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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN
4-28-99

The Honorable William Jefferson Clinton
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

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Podesta

4-28-99

After you have
seen, we will
send original to NSC.

Carol

D. Jeffrey Hirschberg

April 27, 1999

The Honorable William Jefferson Clinton
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

HAND CARRY**Re: Meeting with King Abdullah and Visit to Israel**

Dear Mr. President:

I am writing upon my return from Jerusalem and Amman to report to you, as before, on the findings of my meeting with Jordan's King Abdullah and my visit to Israel. I was joined by five other members of an Israel Policy Forum delegation, including our friends Norman and Mary Pattiz, Gail Furman, Stephen P. Cohen and Jonathan Jacoby.

In Jordan, after several pre-meetings and consulting with Ambassador Burns, we met with King Abdullah on Thursday last; other participants were Queen Rania, Prince Talal, Prime Minister Al-Rawabdeh and former Prime Minister Kabariti (Chief of the Royal Court). The following are some observations:

- The King understands the interdependency of peace, security and economic vitality. A strong economy is a necessary predicate for a politically stable Jordan and a "warm" peace with Israel. His Majesty is fully committed to both.
- The King appreciates being talked to "straight from the shoulder". With both debt forgiveness and attracting investment high on Jordan's agenda, we encouraged them to approach their requests not as supplicants, but rather as those seeking an opportunity to create a new paradigm and structure for the future. We made concrete suggestions to him about how to approach U.S. investors and policymakers, prior to his May visit, so that Americans believe that Jordan is now looking for "a handshake, not simply a hand-out."
- It is my clear impression that the Jordanians are committed to creating a legal first and a structure that is conducive to attracting and enhancing direct investment. The King believes that by Spring 2000 he will have a framework in place, with the necessary parliamentary approvals, to be "WTO ready" so that application for accession to the WTO will be looked upon favorably.

1225 Connecticut Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20036

- The King understands that he has a special role to play as he is the first of the next generation of leadership in the Middle East. Among other things, we encouraged him to convey this and to communicate a broad message and a new spirit to the American people when he visits next month.
- Per King Abdullah's request, (1) Norman Pattiz is providing assistance and advice to his Majesty's media advisor in advance of the upcoming State Visit, (2) I will be following with Ambassador Muasher on economic issues and suggestions for the potential formulation of a Foreign Investment Advisory Council along the lines of those Ernst & Young is already chairing in Russia, Ukraine and South Africa.
- The First Lady should know that Queen Rania has a keen interest in addressing child abuse and exchanged views with Gail Furman about this and other children's issues. She was interested in learning of Hillary's commitment to these same concerns, and looks forward to sharing views with her.
- Our visit to Israel included discussions both with political leaders and analysts. The outcome of the election is obviously unclear, as is the likelihood of the Center Party entering into an alliance with Barak's One Israel prior to the first round of voting. While the majority of Center Party leaders seem to support an alliance with Barak, Mordechai remains undecided and he clearly holds the key.
- Virtually all Israelis whom we met believe the United States must return to an activist mode immediately after the elections regardless of the victor. Some suggest that you appoint a special on-site American envoy, i.e. a permanent roving Ambassador stationed either in Jerusalem or Cyprus, who would monitor the talks and participate as necessary in order to keep the process moving forward. (The Jordanians encourage this as well.)

Finally, regarding Iran, some thoughtful people continue to encourage a policy of engagement with Iranian moderates.

I look forward to discussing the peace process and matters relevant to King Abdullah's upcoming visit with you or your designee.

Best personal regards,



cc: The Vice President
Samuel Berger



Personnel
still

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF NATIONAL DRUG CONTROL POLICY
Washington, D.C. 20503

April 28, 1999

99 APR 28 AM 11:17

Dear Mr. President:

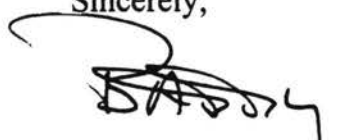
Today at 10:00 am at the National Press Club we are releasing a very important study *Substance Use in Popular Movies & Music*. This study is the first of its kind and portrays the degree of illicit drug, alcohol and tobacco use in selected popular movies and music.

The study underscores the potential for the entertainment industry to play a key role in protecting our kids from the dangers of drugs through realistic depictions of substance use -- depictions that do not convey that drug use or other risky behaviors are normal and without consequences.

Here is a copy of that study, which certainly must have some relationship to the national introspection we are now undertaking about how we care for our youth. While this study does not say that movies or music glamorize drugging, drinking or smoking wholesale, it does emphasize the need for responsible industry engagement with us and for active parental involvement in what kids see, believe and do.

Sincerely,

U/R


Barry R. McCaffrey
Director

4-28-99

Send to Benkhart?

Yes ☒
No ☐

SEND TO DPC

6/11

SUBSTANCE USE IN POPULAR MOVIES & MUSIC



OFFICE OF NATIONAL DRUG CONTROL POLICY

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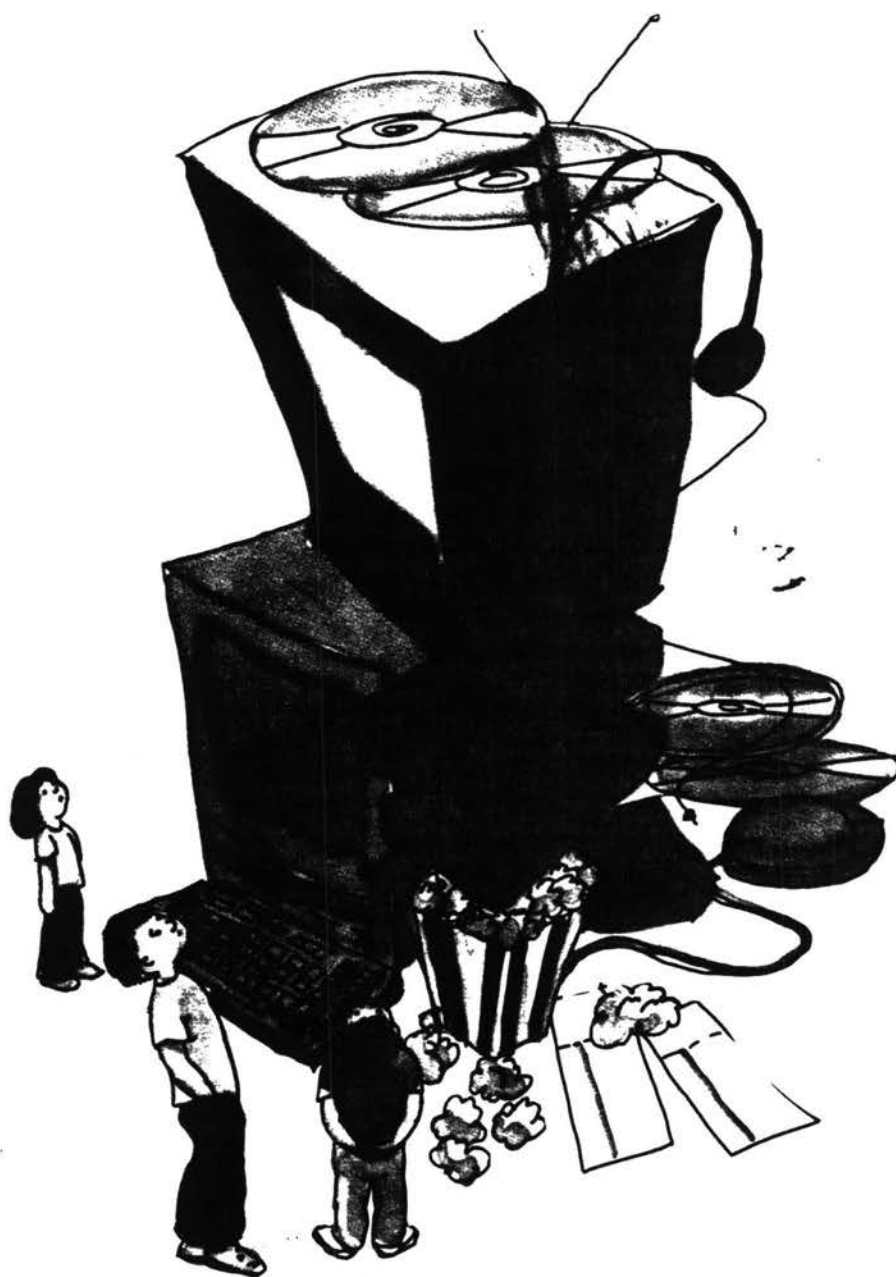
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Center for Substance Abuse Prevention

APRIL 1999

*Children, the Media
& Drugs:*

A Parent's Guide





As of 20 February, 1999

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF NATIONAL DRUG CONTROL POLICY
Washington, D.C. 20503

Biographic Summary of Barry R. McCaffrey
Director, Office of National Drug Control Policy

Barry McCaffrey was confirmed by unanimous vote of the U.S. Senate as the Director of the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) on 29 February 1996. He serves as a member of the President's Cabinet, the President's Drug Policy Council, and the National Security Council for drug-related issues. By law, the Director certifies the \$17.8 billion federal drug control budget and develops the *U.S. National Drug Control Strategy*.

Barry McCaffrey graduated from Phillips Academy in Andover, Massachusetts and the U.S. Military Academy. He holds a Master of Arts degree in civil government from American University and taught American government, national security studies, and comparative politics at West Point. He attended Harvard University's National Security Program. He is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations and an associate member of the Inter-American Dialogue.

Among the honors he has received are: the Department of State's Superior Honor Award for the Strategic Arms Limitation Talks; the Norman E. Zinberg Award of the Harvard Medical School; the Founders Award of the American Academy of Addiction Psychiatry; the NAACP Roy Wilkins Renown Service Award; the National Drug Prevention League National Leadership Award; and decorations from France, Brazil, Argentina, Colombia, Peru, and Venezuela.

Prior to confirmation as ONDCP Director, he was the Commander-in-Chief of the U.S. Armed Forces Southern Command coordinating national security operations in Latin America. During his career, he served overseas for thirteen years, which included four combat tours: Dominican Republic, Vietnam (twice), and Iraq. At retirement from active duty, he was the most highly decorated and youngest four star general in the U.S. Army. He twice received the Distinguished Service Cross, the nation's second highest medal for valor. He also was awarded three Purple Heart medals for wounds sustained in combat. During Operation Desert Storm, he commanded the 24th Infantry Division and led the 370-kilometer "left hook" attack into the Euphrates River Valley. General McCaffrey served as the JCS assistant to General Colin Powell and supported the Chairman as the staff advisor to the Secretary of State and the U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations.

Barry McCaffrey has been married for thirty-four years to the former Jill Ann Faulkner. She serves as National Chairman for the Armed Forces Emergency Services of the American Red Cross and is a member of the Board of Directors for Knollwood - The Army Distaff Hall. The McCaffreys have three married children: Sean, a U.S. Army infantry Major; Tara, an intensive care nurse and a U.S. Army Washington National Guard Captain; and Amy, a seventh grade school teacher.

National Drug Control Strategy



1999



Office of National Drug Control Policy

The National Drug Control Strategy: 1999

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EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF NATIONAL DRUG CONTROL POLICY
Washington, D.C. 20503

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Contacts: ONDCP: Bob Weiner/ Steve Panton (202) 395-6618
Wednesday, April 28, 1999 SAMHSA: Mark Weber (301)443-8956

**NEW STUDY FIRST TO QUANTIFY ILLICIT DRUG AND SUBSTANCE USE
IN MOVIES AND MUSIC POPULAR AMONG YOUTH**

***Officials View Findings as Tool for Collaboration With Entertainment Industry and to
Encourage Parental Action***

(Washington, D.C.) – A first time study that portrays the degree of illicit drug, alcohol, and tobacco use in selected popular movies and music was released today by the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. The study examined the 200 most popular movie rentals and 1000 of the most popular songs from 1996 and 1997. Findings revealed that 98 percent of movies studied depicted substance use. Illicit drugs appeared in 22 percent of the movies studied. Twenty-seven percent of the 1000 songs contained a clear reference to either alcohol or illicit drugs. This is the first national study of its kind to quantify the frequency and nature of substance use in entertainment media.

"These findings underscore the potential for the entertainment industry to play a key role in protecting our kids from the dangers of drugs through realistic depiction -- portraying illicit drug use, and all substance abuse, as unglamorous, dangerous and socially unacceptable," said Barry R. McCaffrey, Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy. "Young people clearly are surrounded by portrayals of substance use. The challenge is to help them better understand it and reject it."

"The entertainment media can have an enormous impact on society and these findings show that drug references and messages are part of our children's lives," said Nelba Chavez, Ph.D., Administrator of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. "Parents and care givers need to be involved in the selection of entertainment activities. They must serve as a role model and reinforce anti-drug messages as well as discuss the dangers of alcohol and tobacco use."

Following are some of the key findings of the study:

- According to the study, 98 percent of movies and 27 percent of songs depict illicit drugs, alcohol or tobacco.
- Illicit drugs appeared in 22 percent of movies.
- Fewer than 15% of young characters who smoked marijuana or cigarettes experienced any apparent consequences of their use.
- Consequences of substance use were depicted in about half of the movies in which they appeared and in about one-fifth of the songs.
- 26 percent of movies portrayed illicit drug use in a humorous context.
- Illicit drug use was associated with wealth or luxury in 20 percent of the songs in which drugs appeared, with sexual activity in 30 percent, and with crime or violence in 20 percent.
- While, overall, there are few African American characters in movies, these characters are portrayed as using drugs at a disproportionately high rate.

- Alcohol and tobacco were used in over 76 percent of movies rated G or PG, and in an overwhelming majority of PG-13 movies (tobacco - 82 percent; alcohol - 94 percent)

The study was prompted by two facts: the growing drug problem among America's youth combined with the reality that America's teenagers are heavy consumers of motion pictures and popular music. While it is not inferred that drug messages in the media cause drug use, media *can* influence young people's perceptions of what is "normal" and "acceptable", as well as their perceptions as to how harmful or harmless drugs are. The study was commissioned to establish a basis for dialogue with the entertainment industry on substance use depiction and encourage parental action.

"There is some good news to report," said McCaffrey. "The entertainment industry is already working on a variety of fronts, with government and private organizations, to develop solution-oriented initiatives and programs with more accurate messages and images." McCaffrey and other health leaders have already made a series of presentations to major studios and ONDCP has planned larger workshops in Los Angeles and New York for later this year.

The study release was accompanied by wide agreement among substance abuse prevention leaders that the findings should send a strong signal to all parents of teens and pre-teens, who are heavy consumers of popular movies and music, to help their children be alert and informed viewers. To provide guidance to parents on how to teach their children to think more critically and better understand what they see and hear in movies and music, ONDCP and SAMHSA recommend several simple tips parents should follow:

- Monitor what your kids are watching and listening to -- approve purchases and rentals
- Use movies and songs as catalysts for discussion -- talk about alcohol, tobacco and drugs
- Help young people separate fact from fiction -- teach them ~~not~~ to always believe what they see and hear
- Ensure they understand negative consequences -- that aren't always apparent in media

The *Substance Abuse in Popular Movies and Music Study* was commissioned jointly by the Office of National Drug Control Policy and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. The research was conducted by Mediascope, a nonprofit organization concerned with accurate and responsible depiction of social and health issues in the media, particularly as they relate to children and adolescents. Lead researchers were Donald F. Roberts, Ph.D. and Lisa Henriksen, Ph.D. at Stanford University and Peter G. Christenson, Ph.D. at Lewis and Clark College.

*Additional information, including full report text is available at:
www.mediacampaign.org/inthenews/mediascope.html*

###

SUBSTANCE USE IN POPULAR MOVIES & MUSIC



OFFICE OF NATIONAL DRUG CONTROL POLICY

&

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Center for Substance Abuse Prevention

APRIL 1999

Substance Use in Popular Movies and Music

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Embassy of the United States of America

Unit 7401
APO AA 34025
E-mail: amboffice@btl.net

99 APR 28 AM 8:18

April 14, 1999

The President
The White House
Washington, D. C. 20500

Dear Mr. President,

I had the honor of representing you last week at a large gathering in Hollywood of Hispanic leaders in media and entertainment. There was a lot of applause, and I take credit for none of it. Well, maybe for some of my ad libs. But then, you know how they can be so much better than prepared text any day!

All is going well in Belize, although I must say, I spend an awful lot of time trying to keep State Department from getting us into trouble. One day when you want a break from the other side of the world, I'll tell you my tale of Hurricane Mitch.

I hope you are well, too. The pressures are unrelenting, but clearly, so is your strength.

I'm keeping this short. I just wanted you to know that at home and abroad, people are behind you, and that I have you in my prayers always.

All the best,


Carolyn Curiel
Ambassador

4-28-99

Send to Burchardt

Yes _____
no ☒

Eugenie



cc: Scheduling
Tim Emrich
cc NSC/Sunday
Granoff's a good man

WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Copied
Scheduling
Emrich
NSC
Berger

Michael D. Granoff
President and CEO
Pomona Capital
780 Third Avenue
New York, New York 10017-7076

Dear Michael:

Thank you for your letter and the invitation to your fifth anniversary celebration. Congratulations! It appears your company has really come a long way in a relatively short period of time.

Although I never know what my schedule will hold, I've passed along a copy of your letter to my schedulers, who should be in touch with you soon. Thanks for thinking of me.

I appreciate, also, your comments on the crisis in Kosovo and your offer to be of assistance. I will certainly keep that in mind.

Hope to see you soon.

Sincerely,

Bill Clinton

Thank you for
your achievements
and grateful for your
support back in '92

Michael D. Granoff
President and CEO
Pomona Capital
780 Third Avenue
New York, New York 10017-7076



YOUR HOSTS

THOMAS A. BRADLEY
STEPHEN M. FUTRELL
MICHAEL D. GRANOFF
FRANCES N. JANIS
MARSHALL W. PARKE
BRIAN S. WRIGHT



POMONA CAPITAL

requests the pleasure of your company
for our

FIFTH BIRTHDAY



CELEBRATION

Please join us on
Wednesday, May 19, 1999
Carnegie Hall - The Rohatyn Room
154 West 57th Street, 2nd Floor
New York City

COCKTAIL

6:00 p.m.

to

RECEPTION

8:00 p.m.

RSVP by May 10, 1999
Karen MacLeod
212-593-0727

POMONA CAPITAL

780 THIRD AVENUE
NEW YORK, NY 10017-7076

TEL: (212) 593-3691

FAX: (212) 593-3987

E-MAIL: mgranoff@pomonacapital.com

cc: Schmaling

MICHAEL D. GRANOFF
PRESIDENT AND C.E.O.

April 16, 1999

President Bill Clinton
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20006-2000

Dear Mr. President:

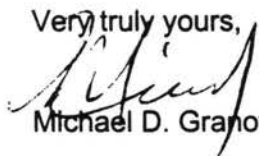
Several years after serving on your Transition Team in 1992, I founded a private equity investment firm called Pomona Capital. Pomona Capital is now five years old and has grown from \$45 million in capital to over \$475 million. We run the business out of New York and recently began operations in London and Tokyo.

On May 19th, 1999 we are having an event to celebrate our fifth anniversary at Carnegie Hall in New York. While I know how difficult your schedule is, I would be honored to have you attend and speak. The attendees will be several hundred business people active in all facets of the global private equity industry.

On another matter, I have some familiarity with the situation in Kosovo serving as your appointee on the Board of Directors of the Albanian American Enterprise Fund. I have been to Albania many times and have seen first hand the situation on the ground. I can tell you that your approach is vitally necessary, and will likely require a considerable and extended effort. As you well know, the issues are deep and deep seated. A few months ago, I had dinner with former Albanian Prime Minister Nano immediately after he had met with President Milosovic. His impression of Milosovic was frightening. I believe that the more the American people learn of the situation the more support you will have. As always, please let me know if I can be of assistance in any way.

With warmest regards.

Very truly yours,


Michael D. Granoff

MDG/ma

POMONA CAPITAL

780 THIRD AVENUE
NEW YORK, NY 10017-7076

President Bill Clinton
C/O Ms. Nancy Heinrich
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20006-2000

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN

4-28-99

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

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Echaveste
Podesta
Bergen

April 27, 1999

MR. PRESIDENT:

Rev. Leon Sullivan will convene and chair the Fifth African-American/American Summit in Accra, Ghana, May 15-22. The Summit is a biennial event focusing on business relationships, trade, investment, education and provides a good opportunity to highlight your Africa trade initiative.

