Myers, John

THE WHITE HOUSE

September 1, 1993

Honorable John T. Myers
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Myers:

Thank you for your letter of July 14 concerning the results of your town meeting with senior citizens from your district.

The President and I have found that the most effective way to learn about the nation's health care system is to talk directly to citizens with firsthand experience. The information you have provided is remarkably similar to what we have learned in our discussions with Americans around the country.

Please be assured that the President's health care reform plan will preserve an individual's right to choose his or her own doctor. The President also considers the controlling of health care costs as critical to this country's efforts to reduce the federal deficit.

Again, thank you for sharing the results of your recent town meeting. I look forward to working with you on this important issue in the near future.

Sincerely,

Hillary

Hillary Rodham Clinton

JOHN T. MYERS
7TH DISTRICT, INDIANA

OFFICES:
2372 RAYBURN BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-1407
TELEPHONE: 202-225-5805

FEDERAL BUILDING, ROOM 107
TERRE HAUTE, IN 47807-3689
TELEPHONE: 812-238-1619

HALLECK FEDERAL BUILDING, ROOM 107
LAFAYETTE, IN 47901-1322
TELEPHONE: 317-423-1661

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

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COMMITTEE ON POST OFFICE
AND CIVIL SERVICE
RANKING MINORITY MEMBER

October 27, 1993

Hillary Rodham Clinton
Health Care Reform
Old Executive Office Building
Room 410
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mrs. Clinton:

One of my constituents, Mr. Jim Adams of Terre Haute, recently contacted me to share his concerns related to President Clinton's "Health Security Plan." Attached is a copy of his letter for your information.

As you will note, Mr. Adams owns The Tulip Company which is a force grower of fresh cut flowers which he markets to wholesale florists throughout the country. He specifically asks 15 questions related to an employer's responsibility to his employee's health insurance coverage based on the preliminary information on President Clinton's proposed reform plan.

I realize President Clinton's plan is scheduled to be introduced in Congress later this week. However, Mr. Adams raises some very important and pertinent questions and I would appreciate your response to the points he raises. I look forward to your response.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

John Myers

John Myers

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Enclosure

No answer. Too old.

Needs Special

"Dear Jim"

15Q.HC

OCT 15 AM

THE TULIP COMPANY

OCTOBER 6, 1993

HONORABLE JOHN T. MYERS
UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-1407

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE MYERS,

I SUPPORT HEALTH CARE REFORM, BUT LIKE SO MANY BUSINESS OWNERS, I HAVE A LOT OF CONCERNS, QUESTIONS AND SOME SUGGESTIONS REGARDING THE PROPOSED PLAN.

THE TULIP COMPANY IS A FORCE GROWER OF FRESH CUT TULIPS WHICH WE MARKET TO WHOLESALE FLORIST THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY. THE BUSINESS WAS STARTED IN 1949 AND HAS ALWAYS ENJOYED AN EXCELLENT REPUTATION FOR GROWING THE BEST SELECTION AND QUALITY TULIPS IN THE COUNTRY.

THE COMPANY HAS TRIED TO KEEP PACE WITH INFLATION BY RAISING FLOWER PRICES 3% A YEAR. HOWEVER, THE LAST FEW YEARS PROFIT HAS BEEN DECREASING PRIMARILY DUE TO THE HEAVY PENETRATION INTO THE U.S. MARKET FROM FOREIGN GROWERS OF INEXPENSIVE FLOWERS.

THE BULB PLANTING SEASON BEGINS IN SEPTEMBER AND ENDS IN DECEMBER. HARVEST SEASON STARTS IN JANUARY AND ENDS THE LAST OF MAY. WE CLOSE DOWN THE COMPANY DURING JUNE, JULY AND AUGUST DUE TO THE EXTREME HEAT IN OUR GREENHOUSE RANGE.

THE NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES RANGE FROM FIFTEEN IN THE PLANTING SEASON TO AS MANY AS TWENTY-SEVEN DURING THE HARVEST SEASON. WE USUALLY KEEP THREE MEN EMPLOYED DURING THE THREE SUMMER MONTHS TO DO MAINTENANCE. SINCE OUR WORK IS LABOR INTENSIVE AND SEASONAL, THE MAJORITY OF THE EMPLOYEES ARE UNSKILLED, HIGH SCHOOL DROPOUTS. TURNOVER EACH YEAR IS VERY HIGH. LAST YEAR WE SENT OUT 66 W-2 FORMS.

