{enclose http://dev.ksco.got.net/podcasts/2006-05-26.mp3} The following is a KSCO commentary. Here is Kay Zwerling:

The first priority for President Bush during his second term was the need to repair Social Security, but it became clear early on that the Democrats would rather not deal with this pressing issue until they are in power, whenever that happens, so this issue is on hold. Therefore, it doesn't matter if you're a Republican or a Democrat. Let's get a Bill started to place all politicians on Social Security. Our National lawmakers do not pay into Social Security. This program was not suitable for them. They were too important to settle for the meager benefits that are good enough for the rest of us. They felt that they should have a special program for themselves, so many years ago they quietly voted in their own benefit plan. No Congress person has felt the need to change things. After all, it's a great plan, for them. It works like this: When they retire, they continue to draw the same pay until they die, except it may increase from time to time for cost of living adjustments. Even if one serves only two years in Congress, he still gets a salary of about $4000+ per month benefits for the rest of his life. For example, Senator Bird and Congressman White who are elderly, may expect to draw $7,800,000 each with their wives drawing $275,000 each during the last years of their lives. This is calculated on an average lifespan of each of those two dignitaries. Younger dignitaries who retire at an early age will receive much more during the rest of their lives. Their cost for this excellent plan is zero, nada, zilch. This little perk they voted for themselves is free to them. You and I pick up the tab. The funds for this fine retirement plan come directly from the general fund, in our tax dollars. From our own Social Security plan, which you and I pay, or have paid, into every payday until we retire, which amount is matched by our employer, we can expect to get an average of $1000 per month after retirement. Putting it into perspective, we would have to collect our average $1000 monthly benefit for 68 years to equal the benefits of our Congress people. This thievery has been happening because We The People have allowed it. There's no way in Hell or Heaven or Earth where this blatant inequity is justified. Frankly, Congress was voted into power to make laws to benefit all the people, not to help themselves to enormous perks at our expense. It's dishonest, it's wrong, and it needs to be challenged.

Social Security could be very good if only one small change were made, and that change would be to jerk the extravagant retirement plan from under the Senators and Congress people, put them into the Social Security plan with the rest of us, then sit back and see how fast they would fix it. I wonder if this could be done with a National initiative. If enough people receive this message, maybe a seed of awareness will be planted, and maybe good changes will evolve. Pass this around to everyone you know.

Kudos to Sherman Weitzman, whoever and wherever he is, for exposing this issue with a solution. People Power can make powerful changes. Nothing ventured, nothing gained.

Again, please pass this around. It will become an issue in the 2008 election.

Let's all mobilize and do this because we're mad, and we will not take it any longer!

For KSCO and KOMY, this is Kay Zwerling.

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