

## How Cosy Is The Iron Security Blanket?

The director of the German Christian Democrats' youth wing has found the temerity to **point out** that the emperor's social insurance system has no clothes:

Philipp Missfelder, chairman of the youth wing of the center-right Christian Democrats, griped that medical care for old folks was creating an intolerable financial burden for the young. It's about time 85-year-olds started paying for their own hip replacements and false teeth, Missfelder declared in an August interview with the Berlin daily Tagesspiegel that was widely quoted by other news media. "In the old days, people got around on crutches," he said.

Chile has substantially cleaned up its system; in the USA one may utter "social security" and "privatization" in the same sentence without being crucified; even EdenSweden has confronted the need for reform. But in the parasitocracies of France and Germany, even to raise the point is taboo. Though the Iron Curtain may have fallen, the Iron Security Blanket remains. Its twilight may be approaching.

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