

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

May 8, 1982

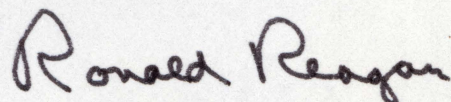
Dear Bob:

In the past few days, several facts about Social Security have been distorted by political rhetoric. As you talk with senior citizens and Social Security beneficiaries, I hope you will give them my personal assurance that they will receive their full 7.4 percent cost-of-living increase in July. I promise you and them: Those benefits will not be cut. Please also assure your constituents that I am determined to protect the current benefits of all Social Security recipients.

Members of both parties have acknowledged honestly and forthrightly that the Congress will have to take action to protect the solvency of the Social Security Trust Fund. We all agree that unless responsible action is taken, the system will run short of money. We must not let that happen. That is why Democratic and Republican leaders agreed to establish the Bipartisan Commission on Social Security. I am hopeful that, based on the recommendations to be provided later this year by the Commission, the Congress will address adequately and fairly the financial needs of the Social Security System.

Our senior citizens deserve responsible action. It is important that we work together to allay their unwarranted fears: We will preserve their current benefits. And we will be able to protect the Social Security Trust Fund's solvency. I assure you of my commitment to work with you to those ends.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Ronald Reagan". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly stylized script. The first name "Ronald" is written in a larger, more prominent hand than the last name "Reagan".

The Honorable Robert Dole
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510