You have sent Presidential Missions to the last three Summits and NSC and Maria recommend you do so again. Secretaries Herman and Slater and Rev. Jesse Jackson are planning to attend and Maria recommends you designate them as co-chairs of the U.S. delegation.

Rev. Sullivan has asked to see you for 15 minutes sometime after the Summit to brief you.

☒ Approve Presidential Mission with Secretaries Herman and Slater and Rev. Jackson as co-chairs.

☐ Disapprove

☐ Discuss

Phil Caplan

PC

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN

4-28-99

2283

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 12, 1999

'99 APR 12 PM2:46

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: SAMUEL BERGER 

SUBJECT: Presidential Mission to the Fifth African-American Summit

Purpose

Seek your approval for a Presidential Mission.

Background

Reverend Leon Sullivan will convene and chair the Fifth African-American Summit in Accra, Ghana, May 15-22. The Summit is a biennial event focusing on business relationships, trade and investment, and education. This high-profile event provides an excellent opportunity to highlight your Partnership for Growth and Opportunity initiative.

Several key Administration officials plan to attend the Summit, including Secretaries Herman, Slater, and Richardson and Reverend Jackson. You have sent Presidential Missions to the last three Summits, and I recommend that you do so again this year.

RECOMMENDATION

That you approve a Presidential Mission to the Fifth African-American Summit.

Approve  _____

Disapprove _____

cc: Vice President
Chief of Staff



Regional Press Report

April 13, 1999

Democratic

*Jeff
Seuring*

Democrats Take Managed Care Reform Issue on the Information Highway and Interstate 95

National Clips:

APR 19 1999

- **New York Times:** Clinton Urges Petition Drive to Pass Health Plan, Saturday, April 10, 1999, page A11.
- **New York Times Editorial:** Reconsidering Patients' Rights, Saturday, April 10, 1999, page A26.
- **Washington Post:** Clinton renews Drive for Patients' Rights; Democrats Say Lobbyists for HMO's Have Been Swaying Votes of Hill Republicans, Saturday, April 10, 1999, page A4.
- **Washington Post Editorial:** Managed Care: The Fine Print, Friday, April 9, 1999, page A38.
- **Los Angeles Times:** Clinton Pushes Patients' Bill of Rights, Saturday, April 10, 1999.
- **The Hill:** Philly Bound, Monday, April 12, 1999, page 3.
- **3 Associated Press Stories:** Clinton Pushes Patients' Rights, Friday, April 9, 1999.
- **Reuters:** Clinton Presses to Expand Health Coverage Rights, Friday, April 9, 1999.
- **Congress Daily:** Clinton, Dems Launch Internet Health Reform Campaign, Friday, April 9, 1999, page 1.

FORUS
*It's worked
pretty
well*
John

*copied
Jennings
Padesta*

Regional Clips:

- **Philadelphia Inquirer:** President touts Democrats' HMO bill, Saturday, April 10, 1999, page A1.
- **Philadelphia Daily News:** Plea for patients: President stumping for passage of HMO rights legislation in Congress, Saturday, April 10, 1999, page A1.
- **Hartford Courant (Rep. DeLauro):** Patient-Rights Campaign Employs Internet, Saturday, April 10, 1999.

Clinton Urges Petition Drive to Pass Health Plan

By KATHARINE Q. SEELYE

PHILADELPHIA, April 9 — With Congress reconvening next week, President Clinton flew here today to try to whip up public enthusiasm for the Democratic proposal to establish a "patient's bill of rights."

Mr. Clinton told a group of about 400 union workers and health care providers that he had advocated the patients program until he was "blue in the face," but he wanted the public to express its support by signing a petition on the Internet to counter the opposition of large health maintenance organizations and insurance companies.

"Unless there is a clear, unambiguous signal from the people of the United States — not just that we want this, not just that we need this, not just that we believe in this — the organized forces of the status quo will do nothing," the President said.

He said opponents were counting on the fact that today's public relations campaign, coordinated with 100

A plea for a 'signal from the people' to regulate H.M.O.'s.

Democrats in Congress across the country, would not be able to "break through on the evening news tonight because of Kosovo," and so the Republican-controlled Congress would not feel any pressure to pass the legislation, which is one of the Democrats' top priorities.

The Democratic proposal for new regulations on H.M.O.'s died last year with the 105th Congress. This year, a Senate committee has approved a Republican bill of rights, which Democrats say is not strong enough. Republicans say the Democratic plan is too expensive and overly restrictive.

Last year Mr. Clinton imposed

some aspects of the Democratic bill, like access to specialists and emergency treatment, on the 285 private insurance companies that provide coverage for the nation's nine million Federal employees and their families. Today he announced he was requiring the plans to come into full compliance with the bill, meaning they must add two more provisions: give patients more information about their plan and their doctor's fees, and guarantee them continuity of care if they are in the middle of a treatment or pregnancy and are forced to change health plans.

Mr. Clinton said a yearlong study of the bill showed that its provisions would cost patients less than \$10 a year on top of what they pay now, which varies by patient. He does not have the authority to extend to patients what could be the most expensive element of the Democratic proposal, the right to sue health plans and collect damages.



Reuters

Pushing his health care plan, President Clinton spoke yesterday in Philadelphia with Joan Bleakley, who lost partial sight and nearly died after her health care provider refused to pay for an aneurysm treatment.

New York Times
Saturday, April 10th
Page A 12

The New York Times

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Reconsidering Patients' Rights

Just about everyone on Capitol Hill professes interest in producing legislation that protects patients from unfair health insurance practices. But the prospect of actually passing meaningful protections, as opposed to talking about it, is uncertain. President Clinton tried to whip up support for Democratic proposals yesterday, but the Republicans are balking at Democratic plans as too burdensome on the managed-care industry.

Yet it is the Democratic proposals that more fully reflect the recommendations of a Presidential advisory commission to improve health plan quality. The Senate Republican bill, S. 326, sponsored by James Jeffords of Vermont, is too limited to accomplish that purpose. The bill, which was approved by the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee on a straight party-line vote of 10 to 8, contains some consumer protections. It includes provisions that require health plans to pay for emergency-room care if a prudent person has reason to believe an emergency exists, allow patients to go directly to gynecologists and pediatricians, and safeguard medical privacy. But it is unacceptable because most of its provisions would apply only to 48 million individuals covered by plans in which large employers act as their own insurers, leaving 110 million people in other plans unprotected.

The bill would grant appeal rights to an additional 75 million privately insured individuals, but those rights would be quite restrictive. Appeals to an external reviewer would be allowed only when an insurer refused to pay for a procedure on the grounds that it was not medically necessary or was experimental. Critics say this would give health plans power to limit appeals by simply asserting

that a denial is not based on medical necessity. It would exclude appeals where a plan unilaterally decided that the benefit was not covered under the contract, even if medical judgment was involved in that contract interpretation. The external reviewer may also be bound by the plan's own definition of medical necessity, however narrow it may be.

The Republican bill does not adequately insure access to specialty care by allowing a patient to see an out-of-network specialist if the plan has an insufficient number of specialists available. Unlike the Democratic plan, it does not amend the Federal Employee Retirement Income Security Act to give enrollees the right to sue health plans provided through employers for injuries caused by improper denials of care. Current law allows for no meaningful recovery.

Both the Senate Democratic proposal, which has White House support, and a bipartisan bill sponsored by Senators John Chafee, Joseph Lieberman, Bob Graham, Arlen Specter and Max Baucus would be substantially stronger in allowing external review of coverage disputes, in defining "medical necessity," and in giving enrollees greater rights to take health plans to court.

The insurance lobby is already embarked on a media blitz to defeat any new regulations as too costly. But consumer protections under the Democratic plan would increase health plan costs by only a tolerable 2.8 percent, according to Congressional Budget Office estimates made last year, or slightly more if lawsuits against Erisa plans are permitted in state court. Health plans should be made to deliver what they promise their enrollees, and held accountable when they fail.

Clinton Renews Drive for Patients' Rights Bill

Democrats Say Lobbyists for HMOs Have Been Swaying Votes of Hill Republicans

By CHARLES BABINGTON
Washington Post Staff Writer

PHILADELPHIA, April 9—President Clinton and congressional Democrats hit the road today to pressure Republicans into expanding the rights of patients when dealing with health insurers, an issue on which Democrats believe public opinion is on their side.

Clinton traveled to this birthplace of American independence to renew his call for a Democratic-backed "Patients' Bill of Rights," which would give consumers several new powers, including the right to sue health maintenance organizations for decisions to deny what patients regard as needed care.

Taking a break from the war in Yugoslavia to deal with a favorite domestic issue, the president portrayed Congress's GOP leaders as captives of the insurance industry.

"This is not a partisan issue anywhere in America but Washington, D.C.," Clinton told about 300 people at Philadelphia's 123-year-

old Memorial Hall. "That's because the people who are against it—basically the large HMOs, the insurers—have got the ear of the congressional majority. And they have a lot of political influence."

Congressional Republicans lashed back, saying Democratic proposals on patients' rights would add costs and bureaucracy to the health care system. "Republicans are determined to improve the quality, affordability and accessibility of health care in America today," said Rep. J. C. Watts (Okla.), chairman of the House Republican Conference. "But first Congress must do no harm."

Clinton's appearance here, coupled with other Democratic rallies and the launching of an Internet petition drive, were intended to boost the Democratic vision of how to protect patients who belong to HMOs—an issue that has stirred considerable interest, and divisions, on Capitol Hill.

Last year the House adopted a more limited GOP "patients'

rights" measure, while the Senate squabbled over the question for months without voting on it.

This year the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee already has passed a Republican bill, which does not include a patient's right to sue an HMO. House Speaker J. Dennis Hastert (R-Ill.), a main architect of the legislation approved by that chamber last year, also has pledged to revive the issue.

Major health insurers and employers argue that expanded patients' rights would significantly drive up the cost of health care. But Clinton and congressional Democrats tried to counter such criticisms by citing what the president said was the minimal impact of patient protection measures on insurance costs for federal workers.

About 285 companies provide health coverage for more than 4 million federal workers and their dependents, or 9 million people. Clinton said a new study by the Office of Personnel Management

has concluded that those employees will pay only \$10 a year more in premiums to gain several of the main benefits called for in the Democratic legislation.

Last year the Clinton administration mandated a number of patient protections for federal employees, including such measures as allowing pregnant women and persons with chronic health problems to retain their doctor even if they have to change health providers.

The new rights for federal employees, however, do not include the right to sue a managed care company for damages allegedly caused by its decisions on medical coverage, a point glossed over in Clinton's speech.

The American Association of Health Plans said today the \$10 increase cited by Clinton is misleading because the new protections for federal workers do not address either malpractice suits or the question of who decides medical necessity. The AAHP estimates each of those provisions would increase the



President Clinton, speaking in Philadelphia, said patients' rights legislation is "not a partisan issue anywhere in America but Washington, D.C."

yearly price of insurance by an average of \$200 per person.

Appearing with Clinton was Joan R. Bleakley of Woodbridge, Va., who lost her left eye because of what she says was an unwarranted delay in proper treatment by her HMO. Bleakley, wearing an eye patch, told the audience that her

aneurysm was first misdiagnosed as a "small stroke," and her HMO forced her to wait three weeks before seeing a neurologist.

Staff writer Amy Goldstein in Washington contributed to this report.

The Washington Post

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

Managed Care: The Fine Print

SENATE REPUBLICANS have produced a managed care reform bill that sounds much the same as the Democratic alternative. But the fine print that determines whether a bill is strong or weak is different. The clearest example lies in the part having to do with so-called external appeals. To help ensure fairness, both the Republican and Democratic proposals would require health care plans to set up first an internal and then an external appeals process to which patients who felt they had been unfairly denied care could turn. Because in theory they would be impartial, and in most cases their decisions would be final, external panels would play an important role.

The Republican bill would limit that role in ways the Democratic proposal would not. It would have the insurance plan choose its own outside reviewer. How independent the reviews would then be is unclear. The bill is also written in such a way that many coverage decisions would be exempt from review, and the reviewers would be limited to narrow questions. The most important difference has to do with the standard of appropriate care that plans either would, or would not, be required to meet.

One limit in most insurance plans is that they will pay only for what is medically necessary. Both these bills pick up that term, but the

question then becomes, what does it mean? In times past, "medically necessary" tended to be whatever the doctor prescribed. Now, in the name of cutting costs, insurance and managed care companies often impose their own definitions. The Republican bill, according to its critics, is written to leave the insurers largely in control. The Democratic bill, by its critics, is written to shift control back to the doctors, or at least to create a presumption in their favor. It's odd to have the American Medical Association and some of the Democratic sponsors of this bill on the same side, but so they are.

Our sense is that the bill should give neither doctors nor controllers a free hand. A clumsily written provision could do great harm. If Congress feels the need to pronounce on medical necessity, it should probably do so in only the most general terms.

The cost containment that is the business of the managed care industry is not just an economic issue. The higher the price of health care is allowed to go, the larger will be the share of the population forced to go without. A seventh of the population already is uninsured. Congress needs to pass a forceful bill that will keep the cost controllers within bounds without putting them out of business. It's good news if the Republicans are prepared to join in.

Los Angeles Times

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SATURDAY, APRIL 10, 1999

Clinton Pushes Patients' Bill of Rights

By EDWIN CHEN
and NANCY TREJOS
TIMES STAFF WRITERS

PHILADELPHIA — President Clinton on Friday renewed his call on the Republican-led Congress to enact a sweeping health care "patients' bill of rights," as he took an out-of-town break from monitoring the crisis in Yugoslavia.

Joined by more than a dozen House Democrats, the president told several hundred supporters at a rally in historic Memorial Hall here that the war in the Balkans is no excuse "to let this thing slide."

The bill, which would give patients the right to sue their health plans for withholding treatment, is stalled in Congress.

House and Senate Democrats staged rallies in 32 states and launched a nationwide petition drive to renew public support.

In Los Angeles, Secretary of Labor Alexis M. Herman, local politicians and health care professionals spoke as about 50 people carried signs that read, "Put patients first."

"Health care decisions belong back in the hands of patients and doctors, not insurance company administrators who are only watching the bottom line," said Rep. Grace Napolitano (D-Norwalk).

Steve Silen of Irvine clutched a picture of the 16-year-old daughter he lost to leukemia six months ago. He said that his daughter, Serenity, was misdiagnosed four times because her health maintenance

organization was not willing to pay for a complete blood count.

"We saw a focus on money versus patient care," he said. "Children deserve to live."

Clinton made no effort to hide his frustration at the lack of progress on the legislation. "I've talked about this until I am blue in the face," he said at one point.

But House Republicans immediately fired back, arguing that the Democratic bill would mean, as House GOP conference chairman J.C. Watts Jr. of Oklahoma put it, "higher costs and more bureaucracy."

Arguing that the Democratic bill would expose employers to malpractice liability for the actions of doctors they do not supervise, Watts said: "If employers faced medical malpractice liability, health care costs would skyrocket, pricing many employers, consumers and families out of the health care market altogether."

Republican National Chairman Jim Nicholson argued: "When the trial lawyers say 'Jump,' President Clinton and the liberal Democrats ask, 'How high?'"

The partisan exchange came as Congress prepared to return to session next week after a two-week recess.

Both parties want to enact consumer safeguards for patients enrolled in health maintenance organizations, affording them greater protection against HMO practices that stint on medical care to in-

crease profits.

But the parties differ on specific approaches, especially over the right to appeal HMO treatment decisions and whether consumers would be permitted to sue for damages, with Democrats favoring more stringent protections.

The insurance industry has resisted the Democratic bill, arguing in part that the legislation could cause insurance premiums and overall health care costs to soar, as they did at the start of the decade for other reasons.

But Clinton on Friday came armed with ammunition of his own. Noting that the federal employees' health insurance program already has instituted, at his direction last year, most of the provisions sought by the Democratic bill, Clinton said that a just-completed study by the Office of Personnel Management shows that the additional cost of those safeguards amount to less than \$10 a year per enrollee.

"I think that's worth it," Clinton said.

Among those who flew here from Washington with Clinton was Rep. John D. Dingell (D-Mich.), sponsor of the Democratic bill. The measure fell short of House passage last summer by five votes.

Instead, House Republicans passed their own version of a "patients' bill of rights" but without conferring on consumers certain legally enforceable rights.

Chen reported from Philadelphia and Trejos reported from Los Angeles.

Monday, April 12
p. 3

PHILLY BOUND



Photo by Rebecca Roth

Connecticut Rep. Rosa DeLauro (far left) and other Democratic Members of Congress get ready to board a bus to join President Clinton at a Philadelphia rally promoting the Democratic health care reform plan on Friday.

The Hill ■ Wednesday, April 14, 1999

CYBERCONGRESS



MICHAEL TEMOHINE

Rep. Rosa DeLauro (D-Conn.), with aide Jim Papa, starts on-line petition for the Patients' Bill of Rights Friday.

Clinton Pushes Patients' Rights

By Terence Hunt

AP White House Correspondent

Friday, April 9, 1999; 4:29 p.m. EDT

PHILADELPHIA (AP) -- President Clinton portrayed Republicans as handmaidens of insurance and health-care companies today as Democrats launched a novel Internet petition drive to mobilize support for the "patients' bill of rights."

"The people who are against it -- basically the large HMOs and the insurers -- have got the ear of the congressional majority, and they have a lot of political influence," Clinton charged in a speech in one of Pennsylvania's most Democratic congressional districts.

Across the nation, House and Senate Democrats staged rallies and speeches in 32 states to ask Americans to raise their voices by petition for new health-care rights.

Republicans warned Democrats against trying to "poison" the health-care reform process with "partisan rhetoric and political gamesmanship."

The most controversial, and most expensive, provision sought by Democrats would give patients the right to sue health plans and collect damages when they withhold treatment.

A modest crowd of perhaps a couple of hundred people had to strain to hear Clinton because of poor acoustics in historic Memorial Hall, built for the 1876 Centennial World's Fair in Philadelphia.

But Clinton delighted the audience as he attempted to imitate Italian movie director Roberto Benigni's heavily accented lament in accepting a second Academy Award that, "This is a terrible mistake, because I used up all my English." Clinton used the same language to say that earlier speakers had said all that needed to be said at Memorial Hall.

The historic surroundings were chosen to invoke memories of the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. Clinton recalled that citizens of Philadelphia, in 1701, launched the first successful petition drive in the New World and won the right to practice any religion they chose.

Responding to Clinton's speech, Republicans said they have been working hard with Democrats to come up with an acceptable HMO bill.

"If there's a way to make health care more accountable to patients without raising costs and limiting access, we have a responsibility to do it, and do it this year," said Rep. John Boehner, R-Ohio, chairman of the House employer-employee relations subcommittee.

GOP presidential hopeful Steve Forbes criticized Clinton for wanting "to pile on all kinds of new rules and regulations" that would drive up the cost of health care.

"When the trial lawyers say 'jump,' President Clinton and the liberal Democrats ask, 'How high?'" Republican National Committee Chairman Jim Nicholson said.

Clinton said polls show that more than 70 percent of Americans support the health-care changes, but "the system in Washington is resisting it."

He said the Democrats' proposal would fail "unless there is a clear, unambiguous signal from the people of the United States."

Clinton said opponents were consoling themselves that the Democrats "probably can't break through on the evening news tonight because of Kosovo," and "that's another excuse we'll have to let this thing slide."

The president said new figures show his executive action last year extending HMO protections to federal employees and their dependents costs less than \$1 per person per month.

The president lacks the power to unilaterally extend to federal workers the right to sue health plans and collect damages when they withhold treatment. Nor has Clinton required the plans to pay for "medically necessary" care, as determined by doctors.

But Clinton directed the government to proceed with plans to require federal workers' health plans to adopt two popular provisions:

—Mandatory release of information about customer satisfaction, the quality of doctors and hospitals and how doctors are paid.

—Allowance for patients to stay with their doctors for 90 days if the doctor is dropped from the network while patients are in the middle of a treatment or pregnancy.

----- Internet address for the petition is <http://www.familiesusa.org/pbr/>

APRIL 08, 19:34 EDT

Clinton To Push Patients' Rights

By LAURA MECKLER
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Prodding Congress to pass a ``patients bill of rights," President Clinton will use a Philadelphia pep rally Friday to extend new health care protections to federal workers.

