

THE CLOCK IS TICKING ON BUSH'S SS REFORM

Via Steve Gilliard I found yet another article spelling doom for Bush's Social Security plan. This article has a couple of nice bits I haven't seen in the other doom-spelling articles. But it also made me realize something important about the timing of this.

Social Security almost certainly isn't going to happen this year.

But with just 49 legislative days left before Congress's planned adjournment, the odds are still against Bush securing the centerpiece of his domestic agenda, Republican lawmakers concede.

"I don't know if we can get it done this year," said Rep. E. Clay Shaw Jr. (R-Fla.), a member of the Ways and Means Committee. "I don't think you could get a third of the Congress to vote for any one plan at this point."

Which means they're going to have to try to pitch it again next year. And aside from being an election year, there's another reason why it's going to be a lot harder to sell this stinky fish next year: Bush's Prescription Drug Plan will be coming online, demonstrating to millions of seniors that Bush doesn't have their best interests in mind.