

SOCIAL SECURITY SNAPSHOT: *Republicans are divided and distracted*



Republican Proposal Ignores Key Problem: Solvency...

- “The [Republican] leadership wants any House legislation to **focus on creating private investment accounts.**” [Bloomberg, 6/30/05]
- “...worst of all, [the House and Senate proposals] **don't address the coming shortfall in Social Security.**” [Chicago Tribune, Editorial, 7/9/05]
- “As drafted, the House GOP plan **omits steps to extend the program's solvency.**” [AP, 6/30/05]



... And Privatization Continues to Face Republican Resistance...

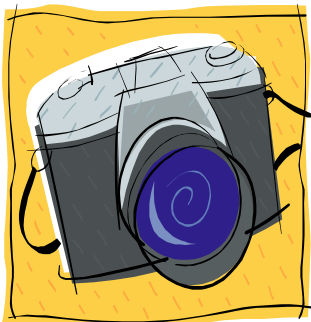
- **Mike Castle (R-DE):** “Clearly there're not the 218 votes there now. There are enough individuals raising questions.” [Bloomberg, 7/12/05]
- “**GOP moderates** have not embraced the idea [in the House Republican proposal].” [Wall Street Journal, 7/10/05]
- **Rep. Jim Kolbe (R-AZ):** “You must eat your spinach before having dessert, and this [House Republican] plan only offers dessert: the personal retirement accounts.” [USA Today, 6/23/05]
- **Sen. Charles E. Grassley (R-IA), Senate Finance Committee Chairman:** Grassley “was disappointed that the [new House Republican] bill did not address Social Security's impending insolvency.” [Los Angeles Times, 6/23/05]

- **Rob Simmons (R-CT)**: “I do not support legislation that takes tax dollars and diverts them to private accounts.” [Bloomberg, 7/12/05]
- **Jim Gerlach (R-PA)**: Gerlach “wrote a letter to constituents in May saying he would oppose accounts.” [Bloomberg, 7/12/05]
- **Heather Wilson (R-NM)**: “I’ve opposed the privatization of Social Security.” [Bloomberg, 6/30/05]
- **Shelley Moore Capito, (R-WV)**: Capito “said Bush’s plans for Social Security are ‘going to be a tough sell’ in her state largely because of concerns about benefit cuts... ‘There’s concern, mostly by older people, that there’s too great a risk involved,’ the congresswoman said in a telephone interview.” [Knight Ridder, 7/1/05]



...Meanwhile Social Security Is Headed for the Back Burner.

- “**[Bush] last publicly discussed Social Security on June 23.** Senate aides say their bosses are not being pushed by the White House to back his Social Security proposals.” [CQ, 7/8/05]
- “Six months after Republicans began selling Social Security reform, they all but acknowledge that **wide-scale changes won't happen this year.**” [Washington Times, 7/11/05]
- “On July 1, [Justice Sandra Day O’Connor] announced her retirement, throwing the Senate’s entire legislative agenda into doubt. **Social Security, already an iffy prospect, is seen as one of the likeliest casualties** because it would require extensive floor time to deal with a slew of expected amendments and to overcome a Democratic filibuster.” [CQ, 7/8/05]
- “[House Majority Whip Roy Blunt] said Social Security legislation may be taken up in September, but both he and [Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist] were **careful not to commit themselves to a timetable.**” [CQ, 7/12/05]



Public Opposition to the Republican Privatization Proposal Continues to Grow

“Americans disapprove of Bush’s overhaul plan by a ratio of more than 2-to-1, a new low for the White House, according to a Gallup/USA Today/CNN poll conducted June 24 through June 26.” [Bloomberg, 6/30/05]