

**PHOTOCOPY  
PRESERVATION**

Prescription Drug Event  
Washington, DC

11/9/99

**TRANSCRIPT IN PROGRESS**  
**Prescription Drug Event**  
Remarks by First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton

Rayburn House Office Building, Capitol Hill  
November 9, 1999

Federal News Service

NOVEMBER 9, 1999, TUESDAY

SECTION: IN THE NEWS

LENGTH: 5261 words

HEADLINE: CONGRESSIONAL DEMOCRATS PRESS BRIEFING

SUBJECT: PRESCRIPTION DRUG COSTS FOR SENIORS

PARTICIPANTS:

FIRST LADY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON;

REP. RICHARD GEPHARDT (D-MO);

REP. DAVID BONIOR (D-MI);

REP. HENRY WAXMAN (D-CA)

REP. RONNIE SHOWS (D-MS)

REP. JOHN DINGELL (D-MI)

REP. PETE STARK (D-CA)

REP. SHERROD BROWN (D-OH)

REP. PETE STARK (D-CA)

2168 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, D.C.

BODY:

REP. GEPHARDT: (Applause.) Good morning. Good morning, everyone. (Voices say "Good morning.") REP. GEPHARDT: I am surrounded by a number of members of the Democratic Caucus of the House, all members of the House of Representatives. And we thank them all for coming out today. I also want to thank the First Lady for joining us. Give her a big hand. (Applause.) We're going to hear from here in just a moment.

I know that in her travels around our country, she faces some of the same questions all of us face as we talk to our neighbors and friends. I'm asked again and again: Why doesn't Congress address the issues that families really care about -- improving education, making our schools and neighborhoods safe and addressing the rising costs of health care.

Unfortunately, we now have a Congress that puts the special interests ahead of

the public interest. We have a Republican leadership whose number-one goal is to get through the year without addressing the important issues the American people sent us here to do. They've succeeded once again this year providing a trillion-dollar tax cut for corporations and special interests, but not one cent to extend the life of Social Security or to modernize Medicare with a prescription drug plan.

Democrats have tried to do the people's business. We tirelessly worked to get our top priority, a Patients' Bill of Rights, on the floor of the House. We wanted to take medical decision-making away from the HMO bureaucrats and return it to the doctors and patients, where it belongs. (Applause.)

But our efforts have been bottled up and frankly buried in a conference committee by the Republican leadership that puts the needs of insurance companies ahead of the needs of America's families. A narrow extreme view in Congress too often stands in the way of real progress, preventing us from enacting the strong yet sensible reforms that are necessary to ensure that the quality of health care that Americans receive goes up, not down.

Seniors are feeling the impact of the status quo on their pocketbook and on their health. Medicare has served seniors well over the last three decades.

This program really works.

But changes in the marketplace are pricing quality health care out of the reach of more and more seniors. A Medicare prescription drug plan and help for seniors in obtaining the best price for their drugs are now an absolute necessity to millions of seniors who are currently put in the position of choosing food or medicine, or rent or medicine, or heat or medicine.

The pharmaceutical industry and their allies in the Republican leadership are committed to making sure that this legislation never sees the light of day. But Democrats are not going to accept their obstructionism. (Applause.)

We won't stop until we break down the walls of resistance and succeed in bringing a prescription drug plan up for a debate in the next session next year in Congress. We forced HMO reform onto the agenda. And believe me, it wouldn't be there without these members and Democrats like them -- and some Republicans -- who said "We've got to have this reform."

And we forced it on with a discharge petition. And we're going to do the same thing next year for prescription drugs. (Applause.)

With the leadership of people like the Fist Lady, who brings unparalleled passion and knowledge to health care issues, Democrats are going to win this very fundamental battle for the quality of life for America's seniors, our most important citizens, who have given us the quality of life in the great country that we have.

Now it's my honor to introduce a courageous woman who has dedicated her career to the well-being of people: children, seniors, people of every walk of life.

She's been a magnificent First Lady for our country, and I believe she's going to make a magnificent Senator from the State of New York. Hillary Clinton.

(Cheers.) (Applause.)

MS. CLINTON: Thank you. Thank you. Well, I want to thank leader Gephardt for his leadership on this and so many other important issues that are facing our country. You know, we are now entering the closing days of the first session of the 106th Congress. And I am confident that when the 107th Congress convenes, we will have a new Speaker, and his name will be Dick Gephardt. (Applause.) And we'll have a new Majority Leader, and his name will be David Bonior. (Applause.)

