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Record Group/Collection: George H.W. Bush Presidential Records
Collection/Office of Origin: Speechwriting, White House Office of
Series: Speech File Draft Files
Subseries: Chron File, 1989-1993

OA/ID Number: 13626
Folder ID Number: 13626-004

Folder Title:
Healthcare Equity Action League 6/2/92 [OA 5809]

Stack:	Row:	Section:	Shelf:	Position:
G	26	18	2	6

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 6/1/92 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: ---

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: HEALTH EQUITY ACTION LEAGUE
 SUBJECT: TUESDAY, JUNE 2 - 2:00 p.m.

	ACTION	FYI		ACTION	FYI
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	HORNER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SKINNER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MCBRIDE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SCOWCROFT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	MOORE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
DARMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	PETERSMEYER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
BRADY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	PORTER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
BROMLEY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	ROLLINS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CALIO	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	SMITH	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
DEMAREST	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	YEUTTER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<u>FINDLAY</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
GRAY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<u>KAUFMAN</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
HOLIDAY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<u>MCGROARTY</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

REMARKS:

The attached has been forwarded to the President.

RESPONSE:

PHILLIP D. BRADY
 Assistant to the President
 and Staff Secretary
 Ext. 2702

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

02 JUN 1 P4: 11

Monday, June 1, 1992

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

THROUGH: DAVID F. DEMAREST *DD*

FROM: JANICE SHAW CROUSE *Janice Shaw Crouse*

RE: PROPOSED REMARKS FOR HEALTH EQUITY ACTION LEAGUE

I. SUMMARY

On Tuesday, June 2 at 2:00 p.m. you will deliver brief remarks to an audience of 180 members of HEAL (Health Equity Action League) in Room 450 of the Old Executive Office Building.

II. DISCUSSION

Your remarks, (approximately 7 minutes from cards), will focus on the health care reform needs of small business owners, will recognize HEAL for its hard work in support of your health care reform proposal, will challenge HEAL to work for health promotion/disease prevention efforts and to continue working for passage of your two health care reform bills currently on the Hill.

Crouse/Bunton
Monday, June 1, 1992
2:48pm
[HEAL]

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: HEALTHCARE EQUITY ACTION LEAGUE
TUESDAY, JUNE 2, 1992
2:00 P.M., OEOB Room 450

Welcome to the White House. [ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS] I want you to know how much it has meant to me to have your strong support of our health care reform plans. I cannot overemphasize the importance of your contacts on the Hill today and your organizing of local coalitions; both of these efforts will be determining factors in steering health care reform in the right direction.

America stands at a crossroads on the issue of health care reform -- the real debate concerns the direction health care reform will take. Will we preserve our public-private health care system through comprehensive reforms or will we substitute a plan that is government controlled? That is the bottom line and we have to spell that out as clearly for the American public as we possibly can. The decision is as simple -- and as pivotal -- as that.

And, we have to make it clear to Americans that other proposals -- like national health care, expanded Medicare, Americare, and "Play-or-Pay" -- are government-controlled. Some are a little more obvious about it than others, but ultimately, each ends up controlled by a government bureaucracy.

[[Let me assure you this is not a partisan issue -- it just happens that all those proposals are sponsored by liberal

Democrats.))] Let me also assure you that I share your specific concerns. Individual entrepreneurs need help in order to compete with the conglomerates. You need a tax deduction for 100% of health insurance premiums and you need market clout. As small business owners, you also need rescuing from "cherry picking" by insurers; you need help in "shopping smart," and you need a way to avoid costly, frivolous coverage.

Our plan provides comprehensive reform that will benefit more than 95 million Americans. We have two bills up on the Hill already. These bills are non-political -- that is, the liberals agree with us in principle. That being the case, I say Congress ought to act according to principle and pass this legislation for the good of the country. Where we agree, we must act. With your help up on the Hill, Congress will pass the bills -- immediately.

Under our plan, health insurers would have to cover all employers requesting coverage. That coverage would be guaranteed; it would be renewable; and it would have no restrictions for pre-existing medical conditions. It would also be portable -- allowing workers to change jobs without fear of not being picked up by their new employer's plan. We would establish networks that would help small businesses purchase insurance and manage their premium costs. Our coordinated care provisions would reverse the upward spiral of health care costs, too. Our plan also addresses malpractice costs, costs from excessive insurance paperwork and administrative costs. We address the special needs of urban and rural areas by providing

for clinics and disease prevention activities. In addition, we think consumers need better information in order to make better decisions -- so we propose information booklets that will allow consumers to compare costs and quality of care provided by hospitals and other health care plans.

These are things we all whole-heartedly endorse and fully intend to implement. But, no discussion of health care reform is complete without emphasizing the necessity for personal responsibility for health promotion and disease prevention. Tomorrow, Secretary Sullivan, along with Prevention magazine, will announce the results of a survey on the health-related behaviors of Americans. The Prevention Index tracks our national progress in avoiding specific health-related risk behaviors. We need your help in spreading the word that avoiding ten common risk factors could prevent between 40 and 70 percent of all premature deaths, one-third of all cases of acute disability, and two-thirds of all cases of chronic disability.

Individual action is needed around the nation at the level of personal health behaviors. At the same time, Congressional action is needed to insure that world-class health care continues to be directed by consumer choice and by free market factors.

Thank you for helping to make this happen. Keep up the good work. May God bless you and May God bless the United States of America.

