

The President. Well, I hope so. We're working through it. I think that it is now apparent to everyone that there are only two plans on the table in the Senate and that ours is far fairer and better for the economy. I mean, the other plan reduces the tax for the oil interest in Oklahoma and elsewhere, but it does it at the expense of putting a \$40 billion burden on Social Security recipients and lower income working people just above the poverty line. It also would shift massive health costs away from the Govern-

ment on to private employers and employees. I don't think they're for that. So now that we've got an alternative out there, it shows you that our plan is sound and balanced. We're just going to keep working at it.

NOTE: The President spoke at 8:52 a.m. in the Old Family Dining Room at the White House. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Exchange With Reporters During a Luncheon With Business Leaders May 26, 1993

White House Travel Office

Q. [Inaudible]—members of your staff in the Travel Office scandal? Is part of this inquiry going to consider—going to be a chance of shakeups because of the event?

The President. Well, I would like it on the record that one of the things they did was to figure out how to save—how to do the same work with less than half as many people and save you 25 percent on your first flight. I keep hoping I'll read that somewhere in these accounts. I think that ought to be accounted for. I was—the press complained to me repeatedly about being gouged by the White House Travel Office. I kept hearing it everywhere. So we put it out on a competitive bid and saved you 25 percent.

Now, if it wasn't handled right, we'll get to the bottom of it, and we'll straighten that out, and it will be handled right. That's what Mr. McLarty worked on yesterday. And we will do what is appropriate, follow the “do-right rule,” and go forward. I don't have anything else to say about it.

Ross Perot

Q. Mr. President, as you meet with these CEO's, your—I put this in quotes—one of your “favorite business guys,” Mr. Perot, has been sniping at you again. He told David Frost that you don't have the background or the experience for the most difficult job in the world. How do you deal with this kind of talk from him?

The President. You deal with it. [Laughter]

Q. He said you were doing things the Arkansas way.

The President. Well, we know he doesn't like my State. But he spent several million dollars to bad-mouth it last—and it doesn't have much to do with America. We're going to just keep working.

NOTE: The exchange began at 12:25 p.m. in the Old Family Dining Room at the White House. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.

Announcement of White House Fellows May 26, 1993

The President today appointed 17 men and women from a variety of backgrounds and across the country to be the 1993–94 class of White House fellows.

White House fellows are a select group of men and women who spend a year early in their career serving as paid assistants to the President, Vice President, or Cabinet-level offi-