

more family practitioners. But I don't see how anyone rationally could object to that since we are only turning out about 15 percent of our graduates in family practice, and we need more than twice that, looking ahead.

Then there are those who feel so strongly that fee-for-service is the right way for doctors to be reimbursed that they object to the fact that our plan would require a fee-for-service option to be given to everybody who doesn't have insurance now but would also require other options as well. To that, I would respond that those folks don't have any health insurance at all now and this will make it possible for them to get some, and some will choose fee-for-service.

Moreover, among those who do have insurance, every year fewer and fewer and fewer of them have that option. So, we're not accelerating a process that's not already well underway. We're simply trying to cover everyone on more or less equal terms, and we're going to at least give people the option to choose fee-for-service, which is something many people who are already covered don't have. So, I would hope they would consider those things and continue the dialog.

Q. Do you need them to get—[inaudible]

The President. I don't know about that. The more support we have, the easier it will be to pass. That's like anything else.

Angola

Q. On the role of fostering new democracies in the world that you both referred, I would like to hear your comments, both of you, on the situation in Angola, the lack of visible progress on the ground, and if you envisage any wider exercise that, in this case, that we see in Somalia these days, for restoring peace in Angola.

The President. It's a different situation than Somalia was when we went in there and much more hazardous. I don't foresee that. We have named a special emissary there. We are working

hard on it, and I'm very disturbed by it. You know, the loss of life has been very severe. The number of children maimed by land mines there, I believe, is now the largest number in any conflict that we know about. I hope we can make some progress. I discuss it with our people at least once a week, sometimes more often. And we sometimes feel we are making progress, and then it slips back. So, I wish I had a more hopeful scenario. I can tell you the United States is involved in it, that we are keeping up very closely with events, and we are doing our best to try to bring the conflict to a peaceful conclusion.

Prime Minister Gonzalez. I was in Angola just before the last elections, and it would seem that the international community has taken a firm decision to move forward respecting the results of any truly free and fair elections. The international community recognized that those elections were free and fair and that the results should thus be respected.

However, one of the parties in Angola did not respect the elections and were probably one of the bloodiest—[inaudible]—of the civil war that ever existed. So internationally, I think we need a high degree of coordination to try to get both parties to simply stop and try to help the country get back on the track of economic development. It's a country with tremendous resources and has tremendous economic potential. We haven't talked about that today, but I think all of us in the international community agree that we have to try to get those who ignored the rules of democracy in the past to respect the electoral results.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President's 37th news conference began at 2:01 p.m. at Blair House. In his remarks, he referred to Somali warlord Mohamed Farah Aideed. Prime Minister Gonzalez spoke in Spanish, and his remarks were translated by an interpreter.

Remarks to Senior Citizens

December 6, 1993

Today we will have between 7,000 and 8,000 senior citizens going through the White

House—just today—seeing and getting the tour and everything. So I'm glad you did it, and

Hillary and I just wanted to comment and say hello to you and ask you just to take a few minutes and visit with us about this year and what we're going to be doing next year on the health care issue, because our efforts to change the health care system affect senior citizens about as much as any group in the country.

And the most important things that I wanted to emphasize about what we're trying to do is first, we don't mess up what's all right now. We leave Medicare alone, the way it is, except that we add for senior citizens as well as for working people a prescription drug benefit for the first time. When I ran for President—and I spent so much time in the New Hampshire area when I was running and I went to countless little meetings like this—the number one thing that people would tell me who were on Medicare is that they wanted a prescription drug benefit, that it was a terrible burden. So the way that this benefit will work is that every year there will be a \$250 deductible after which everyone's Medicare policy will cover the drugs that they are prescribed plus a modest copay, a small one.

The other thing that this does that I think is so important is to provide some options under long-term care. Today, there are a couple of problems with long-term care. One is that often-times people can't get it unless they spend themselves from Medicare down into the Medicaid eligibility, and then often the only option they have is a nursing home. So, what we want to do is to keep the nursing home option but to add in-home care, to add community-based—like boarding home—care to the nursing home option. And we will phase that in over a few years as we achieve savings from the other

changes in the program. But those are the things that I think are very, very important to our country.

The fastest growing group of Americans are people over 80. And we know that with proper medication people of all ages actually are more likely to stay out of hospitals, more likely to stay healthy, more likely to have lower health care costs over the long run. But that's especially true of senior citizens. We also know that with the fastest growing group of people being over 80, not everybody will be in the same condition. And more and more people will want to have the option to stay at home or maybe to leave for a few hours a day and be in some sort of community-based care system. So, we think it's really important to move away from an undue bias on nursing homes to let people have broader options. So, that's basically what this health care plan does.

And we're going to do our best to try to pass it next year and bring about some real security for people who are—for younger people who don't have Medicare, the most important thing about it is it will give them a package of health care benefits that they can never lose. That's the biggest problem for people who are insured in the system today: they can lose their benefits. And about 100,000 Americans a month lose it permanently. A lot of Americans are insured at work, but their children aren't insured. There are all these problems, and those will be fixed. But for senior citizens, the number one benefit will be the prescription drugs and the change in the coverage of long-term care.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:25 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House.

Remarks Prior to Discussions With President Jean-Bertrand Aristide and Prime Minister Robert Malval of Haiti and an Exchange With Reporters *December 6, 1993*

The President. I would like to make a statement first. I want to welcome President Aristide back to the White House and also welcome Prime Minister Malval here for the first time and the other people associated with the effort to bring democracy back to Haiti.

I want to reaffirm the support of the United States for the democratic impulses of Haiti and

for the return of President Aristide. I'd also like to compliment Prime Minister Malval on his announcement today of his intention to remain on after December 15th as Acting Prime Minister and to try to revitalize and broaden the talks in Haiti within the framework of the