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WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 5/29/92 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: MON. 6/1/92 10:00am

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: HEALTHCARE EQUITY ACTION LEAGUE
TUESDAY, 6/2/92 - 2:00 p.m.

	ACTION	FYI		ACTION	FYI
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	HORNER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SKINNER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	MCBRIDE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SCOWCROFT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X MOORE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DARMAN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	X PETERSMEYER <i>N/C</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BRADY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	PORTER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BROMLEY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	ROLLINS <i>N/C</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
X CALIO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	SMITH <i>N/C</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
X DEMAREST <i>N/C</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	YEUTTER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	FINDLAY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
X GRAY <i>N/C</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	KAUFMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
X HOLIDAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	MCGROARTY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

REMARKS:

Please forward your comments directly to Dan McGroarty, Rm. 122, x2930, no later than 10:00 a.m., MONDAY, JUNE 1, with a copy to this office. Thank you.

RESPONSE:

92 MAY 29 P 2: 07

PHILLIP D. BRADY
Assistant to the President
and Staff Secretary
Ext. 2702

Crouse/Bunton
Friday, May 29, 1992
12:48pm
[HEAL]

02 MAY 29 12:52

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: HEALTHCARE EQUITY ACTION LEAGUE
TUESDAY, JUNE 2, 1992
2:00 P.M., OEOB Room 450

Welcome to the White House. It is great to be with you and to see so many friends. [ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS]

I am so glad to finally have the opportunity to meet with you. I want you to know how much it has meant to me to have your strong support of our health care reform plans. You have worked hard and your continuing efforts are vitally important.

I cannot overemphasize the importance of your contacts on the Hill today and your organizing of local coalitions; they will be determining factors in steering health care reform in the right direction. You and I know that America stands at a crossroads on this issue. That is the basis for your efforts here in Washington and at the local level. The entire nation has been inundated with proposals and commentary on health care reform. No wonder many Americans are bewildered. Thank goodness, you are helping to clarify the picture.

Your upcoming [Public Service Announcement] about Sal Risalzano is fantastic -- you get right to the heart of the problems faced by small business owners. Sal, and other small *comb) self-employed* business owners like him (need 100% deduction for health premiums and they) need market clout. Small business owners need rescuing

OMB:
100% Ded.
applies only to
self-employed.

from "cherry picking" by insurers; they need help in "shopping smart," and they need an end to frivolous coverage.

There is only one way that Sal, and all the rest of you, will get what you need. That is, to let the American public know the basis of the real debate on comprehensive health care reform -- what direction will health care reform take? Will we maintain our public-private health care system through comprehensive reforms or will we be told that the only substitute is a plan that is government controlled? That is the bottom line and we have to spell that out as clearly as we possibly can. The decision is as simple -- and as pivotal -- as that.

And, we have to make it just as clear that all of the Democratic proposals -- national health care, expanded Medicare, Americare, "Play-or-Pay" -- are government-controlled. Some are a little more obvious about it than others, but ultimately, each ends up controlled by a government bureaucracy.

Our position is unequivocal -- we must maintain the integrity of the private sector in the health care area. That is the only way to achieve the reforms that you must have to extend coverage to your employees and still stay in business. Our plan accomplishes that goal; while at the same time, it provides comprehensive reform that will benefit more than 90 million Americans. Thank you for helping to get the word out.

Under our plan, the consumer can choose from a state-wide basic health insurance package paid for with a tax voucher or alternative insurance. Health insurers would have to cover all

employers requesting coverage. And, that coverage would be guaranteed, renewable, have no restrictions for pre-existing medical conditions and it would be portable -- workers could change jobs without losing insurance.

Our networks would help small businesses purchase insurance and limit their premium costs. Our coordinated care provisions would reverse the upward spiral of health care costs, too. Our plan addresses malpractice and administrative costs, insurance paperwork, and flexibility for state Medicaid programs. We also address the special needs of urban and rural areas -- with clinics and disease prevention activities. We think consumers need better information -- through "blue books" that compare costs and quality of care provided by physicians, hospitals, clinical laboratories, and other health care providers. These are things we all whole-heartedly endorse and fully intend to implement.

But, you and I know that this issue transcends the specifics of our plan. Government action is needed to solve specific problems -- a safety net for the uninsured, guaranteeing quality care and low cost -- making insurance more secure and available. But health care in America should be guided by each consumer's choice and by the discipline of the free market.

Thank you for helping to make this happen. Keep up the good work. May God bless you and May God bless the United States of America.

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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

June 1, 1992

92 MAY 2 P12:26

MEMORANDUM FOR DAN MCGROARTY

FROM: ROGER B. PORTER *RBP*

SUBJECT: Presidential Remarks: Healthcare Equity Action
League

We have reviewed the attached remarks and have noted a few minor suggested changes on the draft.

Please let us know if you have any questions or if we may help in any other way.

cc: Phillip D. Brady

JMH
-HK

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 5/29/92 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: MON. 6/1/92 10:00am

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: HEALTHCARE EQUITY ACTION LEAGUE
SUBJECT: TUESDAY, 6/2/92 - 2:00 p.m.

