

business. It deserves our support, and I encourage everyone to make its swift passage possible.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Minnesota for his remarks and encourage my colleagues to support passage of this important piece of legislative. I have no further comments or speakers on this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WALZ. Mr. Speaker, I also yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5714.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

NO SOCIAL SECURITY FOR NAZIS ACT

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5739) to amend the Social Security Act to provide for the termination of social security benefits for individuals who participated in Nazi persecution, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5739

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “No Social Security for Nazis Act”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) Congress enacted social security legislation to provide earned benefits for workers and their families, should they retire, become disabled, or die.

(2) Congress never intended for participants in Nazi persecution to be allowed to enter the United States or to reap the benefits of United States residency or citizenship, including participation in the Nation’s Social Security program.

SEC. 3. TERMINATION OF BENEFITS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 202(n)(3) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 402(n)(3)) is amended to read as follows:

“(3) For purposes of paragraphs (1) and (2) of this subsection—

“(A) an individual against whom a final order of removal has been issued under section 237(a)(4)(D) of the Immigration and Nationality Act on grounds of participation in Nazi persecution shall be considered to have been removed under such section as of the date on which such order became final;

“(B) an individual with respect to whom an order admitting the individual to citizenship has been revoked and set aside under section 340 of the Immigration and Nationality Act in any case in which the revocation and setting aside is based on conduct described in section 212(a)(3)(E)(i) of such Act (relating to participation in Nazi persecution), concealment of a material fact about such conduct,

or willful misrepresentation about such conduct shall be considered to have been removed as described in paragraph (1) as of the date of such revocation and setting aside; and

“(C) an individual who pursuant to a settlement agreement with the Attorney General has admitted to conduct described in section 212(a)(3)(E)(i) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (relating to participation in Nazi persecution) and who pursuant to such settlement agreement has lost status as a national of the United States by a renunciation under section 349(a)(5) of the Immigration and Nationality Act shall be considered to have been removed as described in paragraph (1) as of the date of such renunciation.”.

(b) OTHER BENEFITS.—Section 202(n) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 402(n)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(4) In the case of any individual described in paragraph (3) whose monthly benefits are terminated under paragraph (1)—

“(A) no benefits otherwise available under section 202 based on the wages and self-employment income of any other individual shall be paid to such individual for any month after such termination; and

“(B) no supplemental security income benefits under title XVI shall be paid to such individual for any such month, including supplementary payments pursuant to an agreement for Federal administration under section 1616(a) and payments pursuant to an agreement entered into under section 212(b) of Public Law 93–66”.

SEC. 4. NOTIFICATIONS.

Section 202(n)(2) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 402(n)(2)) is amended to read as follows:

“(2)(A) In the case of the removal of any individual under any of the paragraphs of section 237(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (other than under paragraph (1)(C) of such section) or under section 212(a)(6)(A) of such Act, the revocation and setting aside of citizenship of any individual under section 340 of the Immigration and Nationality Act in any case in which the revocation and setting aside is based on conduct described in section 212(a)(3)(E)(i) of such Act (relating to participation in Nazi persecution), or the renunciation of nationality by any individual under section 349(a)(5) of such Act pursuant to a settlement agreement with the Attorney General where the individual has admitted to conduct described in section 212(a)(3)(E)(i) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (relating to participation in Nazi persecution) occurring after the date of the enactment of the No Social Security for Nazis Act, the Attorney General or the Secretary of Homeland Security shall notify the Commissioner of Social Security of such removal, revocation and setting aside, or renunciation of nationality not later than 7 days after such removal, revocation and setting aside, or renunciation of nationality (or, in the case of any such removal, revocation and setting aside, of renunciation of nationality that has occurred prior to the date of the enactment of the No Social Security for Nazis Act, not later than 7 days after such date of enactment).

“(B)(i) Not later than 30 days after the enactment of the No Social Security for Nazis Act, the Attorney General shall certify to the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Finance of the Senate that the Commissioner of Social Security has been notified of each removal, revocation and setting aside, or renunciation of nationality described in subparagraph (A).

“(ii) Not later than 30 days after each notification with respect to an individual under

subparagraph (A), the Commissioner of Social Security shall certify to the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Finance of the Senate that such individual’s benefits were terminated under this subsection.”.

SEC. 5. EFFECTIVE DATE.

The amendments made by this Act shall apply with respect to benefits paid for any month beginning after the date of the enactment of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SAM JOHNSON) and the gentleman from California (Mr. BECERRA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous materials in the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, today I rise as chairman of the Ways and Means Subcommittee on Social Security—the committee of jurisdiction over Social Security benefits—in support of the No Social Security for Nazis Act, legislation I introduced along with Ranking Member XAVIER BECERRA.

The world must never forget the 6 million Jews and other innocents murdered in the Holocaust. America has worked hard to prevent Nazis from entering the country and reaping the benefits of U.S. citizenship, including Social Security. Social Security is an earned benefit. Hardworking Americans pay a portion of their wages for promises of future benefits. However, it is a benefit that was never intended for those who participated in the horrific acts of the Holocaust.

