

Politicians Talk in Trillions

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TRYING TO EXPLAIN A TRILLION Yesterday on my fine radio program I told you that the total unfunded liabilities for Social Security and Medicare amounted to \$41 trillion dollars. That's with a "T". The US government has promised \$41 trillion dollars to Social Security and Medicare recipients without any plan to raise the needed money.

So ... just how much is a trillion? Sure, there are plenty of zeros, twelve, to be exact – but that doesn't begin to explain things. So let me take a stab at it.

Have you ever asked for something from someone and had them reply "Just give me 5 minutes." Fine – but what if he says "Just give me 1,000 minutes ... or a million? Or a billion?"

Here's the breakdown:

- 1000 minutes would equal just less than 17 hours. You'll get what you asked for before the day is out.
- 100,000 minutes would be almost 70 days. Check back with your friend later.
- One million minutes? Look for whatever you need in just less than 2 years.
- One billion minutes? That's going to take a while. Try 1,900 years.
- One trillion minutes? Well, today is 2008. Your wishes will be fulfilled in the year 1,903,377, unless your friend steps things up a bit. That's 1,901,369 years from now. Let us know how that works out for you.

Now ... do you have a better idea how deep in the red we are for Social Security and Medicare? Thank your local vote-buying politician.

Part of the problem is that most Americans actually think, if that's the word, that there is a Social Security Trust Fund out there. There isn't. There never has been. Every penny of Social Security taxes collected every month that is not needed to pay current benefits is transferred to these hideous vote-buying politicians to be spent. If any private pension company in any State in this Union dared to operate in this manner the company would be shut down and the officers put in jail. But not our congress – they operate this way openly year after year, and then demand your praise, not your condemnation.

When in the hell are the American people going to wise up?