	ACTION	FYI		ACTION	FYI
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	HORNER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SKINNER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	MCBRIDE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SCOWCROFT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	MOORE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DARMAN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PETERSMEYER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BRADY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	PORTER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BROMLEY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	ROLLINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CALIO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	SMITH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DEMAREST	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	YEUTTER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<u>FINDLAY</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
GRAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>KAUFMAN</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
HOLIDAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>MCGROARTY</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

REMARKS:

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RESPONSE:

PHILLIP D. BRADY
Assistant to the President
and Staff Secretary
Ext. 2702

Crouse/Bunton
Friday, May 29, 1992
12:48pm
[HEAL]

2 MAY 29 P12:52

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TUESDAY, JUNE 2, 1992
2:00 P.M., OEOB Room 450

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I am so glad to [finally] have the opportunity to meet with you. I want you to know how much it has meant to me to have your strong support of our health care reform plans. You have worked hard and your continuing efforts are vitally important.

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from "cherry picking" by insurers; they need help in "shopping smart," and they need an end to frivolous coverage.

There is only one way that Sal, and all the rest of you, will get what you need. That is, to let the American public know the basis of the real debate on comprehensive health care reform -- what direction will health care reform take? Will we maintain our public-private health care system through comprehensive reforms or will we be told that the only substitute is a plan that is government controlled? That is the bottom line and we have to spell that out as clearly as we possibly can. The decision is as simple -- and as pivotal -- as that.

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employers requesting coverage. ~~And~~, that coverage would be guaranteed, renewable, have no restrictions for pre-existing medical conditions and it would be portable -- workers could change jobs without losing insurance.

Our networks would help small businesses purchase insurance and [limit] their premium costs. Our coordinated care provisions would reverse the upward spiral of health care costs, too. Our plan addresses malpractice and administrative costs, insurance paperwork, and flexibility for state Medicaid programs. We also address the special needs of urban and rural areas -- with clinics and disease prevention activities. We think consumers need better information -- through "blue books" that compare costs and quality of care provided by physicians, hospitals, clinical laboratories, and other health care providers. These are ~~things~~ ^{INITIATIVES} we all whole-heartedly endorse and fully intend to implement.

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WHITE HOUSE STAFFING REQUEST

Subject

Presidential Remarks & Healthcare Equity Action League - Tuesday, June 2 @ 2:00 P.M.

Date/Time Received:

5/29 2:00

RESPONSE DUE:

Monday - 6/1
@ 9:00 a.m

Response due to Director's Office Support Group, Room 254, Ext. 3060. Please respond to every staffing request, even if you have no comment.

Distribution Within OMB

Action	FYI	Action	FYI
_____ Director	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	_____ Howard, R.	_____
_____ Deputy Director	_____	_____ Legis. Affairs	_____
_____ Dep. Dir./Mgmt.	_____	_____ MacRae, J.	_____
_____ Al-Samarrie, A.	_____	_____ Martin, B.	_____
_____ Anderson, B.	_____	_____ Mazur, E.	_____
_____ Burman, A.	_____	_____ Murr, J.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
_____ Dale, E.	_____	_____ Rockefeller, N.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> _____ Damus, R.	_____	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> _____ Scully, T.	_____
_____ Gen. Mgmt. Div.	_____	_____ X5178	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> _____ Grady, R.	_____	_____ (Other)	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> _____ Hale, J.	_____		

Comments:

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 5/29/92 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: MON. 6/1/92 10:00am

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: HEALTHCARE EQUITY ACTION LEAGUE
 SUBJECT: TUESDAY, 6/2/92 - 2:00 p.m.

	ACTION	FYI		ACTION	FYI
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	HORNER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SKINNER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	MCBRIDE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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REMARKS:

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RESPONSE:

*Dan,
 Technical --- but important change
 on page 2. People aren't guaranteed
 coverage.*

PHILLIP D. BRADY
 Assistant to the President
 and Staff Secretary
 Ext. 2702

Crouse/Bunton
Friday, May 29, 1992
12:48pm
[HEAL]

02 MAY 29 12:52

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Your upcoming [Public Service Announcement] about Sal Risalzano is fantastic -- you get right to the heart of the problems faced by small business owners. Sal, and other ^{self employed} ~~small business~~ owners like him, need 100% deduction for health premiums and they need market clout. Small business owners need rescuing

from "cherry picking" by insurers; they need help in "shopping smart," and they need an end to frivolous coverage.

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And, we have to make it just as clear that all of the Democratic proposals -- national health care, expanded Medicare, Americare, "Play-or-Pay" -- are government-controlled. Some are a little more obvious about it than others, but ultimately, each ends up controlled by a government bureaucracy.

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employers requesting coverage. And, that coverage would be guaranteed, renewable, have no restrictions for pre-existing medical conditions, ^{This portability allows} ~~and it would be portable~~ ^{to} workers could change jobs without ~~losing insurance.~~ ^{fear of not being picked up by their new employer's plan.}

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6563 Hans / Welenkijs
6402 Phil / Edits

Crouse/Bunton
Saturday, May 30, 1992
10:31am
[HEAL]

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: HEALTHCARE EQUITY ACTION LEAGUE
TUESDAY, JUNE 2, 1992
2:00 P.M., OEOB Room 450

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for

help in "shopping smart," and they need an end to costly, frivolous coverage.

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Our position is unequivocal -- we must maintain the integrity of the private sector in the health care area. That is the only way to achieve the reforms that you must have to extend coverage to your employees and still stay in business. Our plan accomplishes that goal; while at the same time, it provides comprehensive reform that will benefit more than 95 million Americans. Thank you for helping to get the word out.