THIS YEAR OUR PLANTING SEASON STARTED SEPTEMBER 13 AND TO DATE WE HAVE HIRED 21 NEW EMPLOYEES, OF WHICH 8 ARE PRESENTLY EMPLOYED. FIVE ACCEPTED EMPLOYMENT, TOOK A DRUG SCREENING, COSTING THE COMPANY $35.00 PER TEST AND NEVER RETURNED TO WORK OR QUIT SOON AFTER BECAUSE THEIR DRUG SCREEN WAS POSITIVE. ONE WORKED FIVE DAYS AND THEN WAS JAILED. WE HAVE BEEN IN OPERATION 3 1/2 WEEKS AND 13 PEOPLE HAVE COME AND GONE; MOST WORKING ONLY A DAY OR TWO.

MOST OF OUR APPLICANTS SHOULD BE CLASSIFIED UNEMPLOYABLE, NOT JUST UNEMPLOYED. THEY HAVE NO WORK SKILLS OR WORK ETHICS AND

1850 Davis Avenue
Terre Haute, Indiana 47802
(812) 232-3673

LIVE OFF "THE SYSTEM". THEY HAVE INCREDIBLE KNOWLEDGE ON HOW TO "MILK" THE GOVERNMENT. THIS WAY OF LIFE HAS BEEN HANDED DOWN FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION. WHEN HARD PRESSED FOR MONEY THEY TURN TO THE "UNDERGROUND ECONOMY" FOR CASH JOBS.

ONE OF THE MOST FRIGHTENING THINGS ABOUT THESE PEOPLE IS THEIR CAVALIER ATTITUDE IN PRODUCING ILLEGITIMATE CHILDREN.

THERE ARE MANY MINIMUM WAGE JOBS AVAILABLE IN OUR CITY; HOWEVER, MOST BUSINESSES HAVE THE SAME PROBLEM AS MINE; APPLICANTS NOT ABLE TO HANDLE THE BARE REQUIREMENTS OF THE JOB OR UNWILLING TO WORK EVEN THOUGH THEY HAVE NO SKILLS. THEY HAVE BEEN SOLD A "BILL OF GOODS" THAT SOMEWHERE OUT THERE IS A VAST SUPPLY OF "GOOD JOBS AT GOOD WAGES" EVEN THOUGH THEY HAVE NO TRAINING OR EDUCATION.

I ENCOURAGE MY EMPLOYEES TO DO A GOOD JOB BY GIVING REGULAR REVIEWS AND RAISES. EMPLOYEES WHO FINISH THE HARVEST SEASON RECEIVE A BONUS BASED ON THE PROFIT OF THE COMPANY. QUALIFIED EMPLOYEES ALSO RECEIVE COMPANY CONTRIBUTIONS INTO A RETIREMENT FUND. PAYING SOMEONE A HIGH WAGE DOES NOT NECESSARILY MAKE A GOOD EMPLOYEE. AS I HAVE SEEN SO MANY TIMES, MONEY IS NOT THE ANSWER TO ALL PROBLEMS. MANY SMALL BUSINESS IN OUR AREA FACE THE SAME PROBLEMS I HAVE ENUMERATED; THE UNEMPLOYABLE, UNSKILLED LABOR AND PEOPLE UNWILLING TO WORK WHEN THEY CAN GET A GOVERNMENT HANDOUT. AS USUAL, IT WILL BE THOSE WILING TO WORK WHO WILL BE WORKING HARDER TO COVER THE COST OF HEALTH INSURANCE.

MANDATED HEALTH INSURANCE PAID BY AMERICAN BUSINESS WILL DRIVE UP THE COST OF DOING BUSINESS AND DRIVE DOWN EMPLOYEE COMPENSATION AND HIRING. SINCE THE COST OF MANDATED HEALTH INSURANCE MUST BE COVERED IN SOME WAY, BONUSES AND RAISES WILL BE LOWER AND LESS FREQUENT.

MY QUESTIONS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

1. AT WHAT DATE DOES HEALTH COVERAGE START FOR A NEW EMPLOYEE? HOW MANY DAYS, WEEKS MUST HE WORK BEFORE THE EMPLOYER FILLS OUT THE FORMS? WHAT HAPPENS WHEN THAT EMPLOYEE LEAVES? WHAT FORMS DO WE FILL OUT THEN? AS YOU CAN SEE FROM THE FIRST PART OF MY LETTER WE WOULD HAVE HANDLED PAPER WORK ON 66 PEOPLE.

