



I'm ignoring
you, America!

OUT OF TOUCH AND OUT OF STEP

The Republican Majority has turned its back on the values of the American people. Unable and unwilling to pass legislation important to the American public, the GOP leadership has instead focused on increasing its own power and enacting a right-wing agenda.

According to a recent CBS Poll, only 20% of respondents felt that Congress shared their priorities for the country, while 68% did not. [CBS, 5/25/05]

“Americans have grown gloomier about the nation's direction, the economy and Iraq, and by 65%-17% they say Congress doesn't share their priorities...When Americans are asked which party they want to control Congress after the 2006 elections, Democrats hold a 47%-40% edge -- the party's best showing since the Journal/NBC survey began asking that question in 1994.” [Wall Street Journal, 5/19/05]

“Satisfaction with congressional Republicans also has sagged. By 47%-36%, those polled say the country would be better off if Democrats controlled Congress. That's the best showing for Democrats since the GOP won control of both houses of Congress in 1994.” [USA Today, 5/23/05]

Republicans are out of step with the American people because they're...

• Standing still on transportation legislation that would help create jobs.

THE AMERICAN PEOPLE are worried about jobs.

The American economy only created 78,000 jobs in May, just half of what is needed to keep up with population growth. A poll from the Pew Center for People and the Press found that 24% of those surveyed “said the economy would be worse a year from now, the most since January 2001.” The Center's director, Andrew Kohut believes that “availability of jobs and the instability of the stock market are the leading drivers of pessimism.” [Bloomberg News, 6/5/05]

THE REPUBLICAN MAJORITY is squabbling over funding which represents a fraction of the overall cost of the bill – which would create tens of thousands of jobs.

“One of the major sticking points [in passing a Transportation Bill is] higher six-year level of authorized spending in the Senate bill. That measure authorizes about \$11.2 billion more in federal transportation spending from FY04-09 than the version passed by the House and pushed by Bush...White House officials have said they would recommend that Bush veto a bill that exceeds the \$283.9 billion offered in the House bill.” For every \$1 billion invested in federal highway and transit spending, 47,500 jobs are created or sustained. And since Bush took office, the economy has posted only 6 months of job gains of 250,000 or larger. [Congress Daily, 6/6/05; House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Democrats, Joint Economic Committee Democrats]

• Continuing to insist on Social Security privatization.

THE AMERICAN PEOPLE oppose the Republican private accounts proposal.

A recent Harris Interactive poll showed that “Fifty-nine percent of Americans disapprove of the president's position on Social Security, according to the poll, compared with 34% who approve of Mr. Bush's position on Social Security.” [Wall Street Journal, 5/13/05]

THE REPUBLICAN MAJORITY continues to refuse to take private accounts off the table.

“Club for Growth President Patrick J. Toomey yesterday said that large numbers of House Republicans will oppose a Social Security bill that does not include private accounts as President Bush has structured them, likely spelling defeat for any such proposal.” [Washington Times, 6/3/05]

Prepared by the Office of Democratic Whip Steny Hoyer – June 7, 2005

- **Failing to pass meaningful energy legislation that will help reduce the skyrocketing prices Americans are paying at the pump.**

THE AMERICAN PEOPLE want Congress to address rising gas prices.

A new NBC News/Wall Street Journal poll shows that “64 percent of those questioned think the president has put too little emphasis on gas prices. And 67 percent say his policies dealing with gas prices are not working well.” And a recent Harris Interactive Poll showed that “the percentage of Americans who oppose Mr. Bush's positions on energy policy increased to 50% from 45%.” [NBC, 5/19/05; [Wall Street Journal](#), 5/13/05]

THE REPUBLICAN MAJORITY may not even be able to bring an energy bill to Bush's desk.

The special interest-oriented House energy bill, which even President Bush admits will do nothing to help curb rising gas prices, “could be derailed before ever reaching the White House.” [[Wall Street Journal](#), 6/6/05]

- **Trying to thwart the expansion of stem cell research that could save lives.**

THE AMERICAN PEOPLE support research using embryonic stem cells.

A CBS poll shows that “58% of Americans approve of medical research using embryonic stem cells, while 31% disapprove. Approval is higher now than it was last August; then, 50% approved and 31% disapproved, but 19% had no opinion.” A Winston Group survey found that 55% of Republicans favor embryonic stem cell research. [CBS, 5/24/05; [Wall Street Journal](#), 5/25/05]

THE REPUBLICAN MAJORITY is fighting a bill to expand federal funding of embryonic stem cell research.

President Bush has already threatened to veto any bills that support federal funding of embryonic stem cell research; Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist (R-TN) is not likely to bring the bill to the Senate floor and Senator Sam Brownback (R-KS) has already threatened to filibuster if it did. House Majority Leader Tom DeLay, one of the 180 House Republicans who voted against increased federal funding for the research, has already said that the bill passed in the House “is not going to become law.” [[Los Angeles Times](#), 5/26/05]

- **Running up deficits that will place massive debt on the backs of future generations of Americans.**

THE AMERICAN PEOPLE are worried about the federal deficit.

A new poll from the Pew Center for People and the Press shows that, “Only about one in three Americans think the national economy is in good shape.” According to Andrew Kohut, the Center's director, “The public doesn't have one economic worry... The budget deficit looms as a big issue.” [[Associated Press](#), 6/2/05]

THE REPUBLICAN MAJORITY has run up record deficits and increased the debt ceiling three times since 2001.

Since 2001, the Republicans have turned a \$236 billion surplus into a \$413 billion deficit. The Republicans have also raised the debt limit 3 times since 2002, by \$450 billion, \$984 billion, and \$800 billion. They might now raise it again by \$781 billion. [House Budget Committee Democrats]

- **Refusing to allow the House Ethics Committee to move forward.**

THE AMERICAN PEOPLE are concerned about Congressional travel funded by lobbyists.

A CNN/USA Today/Gallup poll found that “82 percent believe lobbyist-funded trips are a serious ethical matter.” [CNN, 5/5/05]

THE REPUBLICAN MAJORITY is stalling movement in the Ethics Committee by insisting on having a partisan staff director, against House rules.

Ethics Committee Chairman Rep. Doc Hastings (R-WA) “is seeking to install his longtime chief of staff, Ed Cassidy, in the role of majority staff director,” which would violate the spirit and intent of the 1997 bipartisan ethics agreement. This is stalling the Ethics Committee from investigating issues including alleged lobbyist-funded travels by Majority Leader Tom DeLay. (R-TX) [[Washington Post](#), 5/29/05]