Review of Plan { The concerns that are your top-priorities are in our plan. *We have 2 bills with more to come.*
~~which is~~ up on the Hill NOW. We must do everything we can to get these measures passed by the Congress; it is important that this legislation be passed NOW. The American people need to know that much of our bill is non-political -- the liberals support it just as strongly as we do. We agree in principle and Congress ought to act according to principles and pass this legislation for the good of the country.

g There are aspects of health care reform which need further deliberation; *(we cannot do everything now)*. Public consensus needs to be developed on some thorny issues; we cannot run roughshod over peoples' need to understand and participate in the process of shaping policy. But where we agree, we must act.

g Under our plan, *[*the consumer can choose from a state-wide basic health insurance package paid for with a tax voucher or alternative insurance.*]* Health insurers would have to cover all employers requesting coverage. And, that coverage would be guaranteed, renewable, have no restrictions for pre-existing medical conditions and it would be portable -- workers could change jobs without losing insurance.

The following aspects of our plan are being considered NOW should be passed NOW. Our networks would help small businesses purchase insurance and limit their premium costs -- Congress must move to get this done. Our coordinated care provisions would reverse the upward spiral of health care costs, too. Our plan addresses malpractice and administrative costs as well as the

costs from excessive insurance paperwork. We also address the special needs of urban and rural areas -- with clinics and disease prevention activities. We think consumers need better information -- ^{information} through ~~"blue-books"~~ ^{will allow consumers to} that ^{compare costs and} quality of care provided by physicians, hospitals, ^{clinical} ~~laboratories~~, and ~~other~~ health care providers. ^{plans.}

These are things we all whole-heartedly endorse and fully intend to implement. But, you and I know that the health care reform issue transcends the specifics of our plan. Government action is needed to solve specific problems -- a safety net for the uninsured, guaranteeing quality care and low cost -- making insurance more secure and available. But health care in America should be guided by each consumer's choice and by the discipline of the free market.

Thank you for helping to make this happen. Keep up the good work. May God bless you and May God bless the United States of America.

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WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 5/29/92 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: MON. 6/1/92 10:00am

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: HEALTHCARE EQUITY ACTION LEAGUE
 SUBJECT: TUESDAY, 6/2/92 - 2:00 p.m.

	ACTION	FYI		ACTION	FYI
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	HORNER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SKINNER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	MCBRIDE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SCOWCROFT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	MOORE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DARMAN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PETERSMEYER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BRADY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	PORTER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BROMLEY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	ROLLINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CALIO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	SMITH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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GRAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>KAUFMAN</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
HOLIDAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>MCGROARTY</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

REMARKS:

Please forward your comments directly to Dan McGroarty, Rm. 122, x2930, no later than 10:00 a.m., MONDAY, JUNE 1, with a copy to this office. Thank you.

RESPONSE:

*See OCA attachments. Thanks.
 PK
 Paul Korfanta
 06/01*

PHILLIP D. BRADY
 Assistant to the President
 and Staff Secretary
 Ext. 2702

Crouse/Bunton
Friday, May 29, 1992
12:48pm
[HEAL]

02 MAY 29 P12: 52

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: HEALTHCARE EQUITY ACTION LEAGUE
TUESDAY, JUNE 2, 1992
2:00 P.M., OEOB Room 450

Welcome to the White House. It is great to be with you and to see so many friends. [ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS]

I am so glad to finally have the opportunity to meet with you. I want you to know how much it has meant to me to have your strong support of our health care reform plans. You have worked hard and your continuing efforts are vitally important.

I cannot overemphasize the importance of your contacts on the Hill today and your organizing of local coalitions; they will be determining factors in steering health care reform in the right direction. You and I know that America stands at a crossroads on this issue. That is the basis for your efforts here in Washington and at the local level. The entire nation has been inundated with proposals and commentary on health care reform. No wonder many Americans are bewildered. Thank goodness, you are helping to clarify the picture.

Your upcoming [Public Service Announcement] about Sal Risalzato is fantastic -- you get right to the heart of the problems faced by small business owners. Sal, and other small business owners like him, need 100% deduction for health premiums and they need market clout. Small business owners need rescuing

from "cherry picking" by insurers; they need help in "shopping smart," and they need an end to frivolous coverage.

There is only one way that Sal, and all the rest of you, will get what you need. That is, to let the American public know the basis of the real debate on comprehensive health care reform -- what direction will health care reform take? Will we maintain our public-private health care system through comprehensive reforms or will we be told that the only substitute is a plan that is government controlled? That is the bottom line and we have to spell that out as clearly as we possibly can. The decision is as simple -- and as pivotal -- as that.

And, we have to make it just as clear that all of the Democratic proposals -- national health care, expanded Medicare, Americare, "Play-or-Pay" -- are government-controlled. Some are a little more obvious about it than others, but ultimately, each ends up controlled by a government bureaucracy.

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OFFICE OF CABINET AFFAIRS STAFFING MEMORANDUM

Date: 06/01

Due By: 10:00 am today

Subject: FOTUS Remarks: Healthcare Equity Action League

From: PL

	ACTION	CONCUR	FYI		ACTION	CONCUR	FYI
HOLIDAY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	LEFKOWITZ	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BLUMENTHAL	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	LUTTIG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BUCHHOLZ	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PORTER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CASSE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	SECHLER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
FARRAR	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	SHANAHAN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
FITZHENRY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
FURCHTGOFF-ROTH	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HILL	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
KUTCHINS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Comments:

10:00 am today

HHS

This speech should include a paragraph about prevention and personal responsibility being the most important factor in reducing health costs. On Wednesday, Sullivan is doing a Nat'l Press Club press conference announcement with Prevention magazine announcing survey results of American ~~behavior~~ health-related behavior (ie. smoking, excessive drinking, not wearing a seat belt, etc.) Although the Pres cannot pre-empt the

Prevention survey, he might be able to create a little news by ~~putting~~ making reference to it.

