

Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
01. position paper	Nationwide reaction to the Dole Economic Plan (49 pages)	10/2/96	Personal Misfile
02. memo	Alan Wheat to Tom Janenda, Stacie Spector re: Effect of Dole's Economic Plan on Medicare (2 pages)	9/9/96	Personal Misfile
03. draft	Republican Health Care Policy - campaign speech material (12 pages)	nd	Personal Misfile
04. draft	Campaign Speech - Medicare (7 pages)	9/23/96	Personal Misfile
05. paper	Recommended Town Hall Events (4 pages)	0/6/96	Personal Misfile

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
 Domestic Policy Council
 Chris Jennings (Subject File)
 OA/Box Number: 23756 Box 6

FOLDER TITLE:

Clinton-Gore Campaign Materials [2]

g7

RESTRICTION CODES

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C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).

RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

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**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR PLANNING AND EVALUATION
OFFICE OF HEALTH POLICY**



PHONE: (202) 690-6870 FAX: (202) 401-7321

From: Christy **Date:** _____
To: Nancy Ann/Chris

Phone: (202) 690- _____ **Phone:** _____
(202) 690-6870
FAX: (202) 401-7321 **Fax:** _____

Number of Pages (Including Cover): 5

Comments: Comments attached

MEDICARE

Opening Line

Medicare has always been a Democratic initiative, and Democrats will continue to protect the program and ensure the solvency of the Trust Fund for future generations, while Republicans continue to propose solutions that destroy Medicare's integrity and use savings from the program to fund tax breaks for the wealthy.

Key Facts

- Medicare is the main source of coverage for 37 million seniors and disabled citizens.
- Medicare does not serve a wealthy population: the average income of a Medicare recipient is \$17,000 [check]
- Medicare doesn't cover some of seniors' biggest health care expenses, including long-term care and prescription drugs.
- Medicare only covers 45% of seniors' health care costs so seniors still spend on average 21% of their income on health care expenses.
- [pre-and post-Medicare poverty and coverage rates]

Facts on Republican Record

- Sen. Bob Dole voted against Medicare in 1965 and led the 1995 charge to slash Medicare to pay for tax breaks, bragging about his opposition to the program: "*I was there fighting the fight, voting against Medicare -- 1 of 12 -- because we knew it wouldn't work in 1965.*" (Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole, American Conservative Union, 10/24/95)
- Newt Gingrich has never supported the program: "[I] deeply resent the fact that when I am 65, I must enroll in Medicare. [I]t is a program that I would have no part of in a free world." Chicago Tribune, 7/11/95. "Now let me talk about Medicare. . . we don't get rid of it in round one because we don't think that would be politically smart... But we believe it's going to wither on the vine because we think people are going to voluntarily leave it -- voluntarily." Newt Gingrich, Speech to Blue Cross/Blue Shield 10/24/95.
- Republicans repeatedly claimed they would not propose big Medicare cuts, then they turned right around and slashed Medicare: "[T]he outrage, as far as I am concerned is the Democrats' big lie campaign that [the] Contract

with America would require huge. . . Medicare cuts." (Haley Barbour, CNN's Late Edition, 11/6/94.

- In 1995, Republicans proposed \$270 billion in Medicare cuts and a doubling of premiums and the Part B deductible at the same time they proposed \$245 billion in tax breaks for the wealthiest Americans.
- The GOP Medicare plan in 1995 contained a "hidden hatchet" that called for even deeper cuts down the road, only in Medicare's traditional fee-for-service program, if Medicare budget targets weren't met.

Line of Attack from Republicans

Democrats engaged in "Mediscare" about the GOP Medicare reforms in order to divert attention away from the fact that Democrats don't have a plan to save the Trust Fund.

Rebuttal

Seniors *do* have a reason to be scared about the GOP Medicare plan -- just look at the GOP record on Medicare. Republicans never supported the program and have bragged about their real agenda: to destroy the program and use savings to finance a tax cut for the wealthy. The Democrats do have a plan to save Medicare, with far fewer cuts and policies that strengthen, rather than destroy traditional Medicare; and the Democratic plan achieves about the same number of years of solvency as the Republican plan.

