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by

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These responses indicate

By Lee Wallio

that many Americans feel there is inefficiency in this basic program that now pays retirement, disability, and survivors checks to some 36-million people ...:

The facts, however, prove otherwise.

Last year, the Social Security Administration's total administrative costs were only 1.3 per cent of benefit payments -- an alltime low.

This means that for every dollar you pay into Social Security, about 98.7 cents goes toward paying benefits for those who are now eligible.

Although operating costs have increased in actual dollars over the years as Social Security has grown in scope, the ratio of costs to benefits has steadily decreased.

For example, costs were about 2 per cent of benefits in 1970.

This increased efficiency (with a slight reduction in staff) is due to such factors as: use of the computer as a major working tool; simplification of many administrative procedures and reduction of recordkeeping requirements.

Costs for operatings Social Security per unitriof work has increased more slowly than for service industries in general.

Administrative expenses include such items as salaries, rental of property and equipment, building operating expenses. and supplies.

They also include payments to the U.S. Treasury Department for collecting Social Security taxes and issuing checks as well as costs incurred, by States in making disability determinations. 32.5