the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Existing regulations implementing the Clean Air Act would force Pennsylvania to accept a centralized, test-only auto emissions inspection and maintenance program in order to be deemed in compliance with that act. The test-only program would require citizens to bounce back and forth between test centers and auto repair garages and would leave auto technicians guessing about whether their work was successful in addressing their customer's problems. The citizens of Pennsylvania voiced their extreme dissatisfaction with such a program when it was proposed by our previous Governor, and the State legislature repealed the statute which provided for that program.

Provisions in this conference report eliminate the arbitrary automatic 50 percent penalty in emissions reductions credit that the regulations would impose on States that preferred a decentralized approach. While I was not a Member of Congress when the 1990 Clean Air Act amendments were enacted, I do not believe that Congress intended to require the one-size-fits all program that these regulations force on the States. The elimination of this penalty would restore to the States the flexibility that Congress intended that they have in creating programs that will make the most sense in their States. Additionally, under the provisions, States like Pennsylvania whose legislature has not yet passed enabling legislation will have 120 days to do so, as well as, to propose accompanying regulations. The Congress is aware of the burden imposed upon Pennsylvania by this timetable since it coincides with the time in which the Pennsylvania legislature must also develop a budget that must be enacted by June 30. The parties to the agreement are aware of Pennsylvania's concerns with the small window and intend to work with them. We also hope that EPA will be flexible in working with Pennsylvania as it develops its plan.

Pennsylvania's current Governor, Tom Ridge, has proposed a decentralized test-and-repair program that he believes can meet the goals of the Clean Air Act without visiting undue hardship and inconvenience on the motorists and auto repair businesses of Pennsylvania. The inspection and maintenance provisions in this conference report would allow Pennsylvania to complete the design and implementation of a program on this decentralized basis and would allow that program to be judged on its actual performance over an 18-month period, rather than by an arbitrary rule.

I believe that reducing ozone pollution and improving the quality of the air that we breathe is of great importance to my constituents and to the rest of the citizens of Pennsylvania. I also believe that the States know what will best work to achieve the goal and should have the latitude to design programs that make sense for their citizens. I believe that these provisions give that needed latitude to Pennsylvania and to other States that are currently wrestling with this problem, and I urge the adoption of the conference report.

SOCIAL SECURITY IS FAR FROM BROKEN

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 29, 1995

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to enter into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD an article by Mr. Gus Tyler celebrating the 60th anniversary of the Social Security trust fund and decrying the false prediction that Social Security is on the verge of bankruptcy, Mr. Tyler makes clear that the Social Security trust fund is not running out of money, as many of my colleagues have argued.

The trust fund is strong and will remain strong as long as the American economy is strong. What threatens the trust fund is what threatens the economy: unemployment and a stagnant economy. We need to strengthen the economy not to dismantle Social Security. Moreover, the Social Security system strengthens the American economy by generating buying power and increasing savings. I would like to enter into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD this statement by Gus Tyler which clearly outlines why we don't need to dismantle Social Security.

TRUST FUND DOESN'T NEED TO BE "FIXED"

(By Gus Tyler)

The Social Security Trust Fund, which celebrates its 60th birthday this month, will go bust sometime between the year 2020 and 2030. That forecast has been heard so often and from so many authentic voices that the statement is now taken to be a fact. Which it is not.

To head off the imagined disaster, the following remedies are presented: a) raise the payroll tax that funds the system; b) reduce the benefits to retirees; c) do not adjust the benefits to meet the cost of living; d) tax benefits to help balance the budget.

If these cures are applied, they will kill the patient who is not sick.

The Social Security Trust Fund will not run out of funds by 2020 or 2030 unless the United States runs into what amounts to a depression that will continue for a protracted period. And the remedies currently proposed will hasten the coming of precisely such a depression that will not only destroy the Social Security program, but will destroy the country.

Here is the truth about Social Security as set forth simply by an extremely authoritative governmental body known as the Board of Trustees of the Federal Old-Age and Survivors Insurance and Disability Insurance Trust Fund.