Under the Social Security Act, Social Security benefits are terminated when individuals are deported due to participating in Nazi persecutions. Some individuals whom the Department of Justice identified as Nazi persecutors were denaturalized or voluntarily renounced their citizenship and left the country to avoid formal deportation proceedings. However, due to a loophole, certain Nazi persecutors have continued to receive Social Security benefits. Today we will put an end to this loophole.

The bill amends the law to stop benefit payments to those denaturalized due to participation in Nazi persecutions or who voluntarily renounced their citizenship as part of a settlement with the Attorney General related to participating in Nazi persecution.

The bill also makes sure that these individuals do not receive spousal benefits due to a marriage to a Social Security beneficiary.

Lastly, the bill requires the Attorney General to certify to the Ways and Means Committee and Finance Committee that Social Security has been notified of all those whose benefits should be terminated due to participation in Nazi persecutions. It also requires the Commissioner of Social Security to certify that benefits were terminated.

This legislation is currently cosponsored by over 47 Members of the Congress. Also, letters of support have been received from some of the following organizations: The Association of Mature American Citizens, B'nai B'rith International, Jewish Federations of North America, J Street, National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare, Republican Jewish Coalition, Strengthen Social Security Coalition, and the Zionist Organization of America.

Mr. Speaker, I insert these letters in the RECORD as well.

AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE,
GLOBAL JEWISH ADVOCACY,
Washington, DC, November 24, 2014.

DEAR CHAIRMAN JOHNSON AND RANKING MEMBER BECERRA, I write on behalf of AJC, the global Jewish advocacy organization, to urge your support of legislation to deny federal benefits to individuals who participated in Nazi persecution. There are two House measures that seek to accomplish this: the Nazi Social Security Benefits Termination Act of 2014, introduced by Representatives Carolyn Maloney, Leonard Lance, and Jason Chaffetz, and the No Social Security for Nazis Act, introduced by Representatives Sam Johnson and Xavier Becerra.

For many years, Nazi extermination camp personnel and others who found refuge in the United States after World War II—individuals who perpetrated some of the worst crimes known to humanity, including the execution of millions of innocent civilians—have received various benefits, including Social Security payments, from the United States government. While the number of Nazi recipients of Social Security payments may not be large, the continuance of this practice is an intolerable insult to those, living and dead, who suffered at the hands of the Nazis, is an affront to American taxpayers, and contradicts our nation's core values.

The Nazi Social Security Benefits Termination Act will deny receipt of federal benefits to those who were accused of taking part in Nazi criminal acts and were either stripped of their citizenship or voluntarily renounced it. The No Social Security for Nazis Act amends the Social Security Act to cease payments to those stripped of U.S. citizenship as a result of participation in Nazi activities, and those who voluntarily renounced citizenship due to such participation.

The United States should not be lending material support to individuals whose crimes were so egregious that a new word had to be coined to describe them: genocide. On behalf of AJC, I urge you to support legislation to deny federal benefits to individuals who participated in Nazi persecution.

Thank you for considering our views on this important matter.

Respectfully,

JASON ISAACSON.

ASSOCIATION OF
MATURE AMERICAN CITIZENS,
November 20, 2014.

Hon. SAM JOHNSON,
House of Representatives, Longworth House Office Building, Washington, DC.

Hon. ORRIN HATCH,
U.S. Senate, Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, DC.

Hon. XAVIER BECERRA,
House of Representatives, Longworth House Office Building, Washington, DC.

Hon. RON WYDEN,
U.S. Senate, Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVES JOHNSON AND BECERRA AND SENATORS HATCH AND WYDEN, on behalf of the 1.2 million members of AMAC, the Association of Mature American Citizens, I am writing in strong support of the "No Social Security for Nazis Act." This critical bipartisan, bicameral bill is needed to address a loophole in the law that has enabled Holocaust perpetrators to wrongly collect Social Security benefits at the expense of American taxpayers and seniors.

The World must never forget the atrocities committed by the Nazis or the millions of innocent Jews that were callously murdered during the Holocaust. For that reason, Congress has a responsibility to ensure that war criminals no longer benefit from U.S. government programs. Therefore, the "No Social Security for Nazis Act" justly amends the Social Security Act and puts an end to Nazis receiving Social Security payouts.

On a broader scale, AMAC believes it is imperative for Congress to continue to protect Social Security for rightful beneficiaries. Mature Americans and seniors overwhelmingly depend on Social Security to help supplement their retirement income; yet, according to the Trustees of Social Security, the program remains at risk of becoming insolvent by 2030. Clearly, Social Security cannot sustain its current fiscal path without comprehensive reform. AMAC strongly urges Congress to take immediate action to save Social Security and to guarantee its existence for future generations of hard-working Americans.

Although Social Security as a whole is in need of real legislative attention, AMAC is proud to see Congress working together on this particular issue to right a terrible wrong. Thanks to your concern for this significant matter, AMAC is pleased to support the "No Social Security for Nazis Act."

Sincerely,

DAN WEBER,
President and Founder of AMAC.

B'NAI B'RITH INTERNATIONAL,
November 24, 2014.

Hon. SAM JOHNSON,
Washington, DC.

