

Ad Backup "Facts"

Friends Of Mary Landrieu
August 20, 2008
:30 TV
"Facts"

Script	Backup
<p><i>MLL:</i> I'm Mary Landrieu, and I approve this message.</p>	<p>Visit: www.oneconfusedpolitician.com</p>
<p><i>Narrator:</i> The facts. Senator Mary Landrieu has never voted to give Social Security to illegal immigrants.</p>	<p>Factcheck.org – The Charge Is A “Mischaracterization”: According to Factcheck.org, a non-partisan voter information project at the University of Pennsylvania, “The charge is a mischaracterization of an amendment offered during debate of the immigration bill that passed the Senate last May with a healthy bi-partisan majority, 62-36. The amendment would change current law to prevent immigrants from getting credit toward future Social Security benefits from taxes paid before they have legal permission to work.” Factcheck.org continued, “Nobody’s proposing paying benefits to illegals, not until and unless they become US citizens or are granted legal status.”(Factcheck.org, 10/11/06)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Kennedy Is Recycling 2-Year Old False National Republican Party Attacks: In October 2006, Factcheck.org stated that there had been 29 GOP ads that election cycle attacking Democrats with various versions of “this misleading claim” that the amendment would give benefits to illegal immigrants. In 2007, when Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney attacked Sen. John McCain over this same vote, Factcheck.org stated, “This tired and misleading claim was used by several Republicans against Democrats in the 2006 elections.” (Factcheck.org, 10/11/06; 12/28/07) <p>New York Times – Attack Is A “Distortion”: In 2006, a <i>New York Times</i> editorial headlined, “It’s Voter-Fooling Time in America” stated, “Democrats in more than two dozen races are being falsely accused of wanting to give Social Security benefits to illegal immigrants -- a distortion of a proposal to actually block immigrants from being credited for benefit days worked before they had legal status.” (New York Times, 10/20/06)</p> <p>New Hampshire Union Leader – Attack Is “Patently And Demonstrably False”: After Mitt Romney attacked Sen. John McCain over the vote, a front-page editorial in the <i>New Hampshire Union Leader</i> stated, “That is patently and demonstrably false. In fact, McCain wants to make sure that LEGAL immigrants have their Social Security taxes properly accounted for so that the rest of U.S. taxpayers aren't footing that bill, too.” (New Hampshire Union Leader, 1/2/08)</p>

<p>John Kennedy? On Social Security, spinning around.</p> <p>First, he said he'd protect Social Security.</p> <p>Now Kennedy supports the Bush privatization plan that would cut Social Security.</p>	<p>2004 – Kennedy Opposed Voluntary Private Accounts: In 2004, the <i>Baton Rouge Advocate</i> reported that “Kennedy opposes putting Social Security dollars into private funds and would like to see the country pay back the money it borrowed from the trust fund, which he said should be taken out of the federal budget....’It’s called a trust fund for a reason,’ Kennedy said.” (Baton Rouge Advocate, 10/3/04)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Kennedy Ran TV Ads That Said “It’s Wrong, It’s Cold And It’s Mean” To Cut Social Security Benefits: In his 2004 Senate campaign, Kennedy ran TV ads that stated, “In just four years, Washington politicians have stolen \$500 billion from the Social Security trust fund. They raided your social security savings to pay for tax cuts for the wealthy. <u>Now they want to cut your Social Security benefits. It’s wrong, it’s cold and it’s mean.</u> I’m John Kennedy, I approve this message. I’ll work for middle-class tax cuts, but cutting social security to pay for tax cuts for the rich is wrong. I’ll fight to stop it.” ANNCR: “John Kennedy. Democrat. Senate” (Kennedy TV Ad, “Social Security”) <p>2008 – Kennedy Supports Private Accounts For Social Security: In 2008, the <i>Times-Picayune</i> reported that Kennedy said he supported a controversial White House plan to let people divert part of their Social Security payroll taxes into private accounts - an idea that failed to gain traction in Congress despite a strong push from President Bush in 2005. The Bush plan would have allowed workers to funnel a portion of their payroll taxes into private investment accounts. (Times-Picayune, 7/8/08; Washington Post, 1/12/05)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Kennedy Said He Supported Giving People Option Of Private Sector: In response to a question from a reporter about his position on Social Security privatization, Kennedy said, “I support giving people an option, to access the private sector with some of their money...” (Kennedy Campaign Kickoff, Baton Rouge, 7/8/07) ▪ Voluntary Private Accounts = Privatization: According to the National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare, voluntary personal retirement accounts are equal to privatization of Social Security. Even supporters of personal private accounts like the Cato Institute, used the term privatization for several years. (National Committee to Preserve Social Security & Medicare, Personal Retirement Accounts Statement; New York Times, 3/22/05) <p>Under Bush Privatization Plan, Benefits Would Be Cut Nearly In Half For Some Workers: In 2005, the <i>Star Ledger</i> reported, “Under the main plan offered by Bush’s commission, promised benefits would be cut almost in half for some younger workers, with reductions ranging from 0.9 percent to 45.9 percent.” (Star Ledger, 1/5/05)</p>
<p>The Kennedy Plan: Your benefits could be cut almost in half.</p>	<p>Washington Post – Bush Supported Cut In Benefits By A Third To Nearly Half: In 2005, the <i>Washington Post</i> reported, “...Bush had signaled his support for a change in the calculation of Social Security benefits that would cut guaranteed payments by a third to nearly half over the century.” (Washington Post, 1/7/05)</p> <p>Center For Budget & Policy Priorities – Privatization Proposal Would Reduce Benefits For Medium-Earning Couples By 46 Percent: A Center for Budget and Policy priorities report found that under one of the privatization proposals offered by President Bush’s Commission to Strengthen Social Security, a medium-earning couple retiring in 2075 that did not choose to participate in private accounts would see their monthly benefits reduced by 46 percent. The same couple that did choose to use an individual account would see a reduction in benefits of 21 percent (CBPP, June 2002)</p>

