

Alliance Clips and Retiree News November 10, 2011

Alliance Mentions

Dear Alliance News Clips: On behalf of NARA I congratulate our union sisters and brothers and Ohio Alliance for Retired Americans in rejecting overwhelmingly the restricting of collective bargaining rights in Ohio. Job well done, we are very proud of you.

Scott Watts
President

Social Security cuts would hit hard at local economy
The Times and Democrat
November 9, 2011

The Super Committee is at work on the federal budget deficit. If the group, which includes 6th District Congressman James Clyburn, is unsuccessful automatic cuts would be triggered by slashing programs across the government. Social Security, Medicaid, veterans' benefits and many programs for low-income people would be exempted from the cuts. That leaves a limited amount of programs that would be targeted by automatic cuts, leaving fears that lawmakers will consider the reductions too painful and pass new legislation easing or eliminating the cuts. As if by necessity, the panel is looking at Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid cuts. This could have a negative effect in rural counties and counties such as Orangeburg with smaller cities, Social Security payments constitute a much larger chunk of the local economy than in urban areas. A greater percentage of people in rural America receive these payments than in urban counties, and so rural counties have higher average

http://www.thetandd.com/news/opinion/article_1a50a318-0a51-11e1-88bc-

Durbin Asked to Reaffirm Liberal Values
Michael Kaplan
NBC Chicago
November 7, 2011

In front of more than 400 seniors rallying with Occupy Chicago, Illinois Senator Dick Durbin slammed the Tea Party, the Republican Party and said it's no time to mess with Medicare and Medicaid. Durbin joined congressmen Danny Davis, Mike Quigley and Jan Schakowsky as well as city alderman and community organizers at the Monday morning protest against potential federal cuts to the nation's social safety net.

<http://www.nbcchicago.com/news/local/Durbins-Values-Questioned-during-Senior-Protest-133372628.html#ixzz1dJjtXgFk>

Alliance People

IN RESPONSE: Don't blame deficit on Social Security
The Courier Press
November 10, 2011

I must respond to the article "Social Security's time bomb" published in this paper on Oct 31. The U.S. Supreme Court ruled that the government has total control of any revenues generated by Social Security, including all payroll taxes. The Social Security Trust Fund was set up by the government as a way to track and maintain the financial health of Social Security. Our government uses the \$2.7 trillion surplus in the Social Security Trust Fund to help finance deficit spending.

A case can be made that this surplus money is being used to pay for the huge tax cuts for the rich and the war on terrorism. When the government takes money out of Social Security, it issues "IOU's" to Social Security in the form of U.S. security bonds and is required by law to pay off these bonds, plus interest. The problem is that under our current economic climate, the treasury secretary has made a choice to sell more bonds (borrowing money) to pay back Social Security. This is adding to our national debt.

Trustees of Social Security cannot dictate this choice. Our nation's deficit and debt are being caused by lower tax revenues, caused by the "Great Recession", spending on the wars, tax cuts mainly for the rich and lost tax revenues driven by trade deals that encourage the export of our good paying jobs.

Social Security is not causing our deficit, and cutting Social Security benefits by \$100 billion will only add to our federal debt by putting more money in the trust fund for the government to borrow.

To say that "the Social Security Trust Fund will provide little relief" for Social Security is saying the government will not pay investors in federal bonds. This will never happen, because it would lead to total economic collapse. The fund's surplus is expected to grow to \$3.7 trillion by 2022. Social Security can more than cover any shortfalls until 2035. Then, it can still cover 75 percent of benefits for the next 75 years. The shortfall, "time bomb" that could go off in 2035 can best be solved by growing our economy with good paying jobs and by raising tax revenues to support Social Security.

The wage-income cap on payroll taxes should be eliminated. Social Security benefits do not have to be cut. It is up to all of us to decide if we want to support Social Security benefits or not. If the Social Security "time bomb" goes off, it will be because our government and the American people let it happen. Social Security is an American social insurance plan, not an "entitlement" welfare program.

David Jones of Evansville is vice president of the Indiana Alliance for Retired Americans and president of Local 808 IUE-CWA Retirees' Chapter.

<http://www.courierpress.com/news/2011/nov/10/dont-blame-deficit-on-social-security/>

Medicare

Conservative group attacks Brown

Jack Torry

The Columbus Dispatch

November 09, 2011

A conservative organization -- 60 Plus -- that claims to be the alternative to AARP is launching a [TV commercial](#) today attacking Sen. Sherrod Brown, D-Ohio, for supporting the health care overhaul signed into law last year by President Barack Obama. In the commercial, Boone warns that Medicare "will be bankrupt in nine years, but Washington politicians, like Sherrod Brown, are ignoring the problem, putting their own re-elections first."

<http://www.dispatchpolitics.com/content/blogs/the-daily-briefing/2011/11/conservatives-attack-brown.html>

Other Senior Organizations

AARP, offering help and a hindrance in benefits fight

Washington Post

November 8, 2011

The Nov. 5 editorial "[A menacing message](#)," believes that it is a mark of courage to slash the Medicare and Social Security benefits that older people have earned and need. However, Callousness is not courage. The average yearly benefit of Social Security recipients today is about \$14,000. For more than half of Americans age 65 and older, it is the primary source of income. In AARP's view, a debt discussion is precisely the wrong place to consider the modest changes needed to strengthen Medicare and protect current and future beneficiaries. This discussion should unfold thoughtfully in the context of retirement security, not as a desperate attempt to beat the clock in front of the supercommittee.

http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/aarp-offering-help-and-a-hindrance-in-benefits-fight/2011/11/07/gIQA1nY32M_story.html

Unions

Unions get revenge as Issue 2 fails

Jim Siegal and Joe Vardon

The Columbus Dispatch

November 9, 2011

Senate Bill 5, which limited collective bargaining in the name of cost control, was reviled by public employees. Yesterday, voters soundly defeated the proposal and sent a clear message to the governor and the bill's GOP proponents. An effort that started last winter with thousands of Statehouse protestors and gained speed with the collection of a record 915,000 signatures ended with unions and their supporters drubbing Issue 2 by 61 percent to 39 percent, with 99 percent of precincts reporting. Critics argued the 300-page bill simply went too far, and for unions it became not just a fight over certain benefits, but a battle for survival.

<http://www.dispatch.com/content/stories/local/2011/11/08/1-issue-2-election.html>

Occupy Movement Inspires Unions to Embrace Bold Tactics

Stephen Greenhouse

New York Times

November 8, 2011

Union leaders, who were initially cautious in embracing the Occupy movement, have in recent weeks been providing the protesters with help. The protesters, for their part, have joined in union marches and picket lines across the nation. Labor unions, marveling at how the protesters have fired up the public on traditional labor issues like income inequality, are also starting to embrace some of the bold tactics and social media skills of the Occupy movement.

http://www.nytimes.com/2011/11/09/business/occupy-movement-inspires-unions-to-embrace-bold-tactics.html?pagewanted=2&_r=1&ref=todayspaper