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An Ethically Challenged Congress

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Social Security Tilt

The network evening newscasts haven't exactly been rooting for President Bush's Social Security plan. During his two-month blitz for the proposal, says the Center for Media and Public Affairs, 83 percent of the nonpartisan sources (from experts and ordinary citizens to the journalists themselves) made negative comments about the proposal.

Perhaps that's because the plan has gone nowhere fast? No, the 83 percent involves comments on the substance of the plan. Coverage of the politics surrounding the plan has been 98 percent negative.

On the merits of the proposal to create private accounts, says the study, ABC was the most negative (92 percent), followed by CBS (89 percent) and NBC (69 percent).