

TELEVISION QUARTERLY ISSUES-PROGRAMS REPORT

Station: WEAR-TV
Location: Pensacola, FL
Quarter ending: March 31, 2005

Issue/description: 4. SOCIAL SECURITY REFORM. The current Social Security fund is expected to start running a deficit as the "baby boom" generation begins drawing benefits. The debate is heating up on how to save the system.

How Issue was treated (Program, PSA, etc.):

| <u>Title</u> | <u>Date</u> | <u>Time/Duration</u> | <u>Program type</u> | <u>Description</u> |
|--|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| 1. In Focus | 01/09/05 | 09:00AM/30 minutes | Public Affairs | * |
| * Our guest today was Northwest Florida Congressman Jeff Miller. He discussed some of the issues of both national and local concern, including the need to reform the Social Security system. Miller supports the President's idea of privatizing part of the system. | | | | |
| 2. This Week with George Stephanopoulos | 01/16/05 | 08:00AM/1 hour | Public Affairs | ** |
| ** One topic of discussion on today's program was Social Security and Tax reform, with guest Kweisi Mfume, former NAACP President. | | | | |
| 3. ABC News Nightline | 02/01/05 | 11:02PM/30 minutes | Public Affairs | *** |
| *** Tonight's topic was "Don't touch the third rail: Social Security reform". | | | | |
| 4. State of the Union Address and the Democratic Response | 02/02/05 | 08:00PM/2 hours | Public Affairs | **** |
| **** One of the issues cited by the President was the need to reform Social Security. His recommendation included privatizing part of the system by allowing workers to control the investment options of a percentage of their Social Security contributions. The Democratic Response urged caution in any changes to the system. | | | | |
| 5. This Week with George Stephanopoulos | 02/06/05 | 08:00AM/1 hour | Public Affairs | ***** |

***** The debate over Social Security reform continued, debated this week by House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, D-CA, and Senator John McCain, R-AZ.

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| 6. This Week with George Stephanopoulos | 03/06/05 | 08:00AM/1 hour | Public Affairs | ***** |

***** The topic of discussion on today's program was Social Security reform, with guest Senator Edward Kennedy, D-MA.

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| 7. President Bush Press Conference | 03/16/05 | 09:14AM/50 minutes | News/Public Affairs | ***** |
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***** President Bush says he's making progress in convincing Americans of the need to reform social security. The President says the program is going broke and it is time for a bi-partisan solution, including Private Retirement Accounts. During a White House news conference this morning, the president said nothing will change in social security benefits for senior citizens, but something must be done to make sure the system continues to work for younger Americans. President Bush will be in Pensacola this Friday to tout his plans for social security reform. The Associated Press is reporting that Pensacola Junior College has been asked to host the event. Specific details of his visit are expected to be released later today.

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| 8. Channel 3 News at 6PM | 03/17/05 | 06:00PM/3 minutes | News | ***** |
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***** It's a debate that's spanning the demographics. Retirees and people decades from retirement are talking about the future of Social Security. President Bush will likely promote his privatization proposal while in Pensacola tomorrow, but some say his efforts to give the public control will have the opposite effect. Ruth Thompson, 21 year old EscaRosa Young Republicans Founder is excited about Bush's plan to privatize Social Security. The proposal would give people the option to invest their own money in a personal retirement account versus pooling it in the Social Security trust fund. Thompson says the current system will not benefit her. While speaking about Social Security with a group of retired educators, AARP associate director Charles Milsted says without changes, Thompson's probably right. Yet, he says privatization is not the right answer, because it does absolutely nothing to increase the solvency. Milsted says without much more cash, Social Security could be in big trouble in less than 40 years. The AARP supports changes like increasing contributions to Social Security, and getting more people to take part in the system. Nora Pachnick of the FL Consumer Action Network says it is an inherently risky scheme...a ride on the stock market, and her group is against privatization. Her group held a small rally to voice their opposition. They say privatization will cut Social Security benefits and add trillions to the national deficit, and will fall particularly hard on middle and lower income folks who can't afford to pay for it. Milsted says while not everyone one will agree with it, at least privatization has shed light on an issue that needs to be addressed.

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| 9. Channel 3 News Special ***** | 03/18/05 | 08:50AM/1 hour,15 min. | News/Public Affairs | |

Report: the President in Pensacola

***** President Bush visited Pensacola today as part of his tour to present his Social Security Reform plan to the country. He spoke to a packed crowd at Pensacola Junior College's gymnasium, saying his plan would allow workers to control a part of their investment in their future. He also emphasized that his plan would in no way cut Social Security benefits. He also said his administration is still open to all suggestions on how to reform the system, but that reform must come, or the system will go broke in the next decade.

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| 10. Channel 3 News at 6PM ***** | 03/18/05 | 06:00PM/6 minutes | News | ***** |
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***** Pensacola was the hot-spot Friday on President Bush's cross country tour to rally support for his social security plans and he had little trouble rallying the packed house at PJC. President Bush took the stage shortly after 9 A.M, joined by his mother, Barbara Bush and brother, Florida Governor Jeb Bush. The President's mission: convincing Pensacolians that social security reform is needed. "You got a lot of people living longer, getting greater benefits and yet we're not having as many children in society...in other words, you got fewer people paying into the system. The math doesn't work," said Bush. In fact, President Bush said by the year 2018, there will be more money going out of the program than coming in. He says doing nothing will force a major cut in benefits or increase in taxes. He's asking citizens to contact legislators, propose ideas and create a permanent solution. The President says that a better deal comes in the form of private accounts. He says people born before 1950 would not be affected by any of the reforms, but Americans under age 55 would be. Under the President's proposal, younger Americans would have the option of putting a portion of their payroll taxes into private accounts and investing in conservative stocks and bonds. Bush says people could also leave their accounts to loved ones when they die. Many people in the audience, whom we interviewed, seemed to like his ideas. A group of about 75 protesters and supporters staged a friendly demonstration outside the Lou Ross Center. Most of them are concerned about social security reform. A group called the Florida Consumer Action Network organized the picket, and the protesters say they mistrust President Bush's motives. Some felt Medicare is a ten times bigger problem than this. Other senior citizens fear reform means they'll lose what they've put in despite promises they'll still get their checks. Young people who attended fear privatization will jeopardize their futures. The demonstration included a couple of groups of supporters including a Tallahassee based group called "Generations Together". Clint Fuhrman of "Generations Together" said they support what the President is trying to do here - to start a discussion about the problem and find solutions that will ensure to seniors that the promises are kept, and for young working people, making

sure their Social Security is there when they get older. The two camps picketed peacefully. There were only a couple of verbal exchanges as Bush's audience filed out of the gymnasium.

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| 11. Channel 3 News – eXtra ***** | 03/18/05 | 10:37PM/23 minutes | News/Public Affairs | |

***** Recent polls suggest fewer Americans like President Bush's idea for private retirement accounts than when he first unveiled it. The polls show 55% disapprove of the plan. Tonight's topic for discussion was: "Do you support or oppose President Bush's proposals on Social Security reform?" As usual, viewers were invited to send comments via e-mail, some of which were read aloud on the program, while other viewers called in to personally discuss the issue on-the-air.