

DO-NOTHING

REPUBLICANS RETURN TO WASHINGTON TO

DO NOTHING

Republicans return from their second Spring Break this year divided and unable to make progress on important issues: record-setting prices at the pump, a spiraling culture of corruption, skyrocketing health care costs, a dangerous energy crisis, a complicated immigration debate and an exploding national deficit and debt.

The Media and Members Note Republican Divisions and Inaction

“For the first time since coming to power in 1994, the party is at serious risk of not passing a budget resolution in the House, and the lobbying disclosure bill to be taken up this week is a far cry from that promised by Speaker Dennis Hastert (R., Ill.)” [Wall Street Journal, 4/24/06]

“When Congress returns...from a spring recess, Republicans face a political landscape even more challenging than when they left town two weeks ago after failing to pass legislation that would crack down on illegal immigration and curb domestic spending.” [Los Angeles Times, 4/24/06]

Rep. John Duncan, R-Tenn., first elected to Congress in 1988: “[This is] the least work we have done on the floor since I’ve been here.” [Chattanooga Times Free Press, 3/10/06]

A Do-Nothing Congress: The Numbers Tell the Story

- The “Do-Nothing” Congress of 1948 met for 108 days. The 109th Congress is scheduled to meet for 97 voting days.
- Congress met for the fewest number of days in January and February since 1975, took the first St. Patrick’s Day recess since 1947 in March, and failed to pass a House budget resolution before the Spring Recess in April.
- April 25th marks only the 22nd Voting Day of the 109th Congress, 2nd Session. And, there are only 55 days scheduled in session between now and Labor Day.

What's Not Getting Done by the Do-Nothing Republican Congress

- **TERRORISM:** Osama Bin Laden remains at large, nearly five years after the attacks of September 11th. Many of the recommendations of the bipartisan 9/11 Commission have not been implemented.
- **IMMIGRATION:** Comprehensive reform to deal with 11 million illegal immigrants is mired down by Republican in-fighting and Republican insistence on criminalizing undocumented workers.
- **GAS PRICES:** The nationwide average price of gasoline is nearly 70 cents higher than it was one year ago and Republicans have done little in the short or long-term to lower prices or promote alternative energy sources.
- **GOP CORRUPTION:** Republicans are set to vote on a bill in the House this week that is widely viewed as doing nothing to rein in the Republican culture of corruption.
- **TAX REFORM:** Nearly 20,000 pages have been added to the tax code under President Bush and the Republican Congress, who have refused to address this issue.
- **WAGES:** Average household income is down by \$1,670 (during President Bush's first term), while in 2005 alone, the median compensation of CEOs of the 100 largest U.S. companies soared 25% to nearly \$18 million.
- **MINIMUM WAGE:** Republicans continue to refuse to raise the minimum wage, which has not been increased since 1997.
- **HEALTH CARE:** Since 2000, the cost of health insurance has risen by 59 percent, while workers' wages have increased by 12 percent.
- **DEBT AND DEFICIT:** After inheriting record budget surpluses, Washington Republicans have instigated an historic fiscal turnaround – adding \$3 trillion to the national debt and presiding over record budget deficits. Republicans doubt they will be able to pass a budget blueprint this year, which could be a key step in reining in their out-of-control deficits.