

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

March 5, 1983

Dear Bob:

As you know, the House Ways and Means Committee has now voted 32-3 to report a Social Security reform bill that is, in substance, largely consistent with the bipartisan recommendations of the National Commission on Social Security Reform. The bill will soon be considered on the House floor under a rule that is expected to allow a fair choice between the competing solutions of the residual long-term financing problem. This procedure is also consistent, in spirit, with the Commission's bipartisan recommendations.

It seems a fitting moment, therefore, not only to thank you for your service on the Commission, but to congratulate you on a job well done.

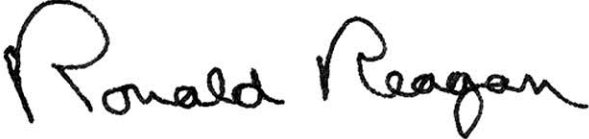
The remarkable demonstration of constructive bipartisan action that we are witnessing in the Congress simply would not have been possible were it not for the Commission's extraordinary work. Your careful analysis, tireless deliberation, and good faith efforts to help forge a bipartisan consensus -- notwithstanding strong points of difference -- laid the essential groundwork.

It is rare that Commission recommendations are translated directly into legislative action. That the Social Security Commission's recommendations are being so translated -- in a political context that might otherwise have been tragically polarized -- is a special testament to both the quality of your work, and the spirit in which you undertook it.

Just as was the case with the Commission compromise, there may, no doubt, be elements in the final legislative compromise that each of us might not find wholly satisfactory. But I am confident now that, thanks to the work of the Commission, the Congress is well on its way toward resolution of the Social Security problem -- in a manner that promises to give all cause for a degree of pride and satisfaction.

On behalf of a grateful nation, I thank you, and look forward to working with you on the further implementation of the Commission's historic work.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ronald Reagan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "R".

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