

Health Care Reform -
F gen
HC

Memorandum

To: Bob Boorstin
From: Harold Ickes (H)
Date: March 29, 1994
Re: 1 March 1994 letter to me from Laurence I. Radway

Bob, I pass on Mr. Radway's suggestion in his 1 March 1994 letter for whatever it's worth.

~~Enclosure?~~
Get to
Bob -
return ✓
complete
get to me
+ 1 extra of memo



Dartmouth College HANOVER • NEW HAMPSHIRE • 03755
Department of Government, Silsby Hall

March 1, 1994

Mr. Harold Ickes
The White House
Washington, DC

Dear Mr. Ickes:

In part because I can see from my desk three volumes of the secret diary of Harold Ickes, I am emboldened to suggest to you a project that may be worth the time of a diligent aide.

In the autumn of 1936, as a Harvard freshman, I shared rooms in Massachusetts Hall with Arthur Everett Small. Small's father was then an advance man for Alf Landon. He also worked closely with the National Association of Manufacturers and with the reactionary Liberty League.

Small Sr. also left Small Jr. copies of leaflets that Republican employers were then placing in the weekly pay envelopes of American workers - notices stating that their take-home was now diminished because the New Deal was diverting some of it to the new and despicable social security program.

Today even the most reactionary Republicans treat social security as a veritable icon. But in 1936 they sought partisan advantage by attacking it, and the bases of attack were misrepresentation and fright.

I find a parallel between this bit of ancient history and the tactics now evident in some of the attacks on President Clinton's health care policies. The question is how to make this point if, as seems likely, the debate gets nastier.

It would be great if researchers could unearth actual copies of those 1936 notices which I recall vividly. Someone should look into the archives of the Social Security Administration, or in press reports between Labor Day and election day in 1936, possibly even in AFL-CIO files. If evidence is found, a TV program should be run on the theme that the leopard doesn't change its spots.

I write all this as former Democratic state chair in New Hampshire and former deputy Democratic leader of our state House of Representatives. Am sending copy to Dave Wilhelm as well.

Sincerely,

Laurence I. Radway
Laurence I. Radway

PS Begala and/or Carville may be interested.