	<p>Bush’s Plan Would Erode Benefits Promised To Middle Class: The <i>Washington Post</i> reported in April 2005 that President Bush endorsed a complex proposal to restore Social Security’s fiscal balance by “cutting deeply into the Social Security benefits of high-income workers and <u>eroding benefits promised to the middle class.</u>” (Washington Post, 4/29/05)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Center For Budget & Policy Priorities – Under Bush’s 2005 Plan, Workers Could See Benefit Cuts ABOVE 50 Percent: In 2005, a Center for Budget and Policy Priorities report found that under Bush’s plan to impose price indexing on Social Security benefits and adopt private accounts, a medium earner (making about \$37,000 per year) who retired in 2055, would see their Social Security benefit reduced by 66 percent. For a “high” earner making \$59,000 per year, their benefit would be reduced by 87 percent. (CBPP, 5/2/05) <p>Shreveport Times – Bush Plan Calls For Cuts To Benefits: In April 2005, the <i>Shreveport Times</i> reported that the Bush plan called for “cuts to benefits.” (Shreveport Times, 4/27/05)</p> <p>Wall Street Would Reap Billions Of Dollars In Fees From Privatization: According to report by The Century Foundation, “Brokerage houses, banks, and mutual funds have been very active in the campaign to privatize Social Security, since they stand to gain enormous fees if billions of dollars are shifted each year from Social Security payments into accounts under Wall Street management. The problem is that those fees will come from the balances in individual accounts, reducing whatever gains the accounts achieve.” (The Century Foundation, 2005)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Kennedy Raising Money From Wall Street: In April 2008, Kennedy was scheduled to hold a fundraiser at the New York Athletic Club to raise Wall Street money. The suggested contribution was \$2,300. (LAPolitics Weekly, 4/25/08)
<p>John Kennedy, so confused he’d cut Social Security.</p> <p>Now that’s one confused politician.</p>	<p>Privatization Plan Would Create \$17.7 Trillion In Debt: According to the Center for Budget and Policy Priorities, President Bush’s plan to privatize Social Security would create \$17.7 trillion in additional debt by 2050. (Center for Budget and Policy Priorities, 8/2/05)</p> <p>Privatization Would Cost \$2 Trillion Immediately: According to estimates by the Social Security trustees, Social Security would need more than \$2 trillion immediately, which would, together with interest earnings, pay for the creation of individual accounts. (Center for American Progress, 5/3/05)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Kennedy Himself Said Privatization Would Cost \$1-\$2 Trillion: In October 2004, Kennedy said of private accounts, “It would add \$1 trillion to \$2 trillion to the Social Security deficit.” (Baton Rouge Advocate, 10/15/04) <p>Bush Plan Would Create Immediate Cash-Flow Problem: The plan proposed by President Bush, which would divert two-thirds of the current employee-paid Social Security tax into private accounts, would cause an almost immediate cash- flow problem for Social Security. (National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare, Accessed 8/6/08)</p>