

RAY/IOWA

Smead.

FLEX-I-VISION® HANGING FOLDER

HASTINGS, MN
LOS ANGELES-CHICAGO-LOGAN, OH
McGREGOR, TX-LOCUST GROVE, GA



PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION

RAY / IOWA

PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION

file Ray Iowa

SENT BY: D. M. REGISTER NEWSROOM: 7-52 11:00PM : D. M. REGISTER NEWS-

4566485: # 4

The Des Moines Register

1/8/94

White House
News Summary
Page 3

Iowans want health-care overhaul, not just tinkering, Ray says

By TOM CULLEY
Des Moines Staff Writer

Former Gov. Robert Ray, now president of Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Iowa, wondered aloud in a Des Moines speech Friday what Iowans will think of reports that legislators plan to bypass comprehensive state health reform this year.

In a speech at the Marriott Hotel to more than 100 participants in a conference sponsored by the Mayist Pleasant-based Public Interest Institute, Ray said Iowans, like people around the country, want an overhaul of the health-care system, not just tinkering.

"Can you imagine what they must think of legis-

lators who say 'Not this year?'" he asked. "For politicians to turn their backs on public opinion is a very dangerous thing."

Ray, who is chairman of the National Leadership Commission on Health Care Reform and a promoter of reform on the state level, was commenting on reports Iowa legislators don't believe major health-care reform -- including guaranteed access to health care for everyone -- will pass in the next legislative session.

He gave examples of particular people who are suffering from high medical costs and insurance rates and lack of coverage.

"We like to talk about change," he said, "but we really don't want it."

He said it's clear the public wants reform, however, and although people don't want the government to run the health-care system, they believe the government "has to help fix it."

Ray, a Republican, said he doesn't agree with all aspects of the reform proposal of President Bill Clinton, but "ye, I've got to give the guy credit" for taking on a big, complicated national problem.

He expressed distrust for interest groups that pick the Clinton plan apart without analyzing it to determine which parts are worth keeping and which aren't.

"We should look at all the proposals and find ways we can support change," he said. "It's time to lay down our weapons and pick up our tools."

RECEIVED PAGE 4, 1