Now, this will happen because under the leadership of the president, the vice president, Democrats in Congress and allies throughout the country, the Democratic Party is the only party fighting for issues that the American people really care about that are close to our hearts.

Whether it is the economy or health care, Social Security, education, the environment or prescription drugs for our nation's seniors, it is a privilege to join so many Democratic members of Congress in making this commitment to our seniors as strong as we possibly can.

There are many people here I would like to recognize. But let me just mention a few. Henry Waxman through his leadership of the Government Reform Committee has produced over 100 reports highlighting just how difficult it has become for seniors to afford essential life-saving drugs. If you need any evidence that this is a critical issue, then just look at the reports that Henry Waxman has created based on evidence from throughout our country.

John Dingell, Pete Stark, Sherrod Brown, and the Democratic colleagues on their committees have worked hard to develop Medicare prescription drug policies. Tom Allen and Jim Turner and Ronnie Shows and Marion Barry have taken a leadership role in addressing the differential pricing issue.

And just last week, Karen Thurman sponsored an amendment to help seniors get discounts on medications. And on a straight party line vote, it was rejected by the Ways and Means Committee.

Now, he has appropriate sound effect. (Laughter.) All of these members, plus the others who stand here today, have made a commitment to doing everything we possibly can to ensure that our seniors have the medical coverage and the prescription drugs that they need to stay healthy and to have the quality of life that we want our older men and women to have.

And we come together today for a very simple reason. Millions of older Americans cannot afford the prescription drugs they need to live their lives in dignity. Now, there are many groups represented in the audience: the National Council of Senior Citizens, the Older Women's League, known as OWL -- very wise, the National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare, the National Community Pharmacists' Association, and many others that have joined with the Democrats in Congress to make as clear as we can that this is an issue that is not going away -- that it is an issue that will be with us -- (applause) -- this year and next year.

And that's because the facts are so compelling. More than two-thirds of all Medicare beneficiaries have no coverage or inadequate Medigap coverage. This is not just a problem for low-income beneficiaries. Over half of Medicare beneficiaries without drug coverage have incomes greater than 150 percent of

the poverty level.

And the problem is getting worse. The number of firms offering health insurance for retirees have dropped 25 percent over the past four years. And Medigap premiums, which increase with age, have been rising at double-digit rates. Now the drug industry can buy all the ads they want to provide cover for their inaction. But the one thing their ads cannot deny is that the problem is real and the time for action is now. (Applause.) I wish these companies running the ads would respond to the kind of letters that I receive and the president receives, and I know every member of Congress standing here receives.

We've heard from a couple in Georgia, who said their prescription drug costs are now their biggest expense -- more than food or even housing. They said they didn't care if their Medicare premium went up. It wouldn't come close to the bill for their drugs.

A woman from Indiana told us she has been cutting her medication dosage in half, because she cannot afford the full cost of her prescriptions. And right here in Washington, I met Judy Cato (ph), whose mother moved in with her because she could not afford to buy her medications unless she stopped paying her rent. Now the president in his Comprehensive Medicare Reform Plan has proposed a prescription drug benefit that has no deductible and pays for half of all drug costs up to \$5,000. It uses private sector buyers to negotiate discounts for Medicare beneficiaries, including those who have exceeded a cap. It is a sound plan.

And the more I travel and speak with Americans about their hopes and concerns, the more I understand that the Republicans in Congress and Republicans throughout the country just don't get it. You know, the Republican-led Congress, as Dick said, can pass a huge tax scheme that Americans don't want and that would undermine our economy. But for some reason, they put off even having a debate over prescription drugs costs and coverage.

Providing access to affordable prescription drugs should not be a Democratic or a Republican issue. This is an American issue. (Applause.) I don't know what the Republican leadership is afraid of. The time for waiting has ended and the time for debating has come.

And I know that if we follow the lead of the Democrats gathered here today we will succeed in meeting this challenge. And we cannot afford to fail. Now, we will not fail in obtaining this kind of support for older Americans, because we have the commitment of leaders like Henry Waxman. Now, he has given himself to issues like this for decades. He's won so many legislative victories, because he's never given up fighting for the people he was elected to serve.

