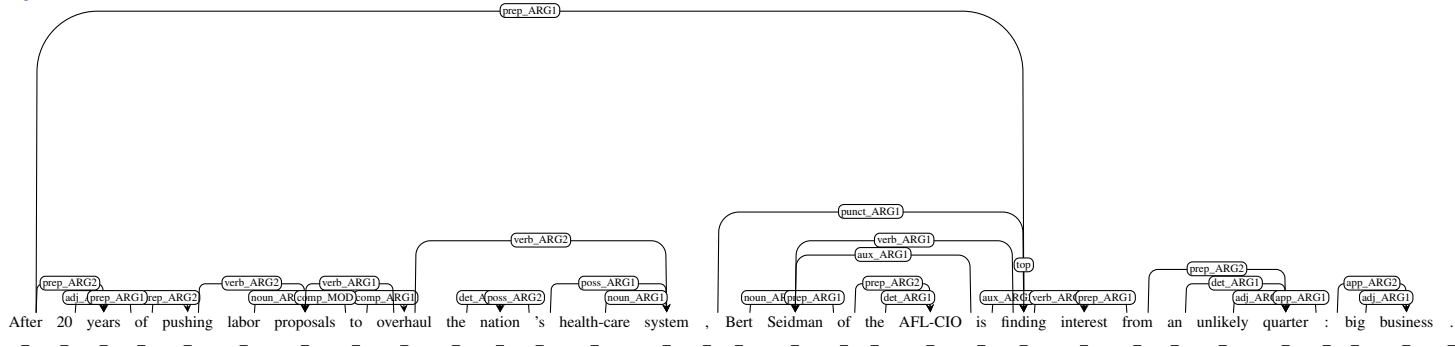
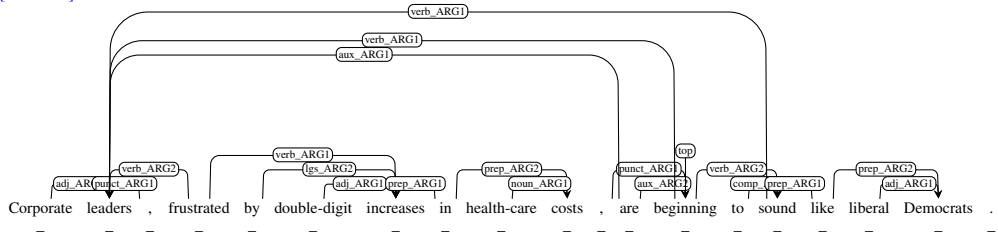


Document 0314

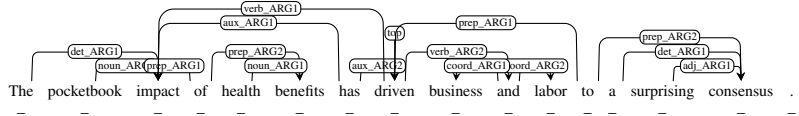
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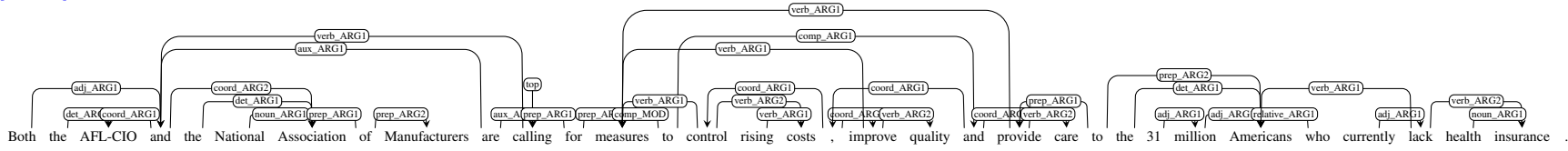
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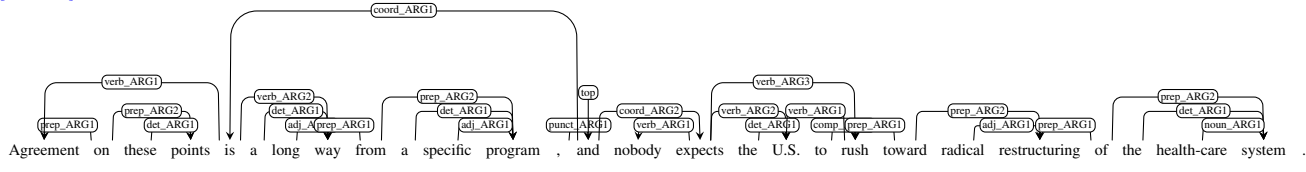
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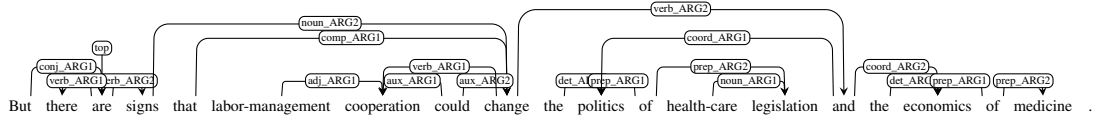