I've attached some background on the Prevention survey and a draft of Sullivan's Wednesday's remarks.

Janice — call Daniel Casse (6722)
or Alixe

THE
PREVENTION
Index®

The Prevention Index

The Prevention Index is an annual survey done by Louis Harris & Associates for Prevention Magazine. It measures what American adults are doing to promote health and prevent accidents and disease. The 1992 Index is our ninth survey.

The Index itself focuses on 21 key behaviors, such as good nutrition, exercise and weight control, smoking and drinking, and home and auto safety. Each of these behaviors is weighted for its health impact, and the total values are adjusted to a scale of 100. An Index score of 100 would mean everyone was doing all 21 preventive acts; zero would mean that no one was doing any of them.

On this scale our 1992 Prevention Index score was 66.5, up from 66.2 last year and 61.5 in 1984, our first year.

Survey methodology

The Index is based on a nationwide telephone survey of 1,256 randomly selected adults aged 18 and over. The survey was conducted from November 20 to December 5, 1991, and the margin of error is +/- three percentage points.

To facilitate comparisons, all nine surveys have followed the same procedures in every detail.

Over the past nine years, the Prevention Index surveys have become the most comprehensive time-series assessments of health and safety factors ever obtained from national cross-sections of Americans.

Prevention Index®

The Prevention Index, 1992

<u>Health-Promoting Behavior</u>	<u>Adults Practicing %</u>	<u>Experts' Rating, Scale 1-10</u>	<u>Value Contributed to Index</u>
1. Do Not Smoke	75	9.78	4.4
2. Avoid Smoking in Bed	92	9.24	5.1
3. Wear Seat Belt	69	9.16	3.8
4. Avoid Driving After Drinking	82	9.03	4.5
5. Smoke Detector in Home	88	8.53	4.5
6. Socialize Regularly	82	8.31	4.1
7. Frequent Stronuous Exercise	37	8.20	1.8
8. Drink Alcohol Moderately	90	8.15	4.4
9. Avoid Home Accidents	82	8.07	4.0
10. Limit Fat in Diet	57	7.82	2.7
11. Maintain Proper Weight	19	7.71	.9
12. Obey Speed Limit	53	7.65	2.4
13. Annual Blood Pressure Test	85	7.62	3.9
14. Control Stress	71	7.58	3.2
15. Consume Fiber	56	7.41	2.5
16. Limit Cholesterol in Diet	50	7.15	2.2
17. Adequate Vitamins/Minerals	58	7.12	2.5
18. Annual Dental Examination	77	7.08	3.3
19. Limit Sodium in Diet	48	7.04	2.0
20. Limit Sugar in Diet	43	6.90	1.8
21. 7-8 Hours Sleep/Night	62	6.71	2.5
Prevention Index			66.5

REMARKS BY
LOUIS W. SULLIVAN, M.D.
SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

PREVENTION MAGAZINE'S 1992 PREVENTION INDEX
NEWS CONFERENCE
WASHINGTON, D.C.
JUNE 3, 1992

(The Secretary will be introduced by Mark Bricklin, editor PREVENTION Magazine.)

Thank you, Mark, and good morning.

I am pleased to participate in the release of PREVENTION Magazine's 1992 Prevention Index. Since 1984, these annual surveys of Americans' health behavior have provided valuable assistance to our own efforts to monitor progress and to develop better methods of promoting and sustaining healthy lifestyles among our citizens.

The importance of prevention to improving the health and well-being of the American people cannot be overstated. As many as 900,000 of the 2.2 million deaths that occur in the United States each year could be prevented.

Nor can the importance of personal responsibility to prevention be overstated. Personal decisions by Americans to control fewer than ten common risk factors -- including use of tobacco, abuse of alcohol and illegal drugs, careless eating habits, failure to wear seat belts, and ignoring necessary medical examinations and vaccinations -- could prevent between 40 and 70 percent of all premature deaths, a third of all cases of acute disability, and two-thirds of all cases of chronic disability.

The simple fact is -- a change in health behavior on the part of each individual American would have a far greater impact on preventing disease, increasing life span, and reducing the cost of health care than reform of the nation's health care system.

Some have charged that our emphasis on personal responsibility is merely a way of diverting attention from an Administration that is loath to provide the resources necessary to improve health promotion and disease prevention in our nation. Nothing could be further from the truth.

In no way have we sought to imply that the onus for healthier behavior and improved health rests exclusively on the individual. On the contrary, we have made health promotion and disease prevention activities major priorities -- the \$8.7 billion we have proposed for FY 1993 represents an increase of 56 percent since 1989.

But let me make this clear. To suggest that our citizens, particularly our minorities and our poor, cannot improve their lives by drawing on their own traditional values is not only inaccurate -- it is patronizing and insulting. To counsel them to sit and wait for massive new federal programs is to counsel resignation, defeat, pessimism, and despair.

To guide our increased emphasis on health promotion and disease prevention and to offer specific goals, we prepared "Healthy People 2000," a comprehensive document with the health promotion and disease prevention goals for America to achieve by the year 2000.

Our health promotion and disease prevention activities fall into three basic categories: to help vulnerable populations at high risk of preventable disease; to make primary care more readily available to disadvantaged or geographically isolated Americans; and to educate our citizens on healthy behavior.