The president will also announce a new ``Internet petition," where computer users can register their support for new regulations that would mandate that HMOs and other managed care plans provide the same benefits to all covered patients.

Figures that Clinton intends to release show that a package of several new benefits for 9 million federal employees will cost less than \$10 per person each year.

One of the new provisions requires health plans to release a host of information about how they pay doctors, customer satisfaction and the quality of doctors and hospitals.

The other requires plans to let patients stay with their doctors for 90 days, even if the doctor is dropped from the network, if they are in the middle of a treatment or pregnancy.

Clinton has already extended the same provisions to patients in Medicare and Medicaid.

The White House hopes that the real-life experience with federal workers will blunt GOP arguments that new requirements drive up costs. The 285 health plans that serve federal workers also serve private citizens, officials note, and they are providing these guarantees for just a few dollars.

``The world has not stopped turning," said Chris Jennings, Clinton's top health policy aide. ``The same things can be applied for all Americans."

``Democrats are going to take this fight on the road," said Rep. Rosa DeLauro, D-Conn. ``We're going to use the latest technology, this information superhighway, to give voice to the people in this country."

The most controversial — and most expensive — provision that Democrats are pushing would give patients the right to sue health plans and collect damages when they withhold treatment.

An equally contentious provision that would require health plans to pay for ``medically necessary" care, as determined by doctors. Clinton doesn't have the power to unilaterally extend either of those provisions to the federal workforce.

But the administration already has required that health plans covering government workers pay for reasonable emergency room trips and allow patients to see specialists outside the network if needed and obstetricians-gynecologists without a referral.

A Senate committee approved a more limited HMO bill last month, but there's been no action in the House yet. Democrats complain that bill would cover only about 48 million Americans who are in health plans regulated solely by the federal government.

Opponents of new federal legislation complained that any increase in costs is significant for many Americans and said the Democratic bill would simply ``open the door to more lawsuits."

``This helps trial lawyers who pocket most of the money, but does nothing to help patients get proper care when needed," said Dan Danner, chairman of the Health Benefits Coalition, which has run television ads in 19 states over the last two weeks.

The new petition Clinton is announcing is housed on the Web site of the consumer group Families USA. Up for about a week, it had more than 4,000 signatures Thursday afternoon.

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The Internet address for the petition is <http://www.familiesusa.org/pbr/>

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AP

Clinton Rallies for Patients Rights

By SANDRA SOBIERAJ

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) -- President Clinton and more than 100 Democrats are staging old-fashioned pep rallies and a newfangled Internet petition drive in this year's fight for the "patients' bill of rights." The president was flying to Philadelphia today to renew his argument for new regulations on HMOs and other managed care plans. A dozen or more House Democrats were joining him by bus from Capitol Hill, where they were starting the day by unveiling a new Web site where computer users can sign a petition supporting the package.

Another 90 Democrats are fanning out across 32 states for their own campaign-style rallies. "Democrats are going to take this fight on the road," said Rep. Rosa DeLauro, D-Conn. "We're going to use the latest technology, this information superhighway, to give voice to the people in this country." Their no-holds-barred push for legislation that died in the Republican-led Congress last year is emboldened by Democratic gains in November's congressional elections.

"The patients' bill of rights is one of the president's highest priorities for the year, and given the changes in the Congress this year, we believe we have an excellent chance of getting a serious, real bill enacted," White House spokesman Barry Toiv said.

A Senate committee approved a more limited HMO bill on a party-line vote last month, but there has been no action in the House yet. Democrats complain the Senate bill would only cover about 48 million Americans who are in health plans regulated solely by the federal government.

Clinton headed to Philadelphia armed with new figures that show his executive action last year extending such protections to 9 million federal employees is costing less than \$10 per person per year. The president was being joined at Memorial Hall today by Joan Bleakley of Woodbridge, Va., the latest person to be trotted out by the administration in its attempt to put a human face to the policy argument. Bleakley says she sustained permanent vision loss in one eye after her HMO delayed approval for her to see a specialist for what turned out to be a developing aneurysm.

Opponents of the legislation argue new regulations will drive up health costs and "open the door to more lawsuits." "This helps trial lawyers who pocket most of the money, but does nothing to help patients get proper care when needed," said Dan Danner, chairman of the Health Benefits Coalition, which has run television ads in 19 states over the past two weeks.

But White House officials contend that the 285 health plans that serve federal workers also serve private citizens and are providing these guarantees for just a few extra dollars. "The same things can be applied for all Americans," said Chris Jennings, Clinton's top health policy aide. The president does not have the power to unilaterally extend to federal workers the most controversial -- and most expensive -- provision that Democrats are

pushing: the right to sue health plans and collect damages when they withhold treatment. Nor has Clinton required the plans to pay for "medically necessary" care, as determined by doctors.

But today, Clinton was newly requiring federal workers' health plans to adopt two popular provisions:

- The mandatory release of information about customer satisfaction, the quality of doctors and hospitals, and how doctors are paid.
- The allowance for patients to stay with their doctors for 90 days, even if the doctor is dropped from the network, if patients are in the middle of a treatment or pregnancy.

Requirements already in place -- for Medicare and Medicaid patients as well -- include the right to coverage for reasonable emergency room trips, the right to see specialists outside the network if needed and referral-free access to obstetricians-gynecologists.

The petition is housed on the Web site of the consumer group Families USA. Up for about a week, it had more than 4,000 signatures by Thursday afternoon.

Clinton Presses To Expand Health Coverage Rights

By LAURENCE MCQUILLAN, Reuters

REUTERS

PHILADELPHIA--President Clinton, hoping to pump new life into a stalled bid to expand health care protection under a "Patients Bill of Rights," urged Americans Friday to join a petition drive to overcome industry opposition.

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"The political reality is that the system believes it can resist the opinion and the desire of the American people," Clinton said at a rally in Philadelphia, as Democrats kicked off a nationwide petition drive to build pressure on Republicans.

"The whole country is for it," Clinton said of the Democratic plan. "The system in Washington is resisting it and the people still rule if they will make their voices heard loud enough."

Clinton challenged critics who claim the Democratic plan would bankrupt employers, saying legislation now before Congress was similar to changes he ordered in the health benefits that cover federal workers. That coverage for 4.1 million people enrolled cost the federal government \$29.5 million, and individuals an added \$10 in premiums for one year.

White House officials said Clinton intended to press on with domestic issues, despite the fact that the war over Kosovo was consuming much of his attention.

In his speech, Clinton said he believed that critics of the Democratic health plan were hoping Kosovo would defuse the pressure for action on expanding protections. "That's another excuse we'll have for letting it slide," Clinton said of the bill's opponents.

Democrats around the country were leading a petition drive they hope will demonstrate a groundswell of support for the legislation and pressure Republicans into concessions as both parties prepare to stake out issues in next year's general elections.

"The people who are against it -- basically the large HMOs, the insurers -- have got the ear of the congressional majority, and they have a lot of political influence," Clinton said.

After falling victim to a partisan stalemate last year, the issue of patient rights has reemerged in what appears to be another party-line battle.

Both the Republican and Democratic bills deal with some of the biggest complaints that patients have made about HMOs and other managed care plans, including access to emergency rooms, greater access to doctors outside a specific health network and a grievance process when a health plan denies care.

Last year, a Senate Republican task force wrote a similar bill. Democrats produced an alternative, but the two sides were so far apart that they never even managed to agree on how to start the debate.

Clinton Presses To Expand Health Coverage Rights (cont'd)

The House did narrowly pass a different Republican bill last summer. House leaders want to revisit it this year.

The Democrats say the Republican plan has good slogans but not enough substance; Republicans say the Democrats devised an overly regulatory approach that will spawn lawsuits.

The two parties also disagree over how many people should be covered. The Republican plan, which leaves most regulation to the states, would affect the 48 million people covered under a particular type of nationally regulated insurance plan.

Democrats say that leaves 120 million people unprotected, because most states have not enacted a broad menu of patient protections. Clinton has been trying to build momentum for his domestic agenda, even as the NATO air war over Kosovo dominates the news. Earlier this week he devoted a White House event to equal pay for women and Saturday plans to use his radio address to deal with welfare-related issues.

"We have not forgotten the important domestic agenda," said presidential adviser Ann Lewis in Washington, adding, "this is a decision to open a second front."

NATIONAL JOURNAL'S CongressDaily

SEARCH

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RECENT ISSUES

Friday, April 9, 1999

► HEALTH

Clinton, Dems Launch Internet Health Reform Campaign

As President Clinton today touted managed healthcare reform at a rally in Philadelphia, House and Senate Democrats across the country held more than 100 town meetings on the issue and asked people to sign an "Internet petition" calling for legislation. Before heading to Philadelphia to join the president, **House Minority Whip Bonior, Rep. Rosa DeLauro** of Connecticut and other House Democrats at a news conference in the Capitol called on House Republican leaders to schedule a vote on "genuine managed care reform." Democrats said House GOP reform plans are incomplete because they do not guarantee doctors will make medical decisions for patients, and do not give patients the right to sue their health insurer. "Democrats are committed to passing real managed care reform," Bonior said. "It will allow doctors to determine what is medically necessary — not an insurance company bureaucrat with no medical degree, no experience with a patient, no understanding of anything other than the company's bottom line." The Internet petition, which was "signed" by House Democrats at the news conference, is run by FamiliesUSA.

Meanwhile, **House Ways and Means Chairman Archer** is having the Joint Committee on Taxation score a proposal by the National Association of Health Underwriters that would give each adult an \$800 credit per year, and each child \$400 per year, to purchase health insurance. Every person would receive the credit, regardless of income, except Medicare and military beneficiaries. NAHU leaders today briefed congressional staff on their proposal. It would retain the employer-based system of health insurance, but also equalize tax breaks for individual buyers not receiving insurance from an employer. To help pay for the credit, the employer share of health insurance premiums or the cost of care for self-insured companies would be considered as unearned income to the employee, and thus would be subject to taxation. Other funding for the credit would come from reducing the amount of the credit for Medicaid recipients and reducing provider tax deductions for uncompensated care. NAHU officials said that, in addition to scoring by the JCT, a private firm also is scoring their proposal. An Archer aide confirmed the joint committee is scoring the proposal, but emphasized the referral does not mean Archer has endorsed it.

NAHU officials set the credit at \$800 because, they believe, that level is high enough to induce uninsured individuals to purchase a policy without causing employers to abandon coverage they already provide to workers. Because the same credit would be available to everyone, the government would not have to set up a large bureaucracy to administer it, and there would be little incentive for people to "game the system" in order to qualify, NAHU officials said. The credit would not be paid to the individual, but would be sent directly to an insurance company, employer, or other organization maintaining the person's insurance account. Individuals could use the credit to buy their own insurance, or to pay the premiums of insurance provided by an employer. — *by Matthew Morrissey*

► THE FINAL WORD

"It's a defining political issue that will separate the sheep from the goats."

— *Rep. Ted Strickland, D-Ohio, speaking at a news conference today on managed healthcare reform.*

State Edition

The Philadelphia Inquirer

Health care brings Clinton to Phila.



AKIRA SUWA / Inquirer Staff Photographer

At Memorial Hall in Fairmount Park, President Clinton shakes hands with Joan Bleakley, who spoke to support the Democrats' version of a patients' rights bill. Among those applauding were Democratic U.S. Rep. Rosa DeLauro (left) of Connecticut and Mayor Rendell (right).

President touts Democrats' HMO bill

By Stacey Burling,
Mark Davis
and David O'Reilly
INQUIRER STAFF WRITERS

Without a mention of Kosovo, President Clinton breezed through Philadelphia yesterday to focus on a favorite domestic challenge: health care.

Flanked by Mayor Rendell and 15 members of Congress, the President spoke briefly to an enthusiastic audience at Philadelphia's Memorial Hall about the need for strong new

rules to regulate HMOs. He urged members of the crowd, most of whom were affiliated with groups that have actively supported Democratic reform proposals, to make themselves heard and sign an on-line petition launched yesterday on 40 Web sites.

"Don't you think it won't make a difference," he told the crowd of about 400 people, who were sitting on folding metal chairs under the soaring dome of the ornate, 123-year-old building.

"Stand up and be heard."

His appearance here was part of a nationwide campaign to focus attention on the Democratic version of the Patients' Bill of Rights, a proposed bill intended to strengthen protections for HMO patients. Throughout the country, about 90 Democrats staged events yesterday in 32 states to support the bill, which has been introduced in both houses of Congress.

Supporters in the crowd said they hoped all this attention gives the

bill the momentum it needs.

"This is going to get the message to Washington that this is what we want," said Lory Chalk, a New Jersey nurse who belongs to Health Professionals and Allied Employees AFT/AFL-CIO.

Clinton wants a bill that includes better coverage for emergency-room visits, timely access to specialists, outside oversight of HMO decisions, continuity of care for patients whose doctors are dropped from

See CLINTON on A13

Clinton visits Philadelphia to tout patients' rights bill

CLINTON from A1
health plans, assurance that doctors can discuss all treatment options, regardless of cost, with their patients, and the right to sue managed care plans for damages.

Republicans have their own patients' rights bills, but speaker after speaker said yesterday that those are too weak.

Joan Bleakley, of Virginia, told the crowd that she believed she lost sight in her left eye because her HMO did not let her see a specialist quickly enough.

"Every day, families are being victimized by our current health-care system, and we cannot wait any longer to act," said Rep. Rosa DeLauro (D., Conn.).

Standing in front of a banner that read, "The Real Patients' Bill of Rights," Clinton said the protections outlined in the Democratic bill have wide support among people throughout the country, regardless of their party affiliation.

"This is not a partisan issue anywhere in America but Washington, D.C.," said Clinton, who has sought the legislation for two years. The Democratic bill failed to gather enough support last year, but Democrats, fueled by November's election gains, are now optimistic.

Republicans, Clinton said, have been influenced by powerful HMOs. "Unless there is a clear, unambiguous signal from the people of the United States," Clinton said, "the organized forces of the status quo will do nothing."

The presidential visit drew about 20 demonstrators. None seemed especially concerned about health issues.

Two carried signs protesting NATO's bombing of Yugoslavia, one peddled conspiracy theories about Vice President Gore, and others complained about the administration's cuts in military retirement benefits, the Lewinsky sex scandal, and the loss of nuclear missile secrets to the Chinese.

President Clinton never saw their placards and banners. His motorcade arrived on the far side of the hall. Minutes later, a cloudburst followed by a thunderclap sent the demonstrators scurrying.

Critics of Clinton's patients' rights plan say that it reaches too far and so costly that it would force many people to lose coverage.

Yesterday Clinton announced that he was ordering the 285 health plans that provide coverage to federal employees to come into full compliance with his Quality Commission's Bill of Rights. They will now have to offer continued coverage for patients whose doctors are dropped from a plan during a patient's illness or pregnancy, and provide information about patient satisfaction, quality and incentives offered to doctors.

A new study has found that extending such protections will cost an additional \$10 per person per year, Clinton said.

Federal employees, however, will not have the most expensive right in the Democratic proposal: the right to sue HMOs for damages. That, a White House spokeswoman



VICKI VALERIO / Inquirer Staff Photographer

President Clinton and Mayor Rendell have a moment to talk at yesterday's rally for HMO regulation, at Memorial Hall.

said, is the only major difference between what the federal employees are now getting and what is proposed for everyone else. That change would add about 1 percent to insurance premiums, she said.

Joseph Karpinski, communications director for the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee, which last month passed a Republican patients' rights bill, said the Democratic bill would make insurance premiums about 4 percent higher. Business groups have estimated the cost at about \$200 per person per year.

Karpinski said Americans are generally happy with their HMOs and do not want extensive regulation.

"Their basic concerns revolve around essentially guaranteeing that they're treated fair, that they have prompt and independent appeal rights, that they have access to information about their plans, and also that their premiums not be increased a great deal," he said.

Though the Republicans would extend the right to appeal HMO decisions to everyone, most of their Senate bill applies only to people covered by plans that are regulated solely by the federal government,

usually those who work for large companies. That leaves out about 120 million Americans, the Democrats said.

Yesterday's speeches drew teachers, labor leaders and representatives from a variety of health-care groups. Several nurses in the crowd supported the Democratic bill because it protects whistleblowers.

Some just lucked into getting tickets and jumped at the chance to see the President. They were rewarded by a crowd-friendly Clinton, who spent a little more than 15 minutes talking, followed by 10 minutes of hand-shaking.

Kashif Hardy, 15, a freshman at William Penn High School, had come with 10 other participants in the Citywide Improvement & Planning Agency, a nonprofit youth-leadership organization. He got a front-row seat.

"I'm here to take my picture with the President," Hardy said. "I'm anxious to greet him, to shake his hand."

When Clinton slipped out of the hall more than an hour later, he left at least one 15-year-old with an indelible memory.

"I did it!" said Hardy, smiling. "I shook the President's hand."

Plea for patients

President stumping for passage of HMO rights legislation in Congress

by Gar Joseph

Daily News Staff Writer

When pain struck Joan Bleakley's left eye, she asked her Health Maintenance Organization if she could see a neurologist.

Her HMO directed her to an internist who gave her a bottle of pills and told her to come back in a week.

When the pain got worse, she asked again to see a neurologist. Her HMO got her an appointment for 24 days later.

Finally, she insisted on seeing a neurologist and a few days later, she died.

He sent her to a hospital immediately, where she was diagnosed with an aneurysm.

She was lucky to be alive, doctors told her, but it was too late to save the sight in her eye.

Bleakley, of Woodbridge, Va., was exhibit A yesterday as President Clinton made his pitch for "patients' bill of rights" legislation. Clinton spoke at Memorial Hall in Fairmount Park to an audience of health-care advocates, public officials and union leaders. The additional protections for HMO users have already been extended to federal workers and new Office of Personnel Management study shows the cost is less than \$1 per person per month, Clinton said. "I think it is worth it to stop the stories like the one Joan just told us."

The legislation Clinton favors would allow patients greater access to specialists and emergency room visits, allow patients to see the same doctor even when their employer switches HMOs, and give patients the right to appeal when an HMO denies care or the right to sue for damages.

The bill died in Congress last year because of opposition by Republicans who say it will ratchet up medical costs and lawsuits.

The GOP has introduced its own bill, but it is "a bait-and-switch tactic," said AFL-CIO President John Sweeney, who, along with 15 Congress members and Mayor Rendell, joined Clinton stage.



Joan Bleakley, (left) President Clinton and Mayor Rendell at session in Memorial Hall in Fairmount Park yesterday. (ALEJANDRO A. ALVAREZ/DAILY NEWS)



Waymond Webb (left), Taja Glasco and William Mackey applaud during President Clinton's speech. Mackey is executive director of City Wide Improvement and Planning Agency.

The Republican bill omits the right to sue for damages and greater access to specialists and experts.

U.S. Rep. John Dingell, D-Mich., author of the Democratic bill, said a doctor who is a Republican called him to tell

how he'd been fired by an HMO because he "was making medical decisions and not insurance decisions."

"Well, what kind of decision do you want your doctor to make?" Dingell said.

The rally was one of more

than 32 state events hosted by 90 members of Congress to launch a petition drive to pressure the Republicans on the issue.

The petition drive is being waged largely through a variety of advocacy sites on the Internet. Clinton argued that most Americans favor the legislation.

"The system in Washington is resisting it, but people still rule. If they stand up and make their voices heard," Clinton said.

U.S. Sen. Rick Santorum, R-Pa., was not enthusiastic about the Democrats' proposal, but said that "it was in everyone's desire to get a health-care reform bill."

"We've got to look at things that will help the health-care system work better, and the president's bill doesn't do that," said Santorum, who did not attend the event.

Beyond the GOP opposition, Clinton has to worry about the war in Kosovo overshadowing his message. He said opponents were consoling themselves that his message "probably can't break through on the evening news tonight because of Kosovo," and "that's another excuse we'll have to let this thing slide."

Clinton's visit provided a thrill for Taja Glasco, of Germantown, who got to shake Clinton's hand after the speech and pronounced him an "excellent" president. Glasco is a member of the City Wide Improvement and Planning Agency, a nonprofit group that helps build character in young people and helps them avoid drugs and crime.

"I know our grandparents really need good health care and with me coming up, if he can make it easier for them, it will be good for me too," she said.

