

LETTERS

(EDITOR'S NOTE: As requested, Congressman Jim Santini replied to two of our readers who are vitally concerned about Pres. Reagan's plans to abolish the Railroad Retirement System.)

Dear Mr. & Mrs. Brent: I appreciate your concern over the status of the Railroad Retirement System and President Reagan's plans to abolish it. I share your concern on this matter and am taking steps to halt the Administration's plans.

I am an original cosponsor of H Res 412 and also a cosponsor of H Res 394, both of which express disapproval of the Administration's proposals to abolish the Railroad Retirement System...

Earlier in the fall, I came out against the President's cuts in the windfall dual benefits and voted in December to partially restore those benefits.

For your own background information, the President proposes to abolish the Railroad Retirement Board and to merge the railroad retirement system into that of Social Security. SSA would then assume responsibility for administering the portion of the current benefit that is equivalent to Social Security. A new private benefit corporation would administer the industry pension. The dual benefit would continue to be federally financed and administered.

There are many drawbacks to this proposal. First, there is no need to burden the Social Security System more than it is already and risk the pensions of thousands of railroad workers. Second, though the windfall

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benefit would continue to be funded by the federal government, the Administration has proposed limiting appropriations to the dual benefit fund -- as much as \$28 million below the amount approved in FY 82 and a whopping \$54 million below what the Congressional Budget Office estimates is needed for the coming year. Third, abolishing the Railroad Retirement System does not subject the private pension plan (Tier II) part of railroad retirement to important protections of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA).

The President's proposal is inconsiderate of this nation's railroad retirees. The railroad industry is a vital transportation link and rail workers provide a very real and very necessary service to all America.

I am glad you took the time to let me know how you feel on this subject. I support your position on this matter and will oppose the Administration's attempts to abolish the railroad retirement system.

Sincerely,
JAMES D. SANTINI
Member of Congress

COUPLE WINS ANTIQUE AUTO AT IMPERIAL PALACE

Wendell Olk, Casino Shift Boss at the Imperial Palace Hotel Casino, presents the keys to a 1955 Chevy Bel Air to Wendy and Robert Jech who were the lucky jackpot winners during the Imperial Palace Hotel's special "Antique Car Give-away" slot promotion.

This beautiful red and white Chevy, one of the most popular models that year, has been fully restored to factory original condition with the original radio in perfect condition.

Wendy and Robert live in San Diego and although they are regular visitors to the Imperial Palace Hotel, this weekend was very special as they were celebrating their tenth wedding anniversary.

It came as a complete surprise to Wendy who had only invested around \$10.00 when she won. She always plays slots at the Imperial Palace, but she was waiting for her husband and wasn't paying that much attention. "It was so exciting," Wendy explained, "it brought back memories of my favorite 1941 Chevy."

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