The facts that follow are drawn from the 1995 report of this official body to the appropriate persons and agencies in accordance with Section 201(c)(2) of the Social Security Act as amended.

The Report (page 181) submits three scenarios on the future of the Social Security system. One scenario assumes virtually no growth in the economy in the first 75 years of the next century. Another scenario assumes slow growth; a third scenario assumes something between no movement and a slow crawl.

The first scenario—the worst possible case—assumes that the country is in the economic doldrums for about 70 years. By 1996 (next year), the economy will be effectively stagnant, with a growth rate of minus 0.7 percent. That means recession bordering on depression.

The same scenario projects little hope for the future. Growth will be near zilch. And, as a consequence, the Social Security Trust Fund will be facing early bankruptcy. In fact, says the footnote on page 181, "estimates for later years (after 2030) are not shown because the Funds are estimated to become exhausted in 2030."

But—and this is a big "but"—this is only one of three scenarios submitted by the Board of Trustees.

A second scenario assumes an annual growth rate of between 2 and 3 percent a year. That is a very slow growth rate when compared with growth in the years from 1960 to 1964 (4.4 percent) or with growth in the years 1970 to 1974 (3.1 percent) or with 1984 (6.2 percent). A growth rate in the next century—from the year 2000 to 2070—of a mere 2 to 2.5 percent is sluggish.

Yet, according to the report of the trustees, if such a growth rate, albeit slow, continues, by the year 2070, the Social Security Trust Fund will have an income of $22.74 trillion dollars and will have accumulated assets of $98.7 trillion. Yes, "trillion," not billion!

The $98 trillion (roughly $100 trillion) is not as outlandishly huge as it seems. The report for this scenario assumes an annual 3 percent rate of inflation. Over 75 years (from 1995 to 2070), a dollar will lose much of its value, ending up worth about 10 cents in 1995 currency.

Allowing for that factor, the $98 trillion dollar reserve projected for 2070 would only be worth one-tenth that sum—about $10 trillion—in 1995 dollars.

Ten trillion dollars in 1995 currency is, however, no mean sum to have as a reserve in the Social Security Trust Fund. It is twenty times as large as the present reserve of about half a trillion. It is twice as large as the total federal debt this year. It will, as noted above, be replenished in 2070 by an additional $22 trillion and by annual contributions in that dimension in the years to follow.

One of the problems that some insiders were posing a few years ago when this scenario began to unfold was—what to do with all that money? One of the possible answers would be to allocate some of the money in the Old Age and Survivors Fund to the Medicare Fund.

The sums that are projected by this scenario are not the outer limits of what can be realized. The assumption of the "optimistic" forecast is that the economy will grow, between now and 2070, at an average rate of about 2.5 percent a year. That is no great shakes. Between 1960 and 1994, it grew at 2.8 percent. And it could have grown faster if the Federal Reserve Board had not been repeatedly checking growth by raising interest rates and limiting the money supply.

Should the economy grow at 3 and 4 percent a year, added trillions would pour into the Social Security and Medicare funds, as well as into the U.S. Treasury.

But, would not such growth beyond, let's say, 3 percent, be inflationary? The report of the Fund trustees says, "No." In 1984, the economy grew at the swift speed of 6.2 percent, but the inflation rate (consumer price index) was only 3.5 percent. Again, in 1994, the economy grew at a lively 4 percent, but the inflation rate was only 2.5 percent.

Perversely, in some of the years of slowest growth, prices rose wildly. In 1990, the economy grew by a feeble 1.2 percent, but prices rose by 5.2 percent. And in 1980, the economy actually shrunk by 0.5 percent, but prices skyrocketed by 13.4 percent.

The reasons for this seemingly contrary behavior are several and make a fitting subject for another article. But the fact remains that rapid growth does not mean inflation and that low or negative growth does not mean lower prices. (All these data are drawn from the above mentioned report, page 56).

