

OCTOBER 7, 1988

TO: SENATOR DOLE

FROM: SHEILA BURKE

RE: REMARKS TO AMERICAN DENTAL ASSOCIATION

YOU ARE SCHEDULED TO STOP BY THE ADA CONVENTION ON SUNDAY TO MAKE BRIEF REMARKS. THE MEETING IS THEIR ANNUAL CONVENTION AND YOU WILL BE ADDRESSING ABOUT 600 MEMBERS OF THEIR HOUSE OF DELEGATES.

THERE WILL BE A NUMBER OF KANSANS IN ATTENDANCE, INCLUDING THOSE I'VE NOTED AT THE END OF THE MEMO.

YOU HAVE BEEN ASKED TO SPEAK FOR 15 MINUTES OR SO, ON POLITICS IN GENERAL AND THE LIKELY HEALTH CARE AGENDA FOR THE 101ST CONGRESS.

THERE ARE NO OTHER CURRENT MEMBERS OF CONGRESS SPEAKING. HOWARD BAKER IS THE ONLY OTHER POLITICAL FIGURE.

THIS GROUP IS INTERESTED IN SOME LEGISLATIVE ISSUES, BUT THEY DON'T EXPECT YOU TO ADDRESS THEM SPECIFICALLY.

*MEDICARE

THERE IS VERY LITTLE COVERAGE FOR DENTISTS UNDER THE PROGRAM NOW, AND OF COURSE THEY WOULD LIKE IT EXPANDED, BUT THEY ARE REALISTIC. THEY HAD HOPED TO BE INCLUDED IN CATASTROPHIC -- BUT KNEW THE CHANCES WERE SLIM.

*MANDATED BENEFITS: THEY ARE OPPOSED TO MANDATORY BENEFITS -- AND DISLIKE PROGRAMS LIKE THE MASSACHUSETTS MODEL.

*AIDS

VERY CONCERNED ABOUT LEGISLATION THAT MAY REQUIRE THEM TO CARE FOR AIDS PATIENTS, PARTICULARLY IF THEY CAN'T BE INFORMED AS TO THEIR CONDITION BECAUSE OF CONFIDENTIALITY RESTRICTIONS.

*FTC

LIKE PHYSICIANS GENERALLY, THEY ARE VERY UNHAPPY ABOUT FTC ACTIVITIES AS THEY RELATE TO STATE PRACTICE ACTS. APPARENTLY THE FTC HAS BEEN FAVORABLY DISPOSED TO DENTAL TECHNICIANS AND OTHERS TRYING TO EXPAND THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES. ADDITIONALLY THE FTC HAS BEEN INTERESTED IN THE ADVERTISING ACTIVITIES OF DENTISTS.

I'VE ATTACHED SOME BASIC HEALTH CARE AGENDA TALKING POINTS YOU MAY WANT TO USE.

KANSAS DELEGATES:

TERRY DUNCAN, WICHITA
DEAN DYER, PRAIRIE VILLAGE
BOB SMITH, PRAIRIE VILLAGE
RICHARD PERCH, PRAIRIE VILLAGE
RAY PARSON, WINFIELD
HAROLD SCHEER, WICHITA
STEVE BROTHERRSON, KANSAS CITY
GARY NEWMAN, TOPEKA

AMERICAN DENTAL ASSOCIATION
OCTOBER 9, 1988
WASHINGTON, D.C.

THE HEALTH AGENDA FOR 1989

- THE 101ST CONGRESS WILL FACE SOME VERY

DIFFICULT ISSUES ON THE HEALTH FRONT

REGARDLESS OF WHO SITS IN THE WHITE HOUSE --

BUT THE SOLUTIONS TO THESE PROBLEMS WILL BE

RADICALLY DIFFERENT DEPENDING ON WHETHER WE

HAVE PRESIDENT BUSH OR PRESIDENT DUKAKIS.

- THE ISSUES THAT WILL NO DOUBT CONFRONT US

INCLUDE; THE NEED FOR A REAL LONG-TERM CARE

PROGRAM; THE INCREASING NEED TO CARE FOR THE

NUMBER OF THE UNINSURED; THE NEED FOR

INCREASING ACCESS TO PRIMARY CARE SERVICES BY

PREGNANT WOMEN AND CHILDREN; THE

CONSEQUENCES OF ESCALATING FINANCIAL AND

EMOTIONAL DILEMMA CAUSED BY AIDS; AND THE

NEED TO ADDRESS THE TRAUMA TO OUR SOCIETY

CAUSED BY SUBSTANCE ABUSE -- BOTH DRUGS AND

ALCOHOL.

- NONE OF THESE PROBLEMS WILL BE SOLVED BY
QUICK, EASY FIXES; NOR CAN THEY ALL BE SOLVED
BY GOVERNMENT ALONE.
- AS YOU KNOW ONLY TOO WELL, MICHAEL DUKAKIS
AND MANY OTHER DEMOCRATS CONTINUE TO TURN
TO THE SOLUTIONS OF OLD INCLUDING MANDATES
ON EMPLOYERS AND EXPANDED OR NEW
GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS.