And as long as we follow his lead in representing the people's real interests and not the special interests, we cannot go wrong, and neither can the American people. It's now my honor and pleasure to introduce a great leader, Congressman Henry Waxman. (Applause.)

REP. WAXMAN: Thank you very much, Mrs. Clinton. It's a great honor and an extraordinary help to have the First Lady come here and speak about this important issue. We all know her as a champion for health care for seniors and

all Americans. She brings great knowledge and passion to this fight. And with her leading the way -- I hope I don't have to wait till you get into the Senate to pass this bill -- (laughter) -- but if necessary, we will have her fighting for us and for this legislation.

For too long, our nation's most vulnerable citizens have faced intolerable price discriminations when it comes to pharmaceuticals. The sad reality is that those in greatest need of life-saving medicines are often those who have the least ability to pay for those drugs. And for them, the drug companies are charging the highest possible prices. It's inexcusable, it's unconscionable.

The nationwide report that we're releasing today shows that seniors from California to Maine are paying over 130 percent more for their prescription drugs than for those who are in HMOs or who have support from the federal government.

Those at the pharmaceutical companies consider their best customers the ones they give the discounts to. But for the seniors, they raise the prices as much as 130 percent, and in fact, for some drugs, the mark-up has been 1500 percent more than those favored customers of the drug companies.

Many of our uninsured seniors face this cruel dilemma -- the dilemma of deciding whether to take their scarce resources and pay for their food or pay for their drugs, or pay for other necessities of life. And that's made even crueler when they know that the identical drugs that they're having to pay so much to buy are being offered at a half-price sale to those who are covered by the federal government or large HMOs, or even consumers in Mexico, in Canada -- and even to veterinarians who often buy these very same drugs to use for animals.

Well, the unconscionable gouging of our seniors is unacceptable and it must end. (Applause.) Thanks to the -- thanks to the leadership of Dick Gephardt, David Bonior, Tom Allen, Jim Turner, members from the Democratic Caucus from all parts of the country and the First Lady, we're going to fight to pass legislation to stop discrimination in pricing against seniors, and to cover what is a very important basic health need for all of the Medicare population.

We've got to fight to break the stranglehold the drug companies have on the Republican leadership. This shouldn't be a partisan issue. But yet the Republican leadership, as they did on HMOs, the Patient Bill of Rights and they're doing now on pharmaceutical coverage, won't let their members vote with us to stop the drug companies from gouging seniors.

We're battling to have prescription drug legislation debated now and if we have to, we'll continue this fight next year, because we're not going to quit until there's an end to discriminatory pricing and there's coverage for all seniors that need it.

I'm pleased now to turn over this platform to Ed Dillon (sp) of Grubb's Pharmacy, a pharmacist who deals with these issues every single day. (Cheers, applause.) And he's here to share his experiences with us. Mr. Dillon (sp). (More cheers, applause.)

MR. ED DILLON (sp) (Pharmacist): That's a great welcome. I hope I don't disappoint anyone. (Laughter.)

MS. : Tell the truth!

MR. DILLON (sp): I do want to thank Democratic Leader Gephardt; the first lady, Ms. Clinton, and Chairman Waxman for this opportunity. I'm delighted and really honored to have the opportunity to talk today; but really because I have deep feelings about this, and because it's an issue that I do deal with every single day.

I'm not an elected official. I'm not a member of the media. I'm not on the board of directors of a major pharmaceutical company. I'm just a community pharmacist that's done this for 25 years.

Like thousands of other pharmacists across the country, every single day I meet with patients face to face -- literally hundreds of patients a week. We answer their questions, we address their concerns, we talk about interactions and possible harmful side effects, we try and pass along general medical information. We really believe we provide a valuable service.

We love to answer questions, and we feel that's an important part of our job.

But there's one question that all of us, whether you're working in an independent pharmacy, a chain pharmacy, any community pharmacy -- Why do my medications cost so much? Why does my prescription cost so much?

Now, no one understands or appreciates the accomplishments of the pharmaceutical industry more than I do. Every day I see lives literally saved and people's health dramatically improved. But nothing is more frustrating than trying to explain how pharmaceuticals are priced in this country. When you try and talk to a person and tell them the details about the complex system of multiple discounts and rebates and cost-shifting to HMOs, where discounts are given to HMOs and price increases are passed on to the private sector, people have a hard time understanding it. The truth is, none of it makes sense. And after a minute or two, invariably people look at you with a funny look, they scratch their head, and they say, "That's just crazy." But the reality is, it is crazy.