Send e-mail to email@yelp.com

The Hartford Courant

Saturday, April 10, 1999

Patient-Rights Campaign Employs Internet

Democrats, labor and others have launched a petition drive on a Web site to push for federal legislation expanding patients' rights in dealing with HMOs.

By JOHN A. MACDONALD
Courant Staff Writer

HC 4/10
WASHINGTON — President Clinton joined House Democrats, organized labor and other groups Friday in launching a high-tech petition drive for legislation giving patients more rights in dealing with health-maintenance organizations.

Speaking at a rally in Philadelphia, Clinton said Americans can show their support and give Congress a nudge by signing the petition on the Internet.

"We need this petition drive because unless there is a clear unambiguous signal from the people of the United States ... the organized

forces of the status quo will do nothing," Clinton said.

The petition is on the Web site of Families USA, a consumer advocacy organization: www.familiesusa.org

The Philadelphia rally and an earlier event in Washington were organized by Rep. Rosa L. DeLauro, D-3rd District.

"We are taking [on] the fight for strong and enforceable HMO reform and not a watered-down approach," DeLauro said in Washington. "We're going to take it to the information highway and the old-fashioned highway."

DeLauro then joined about a dozen House Democrats and other supporters on a bus that took them to meet Clinton in Philadelphia, where she made a second speech. She said more than 100 Democrats were holding petition-signing parties nationwide as part of a renewed effort to pass the legislation that died in Congress last year.

The Democratic legislation would give all consumers easier access to

emergency rooms and specialists, require insurers to have appeals procedures and allow patients to sue in disputes over coverage denials.

In his remarks, Clinton waded into the argument over the cost of the Democratic legislation. The president said recent figures show executive action he took last year extending patient protections to 9 million federal employees have cost less than \$10 per person.

A recent TV-radio ad campaign run by opponents of patient protections said the Democratic bill would cost a family of four \$200 a year. Officials at the Congressional Budget Office, which made the estimate, said the cost would be phased in over two to three years.

Ron Pollack, Families USA executive director, said the cost would be only a few dollars a month for each family member and would enable consumers to be sure they were really getting coverage. "I think that's a bargain," he said.

Pollack also took a swipe at the

business-insurance industry coalition that paid for the \$2 million broadcast campaign. Asked if patients' rights supporters were at a disadvantage, Pollack said: "I actually like the equation. They've got the money and we've got the people."

Chairman Dan Danner said the coalition opposes any legislation that increases health insurance premiums because that would lead to an increase in the number of Americans who are uninsured, now about 43 million.

A Senate committee last month passed a Republican alternative to the Democratic plan that does not include the right to sue. It provides some protections for the 48 million Americans in health plans that are exempt from state regulation; another 113 million in state-regulated plans would not have the benefit of federal protections.

Clinton called the measure inadequate.

Saturday, April 10, 1999

REGIONAL NEWS

Congress pressed on patients' rights

By PETER URBAN
Washington bureau CP 4/10

PHILADELPHIA — Claiming that Republicans have stymied their efforts at HMO reform, President Clinton and House Democrats Friday joined labor and health care organizations to launch an Internet petition drive to pressure GOP leaders in Congress to hold a vote on a "Patients' Bill of Rights."

"The system believes it can resist the opinion and desire of the American people. This petition drive, don't you think it won't make a difference," Clinton told about 500 appreciative health care workers and politicians gathered inside Memorial Hall.

The afternoon rally was the marquee event to kick off the petition drive, which began earlier in the morning when a contingent of House Democrats boarded a bus at

the U.S. Capitol for the ride to Philadelphia to meet Clinton, who made the trip aboard Air Force One.

The roadshow rally and the on-line petition drive were the brainchild of Rep. Rosa DeLauro, D-3, who as an assistant to Minority Leader Richard Gephardt, D-Mo., was looking for a way to ignite Democrats to action on health care.

On stage with Clinton, Joan Bleakley of Woodbridge, Va., wearing a black patch over her left eye, said she lost her vision after her HMO refused to allow her immediate access to a neurologist to treat a brain aneurysm.

"After a 15-minute examination, the neurologist said I was lucky to be alive," Bleakley said.

AFL-CIO President John Sweeney said there is a "real problem in this country with giant HMOs," which he said could be solved with managed care reform.

"Give us the right to have medical decisions made by doctors and

not insurance company bureaucrats," Sweeney said.

DeLauro pumped her fists and applauded with every call for managed care reform. "Sign this petition at www.familiesusa.org," she urged. "Join this battle, my friends, and together we will win."

House and Senate Democrats staged dozens of smaller petition drive rallies around the nation. Rep. James Maloney, D-5, was at Seymour Town Hall Friday afternoon to collect signatures for the on-line petition. "It's hard to pretend you are for reform if you won't allow a vote on the bill," Maloney said.

By 10 p.m., the online petition had more than 8,000 signatures.

Last year, the House narrowly defeated the Democrats' "Patients' Bill of Rights," which among other things would permit patients to sue their managed care providers, allow them more freedom to see specialists and prohibit "gag orders" that keep doctors from discussing

all treatment options.

The bill lost by five votes, but Democrats believe they can win this year because they picked up five seats in the last election.

Clinton also tried to deflate Republican opposition to HMO reform by releasing new figures that show that his decision last year to allow 9 million federal employees the same rights contained in the "Patients' Bill of Rights" cost less than \$1 a month per employee.

Opponents of the legislation say it will drive up health costs and create more lawsuits without improving the quality of care.

"We don't want to create a situation where the first place you go for medical care is a courtroom and not a doctor's office," said John Feehery, press secretary for House Speaker Dennis Hastert, R-Ill.

Feehery said that Republicans are not stalling health care reform but are focusing on the budget for the next few months.

Saturday, April 10, 1999

HMO reform hits highways, both online and asphalt

DeLauro joins Democrats in Philadelphia rally Friday

By Lolita C. Baldor

Register Washington Bureau *NHR 4/10*

WASHINGTON — The battle for health care reform hit the highways Friday — both on line and by bus.

In a nationwide effort to spur on a grassroots campaign for HMO reform, Congressional Democrats and President Clinton staged a rally in Philadelphia that was linked to smaller events all around the country.

"We're taking the fight for strong and enforceable HMO reform to the information highway and the old-fashioned highway," said U.S. Rep. Rosa DeLauro, D-3, just before she and other lawmakers boarded a bus to Philadelphia.

There, they got a boost from Clinton. "The people who are against it — basically the large HMOs and the insurers — have got the ear of the Congressional majority," Clinton told the crowd gathered in Memorial Hall. "Unless there is a clear, unambiguous signal from the people of the United States, the organized forces of the status quo will do nothing."

Clinton and others said Congress must pass the Democratic "Patients' Bill of Rights," rather than any of the Republican versions that don't allow patients to sue their insurers. Dubbing the Democratic bill "real" reform, a host of consumer and health groups added their voices of support.

As the bus wheeled from Washington, D.C., to Philadelphia, other home- and office-bound reform advocates were burning up the information superhighway.

Early Friday morning, DeLauro and others unveiled an Internet petition that computer users can sign and send in to show they support the reform bill.

With a few awkward shifts of the computer mouse and some quick typing, DeLauro added her name to the petition just before launching the road trip.

And as members of Congress spoke briefly before boarding the bus, the number of petition signers slowly, but steadily, inched higher. A few days ago, about 2,500 people who heard about the web site in advance had signed on, and when the lawmakers began speaking, the number had risen to 5,090. By the end of the event, that number had crept to 5,169.

Opponents of the Democratic bill have said that putting more mandates on health-care companies will just boost rates and hurt patients even more. And Republicans have developed their own legislation that carves out additional patients' rights, but doesn't go quite as far as the Democratic plan.

The Senate passed an HMO reform bill last month, but the House has yet to act.

Getting the House to move on the Democratic bill, said supporters, will take public outcry.

"We need your help to win," DeLauro told the Philadelphia crowd. "In this city, more than 200 years ago, our founding fathers put this government in your hands. They gave you the power. Today, we're asking you to use that power to make a difference."

To see the petition, Internet users can go to: www.familiesusa.org/pbr

At UPMC McKeesport

P.3 4-10-99 DN

McKeesport Daily News

Doyle, Costa Rally for Patients Bill of Rights

BY JENNIFER SABOL-GRINBERG
Daily News Staff Writer

If the process of insurance billing has been vexing patients, then why are they petitioning Congress for another one?

Ellen Gasparovic of Pleasant Hills has a pretty good idea why.

As a 34-year-old woman diagnosed with breast cancer, Gasparovic was one of the initial people to sign an on-line petition urging Congress to support a Patients' Bill of Rights.

Accompanied by doctors, nurses and U.S. Rep. Mike Doyle, D-Swissvale and state Rep. Paul Costa, D-Wilkins Twp., Gasparovic, along with her husband Paul Gasparovic, gathered at UPMC McKeesport yesterday in hopes of bringing the Patients' Bill of Rights to the House floor.

"This legislation confronts the real problems Americans face in their relationships with HMO's and it contains key principles that are the basis for managed care reform that will make a difference for American families," Doyle said.

When Gasparovic was diagnosed with cancer, her insurance company denied surgery to remove tumors, even though both the insurance consultant and her own physician sustained it was genuinely a matter of life or death.

Paul Gasparovic said his wife's surgery was deemed "unnecessary"; the type of mastectomy needed was considered "cosmetic" under the policy, he said, and she was allegedly "choosing to have this (surgery)."

As a wife and mother of two, Ellen Gasparovic and her husband borrowed money for the



Paul Gasparovic, Ellen Gasparovic, State Rep. Paul Costa and U.S. Rep. Mike Doyle signed the Patients' Bill of Rights petition yesterday at UPMC McKeesport.

procedures, which included all medications, surgery, chemotherapy and radiation, to name a few items.

"I was willing to do anything for the children. They need their mother," she said.

Realizing treatment procedures were and would continue to financially drain the family, Gasparovic wrote a letter to Doyle's office pleading for his intervention.

Tina Maggio, field representa-

tive for Doyle's office in turn drafted a letter to the insurance company reiterating what doctors already told Gasparovic.

Within less than a month, Gasparovic was informed she would be fully reimbursed.

"People shouldn't have to contact their congressman about this," Doyle said, who, along with Rep. John Dingell, D-MI, and Sen. Edward Kennedy, D-MA, co-sponsor the Patients' Bill of Rights.

The bill, Doyle said, "ensures the right to have treatment decisions made by doctors and not insurance company bureaucrats, the right to see specialists, the right to emergency room care when and where needed, the right to appeal a health care decision and the right to hold managed care companies accountable."

Doyle said the current review process for procedures takes extremely long, and that "a 30-

day delay is critical" for people with serious health conditions.

Costa deemed the patient protection law passed by the state last year "has serious gaps and omissions."

"It is a perfect example of why millions of people whose health plans already regulated by state governments also need federal protections as well."

Costa said major additions to the state law should entail: the right to choose your own doctor, including specialists; a clear definition of what constitutes "medically necessary" care and treatment; giving patients the power to take HMO's to court; an improved appeal procedure; state-compiled "report cards on HMO's and the right to choose a pharmacy."

"When the state shifted Medicaid patients in the Philadelphia area to 'Health Choices' managed care, many of them could not longer use independent or community pharmacies."

"That forced about 140 small pharmacies in that region to close," Costa said, "and 'Health Choices' is being implemented in western Pennsylvania this year."

Doyle said an increase in patient protection would be an affordable change for insurance companies.

"For every one person that calls asking a congressman for help, there are probably 100 that don't," Doyle said.

Decisions for the patient need to return to the physicians, Doyle concluded.

If interested in signing the Patients' Bill of Rights on-line, the Web site can be accessed at: www.familiesusa.org/pbr/

Local woman pushes for 'Patient Bill of Rights'

From staff and wire reports

Ellen Gasparovic wants to be around to see her 4- and 5-year-old sons grow up.

So when doctors located more than 20 breast tumors in her and told the 34-year-old Whitehall nurse and mother she needed a double radical mastectomy right away, she didn't hesitate.

Even after her health insurance plan told her they wouldn't cover it.

"I had to come up with the money for the operation before I could even be admitted to the hospital," said Gasparovic, who joined U.S.

Democrats start petition drive to boost stalled health care protection plan

Rep. Mike Doyle, a Swissvale Democrat, at a Friday morning press conference in McKeesport to help jump-start the "Patient Bill of Rights" that's been languishing in Congress.

"Everyone said this (operation) is the only way I'm going to live," Gasparovic said. "I have two little boys that need a mom. I wasn't going to fool around with it."

Democrats kicked off a nationwide petition drive yesterday to pump new life into their stalled bid

to expand health care protection under the rights bill.

President Clinton joined a rally in Philadelphia and urged Americans to sign the petition to build pressure on Republicans and overcome insurance industry opposition.

"The political reality is that the system believes it can resist the opinion and the desire of the American people," Clinton said.

"The whole country is for it," Clinton said of the Democratic plan.

"The system in Washington is resisting it, and the people still rule if they will make their voices heard loud enough."

Clinton challenged critics who claim the Democratic plan would bankrupt employers, saying legislation now before Congress was similar to changes he ordered in the health benefits that cover federal workers.

That coverage for 4.1 million people enrolled cost the federal government \$29.5 million, and individuals

an added \$10 in premiums for one year.

"The people who are against it — basically the large HMOs, the insurers — have got the ear of the congressional majority, and they have a lot of political influence," Clinton said.

After falling victim to a partisan stalemate last year, the issue of patient rights has re-emerged in what appears to be another party-line battle.

The Republican and Democratic

bills deal with some of the biggest complaints patients have made about HMOs and other managed care plans, including access to emergency rooms, greater access to doctors outside a specific health network and a grievance process when a health plan denies care.

Last year, a Senate Republican task force wrote a similar bill. Democrats produced an alternative, but the two sides were so far apart that they never even managed to agree on how to start the debate.

The House did narrowly pass a different Republican bill last summer. House leaders want to revisit it this year.

*Pittsburgh
Tribune-Review*

Brown backs online effort for health care bill

By Ted Gotsch
Oakland

SAN BERNARDINO — A national effort to pass a Democratic-sponsored Patients Bill of Rights brought about 20 people to Rep. George E. Brown Jr.'s office to join an online petition drive on Friday.

Worried the quality of health care is slipping in an age dominated by HMO providers, health-care, elderly rights and labor leaders signed onto the list as part of a coordinated pub-

licity effort that also featured events in Philadelphia and Washington, D.C.

Brown, D-42nd District, was a co-spon-

sor on the Brown patient rights legislation last year, when it failed in the House by five votes. He has again signed onto it this year.



The bill would broaden those services that are available to every insured person, including a choice of plans, specialists for the chronically ill and prescription medications tailored specifically to the patient.

Suffering from his own health problems Friday, Brown was not in attendance. In a statement, he said pressure needed to be applied to GOP lawmakers to make sure the legislation passes.

"The insurance companies and the majority Republican Congress are spending millions to

block this legislation," he said. "I am committed to keeping managed care reform at the forefront of the Congressional agenda."

Democrats are facing competition from a GOP bill. Brown and others, however, argue that consumers are offered more flexibility with doctors and to appeal medical decisions under the Democratic plan.

Bill Fry, a patient rights advocate with the San Bernardino County Behavioral Health Department, said the focus of the industry needs to be changed.

"The bottom line situation for HMOs is that they make money by not providing services," he said.

Sandra Waters, president of the Inland Empire Black Nurses' Association, said that while the current system is not completely broken, it needs help. And more choices would give the public additional needed information.

"As a nurse, we need to be an advocate for patients," she said. "It used to be hospitals were non-profit. Now, it is a business."

Some in the insurance industry, however, say they have been responsive to requests for change.

Richard Bruno, chief executive officer of Inland Empire Health Plan in Colton, said his company has put together its own lists of patients rights.

Insurance customers have duties they should follow also, he said.

"One of your responsibilities should be that you come in for checkups, that you get your children immunized," Bruno said. "This thing goes both ways."

In search of better HMOs

■ Officials debate the medical insurance groups' merits; patients recount problems they've had.

H. T. 4/8/91

BY ROBIN BIESEN
Times Staff Writer

MERRILLVILLE - Concern over the complexities of health insurance prompted more than 150 people to pack a town hall meeting Wednesday evening at Merrillville High School.

The two-hour forum, sponsored by Rep. Peter Visclosky, D-Ind., focused on emerging legal and ethical issues concerning the 81.3 million Americans insured by health maintenance organizations.

Visclosky, an advocate of a federally mandated patients bill of rights that would give patients guarantees they might be denied under current regulations, said while HMOs had been successful in controlling runaway health care costs, the system was in need of repair.

See HMOs, B-7



U.S. Rep. Peter Visclosky addresses a large crowd Wednesday during a forum he sponsored at Merrillville High School about health maintenance organizations.

BRETT HENDERSON / THE TIMES

HMOs

Continued from B-1

"I believe that doctors and patients should make health care decisions, not insurance company bureaucrats," Visclosky said. "Certainly not all HMOs abuse their patients, but there are far too many horror stories from patients to think that all HMOs act in a responsible and reasonable manner."

Visclosky, along with Dr. Barney Maynard, president of the Indiana State Medical Association, Dr. Thomas Brubaker, a Munster internist and chairman of the board of directors of the ISMA, and Dr. Vidya Kara, a Michigan City internist, helped explain how federal legislation under consideration could make HMOs more accountable.

Merrillville physician Raymond Doherty credited HMOs with keeping health care costs under control.

"We only hear of people who bad-mouth HMOs," Doherty said. "Medicine in the past was not perfect."

Vivian Weinberg, of Merrillville, said she and her husband were forced into an HMO because of the high cost of heart medicines that were prescribed for the couple following their heart surgeries.

Weinberg said the gatekeeper policy of her HMO - which forces her to see a family practice doctor to get permission to see her cardiologist - has kept her from receiving the care she wants from her cardiologist.

"You have to hope the first doctor will go along with you," she said. "This has been frustrating for us. We wouldn't have chosen an HMO if it wasn't for the cost of the medicines. We want to see our cardiologist a couple of times a year, and right now we can't."

Visclosky said he hoped Congress would vote this year to enact legislation that would curb problems people have with HMOs.

"We don't consider HMOs bad," he said. "Prior legislation,

though, has had some unintended consequences. What we're looking for is balance and reasonableness in all HMO plans."



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April 07, 1999

Berkley prods doctors to speak up on medical issues facing Congress

By Kristen Peterson

[<kristen@lasvegassun.com>](mailto:kristen@lasvegassun.com)

LAS VEGAS SUN

Doctors need to fight for their right to make medical decisions, and they need to do so by making their views known to their representatives in Congress and in other political arenas, Rep. Shelley Berkley told members of the Clark County Medical Society Tuesday.

Speaking at the society's 1999 Legislative Dinner, Berkley, D-Nev., who married nephrologist Larry Lehmer one week ago Sunday, said dating a doctor during her campaign led to a deep appreciation for issues confronting the medical community.

Medical professionals, she said, need to ensure that medical decisions are made by them rather than the government or insurance companies.

She also touched on women's health care issues, focusing on osteoporosis, a deteriorating bone disorder that Berkley has. It affects mainly women as they grow older.

Providing Dexascan, a simple five-minute test that can detect osteoporosis in the early stages, can save millions of tax dollars through corrective measures, she said. Ten months since she was diagnosed, she said, she's not only seen a stop in the deterioration but her bone mass has actually improved.

Berkley received applause when she expressed

Join the



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confidence that a bill establishing a federal Patients' Bill of Rights would become law this year. It failed by five votes in the last Congress, she said, but Democrats have made it one of their priorities for this session.

"We're going to get this through this time," she said. "It's a very important piece of legislation."

Berkley also talked about her experience over the last 12 weeks as a freshman in Washington representing the "most unique district in the country."

Las Vegas has the fastest-growing senior population, the fastest-growing veteran population and the fastest-growing school-age population, she said.

Recently appointed to the House Veterans Affairs Committee, Berkley said she is eager to bring relief to the veterans community. Nevada, Florida and Arizona are the only states in the country with increasing veterans populations, she said.

Berkley said protecting the Social Security system and Medicare and providing long-term care for older Americans are important issues in Nevada because of the growing senior population.

Berkley, who is a co-sponsor for the Prescription Drug Fairness For Seniors Act, added that coming up with a method to provide medication for uninsured seniors without price-fixing is a challenge.

