

premium caps on there, and they didn't want that. They thought it was too regulatory. So, they put Harry and Louise on television. And we didn't have the money to answer that. And so, after the time they've been on television, everybody else has done all their letter-writing campaign, and all that stuff had happened, they made something called the Clinton plan unpopular even though the basic elements still have the support of 60 percent or more of the American people when you strip it away. So, that happened.

Ironically, the Health Insurance Association favors the employer requirement. Who doesn't favor that? The NFIB is against it. They have a lot of insurance agents in their membership, and they have small business people who ideologically don't think they should be required to offer insurance. And the conservative wing of the Republican Party is against it. That's the context in which we meet and bring it to the Congress.

Now, what do we try to do to offset that? First of all, we made some changes in our plans, made it less bureaucratic, more flexible, more open, and responded to you. I explained that. Secondly, we put together a group of small business people, 29 different large groups with 600,000 small businesses to say, "We'd be better off if everybody had to pay and our costs would go down. Please do this."

In other words, what we're trying to do is to get back again to where we can have a debate that's not so politically charged. The problem you have, obviously, in the Congress now is—the problem and the opportunity—is that under the rules of the United States Senate only the budget can be passed without a fili-

buster. No other bill can pass the Senate not subject to a filibuster. So that means that if 41 Senators decide that bill X shouldn't come to a vote, it can't come to a vote.

So that's why all the Democrats have been saying all along, we've got to have some sort of bipartisan support here. And again I will say, what I would like us to do is to come back to the principle that we must do what we know will work to provide security, to provide control of costs, to maintain choice and quality. And if we just will be guided by that, we will come up with a bill that the American people will be proud to have us sign without regard to their party.

We have been through a long period here of congressional debate and discussion and everything, and the political atmosphere has been charged and gone up and down. There's a lot of unreality out there. There's been a lot of reality around this table today. If we can bring that back to the Congress, we'll get a good bill, if everybody will just forget about all the rhetoric and do something that will work.

But we must not blind ourselves to what these medical school deans said. I mean there was 100 of them that came to see me. They know what they're doing. They know what works. And we have to do something that works. That's my only bottom line. Let's do not mislead the American people. If we're going to act, let's do something that will leave the people in New Mexico and Utah and Montana better off.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:18 a.m. at the Hynes Convention Center.

Exchange With Reporters on Health Care Reform in Boston

July 19, 1994

Q. Are you now willing to compromise on universal coverage more and on mandates, sir? We're really confused.

The President. Listen, I've always had the olive branch out. I am not willing to do something that doesn't work. Did you all listen to what I said? I said that of the States that have done these modest reforms, only 10 have in-

creased the number of people with insurance. We are losing ground. We must not do something that is a fraud.

I have never said that we had to have the employer mandate, although I think that's the best and fairest way. I do think we have to keep going towards universal coverage. That's what I think we have to do.

Q. But you would accept something less than 100 percent?

The President. Social Security doesn't have 100 percent.

Q. That's the first time we've heard you say that.

The President. Social Security—you cannot physically get 100 percent. There's no way to get 100 percent. Social Security only has 98, and they've just moved from 97 a couple years ago. But I think you have to have a universal coverage goal because if you don't have the idea of trying to essentially have functionally full coverage—whatever that is, it's a very high percentage—then the rest of these reforms will not work.

So my olive branch came because he said he was willing to work every day in August, every day in September, and every day in October, and I liked that.

Q. Maybe he's talking about a filibuster—

The President. All I'm asking you tonight is report this on the merits. Talk about what the doctors said. Talk about what the people said. These doctors, a lot of these doctors might be Republicans that signed this ad in the Boston Globe today. They said what will work is universal coverage. That is the almost universal

opinion of knowledgeable physicians. The people who know what will control costs and provide security to middle class America know that unless you cover virtually everybody, you're not going to get that done.

And let's talk about the merits. Let's not turn this into a political story, let's talk about what will work in middle America.

Q. How about a 50–50 split?

The President. I'm open to changes in the split. I'm open to a lot of things. I just want to cover the American people. I've always been open to that from the first day. The only thing I want to do is get everybody covered, deal with the cost, preserve choice.

Q. [*Inaudible*]*—fully cover less than 100 percent?*

The President. You cannot physically cover 100 percent. It's impossible. Nobody can do that. We don't cover 100 percent of the people in Social Security, and it's universal. Social Security is universal. I want a universal program, but we can't physically get to 100 percent.

NOTE: The President spoke at approximately 12:30 p.m. at the Hynes Convention Center. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.

Statement on the Fifth Anniversary of the Arrest of Aung San Suu Kyi July 19, 1994

July 20 marks the 5th anniversary of the detention of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, the leader of the democratic opposition in Burma and a symbol of human rights and democracy worldwide.

The remarkable resurgence of democracy in so many parts of the world in recent years demonstrates that authentic voices of freedom cannot be stilled and ultimately will triumph. Aung San Suu Kyi reflects the fundamental yearning of the Burmese people for freedom and justice. She honors the memory of her father Aung San, the founder of modern Burma, and continues to embody the hopes of the people of Burma for an end to the military dictatorship and the reestablishment of popular, representative government.

I urge the Burmese military regime to heed the will of its own people by releasing unconditionally Aung San Suu Kyi and all other remaining prisoners of conscience in Burma. I also call on the regime to honor the results of the 1990 election and to undertake genuine democratic reform. To this end, the regime should begin a substantive dialog with Aung San Suu Kyi aimed at achieving a political settlement that respects the sentiments of the people of Burma.

This issue remains a priority for my administration. For this reason, we welcome any efforts by the international community and by Burma's neighbors to encourage genuine reforms. The United States also looks forward to discussing these vital issues later this month during the ASEAN Post-Ministerial Conference in Bang-