



The Democratic Party:



The Party That Created Medicare For America's Seniors

The Republican Medicare Prescription Drug Bribery Scandal

I believe the American people deserve real answers on why this Administration is keeping public officials quiet and keeping facts from the American people. We deserve better than this.

— Democratic Presidential Candidate John Kerry

[Press Release](#) 3/15/04

"These [Medicare] reforms are the act of a vibrant and compassionate government."

George W. Bush, [CNN](#) 12/8/03

The Republican Alleged Medicare Bribery Scandal in Context

The Bush Administration and Congressional Republican Leadership did not have the votes to pass the seriously flawed Medicare bill. Traditionally, Congressional members have 15 minutes to vote on an issue. Conservative Republican Nick Smith (MI) issued a press release stating "because the leadership did not have the votes to prevail, this vote was held open for a record two-hours-and-51-minutes 51-minutes as bribes and special deals were offered to convince members to vote yes." ["A Medicare Showdown" [Column by Congressman Nick Smith](#) 11/23/03]

- Republican Congressman Smith Said Republican Leaders Bribed Him For His Vote On Medicare.
- Conservative Republican Congressman talks of Pressure to vote for Bush's Medicare Bill.
- Congressman Feels Heat, Backs off Bribery Claim: But Taped Interview Recorded His Words.
- Ethics Investigation Regarding Republican Congressional Bribery Allegations Now Under Way

For sources and more information, please visit our website: <http://sccdp.org>.

On the issue of Nick Smith, the allegation that was made about a bribe on the House floor. I believe it is an appropriate response that the Ethics Committee is engaged in fact-finding, and that is the first step in an investigation. So I'm satisfied in terms of this particular.

—House Democratic Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (CA)

[Weekly News Conference](#) 2/5/04

The Democratic Party: Honoring America's Greatest Generation