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The Membership
The Combined armed Forces Federation UK
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December 2010 Update

Dear Members

Please note all information from now onwards, including AGM details and Reports, will be conveyed on our Web-site as above. For those of you having overlooked your subscriptions a copy of this letter will be sent as a reminder by post if you are not on the 'Internet'. Please check and help us to keep our paperwork to a minimum. It also helps considerably if you can pay by 'Standing Order' and the necessary 'Form' can be downloaded from the Web-site. Remember the internet can be accessed at most Public Libraries nowadays but access is also available from many other locations at a small cost, especially hotels etc.

Please note that if you are renewing your subscriptions or standing order there is no need to repeat your membership application or details and send them to Frank Rixon. However always quote your Membership Number with any correspondence and/or cheques. This will save Frank considerable time and inconvenience.

Now is the time especially, to point out to your Member of Parliament that this Government, like the last Administration, is illegally withholding our Occupational Pensions and Gratuities which is contrary to the existing legislation under the Social Security Act, Section 38, Schedule 16. Also the Parliamentary Command 945 for those who became Civil Servants on leaving the Armed Forces. Also the Pre 1975 Rules of the Principal Civil Service Superannuation Scheme which includes those entering the Civil Service under the requirements of Reconstruction Competitions.

For those of you who have written to your MP and received the regular misinformation, spin and false pretences in reply, now is the time to make an appointment with them to point out the Government's legal responsibilities as above. We are not seeking 'Hand Outs' as present Ministers would try and have us believe. The present situation and their responses amount to nothing less than 'Large Scale Benefit Fraud', which we are not prepared to accept ! We have carried out the necessary research and the facts are detailed in our Researched Report and Addendums. There are two copies available to them in the House of Commons Library.

With all the daily announcements of 'Ring Fencing' and 'Hand Outs' for their own back door social engineering projects it can hardly be in the gift of this Government, even with the downturn in the economy, to claim our legal claims to pensions are 'simply unaffordable'. In fact paying our legal entitlements will give further impetus to an economic recovery, especially on a local basis. Even so they could also claim that payments of the present Parliamentary and Civil Service pensions are simply unaffordable. Obviously they have no intentions of doing that !

The banks have no 'Toxic Debts'. The people unfortunate enough to lose their homes, thanks to the criminally reckless and irresponsible banks, are carrying those ! Theoretically, over time, the banks will get at least two thirds of their money back when the properties are re-sold. That will give the banks at least another £100 billion to play with on top of that which the taxpayer has already provided them with ! And don't forget the banker's outrageous pensions the taxpayer will be funding for them ! But there will be no prosecutions for their crimes of course because bankers are immune from the law it would appear? All they need to do is say 'Sorry' ! If only we all had a carefree job in the city?

It is also important to point out to your MP the claim by the Minister for Veterans, Andrew Robatham MP and his Treasury Mandarins, that if they treated our pension claims as retrospective, which they are of course, they would then have to treat all Public Sector Pension claims as retrospective. This is totally incorrect and a pack of lies in fact, and an attempt at obfuscation amounting to gutter politics. The transitional and transfer arrangements for Public Service Pensions and their employees were introduced prior to 1975. For Private Sector employees the Social Security Act 1973 also introduced an 'Occupational Pensions Board' which required all Managers of Occupational Pension Schemes to submit them to the Board for approval and implementation of their transitional and transfer arrangements.

This means the Armed Forces serving prior to 1975 are the only employees not to have had their years of service subjected to the transitional and transfer arrangements as required by the 1973 Act. This was blatant discrimination between the Armed Forces and all other employees both Public and Private ! It could be argued that the so called 'unparallel prosperity' between the years 1997 until 2007 was at the expense of the Armed Forces pre 1975 poverty during those years? Not only have some latter day Politicians and Government Ministers been fiddling their expenses at the expense of the tax payer, some have also taken to fiddling with pre 1975 Armed Forces Pensions and continue to do so !

My final comment and suggestion is that you download this letter to take with you to an appointment with your MP. Read it to them and then ask them what they are going to do about it? For those who are prepared to support, perhaps you could let me know.

The Acid Test of an MP's support is whether they will be prepared to put a question to the Prime Minister at Prime Ministers Question Time on Wednesdays – so ask them !

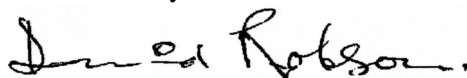
For example –

Contrary to the Social Security Act 1973 Section 38 Schedule 16, and Parliamentary Command 945 April 1959 many members of the Armed Forces are being denied their legal rights to Occupational Pensions and Gratuities for their years of service prior to 1975. Will the Prime Minister arrange for their urgent and immediate payment?

Please don't send the usual negative replies from Ministers, I have more than enough of these already. In conclusion,

“Happy Christmas to One and All”
And Happy New Year !

Yours sincerely



David Robson
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The Combined Armed Forces Federation U.K.