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- GEORGE BUSH AND THE REPUBLICANS LOOK TO

INCENTIVES AND PARTNERSHIPS BETWEEN

GOVERNMENT AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR.
- A GOOD MANY OF YOU IN ADDITION TO BEING

HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS, ALSO CONSIDER

YOURSELVES TO BE SMALL BUSINESS OWNERS AND

KNOW ONLY TOO WELL THE DANGERS INHERENT IN A

GOVERNMENT POLICY THAT SIMPLY MANDATES NEW

BENEFITS OR PROGRAMS. SUCH A POLICY CAN

QUICKLY BANKRUPT A SMALL BUSINESS OR MAKE IT

BARELY COMPETITIVE WITH LARGER OPERATIONS.

- REPUBLICANS ARE WELL AWARE OF THE VERY REAL
PROBLEMS FACED BY THOSE WHO ARE
IMPOVERISHED BY A STAY IN A NURSING HOME OR
WHO CANNOT AFFORD TO VISIT A DOCTOR OR
DENTIST OR STAY AT HOME AND RECEIVE CARE. BUT
THE SOLUTION IS NOT SIMPLY A MANDATE.

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- WE BELIEVE IN GIVING PEOPLE CHOICES -- CHOICES ABOUT THEIR PROVIDERS, CHOICES ABOUT WHERE THEY WANT TO BE CARED FOR, AND CHOICES ABOUT HOW THEY WANT THEIR WAGES SPENT. THE DEMOCRATS WOULD REMOVE MANY OF THOSE CHOICES.

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- MODIFICATIONS TO THE HOSPITAL PPS SYSTEM WILL

CONTINUE TO RECEIVE OUR ATTENTION BUT MORE

IMPORTANTLY WE WILL FINALLY TRY TO RESOLVE THE

WAY WE PAY OTHER PROVIDERS INCLUDING

PHYSICIANS. THIS OF COURSE MAY WELL HAVE

SOME IMPACT ON YOU. ALL THE STUDIES ARE DUE

AND WILL LIKELY BE THE BASIS UPON WHICH MUCH

OF WHAT WE PROPOSE IS FOUNDED.

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- CERTAINLY WE SHOULD ALSO CONTINUE TO

CONSIDER THOSE CHANGES THAT MAY BE

NECESSARY TO INSURE THAT DENTISTS ARE TREATED

EQUITABLY WHEN PROVIDING SERVICES CURRENTLY

COVERED BY MEDICARE.
- I AM WELL AWARE THAT MANY OF YOU WOULD LIKE

TO SEE MEDICARE AND MEDICAID COVERAGE

EXPANDED -- BELIEVING YOUR SERVICES VERY

IMPORTANT TO BOTH CHILDREN AND THE ELDERLY IN

THIS COUNTRY.

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- NO ONE CAN DENY THAT GOOD NUTRITION IS

PARTICULARLY CRITICAL TO CHILDREN AND THE

ELDERLY; AND THAT THE ABILITY TO DEVELOP GOOD

NUTRITIONAL HABITS DEPENDS IN LARGE PART ON

THE CONDITION OF YOUR TEETH.
- BUT HEALTH CARE COST ESCALATION CONTINUES TO

CONFOUND US ALONG, WITH THE EVER-CHANGING

FACE OF THE DELIVERY SYSTEM. WE NEED TO

ACCOMMODATE THESE EXPANSIONS -- AND LET OUR

HEALTH CARE SYSTEM DO WHAT IT DOES BEST --

PROVIDE THE FINEST CARE IN THE WORLD, BUT WE

CAN'T DISREGARD COST.

AIDS

- THE CHALLENGE OF COST CONTAINMENT MAKES IT
THAT MUCH MORE DIFFICULT TO CONFRONT THE
PUBLIC HEALTH CRISES CAUSED BY AIDS
- THE CONGRESS HAS STRUGGLED IN THE LAST 2 TO 3
YEARS TO COME TO GRIPS WITH THIS EPIDEMIC.
AMONG THE ISSUES OF MOST CONCERN TO US HAVE
BEEN THOSE DEALING WITH TESTING,
CONFIDENTIALITY AND DISCRIMINATION.

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- I KNOW THAT AS PROVIDERS YOU ARE COMMITTED
TO CARING FOR PEOPLE REGARDLESS OF THEIR
UNDERLYING CONDITION, BUT MUST ALSO BE
CONCERNED WITH YOUR SAFETY AND THAT OF YOUR
OTHER PATIENTS.
- WE ARE TRYING TO DETERMINE HOW BEST TO
BALANCE THE NEEDS OF THOSE INFECTED WITH THE
AIDS VIRUS WITH THOSE WHO ARE UNINFECTED.

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● WHILE WE HAVE MADE PROGRESS AND HAVE
COMMITTED GREATER AND GREATER AMOUNTS OF
MONEY TO RESEARCH, EDUCATION AND TREATMENT,
THE 100TH CONGRESS HAS BEEN UNABLE TO
FINALLY RESOLVE THESE OTHER TOUGH ISSUES -- SO
IT WILL BE LEFT TO THE 101ST.

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CONCLUSION

- THERE IS LOTS TO DO IN THE MONTHS AHEAD, BUT IT
WILL TAKE A STEADY HAND AT THE HELM OF THE
NATION. I URGE YOU TO GET INVOLVED AND MAKE A
CHOICE IN THIS YEAR'S ELECTION. A CHOICE THAT
WILL HELP DETERMINE THE FACE OF HEALTH CARE
AND YOUR INDUSTRY IN THE YEARS AHEAD.

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