Hon. XAVIER BECERRA,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN JOHNSON AND RANKING MEMBER BECERRA: On behalf of B'nai B'rith International's hundreds of thousands of members and supporters, we write to express our support for your bill, H.R. 5739, the "No Social Security for Nazis Act." This bill, which amends the Social Security Act, will end Social Security payments to Nazi perpetrators who denaturalized and left the country many years ago as a result of their Nazi pasts. This important change in the law will treat this subgroup of Nazis in the same way as deported Nazis—who are already barred from receiving Social Security benefits.

We appreciate the deliberation and care that has gone into this process, and the many members of both houses of Congress who have worked in recent weeks to address this issue. The "No Social Security for Nazis

Act" will accomplish our shared goal of ending the payments while amending the Social Security statute directly, thereby ensuring that the many facets of social security benefit access are treated properly.

Although Social Security is an earned benefit for American workers, this change would apply only to individuals who misrepresented their pasts when entering this country and applying for citizenship. Nazi perpetrators should not be allowed to continue to benefit from the lies they told long ago. Those who have so defiled the most basic of social contracts should not be allowed to receive these benefits any longer. We believe this step is necessary and appropriate, and encourage both houses of Congress to take up these bills expeditiously. We thank you for your leadership on this matter and urge each Member of Congress to join you in quickly enacting this legislation.

Sincerely,

ALLAN J. JACOBS,
President.
DANIEL S. MARIASCHIN,
Executive Vice President.

THE JEWISH FEDERATIONS®
OF NORTH AMERICA,
November 24, 2014.

Hon. SAM JOHNSON,
Chairman;

Hon. XAVIER BECERRA,
Ranking Member, Committee on Ways and Means Social Security Subcommittee, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN JOHNSON AND RANKING MEMBER BECERRA: We write to express our support for your leadership in introducing H.R. 5739, legislation that would terminate Social Security benefits for Nazi persecutors who receive such benefits because of a loophole in current law.

The Jewish Federations of North America ("JFNA") is the national organization that represents 153 Jewish Federations, and 300 independent network communities that are the umbrella fundraising organization as well as the central planning and coordinating body for an extensive network of Jewish health, education, and social service agencies. The JFNA system raises and allocates funds for almost one thousand affiliated agencies that provide needed services to almost one million individuals throughout the country. As an organization that has been a tireless advocate to secure and provide needed support for the over 100,000 Holocaust survivors in the U.S., JFNA applauds your efforts to end benefits for war criminals that persecuted millions of innocents during the Holocaust.

It is encouraging that so many of your colleagues have joined in your effort to close this egregious loophole in current law. We will urge all of our partners in the Jewish community to work with you to ensure that H.R. 5739 is enacted during this legislative session.

Sincerely yours,

WILLIAM C. DAROFF,
Senior Vice President for Public Policy and
Director of the Washington Office.

J STREET.

J Street applauds the introduction of the No Social Security for Nazis Act (H.R. 5739), led by Chairman Sam Johnson (R-TX-3) and Ranking Member Xavier Becerra (D-CA-34), which would change the Social Security Act to prevent those who participated in Nazi persecution from receiving social security benefits. We commend the strong bipartisan support for the bill and urge its swift passage by Congress.

NATIONAL COMMITTEE TO PRESERVE
SOCIAL SECURITY AND MEDICARE,
Washington, DC, November 20, 2014.

Hon. SAM JOHNSON,
Longworth House Office Building,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN JOHNSON: On behalf of the millions of members and supporters of the National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare, I am writing to express our support of your bill, H.R. 5739, the "No Social Security for Nazis Act."

This bill amends the Social Security Act to close a loophole that allows some Nazis who gained U.S. citizenship through fraud and deception to continue receiving Social Security benefits even though they have been stripped of their citizenship and have been removed from our country. While the individuals who will be affected by this bill worked and contributed to Social Security, they gained the right to do so by lying on their applications for citizenship about the nature of their roles in the Nazi holocaust during World War II.

These war criminals should not be allowed to continue to reap the fruits of their dishonesty, and on behalf of all of our members, we commend you for your leadership in bringing this travesty to an end. We urge all Members of Congress to join you in enacting this important legislation.

Sincerely,

MAX RICHTMAN,
President and CEO.

REPUBLICAN JEWISH COALITION,
Washington, DC, November 24, 2014.

Hon. SAM JOHNSON,
Chairman, House Subcommittee on Social Security,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN JOHNSON: I'm writing to thank you for introducing H.R. 5732, the No Social Security for Nazis Act, and to encourage you and your colleagues on the House Ways and Means committee to press for enactment of legislation to close this newly discovered loophole in current law this year.

As you've noted, during prior Congresses, action had been taken to cancel Social Security benefits for individuals determined to have participated in Nazi war crimes. In light of recent news reports detailing how a number of individuals in this category have maneuvered to maintain their access to benefits, it is clear that a fix is needed.

H.R. 5732 ensures that Nazi war criminals who voluntarily renounced their citizenship and left the country prior to an impending deportation action cannot retain Social Security benefits they would otherwise have lost and blocks such individuals' access to spousal benefits.

We are encouraged by the breadth of bipartisan support for remedial legislation targeting this loophole. On behalf of the Republican Jewish Coalition's 40,000 members, I salute you for your leadership in quickly moving to solve the problem that has recently come to light.

Sincerely,

NOAH SILVERMAN,
Congressional Affairs Director,
Republican Jewish Coalition.

