

# RAHALL *Report*

## SOCIAL SECURITY FOR CONVICTED FELONS

BY CONGRESSMAN NICK RAHALL

JUST RECENTLY, THE AMERICAN PEOPLE HAVE AGAIN BEEN PUT ON ALERT ABOUT THE PRECARIOUS FUTURE OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM. THE FACTS ARE ALL TOO WELL KNOWN BY NOW -- 35 MILLION AMERICANS RECEIVING SOME KIND OF PAYMENT FROM THE SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM, WHILE 115 MILLION ARE PAYING INTO THE SYSTEM. A RATIO OF ONLY 3 WORKERS FOR EACH BENEFICIARY, AS COMPARED TO 11 WORKERS PAYING FOR EACH BENEFICIARY IN 1940.

WHILE CONGRESS IS WELL AWARE OF THE NEED TO BOLSTER THE SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM AND TO MAINTAIN THE CONTRACT MADE WITH THE AMERICAN PEOPLE BACK IN 1935 BY FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT, THERE IS A STARTLING FACT THAT IS BEING ADDRESSED BY MYSELF AND A NUMBER OF MY COLLEAGUES, WHICH IS -- THAT CONVICTED FELONS RECEIVE NEARLY \$5 MILLION ANNUALLY IN SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS!

IT COSTS THE AMERICAN TAXPAYER OVER \$14,000 ANNUALLY FOR EACH FELON WHO IS IN PRISON. IN ADDITION, MANY OF THESE CRIMINALS RECEIVE \$3000 A YEAR IN SOCIAL SECURITY RETIREMENT BENEFITS. ACCORDING TO TESTIMONY PRESENTED BEFORE THE HOUSE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL SECURITY, MANY OF THESE BENEFITS FLOW INTO THE PRISON UNDERGROUND AND RESULT IN AN ARRAY OF CRIMINAL ACTS.

IT IS FOLLY TO GIVE THESE CRIMINALS SOCIAL SECURITY CHECKS WHEN THE PROGRAM IS HAVING SOLVENCY PROBLEMS. LAW ABIDING CITIZENS SUFFER, WHILE CONVICTED MURDERERS GET HIGHER BENEFITS.

I HAVE JOINED IN SPONSORING A BILL, HR 4751, THAT IS ESTIMATED TO SAVE THE AMERICAN TAXPAYERS OVER \$100 MILLION, AND IS THE FIRST STEP TOWARDS IMPROVING THE SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM WITHOUT REDUCING THE BENEFITS OF THOSE HONEST PERSONS WHO HAVE PAID INTO THE SYSTEM FOR SO MANY YEARS.