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Patients' Rights Backers Launch Online Petition

Rep. David Price, D-N.C., signed the national petition for the Democratic bill on Friday in Chapel Hill.

By ASTA YINE

Staff Writer

More than 12,000 people had signed an online petition to pass a patients' bill of rights by Sunday afternoon, just two days after the project's kickoff with more than 90 events nationwide.

Rep. David Price, D-N.C., signed the petition urging Republican Speaker of the House Dennis Hastert to pass the Democratic version of the Patients' Bill of Rights on Friday at the state office of the American Heart Association in Chapel Hill.

The Democratic initiative came within six votes of passing the House last year. The Republican equivalent was passed in the House but shot down in the Senate.

The Democratic bill, sponsored by Rep. John Dingell, D-Mich., includes

guaranteed access to specialists, the right to sue insurance companies for damages and access to out-of-network providers.

Bridget Taylor, a member of Dingell's staff, said the bill had a better chance of passing this year. "The idea of the bill has been around long enough," she said. "The momentum is definitely there."

Adam Searing, project director for the N.C. Health Access Coalition, said the Democratic version provided the most protection for patients. "If passed, this bill is a huge stride forward ...," Searing said. "It would provide a fundamental change in how people look at health care."

But John Feebery, an aid to Hastert, said the Democrats' patient bill of rights made it easier to sue but did not make health care more available. "Some kind of health-care legislation will most likely pass this year," he said. "But it will be a bill that makes it easier to get into the lawyer's office than the doctor's office."

Price said the bill would increase the legal accountability of those making medical decisions, but it was not about lawsuits. He said people would find health plans more accountable if the bill

was passed. "At the national level, the plan will ensure that no matter what kind of plan you have, you won't have to worry about the fine print," he said.

Carol Kirichenbaum, a physician intern in Durham, said there had also been some resistance from insurance agencies.

She said the insurance agencies were around to make money, not to care about patients. "If there is a chance to implement the bill to serve their purpose, they will do it," she said.

But Price said the conditions in the bill were not that stringent. He said the bill would "weed out" the bad agencies, and that the good ones would benefit. "Of course not all insurance agencies see it this way," he said.

Kirichenbaum said insurance agencies would not enforce the bill unless it was in their favor. "If the enforcement could interfere with their cashflow, they will not do it," she said.

But Price said the bill would be enforced if passed. "It will be clear what services will be required, and there is a potential for legal action in the end."

"There are a lot of things that need to be addressed and this is not a cure-all for the system," Price said. "It is still a significant step for those who have insurance."

Daily Tar Heel

The State & National Editors can be reached at stnredesk@unc.edu.

Elyria
Chron.-Telegram

Officials push for patient rights

Christy Kadiak
The Chronicle-Telegram

ELYRIA — Miguel Castro believes people have to have faith — in the Lord, their physician and themselves — if they want to win the battle against a disease like cancer.

Castro, 40, of Lorain said his fight against non-Hodgkin's lymphoma was not half as bad as his fight to find a physician he trusted.

"The HMOs (health maintenance organizations) force physicians to practice insurance medicine instead of patient medicine," he said Friday to a group of nearly 30 people at Lorain County Community College.

The gathering was held along



BRUCE BISHOP / CHRONICLE

SIGNING UP: Miguel Castro of Lorain, left, a cancer survivor, watches as Elizabeth Thames, a district coordinator for Rep. Sherrod Brown, D-Lorain, helps him sign an electronic petition Friday after a meeting at Lorain County Community College.

See HMOs, C2

(1)

HMOS

From C1

with similar events in 32 states around the country as part of Patients' Bill of Rights Day. U.S. Rep. Sherrod Brown, D-Ohio, led the event by calling for managed care reform and asking supporters to join an online campaign in support of legislation known as the Patients' Bill of Rights.

"We have all heard horror stories about the mother who must drive her child to an 'in-network' hospital 40 miles away or the man who believes he's suffering from chest pains but is denied immediate emergency room care," Brown said.

"We need responsible change now. While some managed care plans have done a good job for its customers, too many HMOs have been denying needed services and are putting profits ahead of patients."

Brown, the ranking Democrat of the House Subcommittee on Health and the Environment, said 130 national organizations have endorsed the legislation, including the American Medical Association, American Nurses Association, American Cancer Society, American Heart Association and the AFL-CIO.

President Clinton was at a Philadelphia pep rally Friday where he announced a new "Internet petition," where computer users can register their support for new regulations that would mandate that HMOs and other managed care plans provide the same benefits to all covered patients.

The U.S. Department of Labor estimates that nearly 8 million Ohioans in HMOs do not have enforceable patient protections such as those in the Patients' Bill

of Rights.

Some safeguards in the proposed bill include:

- Ensuring access to specialists; having a fair and timely appeal process when a health plan denies care.

- Having protection for provider-patient relationships, such as bans on gag clauses, bans on bonuses and other financial incentives to deny care, and protections for providers who advocate on behalf of their patients.

- Holding health plans accountable for medical decisions that result in harm, just as doctors and hospitals are accountable today.

"The only groups, literally, in this country that can't be sued are foreign diplomats and HMOs," Brown said.

Ann and Glen Lehman of Amherst have reached the point where legal action might be the only avenue to pay Glen's medical bills.

After months of frustration weaving through the insurance system, learning the loop holes and the guidelines for dropping coverage and ensuring coverage, Ann Lehman plans to write letters to every Republican in Congress urging them to support the Democratic initiative.

"They (HMOs) act like a stupid button is turned on when you turn 65," Ann Lehman said. "We do know what is going on, probably better than they do."

Kathryn Boylan, Elyria health commissioner, said the legislation will provide a much-needed guideline for health care.

"HMOs are not evil things," Boylan said. "We've just completely gone to a business. We need some quality injected here — we need some guidelines."

The Internet address for the petition is <http://www.fami-issues.org/pbr>.

(2)

Rep. Brown joins backers of 'Patients Bill of Rights Day'

By KAREN HENDERSON

PLAIN DEALER REPORTER

ELYRIA — Rep. Sherrod Brown, a Lorain Democrat, yesterday joined local health care advocates in calling for managed-care reform and passage of a Patients' Bill of Rights.

Brown and other Northeast Ohio leaders yesterday met at Lorain County Community College to help launch a nationwide online petition drive that asks Congress to take immediate action on the pending bill. The event coin-

cided with 40 similar gatherings taking place around the country on what President Clinton designated as "Patients' Bill of Rights Day."

Brown said the bill is especially important because U.S. Department of Labor statistics show that nearly 6 million Ohioans in HMOs do not have enforceable patient protections — for example, the right to have treatment decisions made by a doctor. Nationally, 43 million American workers have no health coverage

at all.

While leading Democrats gathered here and elsewhere in the partisan event, U.S. Rep. John Boehner, a Republican, praised the bipartisan health care work of Democrats and Republicans on the House Subcommittee on Employer-Employee Relations. Boehner also warned leading Democrats against tainting the health care reform process with partisanship.

"We want to work with our Democrat counterparts to expand

access to care for all Americans — not to make coverage less affordable and accessible for those who already have it. But finding solutions starts with building bipartisan consensus — not with partisan podium pounding," Boehner said. Health care reform hearings in the subcommittee began Feb. 24. The subcommittee will hold its third health care hearing of the year on April 20.

"If there's a way to make health care more accountable to patients without raising costs and limiting

access, we have a responsibility to do it and do it this year," Boehner said.

Brown said that while some managed care plans have done a good job, too many have been denying essential services and are putting profits ahead of patients.

"We've all heard horror stories about the mother who must drive her child to an in-network hospital 40 miles away or the man who believes he's suffering from chest pains but is denied immediate emergency room care," Brown

said. "We need responsible change now."

Brown, who helped design the Patients' Bill of Rights, said the measure ensures the right to have treatment decisions made by a doctor, the right to see specialists when needed, and the right to emergency room care when and where the patient needs it. The measure also bans financial incentives that reward physicians for prescribing less care and it guarantees access to clinical trials for cancer patients.

The Flint
Journal
A3 4/10/91

Abraham, Stabenow bring different issues to area

By Linda Angelo
JOURNAL POLITICAL WRITER

GENESEE COUNTY

U.S. Sen. Spencer Abraham and U.S. Rep. Debbie Stabenow - rivals in the 2000 Senate race - were in Genesee County on Friday promoting two very different issues: saving Social Security and implementing a "Patient Bill of Rights."

Abraham stopped by the Fenton Community Center to tout proposed legislation that would "lock up" every penny of the Social Security surplus to ensure that future baby boomers have money when they retire.

About two hours later, Stabenow and U.S. Sen. Carl

Levin were at the Genesee Free Medical Center in Flint demonstrating how the public can sign petitions supporting new regulations on HMOs and other managed care plans via the Internet (<http://www.familiesusa.org/pbr/>).

Stabenow and Levin were among 90 Democrats across the country promoting the "Patient Bill of Rights," which they say would give consumers more power to challenge the decisions of health maintenance organizations. It also is designed to provide better access to specialists and coverage of emergency room care.

"In a country with the best health care available in the world, we should not be struggling for people to get the care that they have been paying

for," Stabenow said.

"They are paying health care premiums and too many times we are seeing situations where the doctor makes a recommendation, it's overturned by the HMO or insurance company and it takes months ... to get care that should be available right away in a medical emergency."

The issue is one that Democrats and Republicans fought over in the past session with each party putting forth their own plan.

Opponents of the legislation argue new regulations will drive up health costs and open the door to more lawsuits.

But Stabenow and Levin said the Congressional Budget Office issued a report showing that the difference in rates

would only be 0.04 percent.

At his news conference, Abraham stressed the importance of making sure money from the Social Security Trust Fund is not spent on other budget issues.

"I'll be leading the Senate effort to save Social Security dollars for Social Security. ... The top priority we have is to protect the Social Security trust fund from being spent on other priorities," he said.

Stabenow described Abraham's lock box plan as a "gimmick."

"It doesn't do any good if we don't take the majority of the total budget surplus and put it back to pay back Social Security and Medicare," she said.

But Abraham said only the

surplus from Social Security should be used to make the program solvent.

How Social Security should be reformed likely will be one of many issues the two will delve into as they square off in next year's race.

"I expect a competitive race and always have, but that's next year," Abraham said.

"This year I'm worrying about protecting Social Security money, letting working families keep more of what they earn, which is going to be my principal goals this year, and we'll let the campaign take care of itself next year."

Linda Angelo covers politics. She may be reached at (810) 786-6340 or by e-mail at langelo@flintj.com.

Date: April 10, 1999

FYI: EMC & Darryl

page 1 of 2

A little high-tech support

Clayton uses Net to gather signatures for patients' rights bill

By Jennia Hunt
The Daily Reflector

U.S. Rep. Eva Clayton used a four-county teleconference to gain support and signatures for an Internet petition on patients' rights legislation Friday.

Ms. Clayton, D-N.C., co-sponsored House Resolution 358, titled the Patients' Bill of Rights Act, which seeks to guarantee certain rights to consumers of managed health care programs.

Ms. Clayton attended the videoconference at Pitt Community College, which linked Wilson, Halifax and Martin counties in the 1st Congressional District.

The goal for her "grassroots" effort Friday was to get 1,000 online signatures posted on the Internet from the four counties by the end of the day, Ma.

Clayton said.

"I think it is unique to be in Pitt County and be able to talk to other counties," Ms. Clayton said. "Using technology for the benefit of citizens is a unique way to have our collective voices heard."

A total of 8,188 people signed the petition as of Friday night.

This petition effort was part of a nationwide drive to urge Congress to adopt the bill, and it was launched early Friday by President Bill Clinton and Vice President Al Gore, who held a press conference in Washington and a rally afterward in Philadelphia, Ms. Clayton said Friday.

"The president signed the petition earlier — he got ahead of me," Ms. Clayton said as she signed the petition while people in all four counties observed.

After the teleconference, audience members had a chance to sign the Internet petition. Also, local libraries in all four counties have the Internet Web site for the petition bookmarked for public convenience and access, Ms. Clayton said. She said many area churches are also participating in the petition drive over the weekend. At the end of the one-hour videoconference, about 100 people from the four counties had signed on.

The United States has the best health care system in the world, but it still leaves many people without access to needed services, specialists and adequate emergency care, Ms. Clayton said. In addition, she stated that many hard working Americans are uninsured and

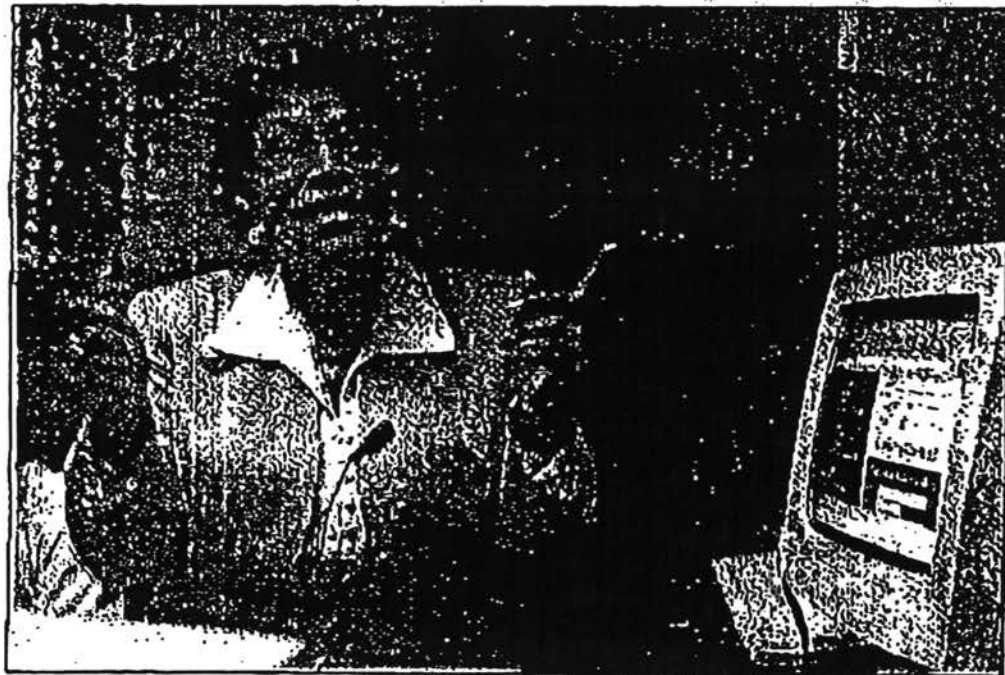
See PATIENTS, B2

The Daily Reflector

Date: April 10, 1999

FYI: EMC & Darryl

page 2 of 2



Greg Eans/The Daily Reflector

U.S. REP. EVA CLAYTON, D-N.C., gestures after signing a petition on the Internet for a patients' bill of rights Friday at Pitt Community College's Fullord Building.

PATIENTS

Signers: Cost shouldn't hold people from care

Continued from B1

don't qualify for Medicaid, because they earn too much.

"All too often we don't have the care or protection we think we have with insurance," she said. "Managed care needs to be reformed, and I wanted to do my part in North Carolina."

Managed care is one term, but it represents a wide array of approaches to organizing the delivery of health care. Health Maintenance Organizations and Preferred Provider Organizations are the two types of managed care organizations in the United States.

At the teleconference, PCC had four television monitors, and one large screen divided into four sections showing all four counties at one time.

During the event, health care professionals, PCC and East Carolina University educators, local government officials and audience

members voiced their concerns about managed care and insurance providers.

"It is important that during an emergency the patient doesn't have to think about calling an HMO before seeking treatment," said Phyllis Turner, ECU nursing school associate dean for academic affairs. "We need to know about all the options available — we don't need to have our health care providers gagged."

Don Ensley, ECU associate professor of the community health department, agreed with Turner about access to health care and all treatments regardless of cost open to the patients.

"It's a bill needed to protect and empower the citizens," Ensley said.

Greenville City Councilwoman Mary Alesizer said she is aware of many of the current insurance issues because she is married to a health care professional.

"We are both adamant supporters of this type of health care reform, and we hope it works and everyone will get involved and sign the petition," she said.

The Internet address for the petition is <http://www.familiesUSA.org/pbr>.

4/11/99

HOTZ LIP

Baird, other Democrats push for HMO reform

'Patients' Bill of Rights' would clip powers of insurance companies

by JEFF MUZZ
Columbia staff writer

While President Clinton and more than a dozen House Democrats attended a Friday rally in Philadelphia, Congressman Brian Baird staged a much smaller event in Vancouver to support the "Patients' Bill of Rights."

Baird held a news conference to call on Congress to curtail the power of health maintenance organization, or HMO, and other managed care programs.

"It is in their financial interest to deny care rather than to provide care," the Vancouver Democrat said about HMOs.

Baird was one of more than 100 House Democrats to hold rallies, meetings and other gatherings across the country Friday to focus public attention on health care reform.

"This is one of our highest priorities in Congress," Baird said. "The American people have waited too long."

Baird is a cosponsor of the Patients' Bill of Rights, which is designed to ensure that patients can select their own doctors, see medical specialists and have access to emergency care.

The legislation also aims to return power to physicians and other health care providers and to hold managed care companies accountable for decisions to limit medical care.

"Currently, the only people in America who are immune from lawsuits are foreign diplomats and heads of HMOs," Baird said.

He warned that House Speaker Dennis Hastert, R-Ill., maintains close ties to the insurance industry, which is willing to pump big money into the political system to kill reform.

"Powerful insurance interests would like to see this bill go nowhere," he said.

Insurance companies are trying to scare Americans by predicting a 50 percent to 60 percent increase in medical costs if the legislation is enacted, Baird said.

Congressional Budget Office estimates there would be only a 3 percent to 5 percent increase in insurance premiums, he said.

Also attending Friday's news conference were Ed Cote, a Vancouver resident whose daughter was diagnosed

Reform

Baird seeks passage of 'Patients' Bill of Rights'

From Page B1

with leukemia eight years ago, and Rodie Renn-Lasher, a representative from the Washington State Nurses Association.

Cote, supervisor of the Division of Children and Family Services of the state Department of Social and Health Services in Vancouver, said his professional training as a social worker didn't prepare him for the battle with HMOs over his daughter's medical treatment.

"Too many decisions are made by people who don't have medical training and don't understand the complexities of someone with a serious illness," Cote said.

"Some people just give up," he said. "They can't fight the HMOs to get what they need anymore."

People can appeal decisions, but those are reviewed by the HMOs themselves, not by impartial third parties.

"It's sort of the fox watching the

henhouse approach here, which I think is terribly wrong," Cote said.

Renn-Lasher, a cancer survivor who has worked as a registered nurse for nearly 23 years, said health care providers no longer have the final say over medical decisions.

Nurses and other providers who report problems with the quality of care or insist on medical tests considered unnecessary by HMOs can be branded as troublemakers and face retaliation, Renn-Lasher said.

"If I were to continue to push, I could be fired very easily," she said. "You don't want to rock the boat."

Democrats nationwide have launched an Internet petition drive to build public support for the Patients' Bill of Rights.

Internet users can add their names to the petition by calling up: <http://democrat.house.gov/puhlc/petition/>.

Baird said people can also sign the petition by calling his Vancouver office: 605-6292.

"It is in their financial interest to deny care rather than to provide care."

CONGRESSMAN BRIAN BAIRD, on the need for HMO reform

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The Connersville
News-Examiner

Newsstand

Wednesday, March 31, 1999

Social Security rescue at top of Hill's agenda

By MIKE SELKE, Staff Writer

U.S. Rep. Baron Hill talked about Social Security during a public meeting Tuesday at the Fayette County Senior Center.

Social Security is an important issue facing present and future generations, said Hill, the Seymour Democrat who won Indiana's 9th District seat following Lee Hamilton's retirement.



Hill said by 2032 the Social Security trust fund will not be able to afford to pay 100 percent benefits, according to projections, and that the figure will be reduced to 75 percent.

"The United States Congress has an historic opportunity to fix Social Security," he said. "I want to make sure Social Security is there for me, my daughters and someday my grandchildren."

Hill said it is time to save Social Security with the surplus and to pay down the debt.

The nation's debt in 1980 was about \$750 billion, which took 200 years to accumulate, Hill said. During the past 19 years the figure climbed to \$4 trillion, he said.