STRENGTHEN SOCIAL SECURITY,
Washington, DC.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS,
House of Representatives,
Longworth Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN CAMP, RANKING MEMBER LEVIN, CHAIRMAN JOHNSON, AND RANKING MEMBER BECERRA: The Strengthen Social Security Coalition, which is comprised of over 350 national and statewide organizations including women's, labor, veterans, aging, and civil rights groups appreciate your timely

introduction of the No Social Security for Nazis Act (H.R. 5739).

It is under unfortunate extraordinary circumstances that a group of individuals involved in Nazi persecutions have been receiving Social Security benefits. These war criminals should never have been allowed to enter the United States and should never have received Social Security benefits. The bipartisan legislation that has been introduced presents a solution for this extraordinary circumstance and respects the hard work and contribution of Americans who have earned their benefits. Thank you for defending the Social Security benefits that have been earned by the American people.

Sincerely,

ERIC KINGSON,
Coalition Co-Chair.
NANCY ALTMAN,
Coalition Co-Chair.

ZIONIST ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA,
Washington, DC, November 20, 2014.

Hon. SAM JOHNSON,
Ways and Means Social Security Subcommittee
Chairman, Longworth House Office Building,
Washington, DC.

CONGRESSMAN JOHNSON: The Zionist Organization of America (ZOA), the oldest and one of the largest pro-Israel organizations in the United States, strongly supports H.R. 5739, the No Social Security for Nazis Act. It is a travesty that through the loophole of passive enforcement, deported aliens who have been found to have lied about their wartime activities continue to receive Social Security from the US government. We applaud the bi-partisan group of Congressmen and their Senate counterparts who are seeking to close this loophole during the November and December congressional sessions before Congress adjourns for the year.

The process to identify those who participated in the World War II persecution of Jews was legally rigorous, but ultimately failed to achieve all of its objectives as long as the Nazis who fraudulently entered our country following the war continue to benefit during their advanced years from the fraud they committed against our country. This legislation will repair this defect. The ZOA urges its adoption in both houses of Congress and the swift signing into law of the prohibition of Social Security Payments to those found to be part of the Nazi atrocity machinery.

The ZOA commends Members of Congress of both parties who support this legislation.

MORTON KLEIN,
National President,
Zionist Organization of America.

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. For many years a loophole has allowed those who perpetrated horrific crimes against humanity to receive benefits paid by the United States Government. While the number of Nazi recipients of Social Security benefits may be few now, allowing payments to continue is an inexcusable insult to those who suffered at the hands of the Nazis.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members of the House to vote "yes" and pass the No Social Security to Nazis Act today so the Senate can take action soon and that the President can sign it into law without delay.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Let me begin, Mr. Speaker, by thanking my colleague, but, more importantly, my dear friend, Mr. SAM JOHN-

SON from Texas, for the work that he did to move so quickly working with his able staff to try to make sure we had a bill come before us. I also want to make sure that I salute the staff on this side of the aisle for the work they did in partnership to make sure that we could quickly put a bill on the floor of this House that could address what all of us agree is a glaring omission.

And so I am pleased to stand here to say, Mr. Speaker, that we have a bill that not only will take care of those dollars that Americans contributed to Social Security on a daily basis as they go to work and pay into the system, but it also will protect the dollars that so many Americans now rely on to receive their benefits.

Today, Mr. Speaker, 160 million Americans work and pay into Social Security. They know that because they do that their families will be protected if they happen to die or if they happen to become disabled or if they decide to retire. Now, for most of the 58 million Americans who are already retired or currently receiving Social Security benefits of some sort, that Social Security benefit is the most important source of income for them.

One of the greatest privileges we have as Americans living here in the U.S. is the opportunity to work and earn this Social Security protection for ourselves and for our families.

We recently learned, as Mr. JOHNSON has mentioned, that Nazi war criminals and collaborators slipped through a loophole in our laws and began receiving Social Security benefits. The record is clear: Congress never intended for the perpetrators of the Holocaust—the systematic, bureaucratic, state-sponsored murder of more than 6 million Jews and millions of other innocents—to be allowed to enter the U.S., let alone to participate in Social Security. It has been our longstanding policy that when Nazi persecutors who came under false pretenses are discovered that they be deported and stripped of all their privileges of U.S. citizenship and residency, including, of course, Social Security.

I am pleased to be here today because today what we are saying is we are ready to act. This legislation will tightly close the loophole that allows some individuals to use and retain Social Security benefits even after their Holocaust crimes have been proven and their citizenship has been revoked. As the chairman has mentioned, and as we are trying to make clear today, it is critically important that we make everyone aware that when you work for Social Security, you have earned it, and only then will you get it. So when someone comes in, uses a loophole, tries to take advantage, and then believes that they can get away with it, we want to be able to act quickly and make it clear that it will never happen again. We want those safeguards to be in place for everyone who has been working hard and paying into Social

Security for years and years. They are the ones that own it, not people who have defrauded our government.

Like past Congresses, we believe that we must act quickly because the issue of the Holocaust is not unresolved in our minds. We know what we must do to anyone who perpetrated those heinous acts. We must act as quickly as we can. And so, Mr. Speaker, I say with a great deal of pride and friendship that I stand with the chairman of the Social Security Subcommittee today, Mr. SAM JOHNSON, to urge my colleagues to join us in closing this loophole now before Social Security has to pay another dime to a Nazi war criminal.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Thank you, Mr. BECERRA. I appreciate your remarks.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACK), a member of the Committee on Ways and Means.

