

The Savvy Senior by Carol Martin

Sixty-seven years after President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed Social Security into law, and one year after President Bush's commission recommended personal retirement accounts to help shore up the system, United Seniors Association urged Congress to stop stonewalling and take bold action to strengthen Social Security for future generations.

"Social Security must be protected for today's seniors and redesigned for the future. Putting this off is morally wrong," said United Seniors Association Chairman and Chief Executive Charles W. Jarvis. "If Congress doesn't act soon, we'll be forcing 40 percent payroll tax hikes and benefit cuts of as much as 35 percent on our children and grandchildren. Inaction creates a cruel legacy for future generations. We must unite the generations, not drive them apart."

"Worst of all, it's the poorest and most disadvantaged in our society who get the worst deal out of Social Security," continued Mr. Jarvis. "Minorities actually lose money on average because of their shorter lifespan. They'd do better stuffing their money under a mattress! Any politician who says otherwise is not telling the truth."

United Seniors Association's National Social Security Survey of Senior Americans showed an overwhelming 84 percent of Seniors believe personal retirement accounts are important for giving future generations a better retirement with a higher rate of return on their investments.

"Politicians who demagogue this issue during the elections should pay a high price. I for one would never vote for someone who tried to exploit an issue like Social Security for political gain," explained Mr. Jarvis. "The time for soft talk is over. Sure, the system has worked great for my parents, and it will work okay for me. But I don't want to leave my children and future grandchildren a shaky retirement and sky-high taxes. I want them to have security - and that is what personal retirement accounts will do."

© 2002 DBR Media, Inc.

QUOTES

"The Socratic method is a game at which only one (the professor) can play." - Ralph Nader

"The schoolteacher is certainly underpaid as a childminder, but ludicrously overpaid as an educator." - John Osborne

"The only really firm rule of taste about cross dressing is that neither sex should ever wear anything they haven't figured out how to go to the bathroom in." - P.J. O'Rourke

"The healthy stomach is nothing if not conservative. Few radicals have good digestions." - Samuel Butler

"I am a hoarder of two things: documents and trusted friends." - Muriel Spark

"The young have aspirations that never come to pass; the old have reminiscences of what never happened." - Saki

"Only one thing is impossible for God: to find any sense in any copy-right law on the planet." - Mark Twain

"If you haven't got anything good to say about anyone, come and sit by me." - Alice Roosevelt Longworth

"The fact that I have no remedy for the sorrows of the world is no reason for my accepting yours. It simply supports the strong probability that yours is a fake." - H.L. Mencken

"An optimist is a guy that has never had much experience." - Don Marquis

YOU DON'T SAY!

In the early 1800s, many members of Congress came to sessions wearing knives in their belts.

D.W. Griffith, the Hollywood director, made 450 movies between 1908 and 1913.

The first famous Western movie star, Bronco Billy Anderson, who appeared in the first Western ever made, "The Great Train Robbery" in 1903, was unable to ride a horse at all. It required three men to lift him into the saddle.

Musicians in ancient Egypt played a harp that looked almost identical to the one played today. The difference is that most Egyptian players used a stick to strum the strings rather than their fingers.

Between the years 1927 and 1935, over 250 songs were written to honor aviator Charles Lindbergh.

THURSDAY EVENING/LATE NIGHT TV schedule for September 12, 2002. Columns include time slots (6:00-5:30) and various TV programs like 'The View', 'The Tonight Show', 'Sportscenter', etc.

FRIDAY EVENING/LATE NIGHT TV schedule for September 13, 2002. Columns include time slots (6:00-5:30) and various TV programs like 'Major League Baseball', 'The Tonight Show', 'Sportscenter', etc.

SATURDAY MORNING/AFTERNOON TV schedule for September 14, 2002. Columns include time slots (6:00-5:30) and various TV programs like 'College Football', 'PGA Golf', 'The Simpsons', etc.

SATURDAY EVENING/LATE NIGHT TV schedule for September 14, 2002. Columns include time slots (6:00-5:30) and various TV programs like 'College Football', 'The Tonight Show', 'Sportscenter', etc.