

You touch on the one group of beneficiaries that I have spoken about before to this committee and the Congress. I think that this group gets the poorest treatment, from a benefit standpoint, from our system.

Mr. SKUBITZ. Does this bill do anything to help this group of people?

Mr. HABERMEYER. Yes, it will give the widows an increase in benefits.

Mr. SKUBITZ. It will?

Mr. HABERMEYER. Yes.

Mr. SKUBITZ. It does not seem fair to me that a person who pays into the railroad retirement program, and then pays in the full amount under social security, is required to surrender one or the other.

Mr. HABERMEYER. In order to have retirement benefits as favorable as they are it has not been possible from a financial point of view to provide better widows' benefits.

Mr. SKUBITZ. The point is, it is at her expense though.

Mr. HABERMEYER. If benefits to widows of railroad employees could be paid concurrently under both systems, we would run into some pretty serious financial problems.

Mr. SKUBITZ. The point is, the worker paid for both benefits.

Mr. HABERMEYER. This is a misconception.

Mr. SKUBITZ. If it is, I would like an explanation.

Mr. HABERMEYER. People generally have not actually paid in full for their benefits, especially those already retired. We have people on our rolls who have been receiving benefits since 1937; we have paid them \$40,000 or more in benefits, and they paid little or nothing, in a few cases nothing, into our fund. So I suppose, they say, "We paid for it," but you can see that they have not paid for it. I cannot add anything to that.

Mr. SKUBITZ. May I write you about this case?

Mr. HABERMEYER. Any time you have a question on any case, do not hesitate to send it to my office.

Mr. SKUBITZ. Apparently I do not have all the facts and I would like to get them.

Mr. HABERMEYER. Drop me a note.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Pickle?

Mr. PICKLE. I would like to ask Mr. Habermeyer, when do you contemplate you will come before the committee with respect to recommendations of further financing?

Mr. HABERMEYER. Mr. Pickle, our actuary makes a study every 3 years. We just completed a study last year. Two years from now, we will have another study.

On the basis of that, we would probably make a decision as to how we will want to ask the Congress to adjust the financing. It is possible that things may change. Our actuaries operate on assumptions. You look at the experience of this 3-year period, see how it affects the study that was completed 3 years earlier, and he may conclude that the deficit that we now say is 1.16 percent, may be something less than that. It might be something larger than that. But at the end of that study I think then we will have to decide what we should do.

Mr. PICKLE. I was thinking, perhaps, in the next few months is when you might request to appear before this committee.