

# ALLIANCE FOR RETIRED AMERICANS

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## **Retiree Leader: Simpson's Anti-Senior Slurs Disqualify Him from Fiscal Panel**

### ***Should Recuse Himself from Commission Voting***

*The following statement was issued today by Edward F. Coyle, Executive Director of the Alliance for Retired Americans, in response to Alan Simpson, co-chair of the National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform, calling today's seniors, "the greediest generation."*

"Alan Simpson's recent comments that the 'greediest generation' of seniors oppose his calls for reducing Social Security benefits and raising the retirement age are the latest in a long line of anti-senior slurs that sharply call into question his ability to objectively carry out the Commission's agenda. Moreover, his comments deeply insult all that this generation did for our nation, both at home and overseas.

"The Alliance for Retired Americans calls upon other Commission members to denounce these remarks, and for Mr. Simpson to recuse himself from the panel's final voting, which may occur this week.

"Mr. Simpson has continually chosen mean-spirited, intemperate words to describe the millions of seniors who are struggling to get by in today's economy. Earlier this year, in a vitriolic e-mail to an advocate for older women, he described Social Security as 'a milk cow with 310 million tits.' Mr. Simpson had previously referred to seniors as 'greedy geezers,' said that lower-income Americans are 'lesser people in society,' and that he is frustrated hearing from retirees who, 'live in gated communities and drive their Lexus to the Perkins restaurant to get the AARP discount.'"

"Mr. Simpson's ability to lead a fair and balanced discussion of federal spending is clearly compromised. If Social Security were on trial, there is not a judge in the land who would let Mr. Simpson serve on the jury.

"The average Social Security benefit for a retiree is \$1,172 per month. If Mr. Simpson believes that a person trying to get by on \$1,172 each month is greedy, he is badly out of touch with the nation he is sworn to serving. He has repeatedly shown that he should not be co-chair of this Commission."

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