Mrs. BLACK. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague for yielding to me.

Mr. Speaker, for many today, the heinous acts of the Nazi party in the World War II era are a story relegated to the history books and museums. But the fact is some of these war criminals are still alive, and they are even getting a monthly check from Uncle Sam.

An Associated Press investigation found that dozens of Nazi suspects have collected Social Security benefits due to a loophole in our laws. And the cost to the taxpayers has reportedly reached into the millions.

Seniors in my district already have concerns about the future of Social Security. The last thing that they want to see is their government using scarce taxpayer dollars for this purpose. That is why I was proud to cosponsor Congressman SAM JOHNSON's No Social Security for Nazis Act, legislation to cut off benefits to anyone stripped of their U.S. citizenship related to their participation in Nazi crimes.

No act of Congress could ever make right the atrocities of the Holocaust or bring justice to its 6 million victims. But ending the flow of the payments to those human rights violators would sure be a step in the right direction.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Texas for his good work on this issue and this bipartisan measure and look forward to voting in support.

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, we are expecting another speaker, but I reserve the balance of my time and let the gentleman from Texas proceed if he has another speaker.

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. LANCE).

□ 1245

Mr. LANCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge passage of H.R. 5739, the No Social Security for Nazis Act, which will correct an injustice of two generations and right a terrible wrong

in the name of the lives that were lost as a result of the Holocaust.

To think Nazis are receiving Social Security benefits derived from tax receipts of the American people is sickening and morally wrong. Today, Congress will move to put an end to it.

This effort was originally championed in the 1990s by my predecessor from the district I have the honor of serving, the late Congressman Bob Franks, and I am proud to continue his effort and see this legislation pass on the floor of the House today.

The United States, including my home State of New Jersey, stands in solidarity with the Jewish people, the State of Israel, and the decades-long struggle for peace in the world following the Nazi atrocities.

This action is yet another step in demonstrating that our resolve for justice is unyielding and our commitment to pursue what is right continues even 70 years after World War II.

I thank my colleague, Congresswoman CAROLYN MALONEY of New York City, for her leadership on this issue and for asking me to cosponsor the original bill that she had initiated. I also thank Congressman SAM JOHNSON and the Ways and Means Committee for taking up this effort.

The world can never forget the hate and intolerance of the 1930s and 1940s that claimed the lives of millions of people of the Jewish faith and forever scarred the face of mankind. Let this effort be another chapter in the healing that has brought vigor to the pursuit of justice, attention and care to all human suffering and the work toward a world of greater understanding and peace.

When given the chance to put an end to an egregious practice, we must act. I urge passage today of this important piece of legislation.

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY), who has been very active on this issue.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding, and I thank my friend and colleague on the other side of the aisle, LEONARD LANCE, for coming to New York, for working in meetings, and for advancing this issue before the Social Security Administration and also the Justice Department.

Mr. Speaker, for decades, former Nazis complicit in war crimes have been given monthly Social Security benefit checks due to a loophole in the law. It is an outrage that began at the end of World War II, when thousands of Nazis fled to the United States.

Many lied about their past, so that they could become American citizens, take jobs, and try to just blend in, but most were eventually identified and deported, and some were tried for their crimes; however, dozens were never formally deported. If a former Nazi left the U.S. on his own before a final order of removal was issued, the law allowed him to keep receiving his Social Security benefits.

As the author of the Nazi War Crimes Disclosure Act of 1998, which opened up all of the files of the CIA on the Nazis and what they were doing in the United States and in Europe, I have been working on this issue for decades.

In 1991, I cowrote a bill to close this loophole by creating a new legal process to terminate benefits. Earlier this year, I wrote the Social Security Administration, seeking more information on former Nazis who continue to receive Social Security benefits. They will be issuing a report to me and others on exactly how much money is involved.

After an investigative report by the Associated Press revealed new details of Nazis receiving Social Security benefits, I wrote to the IG of the Justice Department and have had meetings with them and the Social Security Administration to investigate exactly how this all occurred.

I also worked with my colleagues, Republican Congressmen LEONARD LANCE of New Jersey and JASON CHAFFETZ of Utah, to craft the Nazi Benefits Termination Act of 2014. It was supported by editorials across this Nation. We received a total of 19 editorials in support of our bill.

In the interest of time, I will just put in the RECORD roughly five of them because I think it is important that across this Nation, from the South, the West, the East, the North, all of them have come out strongly in support of not spending one taxpayer dime to support Nazis.

The Ways and Means Committee took on this same effort. Our bills are similar, and either would be sufficient to address the problem. Both would affirmatively declare individuals who have been denaturalized or renounced citizenship on the grounds of participation in Nazi persecution ineligible for Social Security benefits.

I urge my colleagues to end this outrage, close this loophole, and send a message that when we say we will never forget, we mean we will never forget and that we will stop this terrible abuse of taxpayer money going to Social Security benefits for Nazis.

I commend all of my colleagues who have worked on this important issue.