To help vulnerable populations, we have established new programs such as the "Healthy Start" infant mortality prevention initiative; a far-reaching initiative to address low immunization rates among certain populations of pre-school children; and a "Strategic Plan to Eliminate Childhood Lead Poisoning."

And we have greatly expanded Head Start, the early childhood development program which provides a range of services including education, nutrition, health, and other social services. For fiscal year 1993, we have proposed the largest increase ever in the 27-year history of Head Start -- \$600 million. Enrollment will reach 779,000, allowing every eligible 4-year-old child whose parents want them to participate to experience Head Start. In 1989, Head Start enrollment was 451,000.

To make primary care more readily available, we are proposing a additional \$105 million to support 126 additional Community and Migrant Health Center sites, 20 more homeless health care grantees, and 6 more health grantees near public housing. And we have proposed an increase of \$20 million in fiscal year 1993 to expand the National Health Service Corps to increase the pool of health professionals serving in shortage areas. Since 1989, the NHSC budget for scholarships and loan repayments has increased from \$48 million to \$100 million in fiscal year 1992.

To better educate citizens on healthy behavior, we have stepped up public education efforts, particularly with regard to tobacco use, AIDS, family planning, physical fitness, and nutrition.

As to the Prevention Index, this year's score of 66.5 is the highest ever -- up a full five points since 1984. It means that the average American practices about two-thirds of the 21 behavior items tracked by the survey. The trends are positive in most categories with a notable exception -- nutrition. While, according to the survey, efforts by Americans to cut back on fat and cholesterol have risen, efforts to limit sugar and to get enough dietary fiber -- as well as efforts to control weight -- have slid backwards.

These are trends we cannot afford to ignore. Dietary factors are still associated with 5 of the ten leading causes of death -- coronary heart disease, some types of cancer, stroke, noninsulin-dependent diabetes, and atherosclerosis. Apart from stopping the use of tobacco and the abuse of alcohol, the most important action Americans can take to improve their health and reduce their chances of contracting disease is to choose a proper diet.

One of our major accomplishments has been to propose the most sweeping overhaul of food labeling regulations in over fifty years. Our reforms will end the confusion, eliminate unfounded claims, and -- for the first time in our nation's history -- provide Americans with the clear, true, and understandable information they need to make healthy dietary choices.

And I would encourage everyone who offers cafeteria services to their employees to develop a "Healthy Menu Program," such as the one we launched in the Humphrey Building cafeteria in 1990. We introduced over two dozen new lower-fat food items for our employees; plus a morning fruit bar, a pasta salad bar, and an herb and spice bar. On-site nutrition education is also available, as well as health-related theme events and nutrition newsletters.

After the first year of our Healthy Menu Program, cafeteria business had increased 7 percent, purchases of lower-fat foods had increased 23 percent, 75 percent of customers said they were making healthier food choices, and 54 percent said the program had helped them make healthier food selections at home.

Before concluding, I would like to thank Mark and his associates at PREVENTION Magazine for this opportunity to address the vital issue of prevention. Again I emphasize that prevention is the most important factor in reducing preventable disease, disability and premature death in America.

Thank you.




EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

JUN 01 1992

NOTICE:

Enclosed are comments from staff members of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). Such comments do not necessarily represent the official position of the Director of OMB or of the Office of Management and Budget. If you wish to have the Director's personal comments, please let me know -- and contact me if you have any questions.


James C. Murr
Associate Director for
Legislative Reference
and Administration

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 5/29/92 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: MON. 6/1/92 10:00am

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: HEALTHCARE EQUITY ACTION LEAGUE
 SUBJECT: TUESDAY, 6/2/92 - 2:00 p.m.

	ACTION	FYI		ACTION	FYI
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	HORNER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SKINNER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	MCBRIDE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SCOWCROFT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	MOORE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DARMAN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PETERSMEYER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BRADY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	PORTER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BROMLEY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	ROLLINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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DEMAREST	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	YEUTTER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<u>FINDLAY</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
GRAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>KAUFMAN</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
HOLIDAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>MCGROARTY</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

REMARKS:

Please forward your comments directly to Dan McGroarty, Rm. 122, x2930, no later than 10:00 a.m., MONDAY, JUNE 1, with a copy to this office. Thank you.

RESPONSE:

See comments - (R. Brady may respond at a later time)

PHILLIP D. BRADY
 Assistant to the President
 and Staff Secretary
 Ext. 2702

Crouse/Bunton
Friday, May 29, 1992
12:48pm
[HEAL]

02 MAY 29 12:52

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: HEALTHCARE EQUITY ACTION LEAGUE
TUESDAY, JUNE 2, 1992
2:00 P.M., OEOB Room 450

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I am so glad to finally have the opportunity to meet with you. I want you to know how much it has meant to me to have your strong support of our health care reform plans. You have worked hard and your continuing efforts are vitally important.

I cannot overemphasize the importance of your contacts on the Hill today and your organizing of local coalitions; they will be determining factors in steering health care reform in the right direction. You and I know that America stands at a crossroads on this issue. That is the basis for your efforts here in Washington and at the local level. The entire nation has been inundated with proposals and commentary on health care reform. No wonder many Americans are bewildered. Thank goodness, you are helping to clarify the picture.

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*Langan (examiner)
3864*

from "cherry picking" by insurers; they need help in "shopping smart," and they need an end to frivolous coverage.