Best Questions to Ask the Republicans

- In your 1995 plan to cut \$270 billion from Medicare, you also proposed doubling seniors' premiums, which does nothing to help the solvency of the Trust Fund. Would you propose doing that again?
- Why did your Medicare plan contain a number of provisions that helped doctors at the expense of seniors (e.g., the provisions allowing doctors to "balance bill" -- or overcharge -- seniors in private health plans and relaxing anti-kickback measures), though these provisions actually reduced savings to the Trust Fund?
- Why haven't you answered our calls to sit down and discuss saving Medicare outside of the context of tax breaks and the balanced budget?

Hardest Questions for Democrats to Answer

- The President's Medicare cut results in very similar per-person spending levels in 2002 -- how can you say the GOP plan "cuts" Medicare when the President's only slows the rate of growth of the program?
- Why are you scaring seniors with your Medicare campaign?
- Why do you resort to budget gimmicks like the President's shell game shift of home health expenses from Part A to Part B instead of really reforming the program to ensure the Trust Fund's solvency?
- Are you willing to require wealthy seniors to contribute a little more to the program to ensure Medicare's solvency?

HEALTH REFORM

Opening Line

Reforming our health care system has always been a Democratic priority and, understanding we need to tackle this issue one step at a time, Democrats remain absolutely committed to building on the successes in the 104th Congress to ensure access to affordable health care for all working Americans.

Key Facts

- About 40 million Americans have no insurance, up from 30 million in 1988.
- By 2002 there will be 46 million uninsured.
- About 10 million children have no health insurance.
- More and more employers are dropping their health plans -- employer-based coverage has declined from a high of 78% in 1990 to about 73% today. Under current trends, employer coverage will decline to 70% by 2002.
- Since the defeat of comprehensive health reform two years ago, health costs in this country have risen more than 15 percent. In two more years, cost increases will exceed 35 percent.

Facts on Republican Record

- One of the first things the GOP did when they took over Congress was to propose a Medicaid block grant plan that would *turn the clock back* on health reform by causing almost 8 million seniors and children to lose their coverage, and a Medicare plan that would end the only program guaranteeing health care to seniors.
- Bob Dole and his Republican colleagues actually proposed increasing Medicare's eligibility age to 67, causing the rate of health coverage to decrease for one of the hardest to insure populations.
- Republicans are trying to take credit for passage of the Kennedy-Kassebaum bill despite their efforts to stall and scuttle the bill: secret "holds" on the bill delayed floor consideration for 8 months, then the MSA poison pill threatened its passage, and finally they slipped a special interest drug provision into the conference bill.

- Republicans have no serious proposal to increase access to health coverage, control health costs, or provide insurance for the 10 million children who don't have coverage.

Line of Attack from Republicans

Clinton and congressional Democrats proposed a government takeover of the health care system that was stopped only because of strong Republican opposition. Do you still support the Clinton plan vision for health reform, in particular an employer mandate?

Rebuttal

First of all, the Clinton plan built on the employer-based system of private health coverage in our country -- it was *not* a government takeover. You may disagree with the approach in that bill, but at least the President and congressional Democrats did make a serious and sincere attempt to tackle this problem. We also learned that we have to move step-by-step, and that is what Democrats intend to do in the 105th Congress. But our ultimate goal, and one about which we are very proud, is to make health care accessible and affordable for all working Americans.

Best Questions to Ask the Republicans

- How do you plan to make insurance more affordable and accessible for 40 million uninsured, most of whom are working families, and our nation's 10 million uninsured children? [Note: if they say MSAs, point out that is just a tax break for healthy, wealthy people that already have insurance. Most analysts think MSAs would do nothing for working Americans without coverage]
- What are you proposing to ensure that big, for-profit managed care organizations provide necessary, quality treatment for patients?
- ?

Hardest Questions for Democrats to Answer

- How would you pay for universal coverage proposals, and how do you intend to pay for the Democratic children's health initiative?
- You campaigned hard for the Clinton health plan. Do you still support an employer mandate, even if it means lower wages and less jobs?