It's a fact that virtually everyone gets cheaper prices than community pharmacies and patients they serve. Survey after survey has demonstrated that special pricing arrangements force seniors in this country to pay more than just about everyone else in the world. And pharmacists like myself, both chain and independent, are faced with the task of explaining that on a day-to-day basis; how this crazy system works and why they are sometimes forced between buying food, paying their rent or purchasing their prescriptions.

These aren't luxuries or options we are talking about, but they are necessities required for people to maintain their health. I can explain the costs of research and development, I can explain all the good that the pharmaceutical industry has accomplished, but I can't explain why their prescriptions cost so much.

I can't explain why a senior citizen, like my 85-year-old mother, who struggled all her life to raise six children and lives on a limited income, is forced to pay two or three times as much as an HMO or a billion-dollar insurance company; or even worse, twice what she would pay if she lived in Germany or Mexico and Canada. And that's for products that were developed by American industry and

produced in this country. It doesn't make any sense to me. If someone understands the fairness of this, please explain it to me. Or better yet, explain it to my mom and all the other senior citizens in this country. I am not a believer in big government, or federal interference in the marketplace. But I do believe that, when there is a real injustice, the role of government, in fact the responsibility of government, is to step in and level the playing field and to protect those who are in need. I believe this is one of those times.

REP./AUDIENCE MEMBER: Yeah.

REP./AUDIENCE MEMBER: Yeah. (Applause, cheers.)

MR. DYLAN (sp): Just in closing, I really don't believe that this is a political issue; like the first lady said, this is an American issue. You know, sometimes we should just do the right thing because it's the right thing to do.

REP./AUDIENCE MEMBER: Yeah.

MR. DYLAN (sp): I think this is one of times. AUDIENCE MEMBER: Yeah. (Cheers, applause.)

MR. DYLAN (sp): And now it's -- (applause, cheer) -- thank you -- it's my honor to introduce the Democratic whip, Mr. Bonior.

Mr. Bonior? (Applause, cheers.)

REP. BONIOR: Thank you, Ed. And thank you for your very informative and passionate remarks.

I happen to actually just live, or did live, up until just a couple of years ago, very close to Grubbs (sp) Pharmacy, where Ed practices, just about two doors away, and spent a good deal of time in there for a variety of different reasons.

And I want to tell you that I have seen him have to explain to people, on a regular basis, why these costs are so astronomically high. I have watched him talk to people who come in there. And they look into their wallet, and they pull out a few dollars bills. And they'll ask, "What can this buy me?"

I mean, this is real stuff, and you can see it every day on every corner, in every drugstore in the country. And it's important that we do something about it.

The American people are frustrated with this Congress. There's a lot of sound and a lot of fury, but very little is getting done here. And the country is asking themselves, "Well, why?" They see the Republicans push for, as the leader said and the first lady said, a trillion-dollar tax cut, a trillion dollars, and then they turn around and they say -- the Republicans -- that they can't afford to help people cope with the rising cost of prescription drugs. And it doesn't make any sense to them.

A majority of Americans support a prescription drug benefit, and they expect actions from this Congress, not excuses.

A majority of Americans want to put medical decisions back into the hands of doctors and patients, and they support a Patients Bill of Rights. They expect progress from us, not procrastination; on this important issue.

A majority of Americans are worried about violence in their children's schools and in the workplace. They expect the Congress to make decisions on these

important issues, and not delay.

And the list goes on and on. Campaign finance reform? Nothing. School construction and modernization? Nothing. Protecting Medicare? Nothing. Strengthening Social Security? Nothing coming out of this Congress. So it's no wonder the American people are frustrated. It's no wonder that they're cynical. The majority in Congress is deliberately ignoring them on issue after issue that matter to their -- matter to them in a very personal way; it touches their lives every day -- all of these issues.

And that's why we have had to resort to discharge petitions to force these issues on to the calendar of the House of Representatives. We have introduced strong, common-sense legislation to address America's prescription drug crisis and to help seniors avoid having to choose between buying groceries or taking the medicine their doctors prescribe. Yet the Republican leaders refuse to schedule a vote.

