

SPEAK

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Mon, Aug 8, Tues, Aug 9, Wed, Aug 10
Mon, Aug 15, Tues, Aug 16, Wed, Aug 17
8:30 am

1615 H Street, NW

RICHARD L. LESHER
PRESIDENT

July 25, 1994

1615 H STREET, N. W.
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20062-2000
202/463-5300
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The Honorable Bob Dole
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Dole:

I would like to invite you to address the U.S. Chamber's Policy Insiders forum in early August. Your views concerning health care reform would be of great interest to the business and association communities. We would be pleased to work with your staff to arrange a convenient date before the August recess.

The members of the Policy Insiders are the primary legislative and political activists in American business. These individuals represent the nation's businesses and trade and professional associations on Capitol Hill and before the Administration and the regulatory agencies. In addition, they are responsible for educating their home offices, employees and members on the impact of federal legislative initiatives.

Let me provide some information which may be helpful to you and your staff. Speakers arrive at the Chamber's Washington headquarters at 8:00 a.m. The actual program begins at 8:15 a.m. You would speak for 20 minutes. We would then open the floor for questions for another 20 minutes.

In 1994, continuing the Chamber's tradition of providing forums for policymakers to address and hear from the business and association communities, our speakers have included Congressmen Michel and Gephardt providing overviews of the 1994 Congressional agenda, Senator Nickles discussing health care, Secretary Riley talking on education reform, Administrator Browner on environmental regulations, and Senator Kerrey and Representative Kasich addressing spending cuts.

Your observations would be of great interest to our members. I hope you are able to accept our invitation. We will call your office later this week to follow up on the request. We look forward to having you with us.

Sincerely,

Richard L. Lesh

7-26 "Interim letter"

Wade
7/26

**REMINDER
NOTICE****U.S. Chamber of Commerce**

Washington, D.C. 20062-2000

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What will happen on Health Care in 1994?

- A. America Plan (Dole\Packwood Bill)
- B. Filibuster
- C. Wait 'til '95
- D. Mitchell Bill
- E. None of the Above

Come Hear**Bob Dole****tell you his answer!****WHAT: POLICY INSIDERS****WHERE: U.S. Chamber of Commerce, 1615 H Street, NW****WHEN: Monday, August 15 at 8:00 a.m.**

HOW: The breakfast is part of the annual subscription series. The cost for non-subscribers and guests is \$30. To R.S.V.P. for the breakfast briefing, call the Office of Membership Grassroots Management at (202) 463-5604.

SENATOR BOB DOLE

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

AUGUST 15, 1994

***THANK YOU, DICK.**

***THROUGHOUT THE PAST YEAR
AND A HALF, THE CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE HAS PLAYED AN ACTIVE
ROLE IN THE HEALTH CARE DEBATE, SO
I'M PLEASED TO HAVE THE CHANCE TO**

**MEET WITH YOU AGAIN AS WE
APPROACH THE FINISH LINE.**

***LET ME CUT RIGHT TO THE
CHASE. I KNOW THE QUESTION ON
EVERYONE'S MIND IS WILL CONGRESS
PASS HEALTH CARE REFORM
LEGISLATION THIS YEAR?**

***AND I GUESS THE ANSWER
DEPENDS UPON ON HOW YOU DEFINE
HEALTH CARE REFORM.**

***IF YOU DEFINE IT LIKE THE
PRESIDENT OR SENATOR MITCHELL
DOES--BIG GOVERNMENT, BIG TAXES, BIG
MANDATES, AND BIG BUREAUCRACY--
THEN I'M BECOMING INCREASINGLY
CONFIDENT THAT THE ANSWER IS NO.**

***BUT IF YOU DEFINE IT LIKE I DO,
AND LIKE THE VAST MAJORITY OF
AMERICANS DO--FIXING WHAT NEEDS TO
BE FIXED, DOING IT WITH CAUTION, AND**

**LEAVING ALONE THE 85% OF AMERICANS
WHO ARE HAPPY WITH THEIR HEALTH
CARE--THEN THE ANSWER IS I DON'T
KNOW.**

***I HOPE THAT'S THE TYPE OF BILL
THAT PASSES, AND I THINK IT'S THE
RIGHT SOLUTION FOR AMERICA, BUT IT
LOOKS LIKE THE PRESIDENT AND THE
DEMOCRAT LEADERSHIP MAY BE
ROLLING THE DICE, SEEKING**

**GOVERNMENT-RUN HEALTH CARE OR
NOTHING.**

***AND IF THERE EVER WAS A TIME
WHEN THE AMERICAN PEOPLE WERE
GOING TO RISE UP IN SUPPORT OF
GOVERNMENT-RUN HEALTH CARE IT WAS
LAST WEEK.**

