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If George W. Bush's plan for privatizing Social Security isn't dead yet, it's on all sorts of life support -- and this time, Senate Republicans are the ones who may pull the plug. The [Associated Press](#) reports that Republicans in the Senate are "considering temporarily sidetracking President Bush's plan for personal investment accounts under Social Security, hoping Democrats will then join compromise talks on legislation to restore the program's solvency."

United opposition from Democrats -- and a lot of skepticism from Republicans -- has Bush's plan for private accounts stalled and sinking. But as the AP explains, Republicans on Capitol Hill are "wary of leaving the impression they intend to abandon the president's proposal to allow younger workers to invest a portion of their payroll taxes independently" -- even if that's exactly what they're fixing to do.

"The attempt . . . has always been to find Democrats to come on board with a bipartisan plan, and what has been stopping this is the issue of personal accounts," an official familiar with the Republicans' discussions told the AP. While the words presumably came from the mouth of a Republican, they sound like Harry Reid's talking points. The Senate minority leader has said all along that Democrats won't work with Bush on Social Security until he puts aside the idea of private accounts. If Republicans are now seriously considering discussions of Social Security reform without the private accounts, call it a victory -- at least for now -- for Reid and the Democrats.

And while Republicans can say that they're tabling the private accounts just long enough to deal with the solvency issue, they've got to know that the private accounts will be an even tougher sell than they have been when Bush can no longer couple them with worries about Social Security's fiscal health. If Bush can't get private accounts through Congress amid all his talk about Social Security's bankruptcy, he can't get them through Congress at all.

-- Tim Grieve

[09:53 EST, April 8, 2005][Print this page](#)[War Room RSS feed](#)▶ **Quote of the day**

"The courts of this land have become the tool, in the hands of the devil, by which the culture of death has found access."

-- Operation Rescue director Flip Benham.

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[The Daou Report](#) Salon's opinionated guide to the political blogosphere

[Altercation](#)

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By ignoring conservative critics of John Paul II, Hugh Hewitt says the mainstream press has revealed its lefty bias once again.

[GOP jumping ship on private accounts?](#)

Faced with united Democratic opposition and a public wary of privatization, Senate Republicans are talking about Plan B.

[That Schiavo memo? Kill the messenger](#)

Why hold Republican Sen. Mel Martinez responsible for the memo he gave Tom Harkin when you can blame the Democrats and the media instead?

[Will Terri Schiavo kill the nuclear option?](#)

The Schiavo case makes it both more likely and less likely that Republicans will move to end the filibuster of judicial nominees.

[About that Social Security plan...](#)

There've been a number of reasons in recent weeks to think that President Bush's plan is in serious trouble. Today, there's another.

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Has America's lone superpower status made it an elephantine target in the global spying game?

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This week marks an unprecedented display of ceremony by President Bush and other U.S. politicians in Rome. Good faith, or good politics?

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With Rhode Island Sen. Lincoln Chafee wavering, will Bush's nominee to the U.N. survive the Senate Foreign Relations Committee?

[Republicans turning on their own](#)

A new Wall Street Journal/NBC News poll has sobering numbers for George W. Bush and Republicans in Congress.

[Coming to a close on the Plame case?](#)

The special counsel says his investigation is almost complete. Will a government official face charges for giving false statements to prosecutors?

[The fake memo that was real](#)

Crushing the conspiracy theories of the right-wing blogosphere, an aide for a Republican senator admits he crafted a memo calling the Schiavo case a "great political issue" for the GOP.

[Clinton beats Bush and Clinton beats Bush](#)

Hillary vs. Jeb? The former president vs. the incumbent? Either way, it's a W for Democrats in the Democracy Corps poll.

[The AP in cahoots with terrorists? Try again](#)

A blogger debunks fellow right-wingers' conspiracy theory that

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an AP photographer -- now a Pulitzer Prize-winning one -- colluded with terrorists in Iraq.

["Stumbling to the scene with no real plan"](#)

Nearly four years after the postal anthrax attacks, the U.S. still looks alarmingly exposed to bioterrorism.

[Banking on illegal labor](#)

Undocumented workers in the U.S. generate billions of dollars in payroll taxes each year -- and don't see a single benefit from it.

[The right-wing version of reporting](#)

The right continues to chase a novel conspiracy theory about a Schiavo talking points memo for Republicans.

[More polling woes for Bush](#)

A new USA Today/CNN poll brings more bad news for the White House.

[The roof collapses on Tom DeLay](#)

Articles in the Washington Post and New York Times raise yet more ethical questions about the Hammer.

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