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The Miami Herald  
12-A Wednesday, Jan. 14, 1976

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# *Reagan Aid Flap— Deeper in the Mire?*

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# President Ford Committee

68 Leonard Street, Belmont Mass. 02178

For Immediate Release  
Contact: Martha Bernard

(617) 489-2505

Ronald Reagan today was challenged to make clear his views on whether Social Security should be made voluntary or remain compulsory.

State Senate Republican Leader John F. Parker, (R-Taunton,) said Reagan must reconcile remarks made in Houston, Texas, last month with remarks made in Conway, New Hampshire, last week.

In Conway, Reagan said on January 5:

"Right now all of the plans that I know that are being talked about by economists are based on plans in which the compulsory features of participation would remain."

In Houston on December 2, Reagan said:

"There are plans being discussed by a number of economists. One very interesting plan is one that would legitimize that imbalance. . . under this plan it is proposed that they could if they saw a better chance to invest those bonds in say a private pension plan, they could do it, which would make the government competitive with private pension plans and there's never anything wrong when you've got competition instead of monopoly."

Parker has been cited for his efforts to obtain housing for the elderly and has been active in supporting legislation that obtained educational benefits, school lunch programs and rental assistance for senior citizens.



"This is no time to jeopardize our Social Security system," said Parker. "Many senior citizens are living close to the edge economically. To suggest voluntary alternatives to the present system is to threaten the economic base for these elderly people living on limited incomes."

"Which Ronald Reagan should voters believe?" he asked. "The one who suggests retaining and reforming the present Social Security system, based on compulsory participation or the one who one month earlier favorably calls attention to a voluntary alternative that could ruin it?"

Senator Parker said that over the last 12 years Reagan has at various times advocated voluntary Social Security, called for reform of the present system and called attention to the alternative plan.

"His position seems to depend on what political campaign he is in at the time," he added.

Massachusetts residents in fiscal 1975 received \$1,256,601,000 in Social Security retirement benefits, \$393,328,000 in survivors' benefits and \$169,597,000 in disability benefits.

Senator Parker released these comments by Reagan on Social Security over the last 12 years:



RONALD REAGAN ON SOCIAL SECURITY

"The flagship of the liberal cause is Social Security. Social Security dues are a tax for the general use of the government and payment of that tax does not automatically entitle anyone to the receipt of the benefits. The benefits are a welfare program which can be cancelled or curtailed by Congress at any time."

Speech, Amarillo, Texas  
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Reagan on Social Security

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bonds, the worker would have to buy ten percent of his income in bonds or \$2,500 worth, whichever was less. Those who have been paying in would be given bonds in the amount of the money they have already paid in, and start from there on the buying of additional bonds. But another feature of this system that once they have those bonds, under this plan it is proposed that they could if they saw a better chance to invest those bonds in say a private pension plan, they could do it, which would make the government competitive with private pension plans and there's never anything wrong when you've got competition instead of monopoly."

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Senator Parker said that over the last 12 years Reagan has at various times advocated voluntary Social Security, called for reform of the present system and called attention to the alternative plan.

"His position seems to depend on what political campaign he is in at the time," he added.

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"The flagship of the liberal cause is Social Security. Social Security dues are a tax for the general use of the government and payment of that tax does not automatically entitle anyone to the receipt of the benefits. The benefits are a welfare program which can be cancelled or curtailed by Congress at any time."

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Reagan says he supports Social Security, but "I am critical of some aspects. For example, you cannot name your beneficiaries as you want to. Also, I think we could explore the idea, perhaps to permit those who want to go on private plans to do so, provided they submit a record each year of such participation."

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"I still believe we could explore whether a man who could do better on his own" should be allowed to purchase a voluntary private retirement plan in lieu of the federal compulsory program.

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Speech, Conway, N.H., Jan. 5, 1970



Ronald Reagan today was challenged to make clear his views on Social Security and federal aid to the elderly.

Calling Reagan's public statements "a shabby collection of contradictions and calculations," \_\_\_\_\_ said senior citizens of New Hampshire and elsewhere are entitled to know just where he stands on key issues affecting them.

"Over the last 12 years," \_\_\_\_\_ said, "Reagan has at various times advocated voluntary Social Security, praised the present system and favorable called attention to an alternative plan that would ruin it."

\_\_\_\_\_ said there has been neither consistency nor evolution in Reagan's thinking.

