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Rotary Club, San Diego, California, 2/7/92

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(Smith/Grossman)
January 31, 1992
Draft Seven
SHOT

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: ROTARY CLUB
SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 1992

It is a delight to be in what, nearly thirty years ago, a writer called "a pleasant and leisurely city . . . [glistening] under a flood of sunlight." // Today, San Diego shines and bustles -- a truly American jewel. // Thank you for the privilege of visiting this Valhalla on the Pacific. //

((I know that the eyes of sailing enthusiasts are on San Diego this year with the "America's Cup" competition in progress. // If you run low on wind, let me know -- I can send you some of the surplus we have in Washington.)) //

Earlier today, I visited a site with a surplus of caring -- the Logan Heights Family Health Center. I saw the families and the children / watched little ones being immunized / and listened to cries that will pre-empt future tears. // Later, I talked with parents and community leaders about how greater immunization can increase illness prevention. //

This afternoon, I want to discuss how prevention can achieve a priceless gift: Good health in America. // ((My remarks will be brief. / As with immunization, they'll only hurt a little.))//

Let me begin with an equation: Good health equals a change in the health care system plus a change in the way we act. // In a few minutes, I will discuss the latter. But for a moment let

me detail the former: How by reforming the system, we can provide health care that is accessible and affordable. //

All of us know the problem with America's health care system. Health care costs too much. This year, Americans will pay over \$800 billion on health care -- one-tenth of all we spend. What we pay far outstrips what most can afford. // So yesterday in Cleveland, I announced a plan to reform the health care system. My plan also attacks its other flaw: Too many are excluded -- leaving one-seventh of the population without access to health insurance when they change jobs, or develop illness. //

Imagine. Let's say you're making do -- getting by on a low-paying job -- a job that offers health coverage for your crippled child. / Let's say you get offered a better job with a higher salary. You want to take it. / You need to take it. / But you can't take the chance it won't cover your child. //

It is not enough to say: We must do better. I am here to say: We will. // ((I'm reminded of how a golf duffer once said, "I'd move heaven and earth to break 100." His friend replied: "You better concentrate on heaven. You've moved enough earth already.")) // I will move both to make quality health care America's New Reality in the New American Century. //

Some say the answer is a nationalized health system. ((These are the same folks who said that Tony Gwynn would never amount to much of a hitter.)) // These people believe socialized medicine is just the ticket for health care in America. What

they're not saying is that ticket is a number you have to take to stand in line and wait your turn for treatment. //

Now, I'll admit that Canada's system of socialized medicine has increased that country's exports. What's been exported are patients coming to the U.S. for prompt surgery and doctors coming here for better working conditions. // As long as I am President, we will not go down the dead-end road of nationalized health care. // Nor will I accept another government-takeover plan: Pay or play -- where employers are forced either to accept a health insurance plan or pay a payroll tax and join the government plan. // It's like the joke about choosing your own poison: The hangman or the pill. // Socialized health care is a prescription for failure. Yesterday, I announced a program for success. //

My plan will preserve what works -- reform what doesn't -- and thus stabilize soaring health care bills. It consists of five points -- each based on choice. // First, we will make health insurance more affordable for low-to-middle income families. For low-income families, I want a health insurance credit of up to \$3,750 a year to help them buy insurance: For middle-income, a tax deduction for the same amount. / Second, we will make health care more efficient. How? Through Health Insurance Networks which cut administrative costs. /

The third point will also lower costs. Today we have too many malpractice suits / too many lawyers / too many hustlers looking to soak the system. ((I don't want to get into trouble with the Bar Association, but I once quoted to someone that line,

"An apple a day keeps the doctor away." He said, "What works for lawyers?")) // By reforming malpractice, we're going to slash waste and excess in the present system. / That brings me to point four. We will cut the outrageous growth -- so that we can protect the benefits -- of Federal health programs like Medicare. / Finally, we're going to expand information to help consumers know more / act wiser / and shop better in choosing health care.

These five points form a plan that is bold / provides better access / and most of all, will work. They will help us change the health system to aid people who are sick. // Yet an even better way to cut costs is to keep people from getting sick. So I want to talk now about how we can change the way we act. / If you'll forgive me for paraphrasing an old saying: "A pound of prevention is worth a ton of cure." //

My good friend and Secretary of HHS, Lou Sullivan, has said: "Better control of fewer than 10 risk factors could prevent [up to] 70 percent of all premature deaths, one-third of all cases of acute disability, and two-thirds of all cases of long-lasting disability." // Those factors include not smoking or using drugs / drinking less / and exercising more. Better health care and better health behavior are like Bogart and Bacall: Each is superb. Together, they become exceptional. // Let us vow to help them make America the world's healthiest nation. //

((You know, this morning I got to thinking about how preventing disease can give kids the chance to build that model airplane / learn to play shortstop for the Padres / go to the

world-famous San Diego Zoo. / Someone asked me if I was going to the zoo. I said I didn't have the time, but not to worry. Some consider Washington to be San Diego Zoo East.)) //

The kids I talk about: They are "everything we ever hope to be and all we ever dream to be." It is for them that we must teach that better health equals better lives. // We must say what I believe with all my heart: That exercise can keep you physically and mentally fit. // We must urge them -- morally -- to avoid the behavior which last year caused __ deaths by gunshot wounds / __ by drugs and __ by alcohol / __ by smoking and __ by AIDS. // We must also act through the most effective prevention measure: immunization. // With health care costs stretched to the limit, we can't afford NOT to immunize our youngest children.

