



The Phyllis Schlafly Report

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Health Care “Compromises” Go From Bad to Worse

President Clinton’s big mistake was to release his health care bill last year. It died after enough people read the scary details. The Administration’s game plan now is to revive it under other labels, such as Mitchell or Gephardt, but keep the text secret as long as possible so the details cannot be adequately scrutinized.

Senator George Mitchell’s bill creates 50 new bureaucracies, 815 new responsibilities for Secretary of Health and Human Services Donna Shalala, 83 new responsibilities for Secretary of Labor Robert Reich, and 175 new responsibilities for the states.

The Mitchell bill requires every insurance policy to conform to a federal “standard benefits package” that includes substance abuse, mental health, “comprehensive family planning” and pregnancy-related services (*i.e.*, contraceptive drugs and abortion). This will force many Americans to pay for services they don’t want or need and force all employers to pay for abortion coverage for their employees.

The Mitchell bill prohibits catastrophic plans that don’t provide every category of federally defined benefits. Big Brother is determined to decide exactly what kind of health insurance you must buy.

Under the Mitchell bill, any individual who chooses to buy better insurance coverage than the government’s standard plan must pay a 25 percent tax on the excess premium — unless the individual is a

member of a union, in which case he is exempted from this tax. How’s that for discriminatory special-interest legislation?

The Mitchell bill mandates modified “community rating.” This means everyone in the community must pay the same health insurance premiums (taxes) regardless of health risk, and it forces younger workers to pay much higher premiums than they do now.

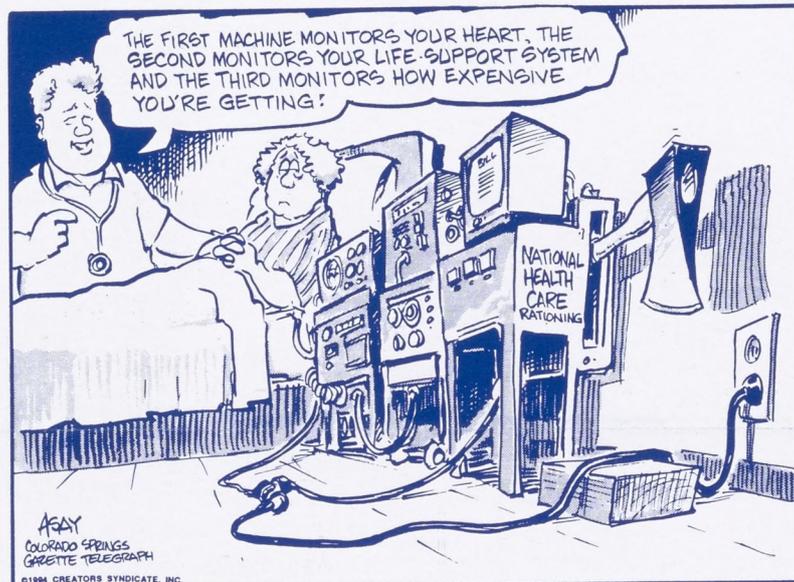
The Mitchell bill requires that, whenever health care spending exceeds a federally imposed limit, the government will simply cut its subsidies. The predictable result will be shortages and rationing.

The Mitchell bill allows medical researchers access to the individual medical records of all Americans without their consent. Are you ready for federal

bureaucrats to decide whether research projects are “of sufficient importance to outweigh the intrusion” into your medical privacy?

The Mitchell bill’s anti-discrimination language goes well beyond existing civil rights laws and would cause a litigation nightmare. This is apparently a surreptitious attempt to use health care to legislate Senator Ted Kennedy’s Employment Non-Discrimination bill, which provides special rights for homosexuals in employment.

Under the “Miscellaneous Provisions” subtitle, the Mitchell bill allows individuals to sue employers and health plans for “discrimination” in not hiring an



applicant, or in terminating an employee, if that employment decision denies (or tends to deny) the individual access to health coverage. Claims of discrimination could be based on language, income, and sexual orientation, as well as on race, sex, disability, and religion.

The Mitchell bill removes the \$300,000 cap on compensatory and punitive damages in discrimination lawsuits, a compromise that was crucial to passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1991. In other words, the Mitchell bill would create a right to a job as a means of getting health insurance — but only for those in protected classes who enjoy the right to sue for discrimination.

The Mitchell bill assesses a 1.75 percent excise tax on every health insurance premium sold in America, regardless of cost. These funds will be channelled into medical schools and residency programs under federal regulations that will limit the number of specialists to be trained and dictate that available slots be allocated on the basis of gender, race, and ethnic background.

