

Port Authority Retirees Association, Inc.

P.O. Box 919, Island Heights, NJ 08732-0919

Please print or type:

CHECK (✓)

- Active
 Retired

Last Name		First	
Address		Town	State Zip

CHECK (✓):

- Enclosed is \$5.00 Annual Membership Dues (June 1990 through May 1991)
 Enclosed is \$_____. I would like to contribute as a sponsor.

Please submit checks only payable to: Port Authority Retirees Association, Inc.

Return form and check to the above address. Retain cancelled check for your receipt.

continued from page one

"State and local governments and their taxpayers have benefitted from our superior investment performance through sharply reduced contributions over the last ten years, but the people in whose behalf we invest have suffered from the ravages of inflation year after year," Comptroller Regan said.

"Our pensioners receive an average pension of \$6,000 a year and the meager supplementation they have sporadically received over the years has provided, for example, an employee who retired in 1976 only a 13.4 percent increase while the cost-of-living rose by approximately 125 percent.

"We are not talking about supplementation for the so-called 'fat cats' because my legislation would provide a COLA only on the first \$12,000," Comptroller Regan said. "It's designed to help people who are just getting by on modest

pensions but who continue to contribute to society and the economy."

"Primarily because of our investment performance, the cost of pensions to the State and local governments as a percentage of payroll has declined from 22 percent in 1979 to near zero today," Comptroller Regan said. "Under my legislation, permanent supplementation would cost the State less than \$3 million a year and local government employers with police and fire components would split approximately \$15 million in costs annually."

Comptroller Regan noted that the organization representing local governments, who now represent virtually 100 percent of the contributors to the retirement system, have endorsed the need for supplementation.

Under his proposal, the increased supplementation allowance would begin September 1, 1991 and would cover those who retired through 1985.

Notch Adjustment Bill Now Before Congress

By way of an update, the discriminatory Social Security Notch Law continues to be discussed in Congress. Three Social Security Notch bills are all before the House Committee on Ways and Means, chaired by Dan Rostenkowski (D-Ill.). Unfortunately, the Committee has yet to act on these bills - H.R. 2707, H.R. 1060 and H.R. 917.

The publicity that this debacle has received would have you believe that the only retirees affected are those born between 1917-1926 "The so-called Notch Generation." Not

The 1977 Act to save Social Security that created this inequity and increased the contributions of today's workers affects *all* who come after us.

A discharge petition that would release these bills from the Ways and Means Committee is now being circulated. Two hundred and eighteen signatures are required on the petition for it to be effective. Releasing of these bills by the Committee would bring the legislation to the floor for a vote.

Please write your Senators and Congressmen in Washington to voice your support of these bills. A strong letter writing campaign will help to ensure passage of this important legislation. Even if you will not be affected by this "notch" adjustment, please help your fellow retirees by writing in favor of these bills...

Making Your Feelings Count

Government is the vehicle through which the public's (that's you) will is expressed and made effective. It's been said that 2+2 don't always make four in politics; they may be 22. For the most part, the organization and operations of government are not conducted on a basis of what is logical or rational, but often are guided by human emotions more than human reason. Remember, ours is not a government for the people, but government *by* the people. Therefore, it's essential that we keep our elected representatives informed as to our thoughts and needs.

You may recall the recent Medicare Catastrophe Coverage Act (HR2470) that was passed as expanded health care benefits, but also proved to be a discriminatory surtax of up to 45% levied against senior citizens. It certainly did not benefit us and folks wondered what to do about it.

In a short span of time, over one million people wrote to their Senators and Representatives protesting the discriminatory funding mandated under the law. In an unprecedented move, the law that had just passed was largely repealed.

It was a difficult job, with results coming about because of *you*.

The "success" story was much different in Albany this past session of the legislature. Our May Newsletter urged you to express your feelings to your legislators regarding an automatic COLA bill submitted by Comptroller Regan as a package of health benefits. It seems as though very few of our readership have any need for a permanent cost-of-living allowance or guaranteed health benefits since sources in Albany report action by retirees was weak and apathetic during June and July. *You* "let George do it," only George was out to lunch and, as a result, *nothing* beneficial happened.

