

CHRISTOPHER J. DODD
CONNECTICUT

STOP BY ADDRESS

GROUP f/ few minutes

Wed, Oct 2

10:00 a.m.

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

August 29, 1991

SR-385

*10:00
y no conflict*

The Honorable Robert Dole
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Bob:

Once again I will be welcoming fifty of Connecticut's senior citizens to Washington for the Senior Intern Program. This year will mark the third time I have sponsored the week long event.

This program is designed to brief the senior citizens on current events and to expose them to the legislative process. Other activities they will participate in are a tour of the White House and monuments and an evening at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

The second day of the program is dedicated to issues specific to the aging population. A panel discussion, entitled "Approaches to Health Care", will address new health care initiatives. Due to your interest and commitment in this area, I would be pleased if you would participate in the discussion on Wednesday, October 2, at 10:00 a.m., in SR-385.

If your schedule permits you to participate or if you have any additional questions please contact Wendy Coughlin, of my staff, at 224-5630. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

CHRISTOPHER J. DODD
United States Senator

*Bob -
Thanks!*

*starts at 10:00
panel 10:10*

TALKING POINTS

SENIOR INTERN PROGRAM

"APPROACHES TO HEALTHCARE"

OCTOBER 2, 1991

**I WANT TO EXPRESS MY
GRATITUDE FOR YOUR
PARTICIPATION IN THE SENIOR
INTERN PROGRAM.**

**THE GROWING NUMBER OF
SENIORS IN OUR SOCIETY AS
WELL AS THE EVER RISING
COSTS OF HEALTH AND LONG-
TERM CARE ASSURE THAT
HEALTH CARE WILL CONTINUE
TO BE AN ISSUE OF SIGNIFICANT
IMPORTANCE.**

**THE U. S. HAS AN
OUTSTANDING HEALTH CARE
SYSTEM -- ONE THAT IS
CAPABLE OF DELIVERING THE
HIGHEST LEVEL OF CARE IN THE
WORLD. WE DON'T HAVE LONG
WAITING LISTS. WE DON'T
RATION CARE. WE HAVE THE
BEST TRAINED PROFESSIONALS
WORLD WIDE.**

**BUT, FOR ALL ITS BENEFITS,
MANY AMERICANS FEEL -- AND
RIGHTFULLY SO -- THAT THERE
IS SOMETHING FUNDAMENTALLY
WRONG WHEN, IN A COUNTRY
AS RICH AS THE U. S., THERE
ARE SO MANY CITIZENS WHO
LACK ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE
HEALTH CARE. THERE IS
GROWING CONCERN THAT THE**

**U.S. HEALTH CARE SYSTEM IS
ON THE CRITICAL LIST AND
NEEDS INTENSIVE CARE.**

**THE NATION NOW FACES
BLOATED OUTLAYS FOR HEALTH
-- MORE THAN 11% OF GNP OR
\$660 BILLION PER YEAR -- THE
HIGHEST FIGURES FOR ANY
DEVELOPED COUNTRY.**

**PERHAPS NO OTHER PART
OF THE HEALTH CARE SYSTEM
GENERATES AS MUCH
DISSATISFACTION AS THE
ORGANIZATION AND FINANCING
OF LONG-TERM CARE FOR THE
ELDERLY.**

**LAST MONTH SENATOR
PACKWOOD AND I INTRODUCED
LONG-TERM CARE LEGISLATION**

**THAT WILL EXPAND ACCESS TO
CARE FOR MORE ELDERLY
CITIZENS AND PROVIDE THEM
WITH THE TYPE OF CARE THAT
IS MOST WANTED -- HOME AND
COMMUNITY CARE.**

**I THINK ITS THE TYPE OF
BILL THAT COULD BE OF
INTEREST TO MANY OF YOU.
COME TO THINK OF IT, IT'S**

**PROBABLY A GOOD BILL FOR
SENATOR DODD TO SUPPORT.**

**THE TRUTH IS THERE IS NO
SINGLE MAGIC SOLUTION.**

IMPROVING THE NATION'S

HEALTH CARE SYSTEM MEANS

EVERYBODY HAS TO WORK

TOGETHER. EMPLOYERS,

EMPLOYEES, DOCTORS,

NURSES, HOSPITALS, DRUG AND

**INSURANCE COMPANIES, AS
WELL AS THE GOVERNMENT.**

**I AM CONVINCED THAT
REFORM CAN TAKE PLACE. AND
IT CAN BE DONE WITHOUT VAST
EXPANSION OF GOVERNMENT
PROGRAMS, HUGE DEFICITS,
VOLUMES OF NEW
REGULATIONS, OR MASSIVE TAX**

**INCREASES ON THE AMERICAN
PEOPLE.**

**SO WHILE THE PROBLEM
IS A DAUNTING AND
COMPLICATED ONE, WE SIMPLY
CAN'T THROW UP OUR HANDS
BECAUSE THE SOLUTIONS
AREN'T EASY OR CHEAP. I
CERTAINLY DON'T PRETEND TO
HAVE ALL THE ANSWERS, BUT I**

**THINK THERE ARE PRACTICAL
THINGS WE CAN BEGIN TO DO
RIGHT NOW.**

**BECAUSE STRUCTURAL
REFORM WILL TAKE SOME TIME,
WE MUST CONTINUE TO MAKE
INCREMENTAL IMPROVEMENTS
IN OUR EXISTING SYSTEM. I AM
CONFIDENT THAT WE CAN GET
REFORM BY STICKING TO THE**

**THREE R'S -- THE PLAN HAS TO
BE REALISTIC, REASONABLE,
AND RESPONSIBLE.**