***THE PRESIDENT AND MRS.
CLINTON WERE EVERYWHERE TALKING
ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF HEALTH**

**CARE REFORM. AND AS YOU RECALL,
THE PRESIDENT DREW ANOTHER LINE IN
THE SAND--SAYING THAT THE MITCHELL
BILL WAS HIS BOTTOM LINE. HE WOULD
SIGN NOTHING LESS.**

***OF COURSE, AT THE SAME TIME,
SENATOR MITCHELL WAS TELLING THE
SENATE THAT THE BILL HE INTRODUCED
THE WEEK BEFORE WAS INOPERATIVE.
AND HE INTRODUCED MITCHELL II--OR**

**"LETHAL WEAPON II" AS SENATOR
PACKWOOD CALLED IT.**

***LETHAL WEAPON II CAME AND
WENT IN ONE DAY. AND ON FRIDAY,
"LETHAL WEAPON III" PREMIERED. I
HAVEN'T BEEN TO THE OFFICE THIS
MORNING, SO I DON'T KNOW IF THERE'S
YET ANOTHER MITCHELL BILL COMING.**

***I DON'T GET TO THE MOVIES TOO
OFTEN, BUT LET ME JUST SUGGEST**

**THAT STEVEN SPEILBERG DOESN'T
PRODUCE AS MANY SEQUELS AS
SENATOR MITCHELL.**

***DESPITE THE FACT THAT WE
DIDN'T KNOW WHAT BILL WE WERE
DEBATING--WHICH IS COMMON PRACTICE
FOR THE SENATE--THE FLOOR DEBATE ON
HEALTH CARE BEGAN--WITH CNN
PROVIDING SPEECH BY SPEECH
COVERAGE.**

***SEVERAL OF THE DEMOCRAT
SENATORS SPOKE DIRECTLY TO THE
AMERICAN PEOPLE--TELLING THEM THAT
THIS WAS A HISTORIC MOMENT, AND
THAT IT WAS THEIR DUTY TO CALL
THEIR SENATOR AND DEMAND THAT
THEY SUPPORT THE MITCHELL BILL.**

***THE PEOPLE WERE CALLING IN
ALRIGHT--MY OFFICE HAS BEEN JAMMED
WITH CALLS FOR THE LAST COUPLE OF**

**WEEKS--BUT THE MESSAGE COMING IN
WAS PRECISELY THE OPPOSITE OF WHAT
THE DEMOCRATS WERE HOPING FOR.**

***ON THE FIRST DAY OF THE
DEBATE, THE CALLS WERE RUNNING 7-1
AGAINST THE MITCHELL BILL. ON THE
NEXT DAY, IT WAS ABOUT 20-1 AGAINST
THE MITCHELL BILL. AND ON FRIDAY IT
WAS 10-1 AGAINST THE MITCHELL BILL.
AND I HEAR THAT OTHER OFFICES--**

**DEMOCRAT AND REPUBLICAN--WERE
REPORTING SIMILAR RATIOS.**

***AND HUNDREDS AND HUNDREDS
OF THOSE CALLS WERE FROM A.A.R.P.
MEMBERS, WHO JUST WANTED TO LET
ME KNOW, THAT CONTRARY TO THEIR
LIBERAL LEADERSHIP, THEY WERE NOT IN
FAVOR OF THE MITCHELL BILL. SOME
WERE SO ANGERED, THEY SAID THEY
WERE CANCELING THEIR MEMBERSHIP.**

***AS I SAID, IF EVER THE TIDE WAS
TO TURN IN FAVOR OF THE MITCHELL
BILL, IT WAS LAST WEEK. AND IT
DIDN'T HAPPEN.**

***IT DIDN'T HAPPEN BECAUSE THE
AMERICAN PEOPLE HAVE DECIDED THAT
THEY DON'T WANT TO TRADE IN THE
BEST HEALTH CARE SYSTEM IN THE
WORLD FOR A 1,400 PAGE BILL THAT
CHANGES BY THE HOUR.**

***SO, WHERE DO WE GO FROM
HERE?**

***MY VOTE IS THAT WE GO HOME.
WE NEED TO GO BACK TO THE PEOPLE
WE REPRESENT AND LISTEN TO WHAT
THEY HAVE TO SAY. AND THEN WE CAN
COME BACK IN SEPTEMBER, AND--IF THE
PRESIDENT IS WILLING--WORK TOGETHER
ON A TRULY BI-PARTISAN BILL.**

