

By Hrish Deshpande

ANGLE: My Question

"Many groups are concerned about the increasing cost of Social Security while other groups are disturbed by the declining funding for children's domestic spending. What's your plan for balancing the increasing cost of Social Security and Medicare while still supporting programs that affect children's spending?"

That was my question for Republican presidential nominee John McCain when he held a downtown Indianapolis meeting in the Emmis Building.

Although McCain answered previous questions with ease, he seemed slightly taken aback at this 12-year-old pipsqueak asking a question. Some of the supporters too swiveled their heads to get a better look at me. Who was asking about Social Security?

After McCain lectured for a minute about the importance of a bipartisan agreement, I finally received some straight talk from the 'Straight Talk Express':
[insert quote here]

Although Sen. McCain answered the question, he offered few details and by the end of his response, still had no definite answer for the problem. This surprised me because at 71, McCain should probably be receiving Social Security benefits.

For me Social Security is very important because my parents are concerned about it too. They came to the U.S. from India with very little and have worked hard to save money. The average American receives a little over a thousand/month in benefits. With the cost of living on the rise, that amount is not going to be enough for me or you in the future. In my opinion kids ought to care about the issue. *Businessweek* states that Social Security will be "dead and buried" by the time my generation reaches retirement age.

Sen. McCain did not seem prepared for my question and had to pause several times during the answer. A joke did not help his cause either. In the end, his answer surprised me because he was vague and didn't really give a solid answer. I want a president who is short on talk and long on action. That means lots of planning for the future, whether you're 12 like me, or a senior citizen like McCain.

For Y-Press I'm Hrish Deshpande