"There's a big debate going on in Washington, D.C., as to what to do with the surplus," he said. "Do we save Social Security and pay down the debt or do we offer a 10 percent tax cut across the board to all Americans?"

Privatizing Social Security — creating small individual accounts to be invested — is being discussed in Congress, he said.

"I'm opposed to this," Hill said. "Social Security is not a 401(k) or an IRA. It's a defined benefit program that guarantees a monthly benefit to senior citizens."

President Clinton's suggestion to take 25 percent of the budget surplus and let professional business managers invest in ventures other than treasury bills has Hill's support, he said.

On another topic, Hill said medical decisions should be made by patients and doctors, and not by health maintenance plan staff members.

The Patients' Bill of Rights would ensure decisions are made by the patient, he said.

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Congressman Crowley Supports Patients' Bill of Rights

Recognizing that millions of hardworking Americans have entrusted their health to managed care organizations, and that HMOs have far too often failed these individuals during the most desperate times in their lives, Congressman Joseph Crowley joined 174 of his Democratic Colleagues as an original co-sponsor of H.R. 358, the Patients' Bill of Rights.

Speaking on the House Floor, Congressman Crowley

said, "Working Americans have become increasingly frustrated with a system that seems to be more interested in increasing profits than in providing quality health care. It is time to find a balance between reasonable cost and reliable care."

Congressman Crowley joined other Democrats in supporting this landmark legislation that guarantees patients basic rights by

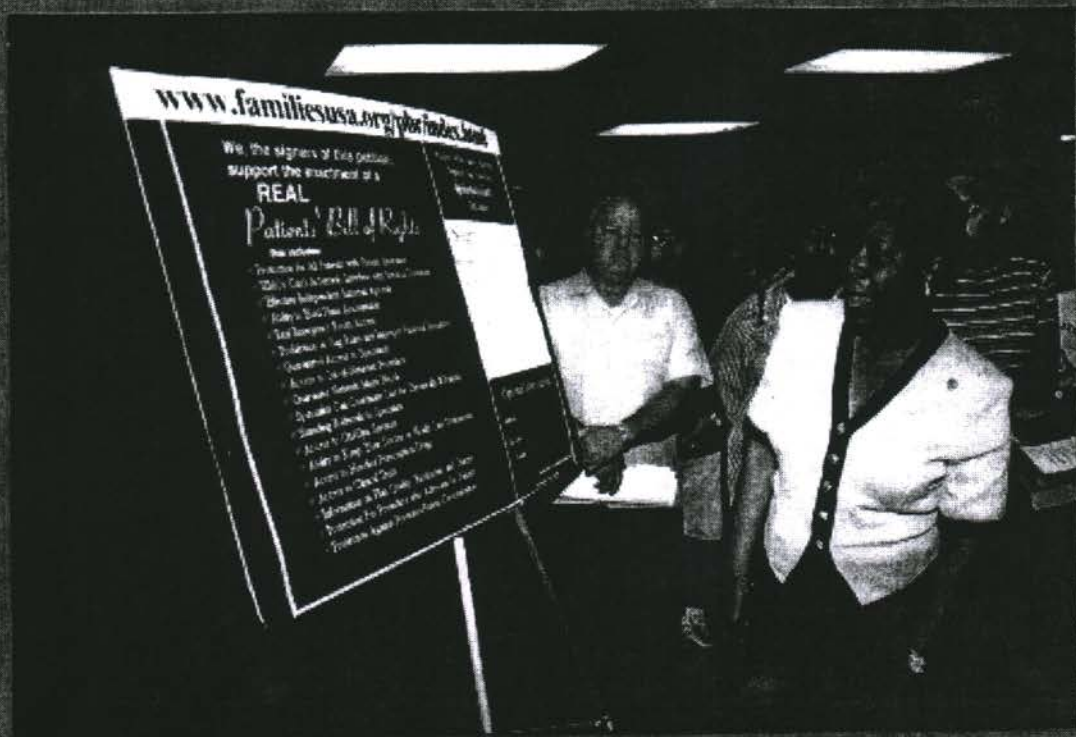
allowing people to choose their own doctors, ending oppressive "gag rules," thereby giving patients access to all critical treatment options, and establishing health care quality and information standards.

The Patients' Bill of Rights also responds to widespread complaints that when doctors or patients appeal a decision managed care plans are slow to act. "This lack of responsiveness can have

profound consequences because the decisions of a health plan makes about a patient's care can be a matter of life and death," Congressman Crowley said. The legislation would hold HMO's accountable by giving patients who are denied necessary medical coverage the right to appeal those decisions to an Independent board, and requiring timely resolution of

those appeals.

"It is Congress' responsibility to address the public's concerns about our nation's system of health care," said Congressman Crowley. "I will work hard to ensure that Congress passes the Patients' Bill of rights to protect the health care of the hardworking families of Queens and the Bronx, and throughout our country."



Phil -

99 APR 26 PM 10:28

Pls advise if there's anything
Janet can tell the Senator's
office.

Thanks -

Mindy

Janet is @ 62230

Janet/Mindy.

4/28

Biden's office has been calling Picchetti on this
as well. Jay Heimbach handled it and told
them it wasn't going to happen. You might check
with Jay to find out what he said so our
WH message is consistent. Bottom line though
is that it's not going to happen - Phil



United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D. C.

April 20, 1999

Ms. Janet Murguia
Deputy Assistant to the President and
Deputy Director of Legislative Affairs
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Janet:

Enclosed are the numerous letters that the Senator has sent to the President regarding his strong desire that the President recognize one of this country's greatest champions for civil rights, Judge Collin Seitz.

I know you understand the importance of this issue to the Senator as you have been kind to answer my numerous questions regarding the selection process. I was, however, concerned that a decision has not been made, especially given your December 22, 1998 letter in which you informed Senator Biden that "[t]he President should make his decision next month." While I certainly know that the President has been busy with much more difficult issues, I did want to reiterate our commitment to this effort and also wanted to ensure that this issue did not fall into a deep abyss in the White House.

No need to respond to this letter, unless of course, you have some good news for me. Thanks for your help.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alan L. Hoffman", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the left.

Alan L. Hoffman
Chief of Staff



GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY

Office of the President
Assistant for Federal Relations
Washington DC 20057

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN

4-28-99

The President of the United States

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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN

4-28-99

GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY

Office of the President
Assistant for Federal Relations

April 27, 1999

The President of the United States
The White House
Washington, DC

Dear Mr. President,

Georgetown University has been seeking to implement a unique exemplar energy system as an integral component of our modern science research and teaching facility. Georgetown University needs your assistance in bringing this project to fruition.

We seek to demonstrate microgeneration systems for buildings in urban institutions and remote communities which would be very much in keeping with the national interest in renewable energy technology and energy resource conservation.

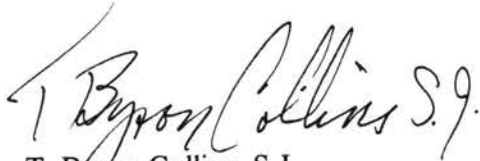
Our project aims to commercialize several available, but not yet widely marketed, technologies by integrating them into stand-alone on-site power generation and distribution systems for urban buildings or remote communities. Solar photovoltaics/electrolyzers and waste gasifiers together would supply hydrogen to fuel cells, providing electricity, heat, and fresh water while reducing greenhouse gas emissions and the institution's waste volume (without combustion). Georgetown University would focus on a system suited for the urban institutional setting in temperate climate zones. A parallel project, which is proposed by a team led by faculty at the University of Alaska Fairbanks, focuses on similar systems that would meet the engineering and social requirements of remote communities in polar regions of Alaska.

Representative Norman Dicks, as ranking minority member on the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior and Related Agencies, has agreed to promote this project in the funding process for the Department of Energy's programs for Building Technologies. We have been informed by staff in the Congress that funds for a project such as ours may well be available with existing funding for these programs, so that the debate over spending caps for FY 2000 may not be a hindrance to the advancement of this project. We are requesting \$7,000,000 in each of fiscal years 2000, 2001, 2002 for the GU requirements.

We have approached DOE's Office of Congressional Liaison through Mr. John Angell for an opportunity to discuss the project with appropriate officers of the Department. Although we have had a response, said meeting has not yet occurred.

Mr. President, your Alma Mater needs your assistance to bring this exemplar project to fruition. We prayerfully request, in particular, that you ask the DOE to apply some of the available FY'99 funds towards this project. Would you also encourage the department to include funds for the project in its FY'2000 budget?

Peace,


T. Byron Collins, S.J.


William L. George, S.J.



GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY

Office of the President
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GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY

Office of the President
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April 27, 1999

The President of the United States
The White House
Washington, DC

Dear Mr. President,

Georgetown University has been seeking to implement a unique exemplar energy system as an integral component of our modern science research and teaching facility. Georgetown University needs your assistance in bringing this project to fruition.

We seek to demonstrate microgeneration systems for buildings in urban institutions and remote communities which would be very much in keeping with the national interest in renewable energy technology and energy resource conservation.

Our project aims to commercialize several available, but not yet widely marketed, technologies by integrating them into stand-alone on-site power generation and distribution systems for urban buildings or remote communities. Solar photovoltaics/electrolyzers and waste gasifiers together would supply hydrogen to fuel cells, providing electricity, heat, and fresh water while reducing greenhouse gas emissions and the institution's waste volume (without combustion). Georgetown University would focus on a system suited for the urban institutional setting in temperate climate zones. A parallel project, which is proposed by a team led by faculty at the University of Alaska Fairbanks, focuses on similar systems that would meet the engineering and social requirements of remote communities in polar regions of Alaska.

Representative Norman Dicks, as ranking minority member on the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior and Related Agencies, has agreed to promote this project in the funding process for the Department of Energy's programs for Building Technologies. We have been informed by staff in the Congress that funds for a project such as ours may well be available with existing funding for these programs, so that the debate over spending caps for FY 2000 may not be a hindrance to the advancement of this project. We are requesting \$7,000,000 in each of fiscal years 2000, 2001, 2002 for the GU requirements.

We have approached DOE's Office of Congressional Liaison through Mr. John Angell for an opportunity to discuss the project with appropriate officers of the Department. Although we have had a response, said meeting has not yet occurred.

Washington DC 20057

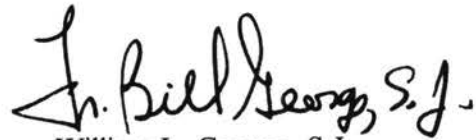
Tel: (202) 687-3455 FAX: (202) 687-1656

georgew@gunet.georgetown.edu

Mr. President, your Alma Mater needs your assistance to bring this exemplar project to fruition. We prayerfully request, in particular, that you ask the DOE to apply some of the available FY'99 funds towards this project. Would you also encourage the department to include funds for the project in its FY'2000 budget?

Peace,


T. Byron Collins, S.J.


William L. George, S.J.

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN
4-28-99

Family
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Don't Repeat Dayton's Mistakes in Kosovo

By MUHAMED SACIRBEY

Was Dayton Munich? Slobodan Milosevic's "ethnic cleansing" in Kosovo and his blatant challenge to NATO have more than ever put into question the 1995 peace agreement to end the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

It does not take several years of hindsight to recognize that Dayton relieved Mr. Milosevic of the stain of his aggression and genocidal aims in Bosnia. By promoting him as the indispensable partner, the best of bad choices, Dayton negotiators gave him a legitimacy that he did not deserve. They in effect gave him new political life, the opportunity of a new place and time to again reinvigorate his authoritarian hold by targeting a new enemy. In that sense, Richard Holbrooke became an unwitting midwife in Mr. Milosevic's rebirth.

If Dayton holds one overriding lesson for the Kosovo endgame, it is this: that Mr. Milosevic must not again walk away having been legitimized by an "agreement" that bears his signature.

The fate of Kosovo, of the peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina, of democracy and stability in post-Soviet Europe and indeed of NATO itself all imminently coincide in the war now raging in Yugoslavia. The lessons to be gleaned from our experience at Dayton and its aftermath are ones NATO ignores at its peril.

Toothless Promises

First, toothless promises of refugee return will not escape harsh historical judgment. NATO's stated objective, to ensure the national and human rights of the Albanian Kosovars, cannot be accomplished without the Kosovars returning permanently to reside in Kosovo, whatever its final status. This will most likely necessitate a meaningful commitment of NATO ground troops, whether deployed after a political agreement is reached or when NATO leaders judge a deployment most useful.

A similar promise to Bosnia's refugees, made at Dayton, has become a dead letter. This has proved to be the greatest obstacle to peace and normalcy in post-Dayton

of radicals, especially those who perpetrated the crimes of ethnic cleansing. As long as refugees do not return, the perpetrators of ethnic cleansing are emboldened to further the disintegration of Bosnia and Herzegovina by stealth, believing that the consequences of their crimes are becoming ever more irreversible.

Not only must the broken promises of refugee return not be repeated in Kosovo but, if our promises there are to be mean-

Mr. Milosevic most profited from the Dayton experience but because it placed him on the same stage as the world's most powerful democratic leaders.

ingful, the West must now act to provide the security and means for refugees within Bosnia and Herzegovina to return.

Second, any partition of Kosovo, no matter how expedient, would be disastrous both for NATO's credibility and for a region teeming with ethnic divisions fomented by years of nationalist propaganda.

Mr. Milosevic has his own strategy for an endgame. His orchestrated campaign of ethnic cleansing is intended to create "facts on the ground" that NATO will find logistically difficult to change. He will go as far as he can, including the exiling or killing of the last Albanian in Kosovo. However, as a bargaining tactic, he will offer half the spoils back in a partition deal in order to secure the other half, empty of Albanians.

As a U.S. official recently noted to me, Mr. Milosevic never gives in, he only bends. Dayton was a tactical retreat, but Rambouillet was a major threat to Mr. Milosevic's entire plan for an ethnically homogeneous Serbia. That is, for Mr. Milosevic the problem with Rambouillet was not the nature of autonomy (which he could massage in any fashion that suited him), but the democratizing influence of Western troops deployed within a state he now absolutely controls.

He would gladly part with half the ter-

90% Albanian population and avoid the influence of NATO elements within the borders of a country he now rules without accountability. His experience in Dayton leads him to believe that the Western democracies would rather legitimize the consequences of ethnic cleansing than commit the resources necessary to reverse it.

The consequences of accepting such an arrangement are infinitely unsettling. To

divide Kosovo would be to doom Bosnia, Macedonia and other states of the region to endless wars of partition and leave us hostage to the grand schemes of ethnic cleansers.

Third, Mr. Milosevic most profited from the Dayton experience because it placed him on the same stage as the world's most powerful democratic leaders. He converted this credibility into currency for repression at home and continued aggression in the region. And he used it to undermine the very peace agreement he committed to in Bosnia and Herzegovina.



Slobodan Milosevic

As Prime Minister Tony Blair recently put it: There is nothing more left to negotiate with Mr. Milosevic. What has been agreed to already is the bare minimum. And as the former prime minister of Yugoslavia, Milan Panic, has said, whatever deal is arranged to end the war in Kosovo, do not negotiate it or sign it with Mr. Milosevic. Unfortunately, NATO has not ruled out a deal with Mr. Milosevic; this may prove a fatal mistake. If he is there to negotiate or sign an

the Serbs will be confirmed.

The endgame of Kosovo has to be accompanied by an invigoration in the implementation of the Dayton Accords. Too often in the past, a trip to Belgrade and an appeal to Mr. Milosevic were the quick fix to a real or contrived obstacle in the implementation of Dayton. Unfortunately, this strategy has had the most corrosive effect on the peace process.

Three Pillars

None of this is to suggest that Dayton should be buried. We Bosnians have no better alternative. But neither can it be praised for restoring "peace" in Bosnia without the necessary commitment to its implementation. A dead-letter Dayton is the surest way to jeopardize the peace of Bosnia and the region as a whole. To this end, three pillars of the Dayton accords must be bolstered. The return of all refugees and full cooperation with the war crimes tribunal in the Hague are two. The third and crucial pillar is the supremacy of the constitution of Bosnia and Herzegovina, adopted within the agreement, and its creation of a secular, liberal, democratic European state.

The lesson of Dayton is not only that the nature and details of a peace agreement must punish the aggressors and achieve a measure of justice, but also that the success of peace is most decided by the personalities who sign the agreement. The ultimate judgment by history of the worth of this agreement will be determined by the faithfulness of its implementation.

The people of Kosovo can profit from these lessons. For Bosnia, we—the parties most responsible for the implementation of the accords—must recommit ourselves to the spirit and letter of Dayton. For the Western democracies and NATO, the culprits of war have been irreversibly revealed. The judgment of history will not be as kind if expediency is chosen the second time around.

Mr. Sacirbey, one of the signatories of the Dayton agreement, is Bosnian Ambassador

Diary of a High School Gunman Reveals a Plan to Kill Hundreds

A1

By JAMES BROOKE

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN
4-28-99

LITTLETON, Colo., April 26 — As he planned the assault on Columbine High School here, Eric Harris envisioned killing as many as 500 students and going on to attack neighboring homes and even hijack a jet and crash it in New York City, police investigators said today after reviewing a diary that he had kept for more than a year.

There is no evidence that Mr. Harris or his accomplice, Dylan Klebold, took steps to carry out the full scheme, but Steve Davis, a spokesman for the Jefferson County Sheriff's Department, said, "If in fact they were able to carry out their entire plan, there could have been quite a bit more damage and quite a few more fatalities." Mr. Davis said he had "no idea" why Mr. Harris had New York in mind. The officials did not release the contents of the diary.

As funerals were held today for 4 of the 13 victims of the suicide assault last Tuesday by the two seniors, who apparently brought 4 guns and as many as 30 pipe bombs to school, detectives questioned an 18-year-old girlfriend of one of the gunmen in an effort to determine whether anyone else knew of the plot.

"There is a female who I believe had access to this weapon prior to Tuesday," Dave Thomas, the Jefferson County District Attorney, said today, referring to the Tec-9 pistol recovered with the two young men's bodies. The manufacture of the assault-style semiautomatic pistol has been banned since 1994.

"We are looking into how she got access to that weapon, and what involvement she may have had," Mr. Thomas said.

The district attorney and the sheriff's spokesman emphasized that no arrests were imminent.

"We have not called her a suspect at the time, by any means," Mr. Davis said. "There is no arrest warrant either."

Responding to a reporter's question about the four guns found in the school, Mr. Davis said: "She was questioned on the handgun and the rifle, not the shotguns. Nothing has been confirmed as far as her supplying those weapons."

Mr. Davis has said that of the four guns recovered, the two shotguns appear to have been manufactured over 25 years ago. Records indicate that the pistol and the rifle were bought recently from a Colorado gun dealer, he has said.

Under Colorado and Federal law, a minor cannot own a handgun, and it is illegal to give or sell a handgun to someone under 18. It is legal for someone 18 or older to buy a handgun through a private sale, reached through a classified advertisement or a gun show. In contrast, federally licensed dealers are not allowed to sell handguns to anyone under 21.

In Colorado, where surveys indicate that almost half of households have guns, there are gun fairs almost every weekend. At these shows, private sellers do not have to conduct background checks on buyers.

Bomb squad investigators continued searching the school grounds today. Speaking with the cordoned-off school building in the background, Mr. Davis said there remained "many, many lockers to go through, many, many backpacks to go through."

Officials have concluded that the two seniors intended to destroy their school largely by exploding a 25-pound propane bomb in the kitchen. When the timing device failed, Mr. Davis said today, "there were indications that they had possibly tried to fire on that bomb."

Toxicology tests on the bodies of the two young men did not show any traces of drugs or alcohol, the Jefferson County Coroner's Office said today. Mr. Davis also said that investigators had not found any illegal drugs or drug paraphernalia in searches of their homes.

The parents of Mr. Harris and Mr. Klebold have hired lawyers and have not talked to police investigators since Wednesday, Mr. Davis said.

Officials today also briefly addressed complaints that the authorities had been made aware of threats by Mr. Harris, but did nothing.

The parents of Brooks Brown, a classmate of the gunmen, have said that they contacted the Jefferson County Sheriff's Department eight times last year with complaints that Eric Harris, a neighbor, had threatened their son. The parents, Randy and Judy Brown, say that after Eric

chipped the windshield of their son's car, he created a computer game that revolved around destroying their house and created a Web site that featured a death threat against their son and accounts of manufacturing and exploding pipe bombs.

