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“Chronologically Wise”

by
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Recently I received in the mail a packet from the NCPSSM (National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare) requesting that I sign a petition to my Congressional Representative demanding that he or she vote against any and every effort by Congress to privatize any portion of contributions to the Social Security fund... regardless of how small the portion or how young the age group of the contributors. Immediately after requesting my signature, Barbara Kennelly, the President of the organization personally requested I send in a check (a minimum of \$12) so I could join their efforts, to protect me and other old people like me, from the ravages of inconsiderate politicians on the Hill.

Every sentence of the accompanying literature sounded like my very life was in jeopardy unless I sent them a check immediately and that they were the only bastion of protection people like me could run to in my approaching senility. According to them my monthly income from Social Security would drastically disappear in the near future if I didn't grab my pen (their weapon of choice for me) and sign a check and send it to them.

Naturally, being a proponent of partial privatization of selected Social Security accounts, and one not given to reacting to fear mongering, I did not and will not send a check. Because of the group's obvious method of soliciting membership and support I kept their main flyer so I could check them out a little closer. I was not surprised about what I found. Just in case some of you who read this column might have received a similar request from this group I would like to share with you one of the tidbits that I discovered.

In July, 2001, Allison Giles, Chief of Staff, Committee on Ways and Means, U.S. House of Representatives submitted the following report to a hearing being held by the Subcommittee on Social Security, asking that it be made part of the official record.

“Recently the Attorneys General of a number of States entered into a settlement agreement with the Publishers Clearing House Corp. to regulate and restrict the use of misleading solicitations which prey upon confused and frail elders who believe that by purchasing products from Publishers Clearing House they increase their chances of winning a sweepstakes prize. What Publishers Clearing House has done to appeal to greed and the gaming instinct NCPSSM has done in the same manner in their appeals to fear that frail elders have of losing Social Security benefits. I "joined" NCPSSM several years ago to see what kind of mailings I would receive. The low "membership" fee of \$10 encourages people to sign up. Soon afterward, although I never made another contribution to NCPSSM, I began to receive a barrage of mailings with dire warnings from former SSA Commissioner Martha McSteen, spokesperson

for Max Richtman, the real head of NCPSSM, implying that without financial support to lobby Congress, continued SSA benefit payments were in doubt. More and more impressive envelopes continued to arrive at my home, each one containing cleverly contrived "personalized" mass mailings strongly urging extra contributions to assist in preserving elders' SSA and Medicare benefits.

I am sure that, had I ever actually sent in an extra contribution, the sophisticated mass marketing apparatus of NCPSSM, so like that of Publishers Clearing House, would have stepped up their appeals even more, to include phone calls appealing for funds. Some years ago a good friend of my parents passed away at the age of 97. Only after his death was it discovered that he had given away over \$50,000 to Lyndon LaRouche, another scam artist who preyed on the elderly with mass mailings which then zeroed in on the few who responded with contributions. Max Richtman belongs in the same category with these types. NCPSSM is a money-making outfit masquerading as a non-profit advocacy organization. His operation should be exposed and his company shunned by members of Congress. I urge the Subcommittee to investigate this organization's marketing practices and their questionable and misleading financial statements. A close look at NCPSSM's operation will reveal their fundamentally abusive motives, which appeal to confused, fearful and frail elders for financial gain." As of today, I know of no such investigation taking place.

Since I have been writing for years on the tactics of those who wish to subjugate those of us approaching our winter years of life by scaring us into believing they are our last hope for a long and happy life, I thought it vital that you know they are the real threat to your peace and happiness. Those who use such tactics are many including this organization I just outed, but others mentioned in the past are the NAACP, AARP, the national "leaders" of the Democrat Party and the Reverends Jesse Jackson and Al Sharpton. They all have gone beyond their original purposes in life and have seen the money and power they can possess just by frightening others and convincing them they are either too old or of the wrong color to make intelligent decisions for themselves.

If you could begin to see yourself as an over comer and not a "victim", and chronologically wise rather than "too old," you would enjoy your lives so much more and have more to show for it. You need neither Uncle Sam nor these so called "leaders" to make your decisions for you. Start thinking more positively and less negatively about yourself and your life will improve. And, more importantly, stop sending your hard earned money to any of the above because they've told you they are your saviors and protectors. It just ain't so.

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