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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 25, 1994

**MEETING WITH REPUBLICAN LEADERS AND DEMOCRATIC CHAIRMEN
FOR HEALTH CARE REFORM**

DATE: May 25, 1994
LOCATION: S221
The Capitol
TIME: 5:30 PM
FROM: Patrick Griffin

I. PURPOSE

- To emphasize the desire for bipartisan health care reform initiative.
- To restate bottom-line commitment to universal coverage, indicating the flexibility to achieve that end.
- To indicate the desire to work closely with the committees of jurisdiction (Senate Finance Committee and Labor & Human Resources Committee).

II. BACKGROUND

Majority Leader Mitchell felt that it was important to hold a meeting with Republicans prior to the Memorial Day recess to illustrate the Administration's commitment to working with Republicans in the Senate to pass health care reform. In his mind, it is important for both public perception and conservative Democrats who want Republican coverage. Consistent with this position, he has arranged a meeting with Republican leaders and Democratic chairmen to take place immediately following the bicameral Democratic Leadership Meeting. Mitchell will serve as the host at this meeting.

III. PARTICIPANTS

Majority Leader George Mitchell
Chairman Daniel Patrick Moynihan
Chairman Edward Kennedy
Senator Bob Dole
Senator Bob Packwood
Senator Nancy Landon Kassebaum
Senator John Chafee
White House Staff

IV. PRESS PLAN

Closed.

V. SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

- Majority Leader Mitchell will introduce President.
- President will give brief remarks.
- Majority Leader Mitchell will call on Senator Dole and the other members in the following order: Senator Moynihan, Kennedy, Packwood, Kassebaum and Chafee.

VI. TALKING POINTS

- * I continue to be resolute in my commitment to getting a health care bill, with universal coverage, enacted into law this year.
- * I continue to be open to alternative approaches to reach this goal.
- * Desire to reach out in a bipartisan way. Commend all attempts to do so, in particular, Chairman Moynihan (through his bipartisan Members meetings and Finance retreat) and Chairman Kennedy (through his work with Republicans during his mark-up.)
- * Desire to work with the Leadership and the Chairmen in getting the bills out of the Committees by the July 4th recess and onto the floor in July.

E X E C U T I V E O F F I C E O F T H E P R E S I D E N T

25-May-1994 06:42pm

TO: (See Below)

FROM: Bruce N. Reed
 Domestic Policy Council

SUBJECT: WR Press Update

The good news: Ron Brownstein will have the lead story in the LA Times tomorrow on the President's decision to give states the option to limit additional benefits for additional children born on welfare. He has talked to Gov. Tom Carper, who heads up the NGA welfare reform effort, and is writing about the President's desire to give states lots of flexibility.

The bad news: HHS reports that Jason DeParle will have yet another leaked story, this time about financing. He seems to have precise, down to the decimal point information from OMB about what the President decided on financing. Most of this info already appeared in today's WSJ, except for the news that we will use some of the money from Superfund. We're now paying for this package primarily with money from immigrants, drug addicts, and polluters, with a few other cats and dogs. It's not clear how many details Jason has about Tuesday's mtg with the President, although he knows that Bentsen and Reich were there (no one else for sure).

DeeDee and Mark, you'll probably want to punt any financing questions to OMB, since no one outside OMB has seen the precise details. On the question of limiting additional benefits for additional children, Brownstein's story should lay out all the arguments why we're doing it. If you have any questions, call me in the morning.

Distribution:

TO: Carol H. Rasco
TO: Margaret J. Myers
TO: Kathryn J. Way

CC: Carola McGiffert
CC: David Leavy
CC: Mark Gearan