"His position seems rather to depend on what political campaign he is in at the time," he added.

New Hampshire residents in fiscal 1975 received \$182,412,000 in Social Security retirement benefits and \$52,176,000 in survivor benefits.

In addition, Medicaid payments from the federal government totalled \$20,992,000; disability insurance came to \$23,183,000 and supplemental income for the aged, blind and disabled added up to \$4,974,000. The total is \$283,737,000.

\_\_\_\_\_ said that Reagan's \$90-billion shift of federal services to state and local governments also could have disastrous consequences for senior citizens.

He questioned whether state and local governments, already



hard pressed to hold the line against new or larger taxes, would pick up such services as:

HEW Rehabilitation Services, \$3,037,000; Special Programs for the Aging, \$694,000; Health Programs, \$828,000; Mental Health Programs, \$1,686,000.

Community Services Administration, programs in community action, food and nutrition, \$1,010,000.

Agriculture and Labor Department food stamp programs, \$12,056,000.

These programs total \$19,311,000. All affect senior citizens to some degree.

"And if the price of shifting these programs is a state income or state sales tax," \_\_\_\_\_ said, "I doubt if senior citizens would be willing to pay it."

\_\_\_\_\_ released the attached list of Reagan's statements on Social Security.



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"I still believe we could explore whether a man who could do better on his own" should be allowed to purchase a voluntary private retirement plan in lieu of the federal compulsory program.

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"Every wealthy young people (sic) under ~~forty~~ years of age in this country are paying in probably more than twice as much as they can hope to get back from social security. If they have the money, in their own hands, they could go into the open insurance market today and buy an insurance (policy) that would pay them more than double and give them a life protection policy from the first day at the same time. There are plans that are being discussed by a number of economists. One very interesting plan is one that would legitimize that imbalance . . . I just offer this as an example of the thinking of some knowledgeable people. This one would stop the payroll tax, and make the employer's share of social security be given in the paycheck to the worker, so that he would have in effect a raise of pay. He's no longer paying the tax. But, you then create retirement bonds that have an annuity effect, in other words an insurance feature with them. Retirement bonds, the worker would have to buy ten percent of his income in bonds or \$2,500 worth, whichever was



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Speech, Houston, Texas, Dec. 2, 1975

During his speech in Conway last night, Reagan also called for a reform of the Social Security system to guarantee checks for all those depending on Social Security and which would also include an automatic cost of living increase to keep pace with inflation.

Boston Globe, Jan. 6, 1976

Reagan called for a complete overhaul and reform of Social Security to correct inequities that he said deprive women of benefits they earn, and that unnecessarily keep the elderly who want to work from working.

St. Petersburg Times, Jan. 11, 1976



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Speech, Conway, New Hampshire  
Jan. 5, 1976



61 or. 1-1-1. Feb. 7, 1976

Los Angeles Times \*

# Reagan Turns Into Trouble in Florida Over Issues of Abortion, Social Security

BY RICHARD BERGHOLZ

Times Political Writer

cism in this state, where retirees make up an important segment of the GOP.

DANTON BEACH FL



Daytona Beach News Journal

Sunday February 8

Reagan said the growing deficit in the social security system might be alleviated by investing its trust funds in the stock market. He said he hasn't come up with a firm plan for where the money would come from to make the changes he says are necessary in social security, but said; "I know of no pension fund outside social security where people are totally dependent on the money they contribute."

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Miami Herald Sunday, February 8

Republican Presidential candidate RR Saturday suggested investing social security money in the stock market as a possible solution to a deficit he says is growing in the social security system.

Reagan said that he had not yet come up with a firm plan for where the money would come from to make the changes in social security that he says are needed. But he said that one alternative could be "investing social security trust funds in industry."

(made following a state JC convention meeting at which RR spoke)



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The Dallas Morning News

Friday, January 23, 1976

~~F/Social Sec New.~~

XC: WATTS, ZAPANTA

# Painful Truth on Social Security

By JIM WRIGHT  
Assistant Editorial Director

people who are dependent on Social Security, and the anti-Goldwater twist worked like a charm. Regardless of

AND THE long and short of the problem is that as the amount drawn out grows long, the amount

IF THERE were such a thing

✓ 1500 Security  
✓ 2D Security

Xc. Zap. ant +  
Watts

The Houston Post  
TUES., JAN. 27, 1976

# Post/commentary

## Squaring the accounts