



# FAMILY FEUD

## *Republican Divisions Prevent Congress from Getting the Job Done, Will Spur Voters to Vote for Change*

*“House Majority Leader John Boehner dismisses recent legislative proposals on energy, immigration and spending as ‘stupid,’ ‘insulting’ and ‘dead on arrival.’ Boehner’s scorn isn’t directed at his usual target, the Democrats: The proposals drawing the Ohio Republican’s contempt come from members of his own party in the Senate. The harsh words reflect growing tension between House and Senate Republicans, a divide that may complicate efforts to strike compromises on legislation and retain the party’s control of the House in the November elections.” [Bloomberg, 5/12/06]*

### **BUDGET**

- “The House appears close to moving forward without adopting a budget resolution for the first time in 30 years — an election year embarrassment for Republicans. It also suggests that the party is even more divided than usual over how much to clamp down on domestic spending...” [CQ, 5/11/06]
- Even if the House is able to pass a budget resolution, “chances of reaching a final conference agreement with the Senate plan, which is far different, are remote.” [CQ, 5/11/06]

### **SUPPLEMENTAL SPENDING**

- House and Senate Republicans are squabbling about the size of the supplemental bill for war costs and hurricane recovery efforts, with Speaker Dennis Hastert saying that the version passed by the Senate was “dead on arrival.” [Washington Post, 5/5/06]

### **IMMIGRATION**

- “The already passed House [immigration] bill and the expected Senate version may prove to be irreconcilably different, with the Senate bill expected to lay out a path to citizenship for the estimated 11 million immigrants currently in the country illegally, a provision which the House bill does not contain and which many supporters of the House bill strongly oppose.” [NBC’s First Read, 5/16/06]
- In response to President Bush’s May 15 Oval Office speech on immigration, Rep. Tom Tancredo said, “If the president thinks by taking one step forward with enforcement the House will follow with two steps backwards with amnesty, he’s confusing us with the Senate.” [Associated Press, 5/16/06]

### **ENERGY**

- “Representative Jeff Flake, an Arizona Republican, said the [Senate Majority Leader’s \$100] rebate idea made the party look ‘desperate.’” [Bloomberg, 5/12/06]

### **LOBBYING REFORM**

- House and Senate Republicans are split on the lobbying reform legislation, with the Senate “expected to resist House-passed language curbing 527 organizations.” In addition, the “Senate version of the bill goes further than the House by banning gifts and doubling the so-called revolving door ban on lobbying to two years. There is little support on the House side for a complete gift ban, and extending the revolving door ban gained little traction after opposition from senior members, including Judiciary Chairman Sensenbrenner, who voted against final passage of the bill.” [Congress Daily, 5/15/06]