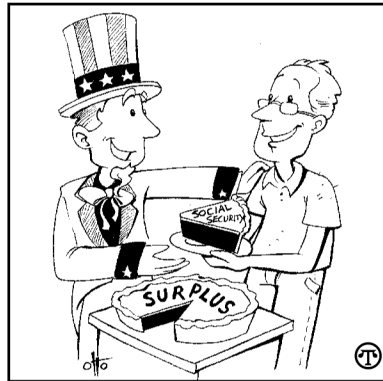


SENIOR SENIOR CITIZENS LEAGUE news notes

Benefit Disparity Could Be Resolved

(NAPS)—The \$87 billion budget surplus, the portion that does not include Social Security, makes it easier for the government to settle a long-standing benefit disparity and not siphon off money from the Social Security Trust Fund, according to The Senior Citizens League (TSCL).



The benefit disparity arose from changes made in 1977 to the way Social Security benefits were calculated, affecting retirees who were born from 1917 through 1926. Those changes were urgently needed to “save Social Security” which was expected to go broke in 1980 or 1981.

Those affected by the disparity, called “Notch Babies,” paid the price of “saving Social Security” by receiving lower-than-expected benefits. Although Congress has considered correcting the Notch in the past, concern about the cost of providing improved benefits presented obstacles. A relatively recent legislative alternative “The Notch Fairness Act,” would provide those born from 1917 through 1926 or their surviving beneficiaries, with the choice of improved monthly benefits or a Lump-Sum totaling \$5,000 payable over a four-year period. The legislation is estimated to cost about \$45 billion.

For more information, send \$1.00 for shipping and handling to: TREA Senior Citizens League, Dept, N954, 909 N. Washington St., Suite 300, Alexandria, VA 22314, or visit www.tscl.org.