Although Mr. Harris and Mr. Klebold were juveniles on probation at the time, Jefferson County detectives never investigated the complaints, the Browns have said. Today, Mr. Davis said that a "suspicious incident" report had been found. Later, he added, "This is part of the ongoing investigation and I do not want to make any comments about that right now."

Mr. Thomas, the prosecutor, said, "As far as I know, nothing was ever brought to my office."

While trading at the nation's four busiest stock exchanges came to a halt for one minute at noon today in honor of the 13 victims, this Denver suburb endured a numbing marathon of funerals. Three students and the one teacher who was killed, William Sanders, were buried.

About 2,500 people turned out for the funeral of Mr. Sanders, who had taught and coached at the school for 25 years. Last Tuesday as shots rang out at lunch time, Mr. Sanders, 48, jumped on a table and shouted for students to duck, and then to get out.

"He was running around, and I remember seeing him jumping over

the chairs and yelling 'Everybody get down!'" Lindsay Dowling, a student, recalled at the service. "I truly believe he saved my life and many other people's."

As Mr. Sanders ran through the halls, herding students to safety, he was shot twice in the chest. Students took him into a barricaded classroom and tried to keep his spirits up by showing him wallet photos of his wife and three daughters. A teacher spent hours on a cell phone getting advice for how to care for him, and many students have said they took off their shirts to help mop up blood. But Mr. Sanders died shortly after being freed by police.

"I just want to thank him for saving my life," Laurel Salerno, another student who escaped the cafeteria, said in a church overflowing with former and current students.

Nearby, 1,000 mourners attended the funeral of Cassie Bernall, a 17-year-old junior, who often wore a bracelet inscribed "WWJD," shorthand for "What would Jesus do?"

Last Tuesday, one of the attackers cornered her in the library, trained a gun on her and asked whether she believed in God. After a pause, students have recounted, Miss Bernall, a born-again Christian, answered deliberately, "Yes, I believe in God." She was then shot.

"Cassie died a martyr's death," the Rev. George Kristen of the West

Bowles Community Church said today. "She went to the martyr's hall of fame."

Later in the day, a funeral was held for Lauren Townsend, an 18-year-old senior who was captain of the girls varsity volleyball team. A National Honor Society member, Miss Townsend was to be the valedictorian at graduation ceremonies next month. Today, a letter arrived at her home here, offering her a college scholarship.

The last funeral of the day was for Daniel Rohrbough, a 15-year-old freshman, who was shot while he held an exit door open for other students. Mr. Rohrbough was last seen alive, running, screaming for his mother.

As temperatures rose in Denver, hundreds of people continued to make pilgrimages to a memorial site in a park near the high school. Many had to park half a mile away to add to the thousands of bouquets.

About 100 students from other high schools marched up to nine miles to the site. One held a placard that could be seen by passing cars, with a reference to the killers: "There are more of us than there are of them."

Another marcher, Morgen Warner, a junior from Jefferson County Open School, said: "I'm a teen-ager. This affects me more deeply than any adult could even begin to comprehend."

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Read
Podesta

are we cloning
this weapon
too? (with hand)

IX

The New York Times

TUESDAY, APRIL 27, 1999

In Colorado, Questions About Accomplices, 'Martyrs'

Girlfriend Asked About Weapons Used in School Shooting

By TOM KENWORTHY
Washington Post Staff Writer

LITTLETON, Colo., April 26—Police investigating the shooting rampage at Columbine High School questioned a young woman today who they believe may have knowledge of where the two gunmen, Dylan Klebold and Eric Harris, obtained two of the weapons they used to kill a teacher and 12 of their classmates.

The 18-year-old girl, described by Jefferson County District Attorney Dave Thomas as Klebold's girlfriend, has been cooperating with authorities and has not been detained, said Jefferson County Sheriff's Department spokesman Steve Davis. He declined to identify her or confirm reports it was Robyn Anderson, Klebold's date to the Columbine senior prom just four days before the shooting spree on April 20.

"There is not enough evidence to classify her as a suspect," Davis said.

Police now are relatively certain that Klebold and Harris were the only gunmen inside the school during the savage attack. But they are still searching for friends who may have known about or helped prepare for the assault, which a handwritten note composed by Harris revealed had been meticulously planned for at least a year.

Harris and Klebold died of gunshot wounds to the head, apparently self-inflicted, although police are not ruling out the possibility that it was a murder-suicide. The county coroner said tests showed no drugs or alcohol in their systems.

"I believe only two people were involved in the shooting itself," Thomas said this morning.

As investigators continued to comb through the school for evidence, a process that could go on for another two weeks, Davis said police have "high expectations" that other suspects will be identified and possibly arrested. Authorities, meanwhile, said they will not release information on complaints that Harris threatened other students and about his writings on the Internet in which he boasted of the pipe bombs he made and vowed to "kill and injure" as many "rich snobby people" as he could.

The parents of Columbine student Brooks Brown said they repeatedly went to Jefferson County authorities, taking downloaded copies of Harris's writings, but that sheriff's deputies apparently never followed through. Thomas, the district attorney, said that "as far as I know nothing was ever brought to our office" related to the complaints.

The complaints filed by Randy and Judy Brown, Davis said today, are now part of the official investigation into last Tuesday's shootings, and will not be made public.

A day after some 70,000 people attended a memorial service for the slain, the main thoroughfares of this suburban Denver community of 35,000 were still clogged at times with funeral processions and the traffic generated by thousands of mourners attending the funerals of three more students—Cassie Bernall, Lauren Townsend and Daniel Rohrbough—and a beloved Columbine teacher and girls softball and basketball coach, William "Dave" Sanders.

Sanders, who many say sacrificed his own safety only to die of his wounds in a second-floor classroom after students spent three frantic hours desperately trying to

save him, was remembered as someone who selflessly devoted himself to Columbine students for 24 years, almost literally to his last breath.

Recalling the last time he saw Sanders alive, shortly before the shooting began during the school's first lunch hour, Columbine principal Frank DeAngelis told an overflow crowd of 2,500 people at the Trinity Christian Center: "The one thing I regret in my entire life is that I did not give him a hug and tell him I love him. The next time I meet Dave Sanders I will give him that hug."

The father of three girls and the grandfather of 10, Sanders was the only teacher killed in the bloody rampage. He was an inspiration to generations of Columbine students, many recalled. "I love you and I will miss you," said Amber Burgess, one of many students who spoke at the funeral today.

Harris's diary, which police said was "many, many" pages long, outlined in chilling detail the two boys' plans for the 110th anniversary of Adolf Hitler's birth. Jefferson County Sheriff John P. Stone said that according to the diary, the gunmen—obsessed with German military history, violent computer games and the taunts of fellow students—planned to kill as many as 500 people, extend their rampage to surrounding neighborhoods and then hijack an airplane and fly it into New York City on a suicide mission.

Their more grandiose plans failed, said Davis, because of a "quick response" by sheriff's deputies and SWAT team members in quickly surrounding the high school. A large propane and gasoline bomb left by the gunmen in the school kitchen, authorities said,

could have engulfed the school in flames, but it failed to ignite even when the gunmen apparently shot at it.

Authorities also said today that the shooting spree by Harris and Klebold may have lasted just a half hour, significantly shorter than originally believed. Those early reports that the gunmen were firing for an hour or more, said Davis, may have come because officers were hearing other policemen firing their weapons.

Davis said investigators "don't have anything concrete" to indicate a third person was involved in the initial assault on the school, despite several eyewitness accounts by stu-

dents who said they saw a third individual accompanying Harris and Klebold as they ran toward the school across a soccer field, firing as they came.

Klebold's girlfriend is being questioned about two of the four weapons carried by the gunmen, a 9mm handgun and a 9mm rifle. Agents with the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms have traced those weapons to the point of purchase and are trying to determine how they got into the hands of Harris and Klebold. The two gunmen also used two sawed-off shotguns that were manufactured as early as the 1960s, which have not yet been traced.

The Washington Post
TUESDAY, APRIL 27, 1999

Blamed
to find him
is amazing and
very troubling
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Podesta

4-28-99

Foreign Affairs

THOMAS L. FRIEDMAN

Judgment Not Included

Articles about the shootings at Columbine High School contained two sets of initials you don't often see together: N.R.A. and AOL.

That the N.R.A., the National Rifle Association, should feel guilty about the Columbine massacres goes without saying. The idea that two high school kids were able to amass an arsenal that included an Intratec fingerprint-resistant, high-volume assault weapon; a Hi-Point 9-millimeter carbine; a sawed-off pump-action shotgun, and a sawed-off double-barreled shotgun should make anyone who opposes gun control ashamed.

But what about AOL, America Online, the Internet provider that housed the warped Web site of Eric Harris, one of the presumed student gunmen? According to The Times's reporting, the AOL Web postings attributed to Mr. Harris included instructions on how to build pipe bombs ("shrapnel is very important"), an illustration of a creature toting a shotgun and a knife while standing on a pile of skulls, and the song lyrics: "What I don't do I don't like. What I don't like I waste."

Should we be as worried about the Internet as the Intratec?

The short answer is no. AOL is not the equivalent of the N.R.A. — but that doesn't quite end the matter. Here's why: Assault weapons have only one purpose, and that is to kill other human beings. The Internet, alas, is everything and its opposite. It can be an incredible knowledge tool and an incredible microphone for hate. It can be a place where grieving Columbine students can come together to comfort one another and a place where a student outcast can nurse his grievances, research his revenge and find encouragement from neo-Nazis.

But precisely because the Internet is such a neutral, free, open and unregulated technology it means that we are all connected, but no one is in charge. The Internet is democracy, but with no constitution. It is Orwellian in the way it can connect us all, but with no Big Brother watching over us all. And therefore personal judgment and responsibility are critical when using this technology. The only filter is the one you bring in your own head or your own heart, and since kids often lack the judgment microchip, it is even more critical that parents and educators provide it.

Fortunately, some of those closest to this technology get it the best. After Columbine I called Steve Case, the C.E.O. of America Online. I expected

to hear him say: "AOL has nothing to do with this story. Goodbye." But he was clearly wrestling with it.

"I share the outrage that everyone feels about this incident," said Mr. Case, "and to the extent that there is an Internet connection — finding information about bomb-making or whatever — it is alarming and troubling. This is especially hard for me because I have spent most of my life building a medium that I want to be used for the better. But the Internet empowers people in ways that were not possible with television or newspapers. With these broadcast-type media there was a producer or an editor making decisions for the audi-

Guns kill,
Webs don't.

ence — deciding what they should see or hear. That simplified things, and it also deprived the audience of the full range of choices."

The Internet changes that by giving people unlimited choices and unlimited power to make them.

"When they have more choices," Mr. Case argued, "they have more responsibility to show good judgment. We can't unilaterally impose that judgment, and we shouldn't try. But we can try to offer certain tools like technological filters, and educate parents about them and encourage them to take some responsibility here. The same attention that parents should pay to what their kids watch on television, or how they use the telephone, has to be paid with the Internet, only more so, because this is an interactive technology with no editor. Instead of us trying to be the all-powerful censor, we are trying to encourage parents to take control of the dashboard. Technology can be a useful tool, but it can't be a replacement for caring, involved parents."

To put it another way, if we are all connected and no one is in charge in cyberspace, then cultivating citizens in the schoolyard or the backyard becomes that much more important. The more the Internet makes us all broadcasters, all researchers, all consumers and, alas, all potential bomb makers, the more critical it is that our teachers, parents and communities are still making us all citizens. □

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The New York Times

TUESDAY, APRIL 27, 1999

Blum / Sandy / Silb
Interesting
Brownstein
piece

RM

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN
4-28-99

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"I'm very frustrated and angry. There are people who came here the day before yesterday and are on a 12:30 flight to Holland," Mjeku said.

European countries say the U.N. criticism is unwarranted. And many countries have moved quickly to fulfill their quotas. Germany, for instance, moved rapidly to take a first installment of 10,000 refugees. Turkey has absorbed 4,000 more.

But even those countries that acknowledge taking longer say the delay is for good reasons.

For example, Sweden the country that Gashi wants to go to since a son lives there has taken only 287 refugees out of the 5,000 they have offered to accept.

Lars Fransen, head of the Swedish refugee delegation, said his country wanted to be sure that all European countries were sharing the burden equally before accepting a flood of refugees.

The Macedonian government, meanwhile, is watching the growing tide of refugees with alarm. Officials worry that the refugees, if allowed to stay, will overwhelm the country's fragile economy, sap its budget and strain health care, police and transport services.

Red Cross Official Visits Three U.S. POWs

By Richard Boudreaux

Los Angeles Times

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia President Slobodan Milosevic, in a bow to international humanitarian law, allowed a Red Cross official to pay a brief visit Monday to three American soldiers taken prisoner 26 days ago by the Yugoslav army.

Milosevic also said a Red Cross mission that fled Kosovo last month may return and "go anywhere" to search for tens of thousands of civilians missing in the beleaguered province, and to help the sick, the hungry, the wounded and the homeless.

Cornelio Sommaruga, president of the International Committee of the Red Cross, announced the Yugoslav leader's decisions after meeting with him for more than an hour. Some Yugoslav politicians saw the concessions as a tentative gesture toward ending NATO's month-old bombing campaign.

The three army soldiers were seized March 31 along the Yugoslav-Macedonian border and shown the next day on Serb TV with bruised faces and cuts. They are Staff Sgt. Andrew A. Ramirez, 24, of Los Angeles; Spc. Steven M. Gonzalez, 21, of Huntsville, Texas; and Staff Sgt. Christopher J. Stone, 25, of Smiths Creek, Mich. The meeting was the first between the three servicemen and any outsider since their capture.

"I was able to talk to them only a few minutes, but it was a normal talk," Sommaruga told reporters. "We looked into each others' eyes and shook hands very warmly. ... I cannot go any farther because our talk was not private."

"I've said what I can," he added. "Don't be worried."

In Los Angeles, a beaming Vivian Ramirez said Monday afternoon that her family was elated by the news that a Red Cross official had visited with her son and the two other soldiers.

"I've been on cloud nine all day and you couldn't get me down," Ramirez said as she stood in front of the elementary school where she works as a media specialist.

She said that Red Cross officials told her Monday morning that they found Andrew Ramirez in good condition. Hearing the news, she and her daughter Nadine hugged each other and "thanked the Lord," she said.

"I'm so excited," she said. "I don't know how I got here this morning. We just have to hang in there and be brave and hope that he'll be coming home soon. This wish has been answered, and now my second wish is that he will be released soon."

Ramirez said she was told by Red Cross officials that they gave her son the letters the family wrote to him several weeks ago, in which they expressed their love for him and told him about the outpouring of community support since his capture. He will be able to

write them a letter back, which will be delivered through the Red Cross, she said.

Although Yugoslavia is a signatory to the Geneva Convention, which requires access to war prisoners by designated third parties, Milosevic's government had, until Monday, rejected repeated Red Cross appeals to visit the soldiers. They are believed to be held in or near Belgrade.

Since being paraded on TV as trophies, the three soldiers have been ignored in the Yugoslav media. They have barely been mentioned since Spyros Kyprianou, speaker of Cyprus's parliament, arrived here April 7 in an effort to win their freedom and left empty-handed two days later, blaming continued NATO bombing.

The capture of a Yugoslav army lieutenant the following week produced a flurry of speculation but no known talks about a prisoner exchange. The officer, captured by ethnic Albanian rebels fighting for Kosovo's independence, was turned over to the U.S. army in Albania and later transferred to a NATO base in Germany. The Red Cross has visited him twice.

Sommaruga said the meeting with the three Americans produced no discussion about their release. More will be known on their condition, he added, after two Red Cross delegates, including a doctor, hold a formal private session with the soldiers that the Yugoslav Defense Ministry promised for Tuesday.

Some politicians here said the arrival of the Red Cross president, who had been demanding a meeting with Milosevic since April 5, means the Yugoslav leader is trying to encourage efforts by Russia to find a peace proposal acceptable to Yugoslavia and NATO. NATO is demanding autonomy for the ethnic Albanian majority in Kosovo, a province of Yugoslavia's dominant republic, Serbia.

"This is a calculated political message," said Predrag Simic, an adviser to Yugoslav Deputy Prime Minister Vuk Draskovic. "It may be Milosevic's way of saying we can make a deal."

Since a brutal campaign by his army and police drove hundreds of thousands of Albanians from Kosovo in the past month, Milosevic has been claiming victory over the rebel group. Monday he said the refugees are free to return, as is the Red Cross.

"We open all the roads to you," Sommaruga, the Red Cross official, quoted Milosevic as saying. "You will be able to go anywhere in Kosovo. But we cannot guarantee your safety from the (NATO) bombing."

BROWNSTEIN COMMENT: Progressive Leaders'

'Third Way' Faces Test

By Ronald Brownstein

Los Angeles Times

WASHINGTON When war in the former Yugoslavia first erupted in 1991, most of the core NATO powers were led by conservatives such as U.S. President Bush, British Prime Minister John Major and German Chancellor Helmut Kohl.

But when NATO leaders gathered in Washington last weekend to celebrate the organization's 50th anniversary and assess the unsteady state of its war in Kosovo almost all of them represented left-of-center governments. Apart from conservative French President Jacques Chirac, all the other seats at the head table are now held by baby boomers who consider themselves progressives: President Clinton, British Prime Minister Tony Blair and German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder.

Kosovo has rightly been called a test of NATO's future. But it is equally a test of what Blair has rather grandly christened this "new generation of leaders ... who hail from the progressive side of politics."

At home, most of this generation have committed themselves to defining a new progressive agenda on domestic issues a "third way" that threads a path through traditional conservative and liberal approaches. Now, in the crucible of Kosovo, they are trying to do the same in foreign policy.

Despite all the frustrations of the past month, in some ways they are succeeding. By intervening in Kosovo at all, they are leading the left away from the reflexive

resistance to the use of force that infused their parties from the 1960s through the 1990s a hostility evident even in their own younger anti-war activities.

Their decision to fight Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic departs just as clearly from the realpolitik calculation of vital national interests that led Bush and his contemporaries to reject intervention when Yugoslavia first began disintegrating eight years ago. Marrying a commitment to human rights with a tolerance for martial force, the Clinton-Blair generation is constructing a doctrine that might be called armed Samaritanism.

But the third-way leaders have not yet demonstrated that they can use force effectively enough to meet their objectives and efficiently enough to hold public support. In short, they have shown the left can once again start a war, if need be; they have yet to prove it can do what it takes to win one.

"The good news is that we are seeing the emergence of a third-way approach to foreign policy that accepts responsibility for maintaining order and for redefining NATO's mission," says Will Marshall, executive director of the centrist Progressive Policy Institute. "The execution of this interventionism is another question. We are feeling our way toward a new definition of where it is legitimate to apply force, and it has not been pretty."

The questions raised by the failure of the military campaign to prevent Milosevic's forced depopulation in Kosovo rise beyond issues of operational competence. They amount to a measure of character and conviction.

In domestic policy, the great (though exaggerated) knock against third-way politicians is that they triangulate to the squishy center of public opinion, sacrificing leadership to minimize risk. In Kosovo, critics on the right are already leveling the same indictment. Tart as ever, conservative New York Times columnist William Safire crystallized this critique when he derided NATO's course of airstrikes-only warfare as a strategy "neither to stop nor to ignore the aggressor, but to punish evil-doing in a low-risk manner."

That judgment is in one obvious respect unfair: The third-way leaders have already risked more in both political and military terms to prevent atrocity in the Balkans than their conservative predecessors did.

It's true that just before he left office, Bush threatened Milosevic with military force if he cracked down in Kosovo. But given Bush's unwavering refusal to intervene in the bloody wars that erupted in Croatia and Bosnia and the equally staunch resistance from Major, Kohl and then-French President Francois Mitterrand, the most prominent left figure in NATO at the time it is difficult to imagine that the threat would have translated into a war of the magnitude now under way.

Bush's aversion to intervention against Milosevic was rooted in his conviction that the great lesson of Vietnam was that the United States should not initiate any use of force unless it was willing to escalate all the way to a full-scale ground war, if necessary, to meet its goals. Inside the Bush administration, the consensus was that the chaos in Yugoslavia did not justify such a potentially vast commitment. That essentially ruled out force at all, since Europe would not fight without the United States.