[From mydailynews.com]

NO SSNS FOR THE SS

A search for some small measure of justice will go on as long as Nazi war criminals remain alive and unpunished. Never mind that almost seven decades have passed since they participated in the Holocaust. Never mind that they are well up in years, perhaps approaching 100.

The outrage is that some of the guilty are living out their last days with the help of Social Security payments sent out by Uncle Sam.

After World War II, former SS death camp guards and others made their way to America in the hope of leaving their crimes behind. Rather than fight to boot the group, the government made odious deals: If they left the country, they would keep their Social Security benefits.

As reported by the Associated Press, troops who worked in the camps, a rocket scientist

accused of using slave labor to do his research, a Polish Nazi collaborator who facilitated the murder of thousands of Jews and others fled and kept their cash.

At least four are still alive—and collecting. Rep. Carolyn Maloney said she will draft legislation to strip benefits from Nazis.

Better late than never.

[From the Dallas Morning News, Oct. 22, 2014]

SHAMEFUL SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS FOR EXPELLED NAZIS

Jakob Denzinger gets about \$1,500 a month in Social Security payments, but the 90-year-old retiree isn't a typical senior citizen.

He's a former Auschwitz guard and one-time Ohio businessman who is now living comfortably overseas on U.S. Social Security benefits. His monthly check is nearly twice the take-home pay of an average worker in Croatia, where he lives. This for a man who patrolled one of the Nazi regime's most infamous death camps. It is an outrageous affront; Congress should no longer tolerate it.

An Associated Press investigation published over the weekend found that the U.S. Justice Department secretly used the promise of continued retirement payments to persuade dozens of Nazi suspects in the U.S. to leave. If they agreed to go quietly, or fled before deportation, as Denzinger did in 1989, they could retain their benefits. In return, the Justice Department's Office of Special Investigations avoided messy deportation hearings and increased the number of former Nazis it expelled.

Just how many Nazis cashed in isn't known. However, its stomach-turning to know that Nazi war criminals are receiving retirement benefits, just like your father or grandfather who fought to end the Nazi reign of terror. No accountability. Just a quiet retirement with a steady stream of government checks for Hitler's henchmen.

Americans deserve answers. The AP traces the program to 1979 and says at least 38 of 66 suspected Nazis removed from the country since then kept receiving their retirement benefits. By March 1999, the AP reports, 28 suspected Nazi criminals living overseas had amassed \$1.5 million in Social Security benefits. That's probably just the tip of the iceberg, but Social Security and Justice Department officials aren't talking.

We acknowledge that there is scant appetite in Europe or the United States to bring these aging men to trial. However, neither is there good reason for the U.S. to continue subsidizing their golden years. The deaths of millions should never be forgotten or bought off. With anti-Semitism again on the rise in Europe, sweeping these cases under the rug is the wrong way to signal to the world that we will never forget Nazi atrocities.

Congress turned its back on previous measures to stop payments to keep from offending diplomatic sensibilities or slowing down the Justice Department's expulsion efforts. It's time for this insult to end. A White House spokesman says the president, rightly, wants the benefits stopped, and Rep. Carolyn Maloney, D-N.Y., has called for an inquiry into the actions of Justice Department and Social Security officials; she also plans to introduce legislation to halt the payments.

It is unconscionable to reward those accused of such horrific crimes. Congress should act now to strip them of their benefits.

[From registerguard.com]

The headline on The Associated Press story read like something one would see on the front page of a tabloid newspaper at a supermarket checkout stand: "Nazis who left

U.S. still paid Social Security." The difference is, the story apparently is true.

The AP reported Sunday that since 1979 "dozens of suspected Nazi war criminals and SS guards collected millions of dollars in Social Security benefits after being forced out of the United States." The report said at least four of the 38 known beneficiaries are still alive, including a former concentration camp guard who left Arizona and returned to Germany in 2007, just before being stripped of his U.S. citizenship, and a former guard at Auschwitz who fled Ohio in 1989, after learning "denaturalization" proceedings were under way against him, and settled in Croatia.

State Department officials said the Justice Department used the continuation of Social Security benefits as a carrot to get the Germans to voluntarily give up their U.S. citizenship, and to avoid lengthy deportation hearings. A spokesman for the Justice Department denied that Social Security payments were thus used.

At the time the Justice Department had a Nazi-hunting unit, the Office of Special Investigations, that was dedicated to expelling as many former Nazis as possible, preferably to countries where they would be prosecuted for war crimes, although only 10 were.

The AP said the payments were made possible by a "loophole" in the law but provided no specifics. The Social Security Administration denied an AP request for the number of suspects who received payments and the amounts they received, saying it doesn't track Nazi cases.

On Monday, Rep. Carol Maloney, D-NY, sent letters to the inspectors general of the Justice Department and the Social Security Administration demanding that the Obama administration investigate the payments, which she called a "gross misuse of taxpayer dollars." But the son of the former Auschwitz guard, Jakob Denzinger, told The AP his father had earned the benefit payments and deserves to continue receiving them.

Did the former Nazi guards who simply carried out orders, however immoral or heinous, absolve themselves by becoming upstanding, law-abiding, tax-paying U.S. citizens during the 70 years since World War II ended? Some will say yes but many others would argue their crimes can never be forgiven. For most Americans, knowing that taxpayer-funded retirement benefits are being given to people who surrendered their U.S. citizenship, and who played a direct role in the worst human-caused catastrophe in history, isn't going to sit right. And it shouldn't.