***UP UNTIL NOW, THE PRESIDENT'S
IDEA OF BI-PARTISANSHIP HAS BEEN FOR
THE DEMOCRATS TO WRITE A BILL, AND
FOR THE REPUBLICANS TO VOTE FOR IT.**

***IT DOESN'T WORK THAT WAY.**

***IF THE PRESIDENT WANTS US
THERE AT THE LANDING, WE ALSO NEED
TO BE THERE AT THE TAKE-OFF. AND
TIME AFTER TIME IN THE HEALTH CARE**

**DEBATE, REPUBLICANS HAVE BEEN LEFT
ON THE RUNWAY.**

***WHEN THE CLINTONS DRAFTED
THEIR FIRST PROPOSAL IN THE WHITE
HOUSE WAR ROOM, REPUBLICAN OFFERS
TO HELP WERE IGNORED. AND WHEN
THAT PROPOSAL COLLAPSED, SENATOR
MITCHELL AND CONGRESSMAN
GEPHARDT DRAFTED NEW LEGISLATION--
AGAIN DEVOID OF REPUBLICAN INPUT.**

***IT WAS THE EXCLUSION OF
REPUBLICANS THAT ALSO LED TO THE
DEFEAT OF THE CRIME BILL RULE.**

***AND LET ME JUST SAY A WORD
OR TWO ABOUT THAT VOTE: THE
PRESIDENT AND SOME OF MY DEMOCRAT
FRIENDS ARE SAYING THAT THIS WAS
NOTHING MORE THAN A VOTE AGAINST
THE PRESIDENT.**

***THAT'S NOT THE CASE. IT WAS A
VOTE AGAINST A BILL THAT HAD BEEN
ALL BUT MADE UNRECOGNIZABLE BY A
LIBERAL CONFERENCE COMMITTEE. THE
COMMITTEE TOOK SOME OF THE
TOUGHEST ANTI-CRIME PROVISIONS OUT
OF THE BILL. AND IN ITS PLACE, THEY
STUFFED IT FULL OF SOCIAL PROGRAMS
WHICH HAD NOT SEEN ONE MINUTE OF
CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS.**

***AND BEFORE I TAKE QUESTIONS,
LET ME JUST SAY THAT I'M A BIT TIRED
OF THE ACCUSATIONS FROM THE
PRESIDENT AND SOME OF MY DEMOCRAT
FRIENDS THAT REPUBLICANS ARE OUT
TO EMBARRASS THE PRESIDENT.**

***I REMEMBER LAST NOVEMBER,
WHEN CONGRESS WAS DEBATING AND
VOTING ON NAFTA. WE HEARD AGAIN
AND AGAIN FROM THE FOLKS IN THE**

**MEDIA THAT THIS WAS THE DEFINING
VOTE OF THE CLINTON PRESIDENCY--AND
THAT A DEFEAT FOR THE PRESIDENT
WOULD CRIPPLE HIS ADMINISTRATION.**

***AND WHO PROVIDED THE
PRESIDENT WITH THE VOTES HE NEEDED
TO WIN? NOT FOLKS LIKE HOUSE
MAJORITY LEADER GEPHARDT, MAJORITY
WHIP BONIOR, CONGRESSMAN SCHUMER,
SENATOR BOXER, SENATOR REID,**

**SENATOR ROCKEFELLER, SENATOR
SARBANES, SENATOR SASSER, ETC--ALL
OF WHOM VOTED AGAINST THE
PRESIDENT.**

***NO, THE PRESIDENT'S NAFTA
VICTORY WAS THE RESULT OF
REPUBLICAN SUPPORT. WE SUPPORTED
THE PRESIDENT BECAUSE WE BELIEVED
HIS POLICY WAS RIGHT FOR AMERICA.
AND THAT'S WHAT WE'VE DONE**

**THROUGHOUT HIS ADMINISTRATION.
AND WE'LL OPPOSE HIM WHEN WE
BELIEVE HIS POLICY IS WRONG FOR
AMERICA.**

***THE DEMOCRATS SAY THAT WHEN
THEY OPPOSE THE PRESIDENT, THEN
THAT'S O.K., BECAUSE IT'S BASED ON
PRINCIPLE. BUT WHEN REPUBLICANS
OPPOSE THE PRESIDENT, IT'S BASED ON
POLITICS. THAT'S JUST NOT THE CASE.**

***AGAIN, MY THANKS FOR ALL THE
HELP YOU'VE PROVIDED IN THE HEALTH
CARE DEBATE. I'M HAPPY TO TAKE
YOUR QUESTIONS.**