

In addition to Walker, the committee heard from two professors who are public trustees of the Social Security and Medicare trust funds, John L. Palmer and Thomas R. Saving. They said in a written statement that "the financial challenges posed by Medicare are expected to occur sooner, grow much larger, and otherwise be more difficult to address than those facing Social Security."

Thomas confined the hearing to the problems Social Security is facing rather than a detailed examination of potential solutions. But some lawmakers are getting antsy. Sen. Mel Martinez (R-Fla.) said yesterday that he will endorse a proposal by Sen. Chuck Hagel (R-Neb.) that includes raising the retirement age for full benefits from 67 to 68.

Also yesterday, strategists from the Tarrance Group and Public Opinion Strategies gave House leaders a 17-page summary of focus groups they had conducted on Social Security.

"While the electorate has developed a cursory understanding of the fact that there are major problems with Social Security," the report said, "they still do not possess enough detailed information about the nature of the problem to embrace Personal Retirement Accounts as part of the reform effort."

[Print This Article](#) [E-Mail This Article](#) [Permission to Republish](#)

© 2005 The Washington Post Company

[What's this?](#)

College Textbooks Cheap

Save up to 70% on your textbooks. Over 10 million books in stock. Use our search feature to find the book you're looking for.

www.valorebooks.com

Onlinebooksearch: Compare Book Prices

At OnlineBookSearch.com get the cheapest books by comparing your book prices at 20 online book stores, in a matter of seconds, for free!

www.onlinebooksearch.com

Find Low, Low Book Prices in One Click

Search for book under title, author, keyword or isbn, and compare 60 bookstore prices before you buy. Any new, used books. Free coupons.

www.campusi.com

Advertisement

Free E-mail Newsletters

- **Daily Politics News & Analysis**
[See a Sample](#) | [Sign Up Now](#)
- **Campaign Report**
[See a Sample](#) | [Sign Up Now](#)
- **Federal Insider**
[See a Sample](#) | [Sign Up Now](#)
- **Breaking News Alerts**
[See a Sample](#) | [Sign Up Now](#)

Featured Advertiser Links

- [Unlimited Calls to US & Canada \\$24.99/month](#)
- [Falling Dollar SHOCK! 5 best stocks for 2005](#)
- [Final Four Tickets, Maryland Terps Tickets](#)

- [Find a lawyer, Find a Vioxx/Celebrex attorney.](#)
- [Are you suffering from a sugar deficiency?](#)
- [\\$160,000 Mortgage for Under \\$735/Month!](#)
- [Bose Triport Headphones. Save \\$20](#)
- [30 COMMISSION-FREE trades. Now at Ameritrade.](#)
- [Up to \\$500 off select Dell Home PCs. Details](#)
- [FAST-TRACK YOUR BUSINESS PROFITS](#)

Advertisement

SEARCH: News Web

powered by **YAHOO!** SEARCH

[Top 20 E-mailed Articles](#)

© Copyright 1996- 2005 The Washington Post Company | [User Agreement and Privacy Policy](#) | [Rights and Permissions](#) | [Home](#)

washingtonpost.com: [Contact Us](#) | [About Us](#) | [Work at washingtonpost.com](#) | [Advertise](#) | [Media Center](#) | [Site Index](#) | [Site Map](#) | [Archives](#)
[E-mail Newsletters](#) | [RSS Feeds](#) | [Wireless Access](#) | [Our headlines on your site](#) | [Make Us Your Homepage](#) | [mywashingtonpost.com](#)
The Washington Post: [Subscribe](#) | [Subscriber Services](#) | [Advertise](#) | [Electronic Edition](#) | [Online Photo Store](#) | [The Washington Post Store](#)
The Washington Post Company: [Information](#) | [Other Post Co. Websites](#)