Well, here to talk about our efforts to help older Americans get prescription drug coverage is Congressman Pete Stark. Pete Stark has been a champion, a champion of comprehensive Medicare reform. And he has been a passionate advocate -- a very passionate advocate for older Americans on a variety of issues, not only health care, but other issues that affect their lives.

Pete Stark. (Applause.)

REP. STARK: Today we're going to file a discharge petition on a bill written by Senator Kennedy and myself and Mr. Dingell, to provide access to affordable medications in the Medicare Act.

There will be other discharge petitions. But we're going to have a benefit that's comprehensive. It has a \$200 deductible, 20 percent co-insurance for seniors, up to \$1,700 a year. And after \$3,000 out-of-pocket, there is a catastrophic benefit to pay for 100 percent of the drug costs after somebody has spent \$3,000.

The president has proposed a plan that's similar, with no annual deductible.

It's different, but it's similar. These are bills that are all variations.

We're going to have the Turner-Allen-Waxman Bill, which is another way to help seniors get drugs at a discount at no cost to the federal government.

And I might remind the people that we -- this was brought up. Karen Thurman introduced this amendment in the Ways and Means Committee, where they're over talking about helping Social Security today, and where we just had passed out a bill for \$800 billion in tax cuts. Every Republican on the Ways and Means Committee voted to deny senior citizens a discount on their prescription drugs at no cost to the federal government. Now, what do you have to give them to make them do what's right? We're going to give them a discharge petition.

(Cheers, applause.)

And it should be the rallying point to show America and our colleagues that we intend, in the Democratic Party, to keep reminding people that we can do this.

We have the greatest economic boom of all times. We have everything going for us, and yet we can't find the money to help seniors get a reasonable price on their prescription drugs? Nonsense! If the Republican mayor in New York can go to a fundraiser today to get money from the pharmaceutical industry, if the

Republican leader in the Senate can be taking pork home to Mississippi, but not give us five cents to help seniors, that we know where the trouble lies; it lies in a political solution! And I want to -- (cheers, applause.)

I've said enough. I think that Ronnie Shows, who came here from Mississippi, has got to tell us what he's going to do because he's going to march over to the House floor today with another bill and lead the fight from the South. We come from the West. We're coming from New England and New York. We're going to surround them, and we're going to do what's right!

Ronnie Shows from Mississippi! (Cheers, applause.)

REP. RONNIE SHOWS (D-MS): (Chuckles) Thank you.

I want to thank Pete for that great introduction. (Laughter.) And I thank Mrs. Clinton, we appreciate you being here, and my colleagues, Mr. Gephardt, Mr. Bonior and Mr. Waxman and other distinguished members of the press and other special guests.

This is a very important day for me. I've been a representative from the Fourth Congressional District of Mississippi almost a year now. And we've debated large and small items, I guess you might say, but our nation has continued to grow in the greatest expansion of our economy that we've ever known. But can we really, truly move forward in leaving some people behind? Can we actually turn our backs on the elderly and seniors of our country, the very people -- think about it -- the very people that Tom Brokaw calls the greatest generation, that fought a depression, fought a war? And now you know what they're fighting? Another war. A war on drugs, you might say, or maybe the drug companies. The people who ought to be benefiting from the most important times of their lives are being asked to sacrifice and to give up other things, like food, paying their rent, their electric bill. I tell you, I'm from Mississippi, and that's not right. And I don't believe it's right with any of these people here, or they would not be here. (Applause.)

And believe me, I can give you some examples from Mississippi. I represent the Fourth District, and we're not the wealthiest district in the state, believe me. And I can tell you stories of a lady named Lucille Bruce from Clinton. She lives on a fixed income, and she pays in excess of \$200 each month for prescription medicine. But she does have some salvation because her daughter offsets that expense. So she has some family to take care of her. But you know what Mrs. Bruce worries about? What about the people who don't have family support? We have millions of them out there that do not have the support. And that's what Mrs. Bruce worries about. That's what I worry about and that's what everybody in this room worries about.