Under the Mitchell bill, family planning clinics and other “services for pregnant women” can be classified as “essential community providers.” The bill mandates the expansion of abortion services to “underserved” areas that currently lack a local abortionist. State

laws that place restrictions on payment for abortions may be challenged as impermissible “limitations” on the guaranteed benefits package.

The Mitchell bill includes funding for school-based or school-linked health service sites (popularly known as condom clinics) and “health” (*i.e.*, sex) education beginning in kindergarten.

The Mitchell bill dictates that, if 95 percent of Americans don’t have health insurance by the year 2000, the “National Health Care Cost and Coverage Commission” must submit legislative recommendations to Congress on how to insure the uninsured. If Congress fails to pass this legislation by December 31, 2000, the Mitchell bill will “trigger” automatic employer and individual mandates in those states that have not reached the 95 percent threshold.

The 95 percent coverage requirement will be calculated on the “resident population of the United

States,” language that includes illegal aliens. If the Mitchell mandates are triggered, an estimated 100 million Americans will become eligible for government assistance, making this the largest federal welfare program ever.

The more Congress pretends to “compromise” the health care bill, the more authoritarian and socialistic it gets. No health care bill should be voted on until the American people have had a chance to analyze the details.

The Shenanigans of Health Care

The woman who doesn’t like to be called First Lady has used her First Lady position to get by with actions that no other man or woman could get by with. If it were not impossible to fire her, she would have long since followed Bernard Nussbaum, Webster Hubbell, David Watkins, and Roger Altman out of town.

With great fanfare at the start of his Administration, President Clinton announced that Hillary Rodham Clinton had accepted the challenge of developing his Administration’s national health care policy. Oh, the glory of it all — to be in charge of our nation’s number-one domestic issue!

She promptly proceeded to act as though she didn’t have to obey the laws

that were written for mere mortals. While Congressmen fell all over themselves seeking photo ops with her, the Association of American Physicians and Surgeons (AAPS) kept doggedly at the task of trying to get the courts to rule that Mrs. Clinton is not above the law. AAPS’s 18 months of legal work paid off when U.S. District Court Judge Royce C. Lamberth ruled that the case must go to trial.

The law in question, the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), requires federal task forces and working groups to meet in public if they include both federal employees and persons who are **not** federal employees. The principle behind that law is very sound.

If all the members of a task force or working group are government employees, they can meet behind closed doors because they are presumed to be doing what they are paid for. But if the meetings



include both federal employees and outside groups, the public has a right to know who attends so we can expose their conflicts of interest and judge whether or not the government's decisions were influenced by special interests.

But Mrs. Clinton surrounded her Health Care Task Force and its Working Group — the membership, the actions, and the records — with a veil of secrecy. For a year and a half, the White House and Justice Department lawyers defending Mrs. Clinton concealed the names of about 350 non-federal employees of the Working Group by the subterfuge of calling them fulltime “special government employees and consultants.”

In August 1994, the Justice Department lawyers completely changed their story and admitted that Mrs. Clinton's Working Group was largely made up of representatives of special interest groups. The new rationalization for keeping everything secret is that the Working Group had no influence with President Clinton, that the participants were just an “anonymous horde” of persons brainstorming ideas.

The trouble with the new story is that Ira Magaziner is already on record as telling the court how important and influential the Working Group was. He told the court that “the President announced” its creation, that its participants “examined alternatives” to be considered, that it was preparing comprehensive health care reform legislation, that “coordination” was essential, and that the results of the Working Group's actions would be presented to the Administration through seven so-called “tollgates.”

The Working Group's documents that have already been released under court order make abundantly clear why the White House resorted to legal chicanery to keep everything secret, even in the face of AAPS's lawsuit. Those 350 non-federal employees on the Working Group represented special interests that stood to reap financial gain from a federal takeover of the entire health care industry. The most notable examples of these special interests were representatives of the Kaiser Family Foundation, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, Aetna and Prudential, all of which are aggressive promoters of

Managed Care. Managed Care is the system of having bureaucrats (instead of doctors and patients) control all health care spending and treatment.

AAPS's lawsuit has also exposed the deceit of the White House claim that it spent only \$100,000 on this project when, in fact, the cost was somewhere between \$4 million and \$20 million. And now the White House is arguing that all that expenditure of taxpayer funds and all those meetings didn't mean anything! Were Hillary's Task Force and Working Group just a hoax?

The bottom line of all this is that the Clinton Administration can't be trusted to tell the truth to the American people about health care. That's why Clinton's spin doctors told him to rechristen his plan as the Gephardt and Mitchell plans in the hope that the American people will be deceived.

