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## Nuclear Options and Social Security

by  
Tom Holbrook

Several items in the news bear reviewing but space restraints prevent me from examining them as much as they deserve. I'll try to give you the gist of two high on the list of importance... **Social Security Reform and United States Senate Filibustering Rules**

Social Security.... Why some individuals, especially seniors, and political opponents are vehemently coming out against President Bush's plan to modernize and restructure the Social Security program is not a puzzle if you know their agenda. The political opponents' stance is a given... they are against whatever President Bush is for. Clinton suggested similar changes to Social Security during his tenure but did not put the legislation together to make it happen. Individuals, especially Senior Citizens, are against it is because they have been misinformed by their "*leaders*", the AARP and the Democratic Party hierarchy. They are operating out of misinformation and fear.

The following are recent statements made by spokesmen for the Democrats.

1) "Democrat Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid stated, "In reality, the program is on solid ground for decades to come."

2) Democrat columnist Dave Cottrill "... the integrity of the system over the foreseeable future is well documented. Why, then, one has to wonder, is the President barnstorming the country with this false prophecy?"

3) Iowa Senator Tom Harkin "What about the nearly 7 million workers with disabilities and their dependents who currently rely on Social Security disability benefits, often for 100 percent of their income?"

You've read their statements; now look at the facts... the President, and many other knowledgeable people, including Nobel Prize winning economists and the neutral Congressional Budget Office, have stated the Social Security System is in serious trouble and will begin having a deficit by 2018, and will be bankrupt (unable to pay all benefits,) by 2042. Does that jive with the first two statements of our Democrat spokesmen above? NO!

And Senator Harkin's question? The fact is... no person currently receiving benefits from Social Security, NOR THOSE ABOUT TO RECEIVE BENEFITS, including "... nearly 7 million workers with disabilities and their dependents..." will lose their benefits because of anything the President is proposing. All three of the above fear mongers would have you believe differently.

The President, nor any responsible of Congress, is trying to do away with Social Security, nor is he suggesting the government take younger taxpayer's payments and put them totally into a stock account. Why would anyone, like the three Democrats quoted above, encourage you to believe otherwise? It's silly to believe it is ignorance that motivates their statements, so they obviously have another reason... to deceive those who listen to and read their comments. I caution you to listen to anything they say with that proverbial "grain of salt."

**Senate Filibustering Rules...**A recent Poll was taken by the Washington Post and ABC News... two of your most liberal news organizations... to determine the will of the American people concerning changing Senate filibuster rules to allow each Presidential Judicial Nominee a constitutionally guaranteed, full Senate floor vote on their nomination. Without mentioning the “filibuster” word, the Poll question was artfully phrased, “Would you support or oppose changing Senate rules to make it easier for the Republicans to confirm Bush's judicial nominees?” Duh! With a question worded this way would you expect anything but the results of **66% saying they would not support such a change?** However, when another poll put it to the public in a more direct, less biased way, i.e., “Even when they disagree with a judge, Senate Democrats should allow the President’s nominees to be voted on.” **81% agreed they should be allowed a vote.**

In November, the American people overwhelmingly voted to return a Republican President to the White House for a second term. Also, through the election processes of their respective states the citizens of the country voted for a substantial Republican majority in the House of Representatives, and an ever increasing majority in the United States Senate. It is a constitutionally given right for a majority party to manage the affairs of this country until its citizens choose to vote the those in the minority back into power.

Obviously, the Democrats do not like this arrangement and are pulling out every obstructionist tactic they can muster to prevent the majority party from enjoying their rights granted by the Constitution and validated by the vote of the American people. It is not a “bad thing” to allow the will of the people to rule as some would have you believe. That is why misinformation, fear rumors and innuendos will rule the day when it comes to the Minority party telling the American people what is really going on in Washington and these United States of America.

Hold the course people. Things are going well for this country and will get increasingly better if we stay steady on the path begun. Let your Senators and Congressmen know you care how they vote, and they should care how you vote.

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