



Coalition Pushes Social Security Accounts

By Judy Sarasohn

Thursday, April 7, 2005; Page A29

Even though there's a decided lack of momentum on Capitol Hill for President Bush's proposal on Social Security private accounts, business supporters are sounding quite upbeat.

Today, CoPASS -- the Coalition for the Modernization and Protection of America's Social Security -- unveils its membership list, boasting that it has expanded to 116 associations and advocacy groups in "just 45 days."

"We're not disappointed at all. I'm thrilled," said **Jade West**, senior vice president of government relations at the National Association of Wholesaler-Distributors and chairman of CoPASS's informal membership task force. "Our focus to date has not been with the Hill but out in the grass roots outside the Beltway."

West acknowledged that CoPASS and a sister advocacy group have lost a couple of members. But she said, "This is a tough issue."

CoPASS is making its membership list public in conjunction with a new advertising campaign in support of creating personal accounts and not raising payroll taxes as part of a plan to fix Social Security.

CoPASS said some of the new members include the Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers, Associated General Contractors of America, the Minority Business Roundtable, the National Restaurant Association and the National Retail Federation.

Some of the early members: the Business Roundtable, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and the National Association of Manufacturers.

Gray, Gorelick to Chair Wilmer Practice

Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale and Dorr has pulled together a new public policy and strategy practice to be co-chaired by two of its biggies -- Republican **C. Boyden Gray**, former counsel to President George H.W. Bush, and Democrat **Jamie Gorelick**, former deputy attorney general in the Clinton administration.

In addition, three of its former lawyers are returning and joining the public policy practice: **Robert M. Kimmitt**, former ambassador to Germany; **Edward T. Tobin III**, former executive director of the Republican Governors Association; and **Reginald J. Brown**, former special assistant to President Bush.

Kimmitt, who also served as general counsel to the Treasury Department, most recently was executive vice president for global public policy at Time Warner Inc.

Tobin earlier was chief secretary to then-Republican Massachusetts Gov. William Weld and deputy general counsel for corporate affairs at Microsoft Corp.

Brown, the lead lawyer for the White House Office of Political Affairs through the last presidential campaign, served a stint at Nationwide Mutual Insurance Co., and as deputy general counsel to Florida Gov. Jeb Bush (R).

William J. Perlstein, managing partner of Wilmer, said the firm decided "to pull together the various strands" of public policy and strategy work to form a single practice "in recognition of the importance" of providing strategic advice to clients that deals with legal, public policy and political concerns.

The firm rarely lobbies directly, Perlstein said, but instead helps craft legislative solutions and find the right professional lobbyists for a client.

Perlstein said he isn't concerned about the buzz that Gray might be named by the president as ambassador to the European Union.

"It would be wonderful for Boyden and good for the country. We decided we couldn't wait" to establish the new practice, Perlstein said.

Ex-Bush Officials Hired at Cohen Group

Three senior Bush administration officials and a retired Army general are signing up with the **Cohen Group**, founded by former GOP senator and defense secretary **William S. Cohen**: **Marc Grossman**, former ambassador to Turkey; retired Adm. **James Loy**, former deputy secretary of homeland security and commandant of the Coast Guard; retired Army Gen. **Paul Kern**, former

head of the Army Materiel Command; and **Frank Miller**, former senior director for defense policy and arms control at the National Security Council.

Grossman starts June 6 as vice chairman; Loy starts April 18; Kern and Miller are already at work.

Cohen Group folks don't officially lobby but, according to the group, provide clients "the insights and intelligence needed to better understand and shape the business, political, legal, regulatory and media environments in which they operate." The consulting shop has a "strategic partnership" with **DLA Piper Rudnick Gray Cary**, which has a lobbying component.

For the Record . . .

Also moving about . . . Former representative **Jim Turner** (D-Tex.), has joined **Arnold & Porter** as a partner in the law firm's public policy and government contracts practice. **Elizabeth Hurley Burks**, his former chief of staff, has also signed on as a senior policy and legislative adviser.

John Duncan resigned last month as assistant secretary of the Treasury for legislative affairs and joined **Wexler & Walker Public Policy Associates** as a managing director.

Bill Morley has left the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, where he was vice president of congressional affairs, to head the Washington office of the **MWW Group**.

Karen Yeager, most recently adviser to Homeland Security Undersecretary Michael Brown, has joined **Dutko Worldwide**.

The National Association of Realtors has signed on **Sam Whitfield**, a former aide to Sen. Trent Lott (R-Miss.), as a lobbyist. Whitfield most recently worked in the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy.

© 2005 The Washington Post Company

Advertising Links

What's this?

MyCashNow - \$100 - \$1,000 Overnight

Payday Loan Cash goes in your account overnight. Very low fees. Fast decisions. Direct deposit is not required. No credit check. Confidential - secure.

www.mycashnow.com

Refinance Rates Hit Record Lows

Get \$150,000 loan for \$720 per month. Refinance while rates are low.

www.lowermybills.com

LendingTree.com - Official Site

Lendingtree - Find a mortgage, refinance, home equity or auto loan now. Receive up to four loan offers within minutes. When banks compete, you win.

www.lendingtree.com

