

Action suggested under step (1) will make possible an overall increase in benefits without accompanying increases in rates or base, but it is unrealistic to try to use the social security system alone to provide an adequate living for all of our elderly citizens. We can and should meet the needs of our indigent aged through a generous but separate Federal program.

The social security system today lies in grave danger of degenerating into an undignified form of Federal dole. But, if Congress will act with courage to preserve the original concept of the system, endless generations can continue to accept their checks with the satisfaction and self-respect that go with an earned retirement.