There is only one way that Sal, and all the rest of you, will get what you need. That is, to let the American public know the basis of the real debate on comprehensive health care reform -- what direction will health care reform take? Will we maintain our public-private health care system through comprehensive reforms or will we be told that the only substitute is a plan that is government controlled? That is the bottom line and we have to spell that out as clearly as we possibly can. The decision is as simple -- and as pivotal -- as that.

And, we have to make it just as clear that all of the Democratic proposals -- national health care, expanded Medicare, Americare, "Play-or-Pay" -- are government-controlled. Some are a little more obvious about it than others, but ultimately, each ends up controlled by a government bureaucracy.

Our position is unequivocal -- we must maintain the integrity of the private sector in the health care area. That is the only way to achieve the reforms that you must have to extend coverage to your employees and still stay in business. Our plan accomplishes that goal; while at the same time, it provides comprehensive reform that will benefit more than 90 million Americans. Thank you for helping to get the word out.

Under our plan, the consumer can choose from a state-wide basic health insurance package paid for with a tax voucher or alternative insurance. Health insurers would have to cover all

employers requesting coverage. And, that coverage would be guaranteed, renewable, have no restrictions for pre-existing medical conditions and it would be portable -- workers could change jobs without losing insurance.

Our networks would help small businesses purchase insurance and limit their premium costs. Our coordinated care provisions would reverse the upward spiral of health care costs, too. Our plan addresses malpractice and administrative costs, insurance paperwork, and flexibility for state Medicaid programs. We also address the special needs of urban and rural areas -- with clinics and disease prevention activities. We think consumers need better information -- through "blue books" that compare costs and quality of care provided by physicians, hospitals, clinical laboratories, and other health care providers. These are things we all whole-heartedly endorse and fully intend to implement.

But, you and I know that this issue transcends the specifics of our plan. Government action is needed to solve specific problems -- a safety net for the uninsured, guaranteeing quality care and low cost -- making insurance more secure and available. But health care in America should be guided by each consumer's choice and by the discipline of the free market.

Thank you for helping to make this happen. Keep up the good work. May God bless you and May God bless the United States of America.

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Friday, May 29, 1992
12:48pm
[HEAL]

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2:00 P.M., OEOB Room 450

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Your upcoming [Public Service Announcement] about Sal Risalzato is fantastic -- you get right to the heart of the problems faced by small business owners. Sal, and other small business owners like him, need 100% deduction for health premiums and they need market clout. Small business owners need rescuing

from "cherry picking" by insurers; they need help in "shopping smart," and they need an end to frivolous coverage.

There is only one way that Sal, and all the rest of you, will get what you need. That is, to let the American public know the basis of the real debate on comprehensive health care reform -- what direction will health care reform take? Will we maintain our public-private health care system through comprehensive reforms or will we be told that the only substitute is a plan that is government controlled? That is the bottom line and we have to spell that out as clearly as we possibly can. The decision is as simple -- and as pivotal -- as that.

And, we have to make it just as clear that all of the Democratic proposals -- national health care, expanded Medicare, Americare, "Play-or-Pay" -- are government-controlled. Some are a little more obvious about it than others, but ultimately, each ends up controlled by a government bureaucracy.

Our position is unequivocal -- we must maintain the integrity of the private sector in the health care area. That is the only way to achieve the reforms that you must have to extend coverage to your employees and still stay in business. Our plan accomplishes that goal; while at the same time, it provides comprehensive reform that will benefit more than 90 million Americans. Thank you for helping to get the word out.

Under our plan, the consumer can choose from a state-wide basic health insurance package paid for with a tax voucher or alternative insurance. Health insurers would have to cover all

employers requesting coverage. And, that coverage would be guaranteed, renewable, have no restrictions for pre-existing medical conditions and it would be portable -- workers could change jobs without losing insurance.

Our networks would help small businesses purchase insurance and limit their premium costs. Our coordinated care provisions would reverse the upward spiral of health care costs, too. Our plan addresses malpractice and administrative costs, insurance paperwork, and flexibility for state Medicaid programs. We also address the special needs of urban and rural areas -- with clinics and disease prevention activities. We think consumers need better information -- through "blue books" that compare costs and quality of care provided by physicians, hospitals, clinical laboratories, and other health care providers. These are things we all whole-heartedly endorse and fully intend to implement.

But, you and I know that this issue transcends the specifics of our plan. Government action is needed to solve specific problems -- a safety net for the uninsured, guaranteeing quality care and low cost -- making insurance more secure and available. But health care in America should be guided by each consumer's choice and by the discipline of the free market.

Thank you for helping to make this happen. Keep up the good work. May God bless you and May God bless the United States of America.

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DC. Prior to this he served as a legislative assistant to Senator John C. Danforth in Washington, DC.

Mr. McCormick graduated from the University of Missouri School of Journalism (B.J., 1976) and the University of Missouri School of Law (J.D., 1979). He was born February 8, 1954, in Kansas City, MO. Mr. McCormick is married, has one child, and resides in Alexandria, VA.

Remarks at the Health Care Equity Action League Briefing

June 2, 1992

Please be seated, and thank you very much for coming. And Dirk, thank you, sir, and Pam, the cochairs of HEAL. I am delighted to have an opportunity to speak to you briefly here. And then our experts come on and you'll learn—I wouldn't say more than you want to know about this, but you'll be hearing from our very best in a few minutes, people that have shaped our approach to health care.

