

"On behalf of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, I bid \$24 billion for the Social Security system. (I can't use e-Bay to respond because the bid exceeds our credit card limits). Pennsylvania already runs well-funded pension systems, and our Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency already services student loans in every state. Running the Social Security system for the entire country is just the kind of diversification that this state needs. (If successful, we'll place bids on the social security system equivalent systems in Chile and Great Britain as well.) We would hope that our ownership of the system would enable every Pennsylvanian to get DOUBLE BENEFITS.

\$24 billion is roughly the amount of our annual budget. We'll have to work out the payment plan. How about a million a year for 24 thousand years? I think that's the kind of advance planning and elegant mathematics that President Bush loves.

Let's see if anyone dares come up with a better offer than this."

Mark B. Cohen
State Representative, Northeast Philadelphia
Chairman, House Democratic Caucus
Pennsylvania House of Representatives