With an eye on the 1995 NATO bombing campaign that helped push Milosevic to the bargaining table in Bosnia, today's crop of NATO leaders rejected the imprisoning assumption that their only choices in Kosovo were all or nothing; in that sense, Clinton's generation arguably has been less bound by the Vietnam precedent than Bush's.

"This is the post post-Vietnam generation," insists one senior Clinton administration official. "There is a very strong conviction in and around the administration that we could not allow ourselves to be paralyzed by the belief that you can't do anything unless you do everything."

Yet the past month has shown that the third-way leaders have not exorcised all their ghosts. From the

start, they have given enormous, even inordinate, priority to minimizing allied casualties and their attendant political risks. In that sense, Vietnam still seems to haunt their thinking, providing the shade of truth in Safire's damning group portrait.

With Blair leading the way, NATO now is inching its way out of that box with preliminary planning for a possible ground assault. That's overdue (and still too leisurely). No one should complain when a president or prime minister exhausts every alternative before sending young men and women into a ground war. But no one should cheer when leaders stubbornly ignore mounting evidence that their course isn't working. The guiding principle of the third way was to re-examine old assumptions in light of new realities. As the NATO leaders leave Washington still searching for a winning strategy, it may be time to apply that rigorous prism to the contention that air power alone can liberate Kosovo.

Asia's Financial Health Upgraded From Guarded to Stable

By Charles Wolf Jr.

Special to the Los Angeles Times

The much-publicized Asian economic crisis, which began with the collapse of the Thai baht in July 1997, is over. Instead, the economic performances of Asian countries now vary widely, some better than others.

When hospitals and doctors issue bulletins about the condition of a patient, the patient's progress is sometimes described as moving from "critical" to "guarded" to "stable." Applying the analogy, the Asian economic condition can be characterized as having progressed from "crisis" to "serious." Stability and significant real growth lie a year or two away.

To be sure, individual countries within the region still face major economic problems, with sharply different prospects for alleviating, let alone solving them. But the collective record is both better and more promising than the crisis rhetoric implies.

Consider the four original crisis countries: Thailand, South Korea, Indonesia and Malaysia. Following the mid-1997 collapse of the baht, these countries sustained asset deflation between 40 percent and 70 percent, currency depreciations between 30 percent and 80 percent and dramatic reversals of annual economic growth.

But Korea and Thailand have turned the corner. Gross domestic product is contracting at a much slower rate than in the previous year; by the end of 1999, the economies of the two countries will probably be growing again. Foreign direct investment has resumed in Korea and Thailand. Their foreign-exchange reserves have risen, slightly in Thailand and substantially in Korea. Moody and Standard & Poor have both upgraded Korea's international credit rating.

Indonesia and Malaysia are not yet experiencing a turnaround. Their GDP growth remains negative, their currencies weak (Indonesia) or inconvertible (Malaysia), and their assets continue to plunge in value. Political rather than economic factors predominantly account for the economic quagmire the two countries find themselves in. Until political stability and a favorable and predictable policy environment are realized, the outlook for Indonesia and Malaysia will remain dismal.

While Japan's and China's economic problems are serious, in neither is the term "crisis" appropriate.

Japan's problems predate and transcend the Asian financial crisis. Indeed, its problems have only been marginally affected by the meltdown. The Japanese economy has been stagnant for most of the 1990s, growing at an annual rate of nearly 1 percent; this year, it has contracted by 2 percent. This record is a striking contrast to Japan's performance in the '80s. The country's deep-seated structural problems include an industrial system driven by considerations of size, market share and exports, not profitability; a banking system weighed down by nonperforming loans; and a regulatory regime marked by the heavy hand of

E. J. Dionne Jr.

A World Safe for Socialism

The last thing the resolutely centrist and capitalist Democratic Leadership Council ever expected was a kind word to be said at one of its forums about—hold your breath!—socialism.

But the DLC, which came into being in part to wage an ideological war on its party's left wing, found itself playing host Sunday not only to President Clinton, as it often does, but also to four Western European leaders whose parties have socialist and social democratic roots. It was inevitable someone would bring up the S-word.

In truth, all four leaders—British Prime Minister Tony Blair, German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder, Dutch Prime Minister Wim Kok and Italian Prime Minister Massimo D'Alema—represent anything but old-style state socialism. All subscribe to versions of the "Third Way" approach to politics that Blair and Clinton have been marketing and that the DLC was celebrating.

Third Wayers are often defined negatively. Blair likes to say they are neither "old left" nor "new right," but a new home for those who would ally capitalist dynamism with social solidarity. "Our position is that enterprise and justice can live together," said Blair, an adept coin-
*// of aphorisms, "and that actually, in today's world, they have to."

But it fell to D'Alema to remind Clinton and the DLC of the perhaps awkward tradition represented on the platform. D'Alema's own Democratic Party of the Left was the Italian Communist party before it changed its name and approach.

D'Alema suggested that while all five leaders shared similar reformist principles, their "big problem" concerned a single word.

"There are words that in your civilization, in your history, sound difficult to understand or to accept," he said. "For example, we belong to the *Socialist* International, and I'm aware that this word is somewhat sensitive here"—at this moment, the crowd cracked up in laughter—"and I can see that we have avoided pronouncing this word here. But we should prevail over this fear of words."

Clinton smiled and retorted: "I'm not sure I would have you here, Massimo, if I were running for reelection."

That little moment captured both the promise and the difficulties with the Third Way. The Third Way does, indeed, represent a convergence across a broad range of political movements, center and left, on an approach to social reform. Third Wayers accept capitalism as a given but promise to do something about its inequities and uncertainties. They talk not of "socialism" but of "community," not of "collectivism" but of "solidarity."

To hear the Third Wayers talk Sunday was a refreshing alternative to the cant about "big government" vs. "small government." All agreed that government could be too bureaucratic; all spoke kind words for citizen involvement and decentralized decision-making.

But all accepted that government existed to help solve problems that couldn't be solved elsewhere, especially the difficulties faced by those displaced in the new economy. It was possible, as Blair said, for government to "get results," and to do so, as Schroeder said, by using the "trial and error" principle that we seem to accept in every other part of life except where government is concerned.

But the fact that Third Wayism seems like common sense is a problem as well as a strength. Anyone who accepts at least some role for government would seem to be a potential Third Wayer. Writing in the current issue of *Dissent*, economist Jeff Faux argues that "the Third Way has become so wide that it is more like a political parking lot than a highway to anywhere in particular."

Faux and other Third Way critics underestimate the extent to which the Third Way ideas have begun to change politics. Clinton, Blair and their friends have moved the political debate away from an outright rejection of government. Voters have signaled that they will not passively accept any outcome the global marketplace happens to force on them. Kok's government in the Netherlands, more adventurous than either Blair's or Clinton's, has promoted innovations to make labor markets flexible while keeping unemployment low and preserving core social benefits.

Still, the Third Way has largely been a successful defensive effort—it ended the Reagan-Thatcher era and gave liberals and, yes, socialists presentable new clothes to wear. The Third Wayers' real challenge comes now that they hold power in so many places: To make their marriage of "enterprise and justice" as happy in practice as Blair makes it sound in theory.

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The Washington Post

TUESDAY, APRIL 27, 1999

4-28-99

Innovation Comes to Chicago Public Schools

By JULIA VITULLO-MARTIN

Educating poor public school children seems an intractable problem in most big U.S. cities. But the Chicago public school system—once among the worst in the country—has set itself on a promising path.

Combining hands-on management from City Hall, back-to-basics teaching methods and tough disciplinary policies, Chicago has had three years of rising test scores in every category and every grade level. Truancy is down. And parents are responding. Following 13 years of decline, enrollment has climbed 30,000 to 427,000 over the past three years.

Mayor Richard M. Daley is central to Chicago's success. In 1995 the Illinois Legislature gave him sweeping managerial control over the schools, their unions and their \$3 billion-plus budget. In no other big city does the mayor have so much authority over education.

Some of Mr. Daley's aides and many of his enemies thought the schools were so hopeless he was bound to fail. But he seized on the opportunity to make radical changes. First, he took management of the schools away from professional educators and gave it to trusted aides from City Hall. Former chief of staff Gery Chico became president of the board and former budget director Paul Vallas chief executive officer. Responsibility begins and ends with the mayor, says Mr. Vallas—and every city agency knows it. "We don't have problems with cops working in schools, or getting drug houses [near schools] closed, or having rapid-response teams assigned," he says. "Nor do we have a board circumventing the CEO."

Second, even as Mayor Daley made peace with the teachers union, he dismissed the 17 unions in charge of school repairs. He authorized the central board and individual schools to contract with private firms.

Third, he balanced the budget, eliminating a \$1.3 billion deficit, and cut 13% of the central administrative staff without laying off a single classroom teacher.

But as Mr. Vallas has said repeatedly, balancing the budget is easy; improving things in the classroom is the real challenge. The triumvirate stress high standards and discipline.

Chicago has become the only big-city

school system to end "social promotion," the practice of sending students to the next grade whether or not they are performing at grade level. Mr. Vallas says that when the Daley team took over in 1995, they found that 9,700 of 1994's 27,000 high school graduates were reading at the sixth-grade level or below. Starting with eighth-grade students in 1996, the system required that students score above a cutoff on the Iowa Test of Basic Skills to be promoted. Those who scored low had to go to summer school; those who still didn't pass had to repeat the grade. In 1997 the third and the sixth grades likewise became "promotional gates."

To help close the academic deficit, Chicago has expanded after-school and summer-school programs. The schools are open and working into the evening year-round. Some 40% of the students attend the extended school-day program called Lighthouse, which offers evening academic and recreational programs as well as dinner. About 40% attend summer school. "A 185-day



Richard M. Daley

year is just not enough," says Mr. Vallas.

Is it working? Of the 7,756 eighth-graders held back in June 1998, 61% were promoted after summer school, and another 10% made it after an additional semester of help. And removing failing students has a beneficial effect on the classroom. "We've seen important changes in the culture of low-performing high schools, particularly among freshmen and sophomores," says Alfred G. Hess, director of the Center for Urban School Policy at Northwestern University. "Because the kids who did not make it through the gates are not present, you don't have anyone saying it's dumb to work hard and get good grades."

Under the new regime, Chicago schools also have far less tolerance for misbehavior. A student can be expelled to an alternative school for bringing a weapon to school or for being absent for more than 20 days. A student can also be expelled for commit-

ting a crime even while not at school. "If you're dangerous on Saturday, you'll be dangerous on Monday," says Mr. Vallas.

Administrators and teachers are also held accountable. No administrator except the inspector general has a contract guaranteeing employment. Principals no longer have tenure; Mr. Vallas removed 36 principals last year and estimates that he will remove another five or six this year. Although teachers have tenure and some state job protections, any good principal can move an ineffective teacher out of the system within a year, says Mr. Vallas. The system used to get rid of two or three bad teachers a year, he says; this year, it will dismiss 50 to 60.

Unlike most public-school heads, Mr. Vallas isn't afraid of private educational institutions. "We don't limit ourselves to just one way," he says. "On any given day we pay tuition for 2,000 pupils enrolled at corporate training academies, colleges and private institutes. We buy honor space in 13 universities, including the University of Chicago and Northwestern, for our best students." And unlike many superintendents, Mr. Vallas supports charter schools. Under state legislation, Chicago is allowed 15 charter schools. It has 14 in operation; Mr. Vallas closed one for poor performance.

Mr. Vallas, who went to a parochial school in a working-class neighborhood, has urged the Archdiocese of Chicago, whose own schools suffer from declining enrollment, to apply for a charter. "They can propose as many schools—we'll call them campuses—as they like under one charter," he says. "Our city is slowly losing the people and their knowledge and abilities as they close their schools. We'd rather not have the city lose that kind of resource."

Because the schools had been so bad, rising test scores do not mean Chicago students are now where they should be. Just 35% of elementary school students and 29% of high school students test at or above the national average in reading. Despite many successes and innovations, the struggle has just begun.

Ms. Vitullo-Martin edited "Breaking Away: The Future of Cities" (Twentieth Century Fund Press, 1996).

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

TUESDAY, APRIL 27, 1999

ce: HRC

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is this combination?
A way out of the voucher
debate?

RC

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Reed
Podesta
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April 19, 1999

99 APR 28 PM 4:12

The Honorable Bill Clinton
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20500-2000

Dear Mr. President:

I have received from Chris Edley an
in response to the findings of our Advis

This promises to be one of the most
made in this country on this complex sub
to you for putting it before the America

I believe that the release of this
way that will somehow overcome the skept
responded to so much of the work of our
the most favorably received and reported
Board was the one last March in Oxford,
thousand people of all races gathered on
highly acclaimed and very constructive c
it was probably the best meeting that we had all year.

Let me suggest that you give consideration to making this the
setting for your presentation of your Report on Race. Coming to Ole
Miss to do this would be as dramatic as going to Central High School.
I can assure you of a warm and hospitable reception. And besides you
are overdue for a visit to Mississippi.

Sincerely,

Bill
William F. Winter

WFW/sjt

cc: Ben Johnson
Mike Wenger

Send to Buskhardt?

Yes ☒

No ☐

Coordinate w/
Ben Johnson

4-28-99

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Date 4/30

To: Meredith Cate

From: The Staff Secretary

For appropriate
action, if any. If nothing
can be done, you might
want to let Nancy know.

Phil

MIKE BEEBE

SENATOR
21ST DISTRICT

211 WEST ARCH AVENUE
SEARCY, ARKANSAS 72143-5331



THE SENATE
STATE OF ARKANSAS

Shoob
CHAIRMAN:
EFFICIENCY
COMMITTEES:
MEMBER:
JUDICIARY
INSURANCE & COMMERCE
JOINT COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN & YOUTH

FAX TRANSMITTAL

99 APR 30 AM 10:31

DATE: 4-29-99

RE: Dr. Larry Killough

TO: Nancy Hemreich

FROM: Senator Mike Beebe

FAX NUMBER: 202-456-6703

TOTAL NUMBER OF PAGES (INCLUDING COVER SHEET): 8

For your information and review, please find a copy of a letter dated January 12, 1999, from Roger Adams, which is addressed to Dr. Larry Killough, a letter dated June 4, 1991, along with the attached Proclamation from Chandra Holly-Hicks, a letter from Karl Stankovic, a letter dated October 27, 1998, from Vic Snyder and a letter addressed to Vic Snyder from Steven Pirotte.

Your assistance in helping Dr. Larry Killough would be greatly appreciated.

LIGHTLE, BEEBE, RANEY, & BELL AND SIMPSON FAX NO. (501)268-5306



STATE OF ARKANSAS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
State Capitol
Little Rock 72201

Bill Clinton
Governor

June 4, 1991

Dr. Larry E. Killough
Killough Medical Center
57 Country Club Circle
Searcy, AR 72143

Dear Dr. Killough:

This letter is to confirm that Governor Clinton has granted you a conditional pardon. The pardon is not effective until you are granted relief from your federal disabilities.

I have attached two proclamations so that you can forward one to the Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms when you apply for restoration of your firearm rights and you can retain one for your records.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Chandra Holly-Hicks

Chandra Holly-Hicks
Pardon and Extradition Attorney

Enclosures

CHH:je

cc: David Guntharp
Assistant Director of Field Services
Arkansas Department of Correction

Board of Parole and Community Rehabilitation
Arkansas State Police, Identification Bureau

*I did this
PROMPTLY*

STATE OF ARKANSAS

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

PROCLAMATION

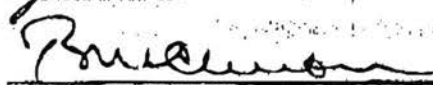
TO ALL WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME ... GREETINGS:

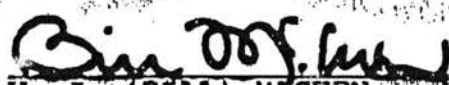
WHEREAS, Larry Killough was convicted in United States District Court for the Eastern District of Arkansas, Pulaski County, Arkansas,

WHEREAS, The State Board of Parole and Community Rehabilitation has recommended that a conditional restoration of State rights, including the right to own and possess firearms, be granted;

NOW THEREFORE, I, BILL CLINTON, by virtue of the power and authority vested in me as Governor of the State of Arkansas, do hereby conditionally restore all rights, privileges and immunities enjoyed prior to conviction, including the right to own and possess firearms; provided, however, that no such restoration is effective until a federal removal of disabilities has been granted.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed hereto the Great Seal of State in the Governor's Office, Little Rock, Arkansas this June day of 1991.


BILL CLINTON
GOVERNOR


W. J. (BILL) MCCUEN
SECRETARY OF STATE





DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY
BUREAU OF ALCOHOL, TOBACCO AND FIREARMS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20226

1992

LE:F:F:VCP
3270.4

Mr. Larry Ray Killough
75 Country Club Circle
Searcy, Arkansas 72143

Dear Mr. Killough:

This is in reference to your application for restoration of your Federal firearms privileges.

As a result of the passage of Public Law 102-393, approved on October 6, 1992, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) is prohibited from acting upon or investigating applications for relief from Federal firearms disabilities under 18 U.S.C. section 925(c).

Because the new law does not allow ATF to continue the processing of existing applications for relief from Federal firearms disabilities, we are terminating further action on your application. You should be advised that this new law does not change your status as a prohibited person. You are still prohibited from possessing, receiving, transporting, or shipping firearms under Federal law.

Should Congress act to remove the restrictions currently imposed, you will need to submit an updated application for restoration of your Federal firearms privileges.

Sincerely yours,

Karl L. Stankovic

Karl L. Stankovic
Special Agent in Charge
Firearms Enforcement Branch

*Mike - I was told by ATF that
my application would have
been approved!*

VIC SNYDER

20 DISTRICT, ARKANSAS

HOME OFFICE:
1527 FEDERAL BUILDING
700 W. CAPITOL AVENUE
LITTLE ROCK, AR 72201-3270
(501) 324-5941
TDD (501) 324-5922

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0402

COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL SECURITY
COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

WASHINGTON, DC OFFICE:
1319 LONGWORTH BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-0402
(202) 225-2506
SNYDER.CONGRESS@MAIL.HOUSE.GOV

October 27, 1998

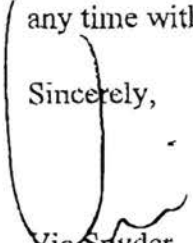
Dr. Larry Killough
103 Woodlane
Searcy, Arkansas 72143

Dear Dr. Killough:

Enclosed, please find a copy of the latest report concerning your case.

As soon as I have additional information regarding this matter, I will contact you. Please call any time with your questions or concerns.

Sincerely,


Vic Snyder
Member of Congress

VS:rw

*I appreciated
Congressman Snyder
inquiring about
this matter*
JBX

EXECUTIVE
ASSISTANTDEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY
BUREAU OF ALCOHOL, TOBACCO AND FIREARMS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20226

RECEIVED

Honorable Vic Snyder
Member of Congress
1527 Federal Building
700 West Capitol Avenue
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201

Dear Mr. Snyder:

This is to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated October 1, 1998, written on behalf of your constituent, Dr. Larry Killough.

The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) recognizes the importance of your commitment to your constituents. We at the Bureau hold ourselves responsible for providing the same high standard of service to both you and the public. A thorough and informative response is currently being prepared and will be forwarded as soon as possible.

While your response is being prepared, you and your staff might be interested in the enclosed information regarding ATF. I also encourage you and your staff to visit our Web site at www.atf.treas.gov, where a variety of resources and information about the Bureau are available.

Sincerely yours,

Steven J. Pirotte
Executive Assistant
(Legislative Affairs)

Enclosure

*Apparently Congressman
Snyder never heard from
Mr. Pirotte*

L. Killough



U. S. Department of Justice

Pardon Attorney

Washington, D.C. 20530

JAN 12 1999

Larry Ray Killough, M.D
75 Country Club Circle
Searcy, AR 72143

Dear Dr. Killough:

Your pardon application has been carefully considered in this Department and the White House, and the decision has been reached that favorable action is not warranted. Your application has therefore been denied. There is no appeal from this decision.

As a matter of well-established policy, we do not disclose the reasons for the decision in a pardon matter. In addition, deliberative communications pertaining to agency and presidential decision-making are confidential and not available under existing Freedom of Information/Privacy Acts case law.

Sincerely,

Roger C. Adams

Roger C. Adams
Pardon Attorney