We are grateful for your support. I'll tell you, the strong support of this organization for our health care reform plan is absolutely essential to getting something done for the people in this country. I can't overemphasize the importance of your contacts on the Hill today, of your organizing of the local coalitions. Both of these efforts are going to be determining factors in steering health care reform in the right direction.

We're at a crossroads, literally, at a crossroads on the issue of health care reform. The real debate concerns the direction that health care reform is going to take. I don't think there's any argument in the country that health care reform is not needed. Nobody's taking that tack. The question is, will we preserve our public-private health care system through comprehensive reforms or are we going to substitute a plan that is Government-dictated, Government-mandated, Government-controlled? That's the bottom line. We have to spell out as clearly for the American public as we possibly can. The decision is as simple and as pivotal as that.

We have to make it clear to Americans that other proposals, like the national health care,

expanded Medicare, Americare, and "play or pay" are fundamentally Government-controlled. Some are a little more obvious about it than others, but ultimately each ends up controlled by a Government bureaucracy.

Let me also assure you that I share your specific concerns. Individual entrepreneurs need help in order to compete with the conglomerates; I understand that. You need a tax deduction for 100 percent of health insurance premiums, and you need market clout. As small businessowners you also need rescuing from cherry picking by these insurers, and you need help in shopping smart, and you need a way to avoid costly frivolous coverage. Our plan provides comprehensive reform, and that's going to benefit, we compute, more than 95 million Americans.

We have two bills on the Hill already. These are nonpolitical; that is, the liberals agree with us in principle; that makes them nonpolitical. [Laughter] That being the case, I say Congress ought to act according to principle and pass this legislation for the good of the country. Where we agree, we must act. With your help up on the Hill, Congress will pass the bills immediately.

Under our plan, health insurers would have to cover all employers requesting coverage, and that coverage would be guaranteed. It would be renewable, and it would have no restrictions for pre-existing medical conditions. It would also be portable, allowing workers to change jobs without fear of not being picked up by their new employer's plan. We would establish networks that would help small businesses purchase insurance and manage their premium costs. Our coordinated care provisions would reverse the upward spiral of health care costs, too.

Our plan also addresses something that we must do something about, and I'm talking about the malpractice costs, costs from excessive insurance paperwork and also administrative costs. We address the special needs of urban and rural areas by providing for clinics and disease prevention activities.

In addition, we think consumers need better information in order to make better decisions. So we propose information booklets that will allow consumers to compare costs and then compare the quality of care provided by hospitals and other health care

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plans. These are things that I think that we all can whole-heartedly endorse and fully intend to implement.

But no discussion of health care reform is complete without emphasizing the necessity for personal responsibility for health promotion and then again for disease prevention. Tomorrow, Secretary Lou Sullivan, along with Prevention Magazine, will announce the results of a survey on the health-related behavior of Americans. The prevention index tracks our national progress in avoiding special specific health-related risk behavior. We need your help in spreading the word that avoiding 10 common risk factors could prevent between 40 and 70 percent of all premature deaths, one-third of all cases of acute disability, and two-thirds of all cases of chronic disability. Individual action, that's what is needed around the Nation, at the level of personal health behavior.

At the same time, up here, right back to Washington, congressional action is needed to ensure that world-class health care continues to be directed by consumer choice and by free-market factors.

There's a crying need to change things. But I feel compelled to uphold the quality of American health care. We must not, in our desire to see change, diminish the quality of American health care. Our plan, I think, upholds the quality. Very candidly, I think the major two competing plans would tend to diminish the quality of American health care. We've seen it happen in some of these nationalized programs abroad, and I think the same thing would happen here. So we must not go for a program that is going to diminish the quality of American medical care.

So again, Dirk and Pam, thank you. We are very grateful for your leadership and helping to make all this happen. And to each and every one of you, my most sincere thanks. I really believe we can get something done, and I say that, recognizing that this is a weird year. [Laughter] This is what they call one of the weird ones out there. But when you have a commonsense idea, when you have something that is backed by the sound and sensible people like yourselves, we've got to find a way to make it happen. So I pledge you my full support. My driving

interest behind this really can be brought to bear in the Congress in ways that our pros here in the front row think necessary. So I am with you and very, very grateful to you.

Now, on for your real session where you're going to learn a lot more about it. Thank you all very much for coming.

Note: The President spoke at 2:09 p.m. in Room 450 of the Old Executive Office Building. In his remarks, he referred to Dirk Vander Dongen, chairman, and Pam Bailey, executive director, Health Care Equity Action League.

Remarks Prior to a Meeting With Republican Congressional Leaders June 2, 1992

The President. I really appreciate everybody coming down. And we've got several key issues, but one that I am most interested in getting through is this balanced budget amendment. I think it is critical, and I think it's an idea whose time has come. It's an idea that the American people strongly support. One of the things I want to follow up on with you all now is, how we do that. I know we've got problems in the Senate that are different than the House, but we've got to get it done for the American people. I'm very pleased with the way our troops are moving out on it, but that's one of the things on my mind for this meeting.

So let's pass a balanced budget amendment; discipline the Congress as well as the executive branch and everything else. We've got to get it done.

Q. A lot of economists don't agree with you, like 400.

The President. Well, the people; the American people agree with me, and that's what matters. So we ought to get it done and not worry about those who don't. It's out there, and we've got ideas up there before the Congress right now that would accomplish this, too.

Q. What do you hear from the primaries?

The President. I haven't heard anything much there, Helen [Helen Thomas, United Press International].