons can live in some security without hurting younger people. I do not want to see the benefits of current Social Security recipients reduced. The federal government has made a commitment to current and future recipients, and I will work to ensure that commitment remains strong.