

- Report on Trends and Issues in Retirement Saving;
- Report on Assumptions and Methods used in projecting the financial status of the Social Security Trust Funds;
- Alternative measures for taxing Social Security Benefits;
- Outline of options/issues relating to mandatory/voluntary "second pillar" arrangements; and
- Overview of tax policy issues affecting voluntary retirement saving.

The meeting is open to the public to the extent that space is available. Interpreter services for persons with hearing impairments will be provided. A transcript of the meeting will be available to the public on an at-cost-of duplication basis. The transcript can be ordered from the Executive Director of the Council. (Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Nos. 93.802, Social Security-Disability Insurance; 93.803, Social Security-Retirement Insurance; 93.805, Social Security-Survivors Insurance.)

Dated: February 13, 1995.

David C. Lindeman,

Executive Director, 1994-95 Advisory Council on Social Security.

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1994-95 Advisory Council on Social Security; Meeting

AGENCY: Social Security Administration, HHS.

ACTION: Notice of public meetings.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act, this notice announces Public Meetings to be held by the 1994-95 Advisory Council on Social Security (the Council).

DATES: Wednesday, March 8, 1995, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Thursday, March 9, 1995, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), 1800 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Washington, DC, 20036, (202) 857-9500.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: By mail—Dan Wartonick, 1994-95 Advisory Council on Social Security, Room 624D, Hubert H. Humphrey Building, 200 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20201; By telephone—(202) 205-4861; By telefax—(202) 205-4879.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Purpose

Under section 706 of the Social Security Act (the Act), the Secretary of Health and Human Services (the

Secretary) appoints the Council every 4 years. The Council examines issues affecting the Social Security Old-Age, Survivors, and Disability Insurance (OASDI) programs, as well as the Medicare program and impacts on the Medicaid program, which were created under the Act.

In addition, the Secretary has asked the Council specifically to address the following:

- Social Security financing issues, including developing recommendations for improving the long-range financial status of the OASDI programs;
- General program issues such as the relative equity and adequacy of Social Security benefits for persons at various income levels, in various family situations, and various age cohorts, taking into account such factors as the increased labor force participation of women, lower marriage rates, increased likelihood of divorce, and higher poverty rates of aged women.

In addressing these topics, the Secretary suggested that the Council may wish to analyze the relative roles of the public and private sectors in providing retirement income, how policies in both sectors affect retirement decisions and the economic status of the elderly, and how the disability insurance program provisions and the availability of health insurance and health care costs affect such matters.

The Council is composed of 12 members in addition to the chairman: Robert Ball, Joan Bok, Ann Combs, Edith Fierst, Gloria Johnson, Thomas Jones, George Kourpias, Sylvester Schieber, Gerald Shea, Marc Twinney, Fidel Vargas, and Carolyn Weaver. The chairman is Edward Gramlich.

The Council met previously on June 24-25 (59 FR 30367), July 29, 1994 (59 FR 35942), September 29-30 (59 FR 47146), October 21-22 (59 FR 51451), November 18-19 (59 FR 55272), January 27 (60 FR 3416) and February 10-11 (60 FR 5433).

II. Agenda

The Council will consider views and comments from the public on the following subjects:

- Achieving long-term stability in financing the Social Security program including possible increases in contribution rates;
- Changing the normal and early retirement ages and other approaches to lowering benefits;
- Ensuring adequate retirement income and determining the role of private pensions and savings; and
- Ensuring equitable treatment under Social Security for dependents, disabled, survivors as well as retirees.

The agenda items are subject to change as priorities dictate.

The meeting is open to the public to the extent that space is available. Public officials, representatives of professional and advocacy organizations, concerned citizens, and Social Security and SSI recipients may speak and submit written comments on the issues considered by the Council. Interpreter services for persons with hearing impairments will be provided.

In order to ensure that as many speakers as possible are given the opportunity to speak in the time allotted for public comment, each person will be limited to a maximum of 5 minutes. Because of the time limitations, individuals are requested to present comments in their order of importance. A written copy of comments should be prepared and presented to us, preferably in advance of the meeting. To ensure our full understanding and consideration of all of each speaker's concerns, we welcome written comments that provide a detailed and elaborative discussion of the subjects presented orally, as well as further written comments on other issues not presented orally. Persons unable to attend the meeting also may submit written comments. Written comments will receive the same consideration as oral comments.

To request to speak, please telephone the Council at the information contact shown above, and provide the following: (1) Name; (2) business or residence address; (3) telephone or fax number (including area code) during normal working hours; and (4) capacity in which presentation will be made; i.e., public official, representative of an organization, or citizen. For planning purposes, we will appreciate receiving requests to speak 7 days before the date of the meeting.

A transcript of the meeting will be available to the public on an at-cost-of duplication basis. The transcript can be ordered from the Executive Director of the Council. (Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Nos. 93.802, Social Security-Disability Insurance; 93.803, Social Security-Retirement Insurance; 93.805, Social Security-Survivors Insurance.) The transcript and all written submissions will become part of the record of these meetings.

Dated: February 13, 1995.

David C. Lindeman,

Executive Director, 1994-95 Advisory Council on Social Security.

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