Last June, Secretary Sullivan and I announced our Administration's Immunization Initiative. Our goal was simple: To bring immunization to every American child. // Since then, I have traveled to Dallas and Phoenix, Rapid City and Detroit, and now San Diego to make this goal reality. // Enlisting the non-profit and private sectors / parents, teachers, mothers, and businessmen / to protect our littlest citizens / our most precious citizens / our future / our kids. // If you doubt me, hear me out: Every \$1 spent on immunization now saves an estimated \$14 in health care costs later. //

An adage reminds us: "Middle age is when nature takes its course -- and flunks it." // Consider immunization as a course. We have to help kids pass it at their earliest age. // If our

vigilance goes down -- we know disease rates will go back up. /
 Last year measles cases soared to a high of 27,000 -- in 1989-
 90, 130 kids died. How needless. How tragic. To this wrong
 which breaks our hearts, immunization can set things right. //

Let me tell you a story about a family right here in San
 Diego. Michael and Barbara Baines had always watched closely the
 health of their children. Last year, preparing for the holidays,
 they were not prepared for the news -- their two littlest,
 stricken by whooping cough. // Thank God, 2 and 1/2 year-old
 Kensington has now left the hospital. Little 18-month-old
 Colleen may have turned the corner. As Michael and Barbara
 prayed, they asked that other parents would not make the same
 mistake. // Said Michael: "You can't fight something you can't
 see . . . You've got to have them immunized. Give them as much
 protection as you can -- as early as you can." //

It's because of families like the Baines that I put forth
 this message: Improved immunization must be matched with earlier
 immunization. // I speak not merely of school-age kids -- where
 immunization approaches 100 percent -- but of our smallest
 victims -- where a year of wait can be a year too long. // Kids
 need to be completely vaccinated in the first and second years of
 life. Yet immunization rates at two years of age are only 50 per
 cent in many States -- and often as low as 20 per cent in some
 inner cities. / We have to change all that, and will. //

It won't be easy to immunize every child: The only place
 where success comes before work is the dictionary. / Yet

government will do its part. Our 1992 budget calls for an additional \$40 million for the CDC immunization program. In addition, we have emphasized our Healthy Start Program. / Today, I again ask Congress to fully fund this initiative to curb infant mortality. Last year, it appropriated only \$25 million. Our kids deserve the funding of more than twice that much. No longer can we simply live and let live. We must live and help live. //

Next, I ask the private sector to do its part. / We need to help it try creative ideas like "one-stop shopping" for health care, and escorted referral for "express lane" immunization at clinics. // Finally, I beseech each of you -- mothers, fathers, spouses, friends. / Call your health official or physician. Join groups which spur childhood immunization. By serving as points of light, you can become stars of life. Please -- please -- make sure your child is immunized. //

When I was little, I saw a deadly plague called polio scar my generation / savage life / and turn sunlight into dark. It was then that I read a quote by Saint Francis of Assisi. "Give me a child," he wrote, "and you may have him afterward." //

Through a better system -- through better behavior -- we can, as the song says, "Bless the children. Keep them safe. Keep them warm." // Let's ensure that the future will have them afterward -- hoping / building / dreaming / as Americans always have / as Americans always will.

God bless you, and the United States of America.

#

HANN

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 2/1/92 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: MONDAY, 4:00 PM, 2/3/92
 PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: ROTARY CLUB
 SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA
 SUBJECT: FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 1992

	ACTION	FYI		ACTION	FYI
VICE PRESIDENT	☐	☒	HORNER	☒	☐
SKINNER	☐	☐	MCCLURE	☒	☐
SCOWCROFT	☐	☐	PETERSMEYER	☐	☐
DARMAN	☒	☐	PORTER	☒	☐
BRADY	☐	☒	ROGICH	☒	☐
BROMLEY	☐	☐	SMITH	☒	☐
CARD	☐	☒	FINDLAY	☐	☒
DEMAREST	☒	☐	SNOW	☐	☒
FITZWATER	☐	☒	KAUFMAN	☒	☐
GRAY	☒	☐	BOSKIN	☒	☐
HOLIDAY	☒	☐		☐	☐

REMARKS:

Please forward your comments directly to Tony Snow, Rm. 122, x2930, with a copy to this office NO LATER THAN 4:00 PM, MONDAY, FEBRUARY 3. Thank you.

RESPONSE:

*too much
humor, lightness
for so serious a topic -
opening your and
that's it.*

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

(Smith/Grossman)
January 31, 1992
SHOT

02 JAN 31 P4: 29

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These five points will cut costs / ensure choice / and give everyone -- rich or poor; sick or healthy -- access to the world's best health care. / Yet an even better way to cut costs is to keep people from getting sick. So I want to talk about how

Will the same be, after we've been

[We suggested in Cleveland speech that these become six points.]

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