

The "hostage" situation in the Senate was particularly tense because the Democrats needed both Nelson's and Lieberman's votes to get the 60 required to prevent a Republican filibuster.



Courtesy of the Cornell University Library.



The Senate Finance Committee approved a bipartisan bill which the Senate passed by more than a three-quarters majority. It was widely suspected that the Senate was bowing to the pressure of health industry...



MMA also pushed in the direction of the privatization of Medicare by giving private insurance companies a large role in the administration of the new drug benefit.



Clinton zig-zagged politically trying to solve specific problems and answer criticisms. While the proponents of reform battled over principles and priorities, to take advantage of the disarray among the Democrats and moderate Republicans. Democrats did not unite and wholeheartedly embrace the plan, while conservatives, libertarians, and vested interests actively opposed it. As the battles proceeded, health reform seemed increasingly unlikely to emerge from its amphibian state.



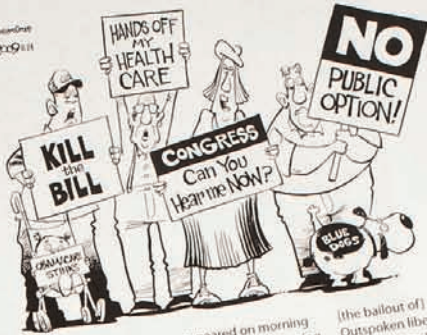
HISTORY OF MEDICINE Healthy—and Humorous—Debate

PAGE TURNER: Featuring more than 200 examples of editorial cartoons, a new history offers an entertaining review of 100 years of often rancorous wrangling over health care reform. "Unlike the pain involved in our political struggle, cartoons deliver their uncomfortable truths with such irreverent wit and visual imagination that you can't help but chuckle," says Theodore Brown, a historian of medicine, public health, and health policy at Rochester. He is one of four authors of *The Quest for Health Care Reform: A Satirical History*, published in October by the American Public Health Association.

PHOTO BY ADAM FENSTER



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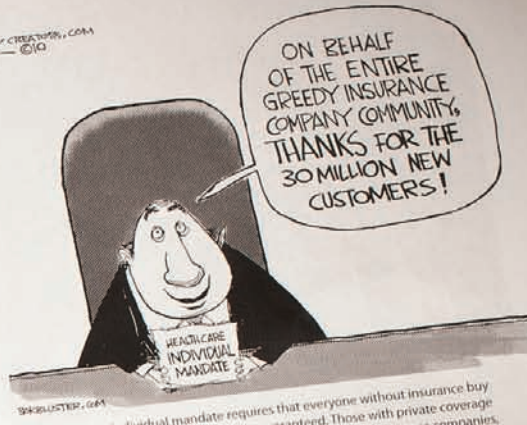


When that collapsed too, liberals everywhere were outraged, and former Vermont Governor Howard Dean, Chair of the Democratic National Committee from 2005 to 2009,

appeared on morning television shows urging Democrats to "kill the bill." He claimed that the legislation in its gutted form was "a bigger bailout for the insurance industry than

(the bailout of) AIG." Outspoken liberal TV commentator Keith Olberman was among the many on the left who also urged the Senate to start over

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While the individual mandate requires that everyone without insurance buy health care guaranteed. Those with private coverage of insurance companies.



No simple consensus developed about the specifics of reform, and the proliferation of proposals led to confusion, suspicion, and, ultimately, stalemate.

During the 1992 presidential election campaign, candidate Bill Clinton began with a "play-or-pay" proposal by which employers either provided health insurance for their employees ("play") or paid into a fund that would provide public insurance for the other...



the managed competition proposal first... by Stanford economic...

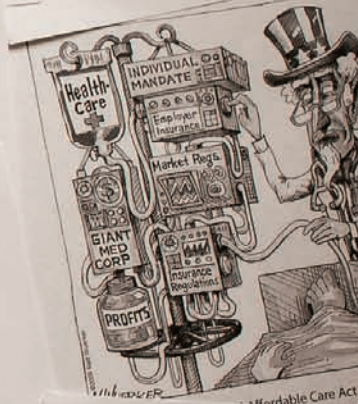


Courtesy of BACM Research.

led by the Cold War. All this was turned against Truman, who was portrayed by his opponents as



...came in the spring

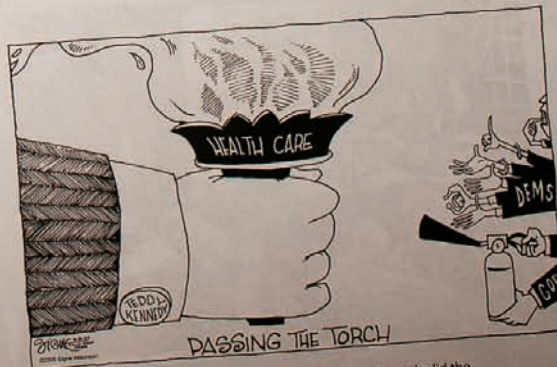


...ordable Care Act



Obama's announcement that he would nominate former Senator and Majority Leader Tom Daschle, a long-time supporter of the consensus approach, to be Secretary of Health and Human Services signaled the nature of the anticipated reform legislation.

Although the President's reference to health reform in his inaugural Address was vague in the extreme ("[We will] wield technology's wonders to raise health care's quality and lower its costs..."), it was apparent to Washington health industry insiders that his administration was preparing to launch a major, centrist initiative in health reform.



Senator Kennedy had died of cancer on August 25, 2009. Not only did the Democrats and the nation lose one of health reform's biggest advocates, but Kennedy would have been the desperately needed 60th vote in the Senate for health reform. Many believe that had he been healthy and survived, a bill with more bipartisan support may have been possible. However, others believe that the bill had become far too partisan for broad

