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Support for Bush's Social Security plan keeps falling -- and the more people know, the more they say they're inclined to oppose it.

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Keep talking, Mr. President

George W. Bush is back in Washington this week after campaigning for his Social Security privatization plan in Louisiana, Kentucky, Alabama and Tennessee. His welcome home gift? A [Washington Post-ABC poll](#) showing a new low in public support for the way in which the president is handling Social Security.

Only 35 percent of the poll's respondents said they approved of Bush's work on Social Security. That's down three points since January, when the president started his big push, and it's the lowest level of support the poll has ever measured for Bush on the issue. What's more, 58 percent of the respondents told pollsters that, the more they learn about Bush's plan, the more inclined they are to oppose it.

With Democrats united against him and Republicans crumbling around him, Bush is beginning to [shift gears](#). He may be on the road again pitching the Social Security plan later this week. But in the meantime, watch for Bush to be talking about foreign affairs instead.

The president may be bewildered by the public's resistance to his Social Security plan; it's certainly not what he sees as he travels the country promoting privatization. At stop after stop, Bush shares a stage with pro-privatization panelists and hears the applause from invitation-only audiences of supporters -- some of whom are [driven to the events](#) and armed with pro-Bush signs by local volunteers. If planners slip up and let in any dissenting voices -- the ones who represent about 65 percent of the public, apparently -- the naysayers are quickly [quickly silenced or escorted away](#). If privatization supporters want to make more headway with their plan, perhaps they should take the same approach with the president.

-- Tim Grieve

[11:19 EST, March 14, 2005]



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"As long as they can keep Vice President Cheney from talking."

-- [Sen. Joe Biden](#) on how long the United States should allow negotiations to go on with Iran.

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returning to Washington and may soon face a Senate confirmation hearing. We've got a few things to ask.

[Bush, race and Social Security](#)

The president suggests that privatization opponents think a "certain race" lacks the capacity to invest.

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After equivocating in the Washington Times, the secretary of state tells ABC that she won't run.

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Eighteen Democratic senators backed the bankruptcy bill in Thursday's vote. Could MoveOn.org have made a difference?

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[03/04/2005](#)

[03/03/2005](#)

[03/02/2005](#)

[03/01/2005](#)

[February 2005](#)

[January 2005](#)

[December 2004](#)

[November 2004](#)

[October 2004](#)

[September 2004](#)

[August 2004](#)

[July 2004](#)

[June 2004](#)

[May 2004](#)

[April 2004](#)

[March 2004](#)

[February 2004](#)

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Howard Dean may be running the DNC, but the Democratic Leadership Council isn't going away.

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It's been more than a month since news of Bush's pundit payola broke. Rep. Waxman and others update War Room on their investigation.

[The bankruptcy bill: It brings people together!](#)

It's a rare moment of political unity: Nobody likes the bankruptcy bill -- except for the credit card companies and the politicians who need their money.

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ABC has mysteriously "scrubbed" an upcoming episode of "Boston Legal" of all pejorative references to Fox News and O'Reilly.

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House Democrats have issued a massive report on Republican abuses. You probably haven't heard of it.

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The Republicans hatch a plan for reaching out to African-American voters.

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With Rather gone, the lawsuits begin.

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On the night of Dan Rather's retirement as the CBS news anchor, that question carries particular resonance.

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