But that won't wash because the staffers who are writing the Gephardt and Mitchell plans are the same

ones who worked on the Clinton plan. At least 69 staff members from liberal Democratic Congressional offices and at least 43 staffers from liberal Democratic Senators' offices were part of Hillary Rodham Clinton's secret Working Group. Incidentally, all Republican staffers were excluded from the Working Group, so Clinton's appeals for “bipartisanship” are as phony as his

campaign promise to cut taxes on the middle class.

The Association of American Physicians and Surgeons, a 70-year old organization of conservative doctors, is to be congratulated for its leadership. Doctors who would like to join can write to AAPS, 1601 N. Tucson Blvd., Suite 9, Tucson, AZ 85716.



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Stop Trying to Treat Christians Like Smokers

Bigotry is back in style. All of a sudden, such words as "Christian," "religious" and "fundamentalist" have become trendy epithets of scorn and smear, obviously calculated to stir up hatred, division and fear.

Where, oh where, are the people who, for the last several years, have been preaching the Holy Commandments of "tolerance," "diversity," "nonjudgmentalism," "multiculturalism," and "Big Tent"? They seem to have gone under a rock somewhere, while Christian-bashing has stormed into fashion.

Three disparate groups have joined the assault, each seeking its separate political goal. And, of course, the media find it exciting to report; it stirs the juices, and groups can be baited to make critical comments back and forth in 20-second soundbites.

As chairman of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee, Rep. Vic Fazio's (D-CA) assigned task is to elect Democrats to Congress in the November elections. Having pondered the impending loss of 25 to 50 Democratic seats, plus the inadvisability of debating Clinton's agenda or behavior, he decided he would rather fight a straw man.

So Fazio called a news conference and unleashed a vitriolic attack on the "fire-breathing Christian radical right." That started an orchestrated smear campaign. Democratic consultant Mark Mellman launched his own broadside against "card-carrying members of the flat earth society." The White House Bulletin quoted one Administration official as characterizing the involvement of Christians in politics as "a cancer in the Republican Party."

Democratic Party Chairman David Wilhelm chimed in, saying that the GOP is "under the sway of radical Christian conservatives." The *New York Times* laced its news reports with charges that "fervent Christians" and "foot soldiers of fundamentalism" are "retrograde forces."

Joycelyn Elders has always been a loose cannon. During her tenure in Arkansas, she demonized her opponents as "very religious non-Christians" and the Catholic Church as the "celibate male dominated church." She says Clinton "loves" what she is doing.

The second group that has joined the sport of Christian-bashing is the liberal, country-club Republicans who were left in the shadows during the Reagan years and are now trying to take control of the Republican Party away from the conservatives. Since the Republican liberals don't have enough warm bodies to win Party primaries or conventions, they prefer to fight Party battles in the media.

The liberal Republicans would rather lose with their own nominees than allow conservatives to win.

Liberal Republicans are the kind of people who switched to support Lyndon B. Johnson rather than allow Barry Goldwater to be elected President.

The new voters who have come into the Republican Party because of moral and social issues are the principal reason why Republicans have won so many elections starting in 1980. Republican candidates lost big-time in the years when the so-called Religious Right wasn't around to help. Barry Goldwater could have been elected President in 1964, and Gerald Ford could have been elected President in 1976, if they had had the votes of the so-called Religious Right.

The third leg of the Christian-bashing cabal is the group that hates Christians and wants to push them completely out of public, political and commercial life. Essentially, their game plan is to treat Christians like our society has begun to treat smokers.

This means that Christians will be tolerated so long as they don't mention anything about religion in any public, party or school gathering. The aim is to make Christians embarrassed to admit, much less profess, their faith in public, and reduce them to the status of smokers catching a quick smoke in a dark alley.

This aggressive secularist drive is the explanation for the Clinton Administration's proposed EEOC guideline banning from the workplace as "discrimination" even the simplest expression of religion, such as wearing a cross or bringing a Bible to work. Fortunately, this malicious proposal was repudiated by Congress.

Prior to the mid-1970s, the party apparachiks could safely ignore Christians because the percentage of church-going Christians who voted was too small to appear on the radar screen of party officials and campaign consultants.

The emergence of the pro-family movement, starting in 1975, changed all that, and machine-building politicians of both parties resent the entry into the political process of blocs of voters they can't control and can't buy.

Thus, demonizing Christians serves the political goals of all three factions: the Democrats who are desperately trying to win the 1994 elections, the liberal Republicans who seek to take over the Party and reduce conservatives to peons who provide the votes but never select the nominees, and the aggressive secularists whose goal is to put religion in the closet and pretend it doesn't exist except in private.

It's in the best interests of all Americans to identify and repudiate this systematic campaign of bigotry and epithets directed against Christians and religious conservatives. Political campaigns should be about issues and the candidates, not about roasting religion.