We are going to have to see that this fund is kept in proper perspective at all times. That is the account we will have to be looking at within the next 2 or 3 years.

There are several ways we get receipts. We get the tax from the employer and employee. We get interest on the money we have in the fund. Actually, the interest we are receiving today is much higher than that the actuary is using in the computations, so that possibly we can reduce the deficiency if we include the interest we are going to get in excess of what we have been using in the calculations.

There is a third source of getting money for the system, and that is the interchange with social security, which is the special financial arrangement with the social security system. I should explain that a bit.

Some years ago it was felt that the social security system should not benefit by virtue of there being a railroad retirement system. So every year we jointly calculate and pay social security what they would have collected from railroad workers and railroad employers in social security taxes. Then we jointly compute what they would have had to pay railroad beneficiaries in benefits, and they make that payment to us. So far, that has been working to our advantage. In other words, the flow of money has been our way.

Mr. BROTZMAN. I think you stated you think in about 3 or 4 years you are going to have to ask the Congress for permission to increase the amount of collections.

Mr. HABERMEYER. Yes, sir.

Mr. BROTZMAN. To augment these funds?

Mr. HABERMEYER. Yes, sir.

Mr. BROTZMAN. Thank you very much.

The CHAIRMAN. Are there any further questions?

Mr. SKUBITZ. Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Skubitz.

Mr. SKUBITZ. Mr. Chairman, my neighbor in Pittsburg, Kans., is the widow of a railroad worker. She visited with me about her problem before I returned to Washington. It seems as though her husband had paid the full amount under the railroad retirement program and then took a job under social security and was entitled to social security payments. At his death she has a choice, as I understand it, between railroad retirement or social security benefits, but she cannot get both of them. Is that correct?

Mr. HABERMEYER. Yes; she cannot get both benefits but she does not have a choice. If her husband retired from the railroad industry and then took a job with outside industry, we would pay the widow's benefits, that is, the railroad retirement board would pay them. We would include the social security earnings in our computation. She would only get one check from one agency. In this particular case, from us.

Mr. SKUBITZ. Suppose the husband had never worked at a job covered by social security. Would the check that she received be equal to the check that she is now getting?

Mr. HABERMEYER. Without the social security earnings, her check would probably be less, but most likely not substantially less.