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THE WHITE HOUSE
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INTERVIEW OF THE FIRST LADY
PBS - SOUTH DAKOTA

Q I want to talk for a moment about health care on Indian Reservations. We have heard about over three million -- \$300 million (inaudible) Indian health care budget, closing hospitals, leaving Native Americans without adequate health care, but in the Clinton plan we're talking about adequate health care for everyone.

MRS. CLINTON: Well, under the President's plan we are actually increasing our investment in the Indian health care system. We are guaranteeing that every Native American has access to health care, and is covered with comprehensive benefits. So I think that we have tried to take all that into account.

Now, I will have to look at the specific questions that were raised today because I am really not familiar with what they were actually referring to. Because under the plan itself we have worked very hard to increase the capacity of the Indian health system.

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Q According to a recent poll done by Stanford University, the number of Americans who can't afford insurance is only six million. Is it appropriate to tear down a plan that is providing adequate coverage for over 250 million just for the six million?

MRS. CLINTON: Well, I don't think that's what that study really meant. There are about 40 million uninsured Americans. There are about 22 million under-insured Americans. In the current market place they cannot afford insurance. But if we change the market place, all the very small number will be able to afford insurance. Of those who remain, we will have to subsidize them and provide insurance for them.

But I think that the real challenge is not just those who don't have insurance, but the fact that none of us who has insurance can be sure we will have insurance or how much it will cost us. So it's not just a problem for those without insurance, it's a problem for all of us.

Q How is the Clinton plan going to ensure that small towns -- a small town in South Dakota has (inaudible) for the health care system better by staying around

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(inaudible) going to be here until they fulfill their loan obligations?

MRS. CLINTON: Well, we are hoping that with not only doctors in rural areas, but more physicians' assistants and nurse practitioners and clinics and hospitals that are going to be supported in rural areas, that --

(End of tape 1, side 2.)

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