So that you can have a format to use when you next write concerning matters that so vitally affect you, the following information is provided for your guidance:

Letters to Legislators/Elected Officials

1. If the letter is about legislation, identify it by name and number.
2. If possible, personalize the letter by referring to a previous meeting or something of common interest.
3. Be timely—it's more effective to write when a bill is still in committee.

4. Ask the public official to state his position when he replies.
5. When a reply is received, study the arguments. Try to answer any arguments that are not based on facts.
6. If you are not sure of the names of local elected representatives, call the League of Women Voters or your Board of Elections for this information.
7. Use the proper form of address, shown below.

Proper Form of Address — FEDERAL

SENATE:

The Honorable John Doe
The United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510
Dear Senator Doe:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

The Honorable Jane Doe
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515
Dear Ms. Doe:

Proper Form of Address—STATE

SENATE:

The Honorable John Doe
(local home district office...or)
New York State Senate
Legislative Office Building
Albany, New York 12247
Dear Senator Doe:

ASSEMBLY:

The Honorable Jane Doe
(local home district office...or)
New York State Assembly
Legislative Office Building
Albany, New York 12248
Dear Ms. Doe:

GOVERNOR:

The Honorable John Doe
Executive Chamber
New York State Capitol
Albany, New York 12224
Dear Governor Doe:

REMINDER:

A hand-written letter is much more personal than typed or copied letters.

Need Some Help?

During the past several months, we have received mail from several retired members with problems who felt that they had nowhere else to turn.

We tried to help resolve these matters but, at the very least, we pointed them in the right direction for

assistance or explanations.

If, at any time, you have a problem regarding your benefits, whether they are retirement allowance or health or life insurance, we would like to hear from you (all it can cost you is the price of the stamp).

Sources of Help

Port Authority Benefits
(212) 466-8078 (call collect)

Retirement System
(518) 474-7736

STRAIGHT FROM THE SHOULDER

CANDID REPORTS ON YOUR ASSOCIATION

1. Annual membership dues for June 1990-May 1991 were due this past June. If you overlooked the renewal date, the mailing label on the envelope used to send your copy of this Newsletter contains the printed message ***DUES REMINDER***. If your mailing label contains this special ***DUES REMINDER*** message, PARA records do not show your dues payment for the current year. PARA's goals require a strong organization comprised of important people just like you and we need your active involvement and continued financial support. The membership renewal form appears at the top of page 2. Just complete the form, attach your check, and drop it in the mail. (NOTE: If we goofed and you paid your dues on or after June 1990 please forward a copy of your cancelled check—front and back—and we'll correct our records.)

2. The May 1990 Newsletter reported on efforts to increase membership by inviting greater representation from active Port Authority employees, particularly those approaching or having already arrived at retirement eligibility. We're pleased to report active staff membership has continued to grow. Their energetic involvement, along with that of PARA's large retiree base, is extremely helpful if needed pension improvements are to be obtained. We're all members of the same pension system and changes in that system

require vigorous, tenacious, and concerted action by all concerned. Why not make it your business to get a new PARA member. As our membership grows, so too does our opportunity to achieve further success.

3. The Alliance of Public Retirees' Organizations met in Albany on three occasions since May '90 and PARA representatives were in attendance twice.

4. Keep us posted on name and/or address changes. PARA's computer data base is as current as you keep it. Also, correct names and addresses should be reported to the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, Compensation and Benefits Division, Human Resources Department, 1 World Trade Center, 61 East, New York, NY 10048.

5. The May 1990 Newsletter was incorrectly identified as No. 6 when it should have been No. 7. With this issue the numeric sequence is continued. Also, we repeat part of the masthead information at the bottom of the first page. With past issues, use of the membership renewal form (top of page 2) left the reader without masthead information including Newsletter number sequence. Hope this change is helpful to those who retain the Newsletters.