H.R. 664, the Prescription Drug Fairness for Seniors Act, was introduced by my friend and colleague, Tom Allen, from Maine. (Cheers, applause.) This legislation will lower the cost of what seniors pay for prescription drugs. Seniors pay much more for prescription drugs than the drug companies or their favored customers -- you know, my favored customers are seniors -- such as the federal government and large HMOs. This legislation will allow the pharmacists, like Mr. Dillon (sp) back here, to purchase drugs for Medicare beneficiaries at the same rate as the government and large HMOs; in other words, make our parents

and grandparents favored customers as well. (Applause.) Our seniors should not have to be forced to make these decisions they're having to make. I've actually literally got people in my district that I've talked to and pharmacists I've talked to that have to buy their medication, take their medication every other day. And this is something that's not unusual; it happens every day. They should not have to make this choice. Yet today, many seniors are put in that very position.

And it's also a shame that we've got over 150 co-sponsors on this bill, and I don't think we've got one Republican on it. Over 150 co-sponsors, and we have not got one Republican on it.

If there's one, I beg his pardon, but I don't know it.

Today I'm going to offer a resolution to bring H.R. 664 to the floor for a vote.

If no action is taken within seven days, seven days to do the right thing, I will file a discharge petition to take my resolution from the Rules Committee and bring H.R. 664 directly to the floor for a vote. Just think about it: seven days for the leadership to do the right thing and for people to enjoy a decent standard of living at the end of the American century.

I choose to stand with our senior citizens. I choose to fight for their values and principles, and I know that we all hold closely. Help us move H.R. 664 forward today for our seniors and for all of us.

Thank you. (Cheers, applause.)

REP. GEPHARDT: We want to again thank the first lady for being here with us. She has a schedule that requires her to leave now. But before she does, we want to tell her as a group again how proud we are of her and how much we thank her for her efforts for senior citizens here. (Cheers, applause.)

I'd like to also recognize a representative who is the ranking member of the Health subcommittee of the Commerce Committee and has worked prodigiously to get this legislation across, and it's also his birthday today: Sherrod Brown of Ohio. (Cheers, applause.)

Questions. (Pause.) Yes.

Q (Off mike.)

REP. GEPHARDT: Well, as you know, this session, this year may end in the next few days or few weeks. We're not sure when. But we've decided that the only way we're going to get a vote on these bills is to force them onto the agenda. If we're still here next week, we could have a vote on this if the Republican leadership would decide to do it.

As you know, the leadership here decides the schedule every day. We have no power other than through the discharge to get something to be voted on. So we are resorting to the same tool we've had to use on minimum wage and on the Patients' Bill of Rights and on a whole range of issues because they simply won't bring it up.

And I'm worried that they won't bring it up for the same reasons they didn't want to bring those other bills up. The special interests who stand to make

money from the system the way it is don't want these bills brought up, and so they have influenced, I'm afraid, the leadership not to bring these things up. And the only way we can overcome that special interest is through the discharge petition process, and that's what we're going to do. And I predict if we can get it on the floor, we'll get not only most Democrats to vote for it, we'll get a lot of Republicans to vote for it, just like they did on Patients Bill of Rights. (Applause.)

MEMBER OF THE AUDIENCE: Yeah!

REP. GEPHARDT: Yes?

Q Could you or Congressman Stark elaborate on your criticism of Mayor Giuliani for meeting with the pharmaceutical companies today?

REP. GEPHARDT: Well, it's our understanding that that meeting is occurring. Look, pharmaceutical companies have done a good job in this country. They have developed a lot of drugs using the NIH research, the basic research that the public has paid for. They've taken that research and developed it further into specific pharmaceutical items, which are very important to our people. And I salute the industry, and I think they've done a good job. And I think they have very smart scientists and business people who help them develop these products. What we're seeing here, though, is that simple fairness is required. And we had a press conference a week ago that showed that these companies, while they spend a lot on research, and we give them a research and development tax credit to do that -- and I'm for that, and so are all these members -- they have the largest profit margins of any industry group in the country.

Now I understand their desire to make profit. That's the desire of anybody in business. They have every right to try to do that. But when the victim of their desire to make more profit is the senior citizens of this country, and they're being dealt with unfairly, then, as many of the speakers said, it's the duty of the government and the responsibility of the government to come in and level that playing field, so that seniors are treated like everybody else. And that's what we're trying to do. (Applause.) Anything else? (No audible response.)

Well, thank you very much. Let's get it done! (Applause.)

END

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: November 10, 1999