

Neil Pushis – Butler, IN

Representative Souder,

First, thank you for taking the time out of your schedule to offer this opportunity to us.

Question: Why has the Republican party made no move to remove the vast amount of entitlements that weigh the taxpayers down?

I had recently heard that some victims of the Katrina disaster are third generation welfare recipients, if this is true how is it that the government feels this is an advantageous program?

Isn't it the duty of the Conservative party to bring fiscal responsibility to the government?

Neil

Owner Just -a- Gig! Computer Sales and Service

MES Response:

- 1) Entitlement spending of which most is social security, Medicare, and Medicaid not welfare—is the hardest thing to control. People think they have paid for their coverage, which they have not even had it been invested properly. Eliminating all poverty programs would not have the impact of small changes in Medicare. In fact the Republicans reduced AFDC (Aid to Families with Dependent Children) 50% when we were in control. It didn't seem to garner much credit from conservatives but made recipients and liberals furious. That's part of the problem.
- 2) When the Republicans were in control we dramatically reduced welfare roll. The 3rd generation problem is a huge problem, in Indiana as well as New Orleans. We have tried “workforce”—but employers often reject (drug tests) and creating government jobs costs more than paying some people to stay at home.
But we continue to try different things.
Politically, and by court order anyway, you cannot cut all benefits to zero.
- 3) We have no net gains in discretionary spending besides the money for Iraq/Afghanistan. Unless social security is reformed (I supported reform, but only about 55 of us Members), or unless Medicare is reformed (Medicare Advantages is the only Medicare program to come in under budget) and if Medicaid is altered you cannot balance things. Things you hear about as “waste” don't actually dent the budget. They are symbolic. That's not to say things like across the board reductions aren't important but to balance things, you need honesty about why this is hard—not a sound-bite that sounds good on radio or TV.

Mark Murphy – Columbia City, IN

Why is funding for ACORN set to be reinstated October 31, 2009? Why is there no investigation of this group and those that started it?

MES Response:

Only the Majority Party—the Democrats—can initiate investigations by committees. The Oversight Committee, on which I serve, has refused so far to investigate ACORN just like the chairman has refused to investigate all the czar appointments

If the democrats continue to refuse to officially act, I raised to Republican Study Committee (known as RSC) headed by Congressman Price of Georgia—that we conservatives on the RSC should initiate our own investigations of ACORN, the czars, and other things they refuse to investigate.