It sounds as if Maloney, who's a high-ranking member of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, is bent on closing whatever "loophole" has allowed the Social Security payments to continue to be sent overseas. The millions that have already been paid are gone and not likely to be recoverable but the thousands not yet paid could still be withheld. It shouldn't take an act of Congress to scotch such a grievous insult to American taxpayers—but apparently it will.

[From the Sun Sentinel, Nov. 30, 2014]

NAZI CRIMINALS GETTING BENEFITS? YES, IT'S TRUE

Congress has finally found something its members can agree on.

It's important, it's bipartisan and it's hellacious enough to make you wonder how such a practice could have been allowed to continue, with the blessing of the U.S. government, no less.

But now, a group of lawmakers—including Florida Democratic Sen. Bill Nelson—has introduced legislation that would strip sus-

pected Nazi war criminals of the Social Security benefits they've been receiving for having agreed to leave this country and live overseas.

You read that right

Hard as it is to believe, an investigation by the Associated Press found that dozens of Nazi suspects who made their way to the U.S. have been receiving retirement benefits with taxpayer money. And if they agreed to leave the country quietly, or before a deportation action, the Justice Department said they could keep these benefits. That way, the government could avoid ugly deportation hearings and increase the number of former Nazis expelled.

Outrageous? You bet.

And it's been going on for years, with your money.

The AP traced the program to 1979, and said at least 38 of 66 suspected Nazis removed from the country since that time kept receiving retirement benefits. By March 1999, the report said 28 suspected Nazi criminals living overseas had amassed \$1.5 million in Social Security benefits. The number is certainly much larger by now.

Now comes the Nazi Social Security Benefits Termination Act, in response to the revelations. Nelson is one of the sponsors of the Senate version. The legislation would end benefits for Nazi suspects who have lost American citizenship. Congress is hoping to get the legislation finalized during the current lame-duck session.

"Our bill will eliminate the loophole that has allowed Nazi war criminals to collect Social Security benefits," said Rep. Carolyn Maloney, D-N.Y. She also has called for an inquiry into the actions of Justice Department and Social Security officials.

Remember, we're talking about Nazi war criminals here, people involved in the horrific death camps where millions died.

As an example, Jakob Denzinger, 90, has been getting about \$1,500 a month in Social Security payments. He is a former Auschwitz guard and a one-time Ohio businessman. According to the AP, some other recipients of Social Security participated in the liquidation of the Warsaw Ghetto, oversaw the use of slave labor and helped with the round-up and killing of thousands of Jews.

It defies all sensibilities to learn that these payments have been going on for decades. Now that they've come to light, President Obama says he wants them, stopped. The proposed legislation would do just that.

"This legislation is long overdue," said Abraham Foxman, national director of the Anti-Defamation League, "and we are pleased that lawmakers in Congress are taking this seriously."

A serious investigation also is needed into how this happened to begin with.

[From the Pueblo Chieftain, Oct. 23, 2014]

CLOSING AN ABHORRENT LOOPHOLE

FOR ONCE, we actually do agree with the White House and the Congress.

But it's hard to find fault when the president's spokesman says it's past time to cut off Social Security benefits for former Nazis who are living and aging overseas. Or with Congressional plans to solve the problem.

"Our position is we don't believe these individuals should be getting these benefits," White House Spokesman Eric Schultz said Monday.

That's a bit of an understatement. Rather, we find it astounding these suspected murderers and thugs got benefits—much less the millions of taxpayer dollars reported by the Associated Press—in the first place.

As a bit of background, the AP reported last week that dozens of suspected Nazis have collected benefits after being driven out

of the United States. Though their World War II actions led to their departure, they were never convicted of war crimes.

While the exact number of beneficiaries—or the total taxpayer-underwritten benefit they received—has not been released, the list included SS troops who guarded Nazi concentration camps, a rocket scientist accused of using slave labor to advance his research in the Third Reich and a Nazi collaborator who allegedly engineered the arrest and execution of thousands of Jews in Poland, according to the Associated Press.

They fled their home countries after the war and set up residency here.

A legal loophole gave the Justice Department leverage to persuade the Nazi suspects to leave the U.S. If they did, or if they simply fled prior to deportation, they could keep their Social Security benefit, the AP reported.

And in this rare instance, Washington's response has been both swift and appropriate. Rep. Carolyn Maloney of New York—a ranking member of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee—called on the Obama administration to investigate the payments. The Democrat called them a “gross misuse of taxpayer dollars.”

And yesterday, Sens. Charles Schumer, D-NY, and Bob Casey, D-PA, announced plans to introduce legislation to close the loophole that allowed for the payments. A joint press release issued by the pair reflects that the bill would also provide direction to federal immigration judges adjudicating cases involving a suspected Nazi persecutors.

New York's Rep. Maloney plans on carrying that bill in the U.S. House.

At least four of these suspected criminals are still living comfortably on the taxpayer dole. They are doing so via a social service safety net that is now financially failing.

That is a totally unacceptable and abhorrent misuse of our funds. We are pleased to see Congress is acting to fix the problem, even if—given the ages of the surviving recipients—it is too late to result in substantial savings.

