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Views on Social Security

One of President Bush's top priorities for 2005 is Social Security reform. However, his plans for reforming the current Social Security system draw sharp criticism from Democrats, AARP and other institutions throughout the nation. The potential outcomes of the administration's reform agenda will likely affect the lives

of millions of Americans. One of the major consequences will be on the nation's economy.

The Brookings Institution and the Urban-Brookings Tax Policy Center recently convened a forum to discuss ways of reforming Social Security and assess the prospects of its enactment in

2005. You can read more about the panelists and their views on Social Security reform on Page 2.

* You can find the transcript of this event at:
<http://www.brookings.edu/comm/events/20050113.pdf>

The View From Jeffrey Brown

Jeffrey Brown
Assistant Professor of Finance, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Former Staff Member, President's Commission to Strengthen Social Security
According to Jeffrey Brown:

- It is more beneficial to slow down spending growth rather than increase taxes.
- The "Do Nothing"

approach and the "Free Lunch" approaches are flawed and should thus be avoided.

- Individual accounts will:
 - Give all Americans a chance to participate in financial markets;
 - Provide

- incentives to work and build up wealth;
- Present a superior way to save for the future.



Views on Social Security

The View From



John Rother
Director of Policy and Strategy, AARP

John Rother believes:

- "Adequacy, equity and solvency" should be significant considerations in Social Security reform.
- A 3 way approach to deal with future financial problems stemming from Social Security. These

include:

Options for Solvency #1

- o Raising the wage gap;
- o Bringing in State/Local employees into Social Security program;
- o Investing a portion of trust fund (15%) in an equity index fund;

Options for Solvency #2

- o Adjusting of CPI to superlative basis by

Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Options for Solvency #3

Benefit Reduction Options:

- o Moving to a more progressive system;
- o Increasing retirement age and early retirement age.



The View From



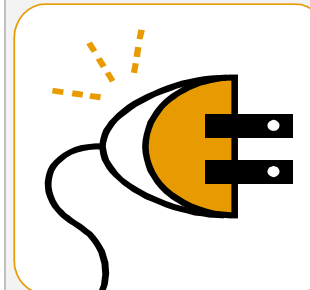
Peter R. Orszag
Director, Retirement Security Project
Joseph A. Pechman Senior Fellow in Tax and Fiscal Policy, Brookings
 Peter R. Orszag believes:

- The current system should make it easier for people to save (Automatic

401(K)).

- A combination of benefit reductions and revenue increase is better than an exclusive reliance on either.
- Individual accounts make little sense. Rather than reforming the entire

Social Security system he suggests that elements of it that are most problematic should be fixed.



Networks Graduate Scholars

With each issue of *Research Buzz*, we hope to give you an update about the activities of our NFI graduate fellows. We want to help our graduate fellows have a meaningful professional experience with NFI and more successfully incorporate them into our organizational culture. We also want to spur your creative thinking about ways that your department can make use of the talent pool that our research fellows represent. Do you have a low-key project that needs a few hours of attention each week? Do you have a back-burner project that you never seem to find the time to accomplish? Do you have a special project that pops up without much forewarning but that needs immediate attention? Think about it and let us know; we've got just the graduate fellow(s) for you.



Networks Grad. Scholar - Jay Page

My name is Jay Page. I'm married and have one daughter. My wife Kimberley is an undergraduate in the dietetics department here at Indiana State University. My daughter Brooke is in kindergarten. As far as education goes, I have an undergraduate degree in Finance. After graduating in 1991, I spent 12

years in store and operations management with Walgreen's and Target in the Dayton and Cincinnati, Ohio area. I just completed my MBA here at ISU. I am currently enrolled in the Masters in Public Administration program. My research interest is the regulatory reform that is

occurring in the mutual fund and insurance industry. My career goal would be to attain a position with the federal government where I can utilize my education and management experience.

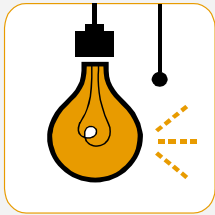
Networks Grad. Scholar - Kyle Plesniak

I am originally from Griffith, Indiana. I have a Bachelor of Science in Economics with minors in Finance and Political Science from Purdue University in West Lafayette. I am currently in my second semester of Indiana State University's Master of Business Administration program and plan

on getting a concentration in Finance. After graduation, I plan on a career in budget or financial analysis. I currently serve as the MBA department representative to the Graduate Student Association, the student representative on the College of Business Graduate Committee, and

am a member of the MBA Association. Through the Graduate Student Association, I have served as the master's level representative to the Graduate Assistantship Review Committee and currently serve as the master's level representative to the Graduate Council.

Research Tip



Are the G, O, L and E letters on your keyboard starting to wear off from your overuse of Google? If you heard the news story about the couple who named their baby Yahoo, did you not even blink? When you discovered that the reporter faked the story and it was a hoax (<http://edition.cnn.com/2005/WORLD/europe/01/24/yahoo.baby.reut/>), did you feel a tinge of regret and, like the reporter's news editor, think, "If it were real, it would have been a good story indeed"?

If you are a heavy user of Internet search engines for information-gathering, how can you feel assured that you're finding the best information out there and doing your research with precision and efficiency? How can you create Internet searches that yield those 10 needles in the haystack rather than returning search results that are as numerous as drops in the ocean or grains of sand?

If you rely on the

Internet every day but always use the same search engine and don't know how to search for best results, invest in learning more about the structure of the Internet and the various search engines out there by spending just a little time with [Search Engine Watch](#). Started in 1997 by Internet consultant and journalist Danny Sullivan, [Search Engine Watch](#) provides tips and information about searching the web, analysis of the search engine industry and help to site owners trying to improve their ability to be found in search engines. Sullivan is a well-known expert on search engines and frequently writes about the Internet and is in demand as a conference speaker on the topic.

Like many online communities, you could get lost in [Search Engine Watch's](#) newsletter, blogs, and forums. But if you are selective, you can learn quickly some vital information about how various types of search engines work, so you can sound hip at

cocktail parties by knowing the difference between crawlers, metacrawlers, and directories . . . or maybe your cocktail party topics are different than mine?

If you want web search tips and tutorials, listings of and links to a whole variety of search engines (from [alltheweb.com](#) to [zapdata.com](#)), ratings and stats on various engines, and a whole host of additional resources, visit [this site](#). NFI employees might be especially interested in a listing of [financial and business specialty engines](#). [Search Engine Watch](#) can direct you to a variety of additional specialty search engines, including engines for [news](#), [kids](#), [country-specific](#), [law](#), [government](#), [medicine](#), and [science](#). You can even learn about how to search the [Invisible Web!](#)