



REPUBLICANS' 60-DAY SOCIAL SECURITY ROAD SHOW: GOING DOWN HILL FAST



35 days of bad news, 25 to go

<u>Sunday</u> <u>MARCH</u>	<u>Monday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u>	<u>Saturday</u>
1 	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31	32	33	34	35

<p style="text-align: right;">20</p> <p>THE NUMBERS DON'T LIE, PART III</p> <p>"A USA TODAY/ CNN/Gallup Poll taken March 18-20 found just 40% approved of [the President's] approach to the problem." [USA Today, 4/1/05]</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">21</p> <p>THE NUMBERS DON'T LIE, PART IV</p> <p>A Pew Center poll taken March 17-21 shows "support [for Bush's plan] has dropped over the last month among Americans under age 30." [USA Today, 3/24/05]</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">22</p> <p>THREE WEEKS IN AND EVEN SUPPORTERS STILL HAVE QUALMS</p> <p>"President Bush has been talking about Social Security for weeks, but even some of his supporters have misconceptions and qualms about his plan to overhaul the retirement system." [USA Today, 3/22/05]</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">23</p> <p>THE NUMBERS DON'T LIE, PART V</p> <p>A new Badger poll shows support for Bush's plan in Wisconsin has dropped from 49 percent to 44 percent in just three months. [AP, 3/23/05]</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">24</p> <p>THE NUMBERS STILL DON'T LIE, PART VI</p> <p>"A March 22-24 poll for Time magazine found 31% approved of Bush's handling of the issue, down from 40% in mid-January." [USA Today, 4/1/05]</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">25</p> <p>ROADSHOW AND POLL NUMBERS CONTINUE DOWNHILL SLIDE</p> <p>Polls show Bush's approval rating "has fallen to 45 percent, the lowest point of his presidency." [USA Today, 3/25/04]</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">26</p> <p>TEXAS PAPER QUESTIONS BUSH PRIORITIES</p> <p>"Social Security indeed has a problem, but arguing over it and the president's proposal for private accounts has masked the even more painful day when the United States must confront hard questions about just how much medical care we can afford and how to pay for it." [Austin American-Statesman Editorial, 3/26/05]</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">27</p> <p>GRASSLEY CAN'T SELL PRIVATIZATION TO THE GRASSROOTS</p> <p>"Assigned to put President Bush's Social Security ideas into a bill that can pass Congress, Charles Grassley is finding little clamor for it among the people who have kept him in the Senate for 25 years." [USA Today, 3/27/05] "I think it's very difficult for me to say today that we'll present a bill to the president." [Washington Post, 3/28/05]</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">28</p> <p>FORMER SSA COMMISSIONER POKES HOLES IN PRIVATIZATION</p> <p>Gordon Sherman, former SSA regional commissioner for eight southeastern states: "The problem is that the private personal accounts will not do anything to improve the financial outlook." [Atlanta Journal Constitution, 3/28/05]</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">29</p> <p>BUSH TAKES DIFFERENT IDEAS OFF THE TABLE - AND OUT THE DOOR</p> <p>Three people are forced to leave a Bush Social Security event in Denver due to a bumper sticker critical of his foreign policy. [Washington Post, 3/30/05]</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">30</p> <p>NEARLY HALF WAY THROUGH, REPUBLICANS STILL MEETING RESISTANCE</p> <p>"Heckling, catcalls and frequent interruptions greeted U.S. Rep. Wally Herger and a top Social Security official Wednesday as they tried to pitch President Bush's reforms for the nation's retirement plan." [Record Searchlight, 3/31/05]</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">31</p> <p>BUSH'S TARGET AUDIENCE SAYS PRIVATE ACCOUNTS MISS THE MARK</p> <p>"[S]upport for Bush's plan among Americans age 18 to 29 sharply dropped from 66 percent in February to 49 percent in late March." [South Florida Sun-Sentinel, 3/31/04]</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">1</p> <p style="text-align: center;">APRIL</p> <p>DAY 30...AT THE HALFWAY POINT: "BUSH FACES CHALLENGING SALES JOB ON THE ROAD"</p> <p>"[Bush's] poll numbers have declined. Opponents claim momentum. And the president has been forced to focus on maintaining support among Republicans; he has yet to sway a single Democrat in Congress." [USA Today, 4/1/05]</p> <p>"House Speaker J. Dennis Hastert (R-Ill.) has acknowledged that President Bush's call for completion of a Social Security bill this year could be unrealistic and that the legislation might have to wait until 2006." [Washington Post, 4/1/05]</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">2</p> <p>BURNS GETS BURNED BY SUPPORT FOR PRIVATE ACCOUNTS</p> <p>"Sen. Conrad Burns, R-Mont., faced an agitated and sometimes angry audience Saturday in Kalispell as he gathered input about how to fix Social Security's impending financial woes." [The Daily Inter Lake, 3/3/05]</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">3</p> <p>INVESTOR CLASS OPPOSITION IN BUSH'S OWN BACKYARD</p> <p>Of the eight members of an investing club near Bush's Texas ranch, only two "expressed unqualified support for the president's personal account proposal." [LA Times, 4/3/05]</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">4</p> <p>DIFFERENT RECESS, SAME RESULTS: AMERICANS REJECT PRIVATIZATION</p> <p>"Republican lawmakers are set to return to Washington more convinced than ever that President Bush's Social Security plan isn't ready for launch...The fact that Brown-Waite is generally a loyal Republican makes her refusal to commit to Bush's plan particularly troublesome to some in the GOP." [Boston Globe, 4/4/05]</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">5</p> <p>35 DAYS AND ANOTHER RECESS = NO PROGRESS ON PRIVATIZATION</p> <p>"I believe it's about where we left off two weeks ago," Sen. Charles E. Grassley (R-IA) said at the end of the recess... Grassley said the president's Social Security plan would swell the national debt tremendously if the move is not accompanied by significant cuts to promised benefits." [Washington Post, 4/5/05]</p>				