In sum, the future of Social Security (and Medicare) is not glum if the economy continues to grow at a reasonable rate. The way to go, then, is to take steps to expand the economy.

But the remedies proposed to ''fix'' the Social Security system that is not broken will break both the security system and the economy. Let us, briefly, consider each of these proposals.

1. Raise the payroll tax. Such a tax would reduce the ''disposable income'' of employees. They and their families will have less with which to buy. In our ''market economy,'' any such shrinkage of the ''market'' has to shrink the economy—less buying, less production, fewer jobs. Right now, retailers and manufacturers are stuck with a pile up of 14 months of consecutive inventory accumulations they cannot sell. To cut buying power of employees would mean more unsold wares.

2. Reduce the benefits. That would have the same effect as raising the tax on employees. Reduced benefits mean reduced buying power. And reduced buying power means reduced production, etc. ad nauseam.

3. Do not increase the benefits to keep up with the rise in the cost of living. This, too, would be a subtle, but effective way to do what 1) and 2) above do more directly. If prices rise and the ability to buy does not rise simultaneously, people buy less. By now, we all know the rest.

4. Tax the Social Security benefits of the ''affluent.'' Such a tax is, in effect, a reduction in benefits. Uncle Sam gives with one hand—the security check—and takes with the other hand, the tax. That would work just like the other bad medicines.

In addition, who are the ''affluent''? Are we talking about a retiree with an income of $25,000 or a retiree with an income of $250,000? To tax the latter would probably not seriously change his or her spending habits; to tax the former will.

What is not generally appreciated about the Social Security system is that it is one of the greatest and most reliable sources of nourishment for the entire American economy. In 1995, some 43 million people will have received about $340 billion with which to buy things and purchase services. Let's assume that in a mean moment of madness, all those payments were discontinued. How long would the American economy be able to sustain itself?

The Social Security system, however, does more than provide the fuel for consumption, it also provides capital for production. Every year, for many years, the security fund has generated multi-billion dollar surpluses. At the end of this year, it will have a reserve of more than half a trillion.

Where does that money go? It goes, just about all of it, to purchase government securities. That frees up other capital for investment in the private sector of the economy.

In this way, the Social Security system strengthens America in two ways: a) it generates buying power; b) it generates savings.

And, if we, as a nation, pursue policies to expand, rather than stunt, growth, the entire economy and U.S. Treasury, whose income is drawn from that economy, will be in better shape and our senior citizens need not worry about either their or their children's future.

TRIBUTE TO REV. KWASI ANTHONY THORNELL

HON. JULIAN C. DIXON
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday November 29, 1995

Mr. DIXON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute and to thank the Reverend Kwasi Anthony Thornell for his wonderful ministry to the citizens of the Washington, DC metropolitan area. On January 1, 1996, the Reverend Thornell will begin another chapter in his ministry as the new Rector of St. Philips Episcopal Church in Columbus, OH. As he prepares to begin a new ministry, I am pleased to have this opportunity to provide this retrospective of his many years of faithful and steadfast ministry in our Nation's Capital.

Father Kwasi—as he is affectionately known by the many whose lives he has touched—has indeed inspired many through his ministry. For over a decade, he has served the National Capital Area faithfully, spreading his message and affection to the young and the old, as well as to the healthy and the infirm. Although he is moving on to continue his ministry in another location, his contributions to the Washington metropolitan community warrant special praise.

Born in Tuskegee, AL, the Reverend Thornell was ordained to the priesthood by Bishop John T. Walker in 1973. He is a candidate for the degree of doctor of ministry at Wesley Seminary and holds a master of divinity degree from the Episcopal Divinity School in Cambridge, MA. He received his undergraduate degree from Alma College in Alma, MI. He is the father of three children.

