



this proposal does is unmask the debt."

"When the program is up and running, Congress will be faced with decisions whether to borrow, raise taxes or cut spending, which is what we should be faced with," Ryan said.

The new House initiative comes as public opposition to Bush's plan continues to grow and the Senate stands at an impasse, while House leaders have increasingly shown a reluctance to bring to a vote any plan that cannot be enacted.

Bush has made Social Security changes the centerpiece of his second-term domestic agenda, but it has proved far more difficult than White House officials had anticipated. Although the new plan is considerably less broad than Bush's approach, it would still fundamentally change the way the Social Security system operates.

This year, Social Security will bring in \$69 billion more in taxes than the system pays in benefits. Congress will borrow that money to fund other programs and then send \$69 billion worth of Treasury bonds to the Social Security Administration. Those bonds would be cashed to finance benefits once the system slipped into deficit.

Under the new proposal, those bonds would go to private investment accounts that would be opened for workers unless they chose not to participate.

with President Bush, Tuesday. The President encouraged Bennett Tuesday to offer Social Security legislation that would not include the private investment accounts that were the centerpiece of the plan Bush has promoted all year. Left to right are Sen. Majority Leader Bill Frist, R-Tenn., Bennett, Sen. Rick Santorum, R-Penn. (Ron Edmonds - AP)

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**Friday's Trivia**

Ralph Reed, former head of the Christian Coalition, is making his first bid for statewide office. Which office is he seeking?

**Georgia Lieutenant Governor**

**Maryland Attorney General**

**Alabama Governor**

**Alabama Agriculture Commissioner**

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