2. DOES INSURANCE COVERAGE END ON THE DATE OF TERMINATION OR LAY OFF? DOES THE EMPLOYER END UP PAYING PREMIUM FOR A MONTH FOR AN EMPLOYEE WHO DECIDES TO QUIT AFTER ONLY A FEW DAYS? JUST THIS MORNING A NEW EMPLOYEE (THIS WOULD HAVE BEEN HIS SECOND DAY) WORKED FROM 7:30 TO 9:30 AND QUIT SAYING THE WORK WAS TOO HARD. HE WILL PROBABLY LIVE OFF HIS "LIVE-IN" GIRLFRIEND. SHE IS A SINGLE MOTHER WITH A CHILD AND CONSEQUENTLY RECEIVES MANY GOVERNMENT SUBSIDIES. SHE IS ALSO EXPECTING A CHILD BY THIS MAN. ANOTHER MOUTH FOR THE GOVERNMENT TO FEED. THIS HAPPENS ALL TOO OFTEN.

3. DOES THE EMPLOYER PICK THE HEALTH INSURANCE PLAN?

4. ARE EMPLOYERS EXPECTED TO INSURE UNMARRIED, UNEMPLOYED BOYFRIENDS/GIRLFRIENDS LIVING WITH THE EMPLOYEE AND ANY CHILDREN IN THE HOME?

5. WILL THE EMPLOYER BE REQUIRED TO INSURE ILLEGITIMATE CHILDREN OF THE EMPLOYEE? EVEN IF THEY DON'T LIVE WITH THE EMPLOYEE?

6. IF THE SPOUSE OF THE EMPLOYEE WORKS AND THEY HAVE CHILDREN, WHICH EMPLOYER PAYS THE INSURANCE ON THE CHILDREN?

7. ARE EMPLOYERS REQUIRED TO INSURE UNEMPLOYED RELATIVES LIVING WITH THE EMPLOYEE?

8. IF THE EMPLOYEE HAS TWO JOBS, WHICH COMPANY PAYS THE PREMIUM?

9. PRESENTLY THERE IS A 30 PLUS PAGE BOOKLET DETAILING HOW TO FILL OUT A "SIMPLE" ONE PAGE FORM. (I-9) HOW THICK WILL THE BOOK BE DETAILING FILLING OUT THE FORMS FOR EMPLOYEE'S HEALTH CARE? HOW MUCH WILL IT COST THE EMPLOYER TO TRAIN OFFICE PERSONNEL TO UNDERSTAND THE INSTRUCTIONS AND COMPLETE THE FORMS?

10. HOW MANY TIMES WOULD A PERSON BE ABLE TO SEE A DOCTOR? ANY NUMBER OF TIMES UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES? WOULD THIS ELIMINATE PEOPLE USING EMERGENCY ROOMS AS TREATMENT CENTERS FOR MINOR ILLNESS OR INJURIES?

11. AS A PART OF "NEVER CAN BE CANCELED HEALTH CARE COVERAGE", WOULD PARENTS BE REQUIRED TO HAVE BASIC EDUCATION IN PARENTING AND HEALTH CARE OF THEIR CHILDREN?.

12. WILL PEOPLE WHO ARE PHYSICALLY AND MENTALLY ABLE TO WORK, YET UNWILLING TO DO SO, BE COVERED UNCONDITIONALLY FOR ALL TIME? WHAT ABOUT THOSE WHO FAIL A DRUG SCREENING?

13. DOES ANYONE REALLY HAVE ANY IDEA WHAT THE COST OF THE PROGRAM WILL BE? HAS THE GOVERNMENT EVER RUN A COST EFFICIENT PROGRAM?

14. IF AN EMPLOYEE IS SATISFIED WITH THEIR CURRENT COVERAGE, WILL THEY HAVE TO DROP THAT AND CHOOSE A GOVERNMENT PLAN? DO I HAVE THE RIGHT TO CHOOSE MY DOCTOR?

15. ONCE THE PLAN IS IN PLACE WILL THERE BE PROVISIONS TO CHANGE, REDUCE COVERAGE NOT NECESSARY OR FINE TUNE CERTAIN ITEMS?

I DON'T AGREE WITH THE IDEA OF FOUR HEALTH PLANS. THE EMPLOYEE WILL INVARIABLY CHOOSE THE MOST COSTLY PLAN. A BASIC PLAN WITH THE INSURED PAYING A PORTION OF THE PREMIUM PLUS A PORTION OF THE BILL EACH TIME A DOCTOR IS VISITED WOULD BE A GOOD STARTING POINT.

THANK YOU FOR TAKING TIME TO CONSIDER MY QUESTIONS AND CONCERNS.

VERY TRULY YOURS,

JC Adams

JAMES C. ADAMS
THE TULIP COMPANY

CC:UNITED STATE SENATORS
UNITED STATE REPRESENTATIVES