

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 6/4 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 6/5 10:00 amSUBJECT: Budget Remarks (outside Caucus room)

	ACTION	FYI		ACTION	FYI
VICE PRESIDENT	☒	☐	McCURRY	☐	☒
PANETTA	☒	☐	McGINTY	☐	☐
McLARTY	☐	☐	NASH	☐	☐
ICKES	☒	☐	QUINN	☐	☐
LIEBERMAN	☒	☐	RASCO	☒	☐
RIVLIN	☒	☐	REED	☒	☐
BAER	☒	☐	SOSNIK	☐	☐
CURRY	☐	☐	STEPHANOPOULOS	☒	☐
EMANUEL	☐	☐	STIGLITZ	☐	☐
GIBBONS	☐	☐	STRETT	☐	☐
HALE	☐	☐	TYSON	☒	☐
HERMAN	☐	☐	WALLEY	☐	☐
HIGGINS	☐	☐	WILLIAMS	☐	☐
HILLEY	☒	☐	<u>Walden</u>	☒	☐
KLAIN	☐	☐	<u>Toiv</u>	☒	☐
LAKE	☐	☐	<u>Spurling</u>	☒	☐
LINDSEY	☐	☐	<u>Itas</u>	☒	☐
			<u>Klein</u>	☒	☐

REMARKS:

Comments to Michael Walden

RESPONSE:

draft 6/4/96 6:45pm

PRESIDENT WILLIAM J. CLINTON
REMARKS ON THE BUDGET
THE CAPITOL
June 5, 1996

96 JUN 14 P 7:00

I am very happy to have the chance to talk today to the Democratic members of the House of Representatives. I will tell them that we have a lot to be proud of, and a strong message to take to the American people.

Lawmakers of both parties have a lot of work to do, in the weeks to come, to meet the challenges of our country. We should enact the Kennedy-Kassebaum health care reform bill . . . pass bipartisan welfare reform . . . enact an increase in the minimum wage. We should do these things right now, while we still can; there is no time for a work stoppage before November.

And we must finish the job the American people sent us here to do, and that is to balance the budget in a way that reflects our values. The report of the Medicare Trustees, to be issued today, makes it absolutely clear that Congress should end the gridlock that is blocking a balanced budget and a long-term answer to the problems of Medicare. The Medicare program is the way we recognize our duty to our parents. It should not be a political football. We have a responsibility to work together, without rancor, to make sure that Medicare will be there for those who need it.

I have proposed reforms that would secure Medicare into the future. Congress' own economists confirm that my reforms would save over \$120 billion for the Trust Fund -- securing it for a decade. It would strengthen Medicare's core mission. For example, our plan adopts a proposal made by the Republican Congress that would pay for home health care out of the general budget, rather than out of the Trust Fund. Through these and other reforms we show that you can balance the budget without unnecessary and devastating cuts in Medicare.

The Republicans in Congress go well beyond what is needed to strengthen the trust fund without hurting beneficiaries. Their extra cuts and flawed policy proposals would put in peril many rural hospitals and university hospitals, would undercut home health care and nursing homes, and could force layoffs of nurses and other professionals. Many older Americans would pay more and get less. And it is simply not necessary to secure Medicare or balance the budget.

I say today, as I have said before: We should work together to enact into law the reforms we already agree on, real cuts that would secure the Medicare Trust Fund for the next decade. If, in the future, we need to do more, then we should do so. But Congress should act now to send me Medicare reforms that we can agree on and that I can sign. That is what we owe our senior citizens.