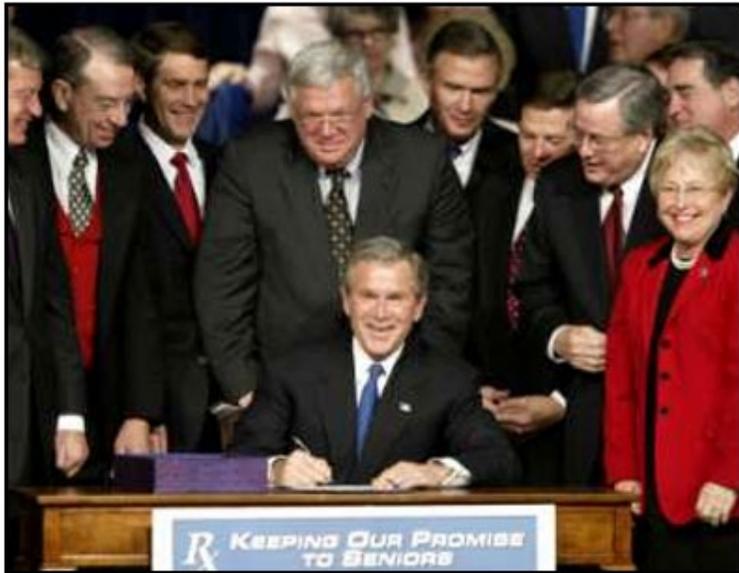




RECENT HISTORY'S BIG DISASTERS

As President Bush signs the Medicare bill, echoes of disasters from recent history come to mind. Like these other disasters, the chance to reform Medicare was filled with great promise. But the bill's effort to privatize Medicare, failure to hold down prescription drug costs, and refusal to provide a stable benefit to all recipients foreshadows serious consequences for seniors. For more on the bill, please go to <http://www.americanprogress.org>.



The last hundred years have witnessed events that held the potential for greatness. Many of these events, however, have quickly become massive disasters. In transportation, there was the Titanic and the Hindenberg. In sports, there was Bill Buckner's error and Scott Norwood's wide right kick. In entertainment, there was Ishtar, K Street, Milli Vanilli and of course, the Chevy Chase Show. In politics, Richard Nixon waved a "victory" sign as he left the White House in shame, and Mike Dukakis brandished his national security credentials in a tank. In business, there was the Enron fiasco, Coca-Cola's "New Coke" attempt, and the now-defunct Betamax. And now, unfortunately, President Bush signs the Medicare Prescription Drug and Modernization Act of 2003.