We strongly encourage each member of Colorado's congressional delegation to support the legislation. Be bold. Take a stance for the taxpayers, the citizens in need, the survivors and the millions who perished at the hands of these suspected criminals and their contemporaries.

Pass this law and close the loophole.

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time, and I think it is important to close on a particular note. I don't think it gets lost on the chairman or me that, when we sit as the chairman and ranking member on the Social Security Subcommittee, we have a major responsibility, and that is to make sure that what people expect when they allow a good chunk of money to come out of their paycheck, it is going to be used for what they believe, and that is for Social Security benefits for those who have earned them.

When something like this comes along and you find out that someone found out a way to circumvent the laws and the process and take advantage of getting dollars out of America that have been put in for the purpose of providing security to those who retire or become disabled or who die, it really makes you want to act, but when you realize that, on top of that, the folks who are gaming the system are folks who should never have been in this

country in the first place because they committed heinous crimes and were perpetrators of some of the worst evils we have seen in our history, then it makes you want to work doubly fast.

At a time when we deal with major issues and oftentimes have challenges in reaching agreement, the American people should watch for a second because, in this case, we are coming together to say that we understand the purpose of Social Security.

It is important to extend a thank you to the chairman of the Social Security Subcommittee for making sure that, before we ended this year and before we ended this session, we had an opportunity to put our vote on the floor saying, “No, if you don't earn your benefits, you won't get them, and if you shouldn't have been here in the first place, then you certainly shouldn't get Social Security as well.”

It is important to get this done, and we hope the Senate will act quickly. Hopefully, before too long, the President will have an opportunity to sign this, and forever, we will be able to say that we know that no perpetrator of the Holocaust will ever have an opportunity to steal Social Security from those who worked hard to earn it.

With that, Mr. Speaker, and thanking the staff on both sides of the aisle for the work they have done so diligently and to my friend and chairman, Mr. JOHNSON, I say thank you.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and I thank Mr. BECERRA.

It takes two to tango, and fortunately, we have a compatible interest on this committee. I thank Ranking Member XAVIER BECERRA and his staff for working with us on this important legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members of the House to vote “yes” and pass the No Social Security for Nazis Act today, so the Senate can take action soon and that the President can sign it into law without delay.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SAM JOHNSON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5739.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings

will resume on motions to suspend the rules previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

S. 2040, by the yeas and nays;

H.R. 5050, by the yeas and nays;

H.R. 3572, by the yeas and nays.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. Remaining electronic votes will be conducted as 5-minute votes.

BLACKFOOT RIVER LAND EXCHANGE ACT OF 2014

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 2040) to exchange trust and fee land to resolve land disputes created by the realignment of the Blackfoot River along the boundary of the Fort Hall Indian Reservation, and for other purposes, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Washington (Mr. HASTINGS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 414, nays 0, not voting 20, as follows:

[Roll No. 534]

YEAS—414

Adams	Chabot	Ellison
Amash	Chaffetz	Ellmers
Amodei	Chu	Engel
Bachmann	Ciциlline	Enyart
Bachus	Clark (MA)	Eshoo
Barber	Clarke (NY)	Esty
Barletta	Clawson (FL)	Farenthold
Barr	Clay	Farr
Barrow (GA)	Cleaver	Fattah
Barton	Clyburn	Fincher
Beatty	Coble	Fitzpatrick
Becerra	Coffman	Fleischmann
Benishek	Cohen	Fleming
Bentivolio	Cole	Flores
Bera (CA)	Collins (GA)	Forbes
Bilirakis	Collins (NY)	Fortenberry
Bishop (GA)	Conaway	Foster
Bishop (NY)	Connolly	Fox
Bishop (UT)	Conyers	Frankel (FL)
Black	Cook	Franks (AZ)
Blackburn	Cooper	Frelinghuysen
Blumenauer	Costa	Fudge
Bonamici	Cotton	Gabbard
Boustany	Courtney	Gallago
Brady (PA)	Cramer	Garamendi
Brady (TX)	Crawford	Garcia
Braley (IA)	Crenshaw	Gardner
Brat	Crowley	Gerlach
Bridenstine	Cuellar	Gibbs
Brooks (AL)	Culberson	Gibson
Brooks (IN)	Cummings	Gingrey (GA)
Brown (GA)	Daines	Gohmert
Brown (FL)	Davis (CA)	Goodlatte
Brownley (CA)	Davis, Danny	Gosar
Buchanan	Davis, Rodney	Gowdy
Bucshon	DeFazio	Granger
Burgess	DeGette	Graves (GA)
Bustos	Delaney	Graves (MO)
Butterfield	DeLauro	Grayson
Byrne	DelBene	Green, Al
Calvert	Denham	Green, Gene
Camp	Dent	Griffin (AR)
Campbell	DeSantis	Griffith (VA)
Capito	DesJarlais	Grijalva
Capps	Deutch	Grimm
Cárdenas	Diaz-Balart	Guthrie
Carney	Dingell	Gutiérrez
Carson (IN)	Doggett	Hahn
Carter	Duffy	Hanabusa
Cartwright	Duncan (SC)	Hanna
Castor (FL)	Duncan (TN)	Harper
Castro (TX)	Edwards	Harris