For over two decades Father Kwasi has been bringing spiritual awareness and hope to communities in Detroit, MI; St. Louis, MO; and our Nation's Capital. In particular, he has been deeply involved in efforts to eradicate violence among our youth. As a matter of course, Father Thornell has an abiding commitment to eradicating the obstacles that perpetuate poverty, illiteracy, and violence. Indeed, in the Washington community, he successfully led and improved the cathedral's tutorial program, and established a similar program at Calvary Episcopal Church. His efforts to stamp out youth violence are well known throughout the Washington metropolitan community, where he currently serves as a project coordinator for the Violence Prevention Initiative for the Foundation for the National Capitol Region.

As the assistant rector of Calvary Episcopal Church, Father Kwasi was very active with youth organizations and worked to extend the church's outreach to the surrounding urban community.

Prior to joining Calvary, the Reverend Thornell spent nearly a decade at the Washington National Cathedral. As canon missioner, he was responsible for pastoral and liturgical duties, and represented the cathedral in areas of urban social justice and outreach ministries. In this regard, Father Thornell was especially effective in bringing a heightened awareness to the problems of youth violence in the community. He participated in numerous forums and outreach efforts established to eliminate the conditions that lead our youth away from the church and into the arms of violence.

While at the cathedral, he also served as interim precentor, responsible for planning and directing religious services, creating liturgies, writing prayers and preparing the Rota. During his tenure, Father Thornell was also actively involved in the church's mission to highlight the evils of apartheid in South Africa. He traveled to that country as a participant in church-sponsored delegations.

Father Kwasi's early years in the ministry were spent as minister and founder of the Alexander Crummell Center for Worship and Learning in Detroit, MI. In St. Louis, he served as the vicar of St. Stephen's Episcopal Church and as the deputy for urban mission for the Episcopal Diocese of Missouri.

Throughout his distinguished and devoted ministry, Father Kwasi has tirelessly worked to improve the socioeconomic condition for the disenfranchised and poor members of the community. He has been a savior for those children seeking a brighter tomorrow, and provided comfort and advice to persons suffering pain, despair, and/or other forms of adversity.

He has used his ministry and the pulpit to deliver powerful, inspiring and relevant sermons, translating God's message into community action. He has done more than just preach the Gospel. He has walked the Gospel, endeavoring to make life just a little better for the children and the downtrodden in our community. He has worked with patients afflicted with HIV-Aids, and those persons suffering from the disease of alcoholism. He is an HIV-Aids education trainer, as well as a trained counselor in alcohol abuse. His has been a ministry filled with hopefulness and a belief that humankind can have a brighter tomorrow if we care for one another.

A man of seemingly boundless energy, The Reverend Thornell has also devoted his time to serve on numerous boards, including RAP, Incorporated; the Church Association for Community Services; Episcopal Caring Response to Aids, Childrens' Defense Fund, and the National African American Clergy HIV/AIDS Task Force.

In addition to serving as president of the District of Columbia Chapter of the Union of Black Episcopalians [UBE], Father Kwasi also is a member of the NAACP, the urban League, the Council of Greater Washington, and the Episcopal Urban Caucus.

Last year, Father Thornell realized a lifelong dream when he starred as a cast member of the production of Fraternity at Washington's historic and renowed Lincoln Theater.

Mr. Speaker, as the Reverend Kwasi Anthony Thornell prepares to carry his profound, wonderful, and inspirational ministry to St. Philips and the greater Columbus community, I am pleased to have this opportunity to salute the many outstanding contributions he has made to the citizens of the Washington metropolitan area. I ask that my colleagues join me in saying thank you and in extending our heartfelt best wishes for continued success as he prepares to begin a new, exciting, and challenging chapter in his selfless ministry as an exceptional servant of our Lord.

ERV WITUCKI: SPUD EXTRAORDINARE

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA
OF MICHIGAN
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, November 29, 1995

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, many of our communities have special matters that define their heritage and economic well-being. And many of these communities have developed such a heritage through the efforts of devoted individuals. Munger, MI, is known for its annual Potato Festival that has been held each year since 1954. One man who deserves unqualified recognition for his efforts over the