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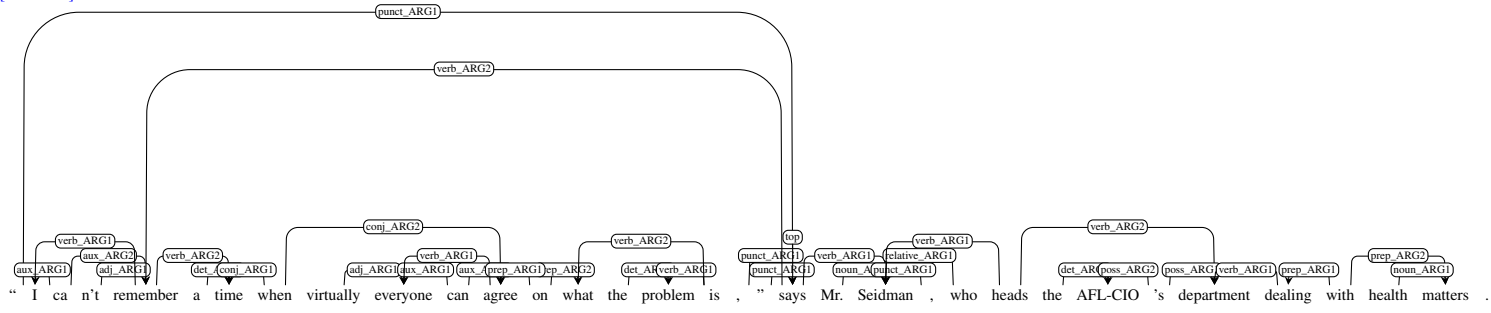
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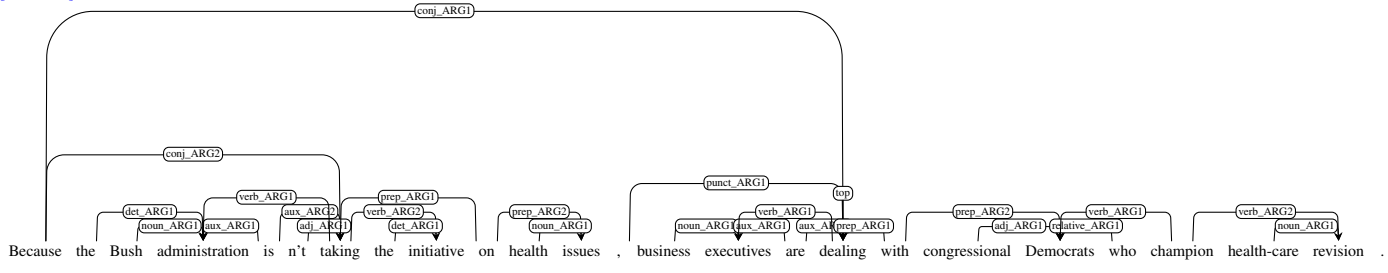
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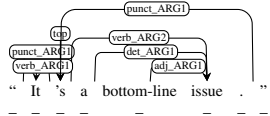
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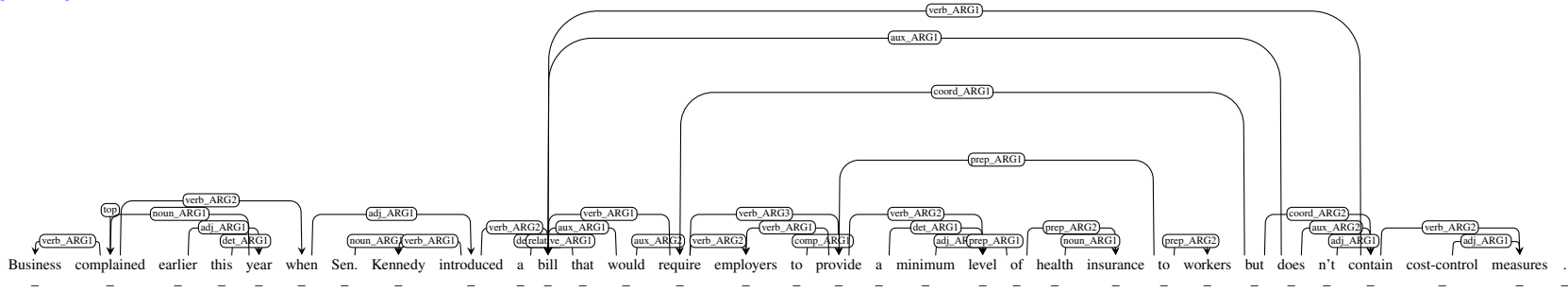
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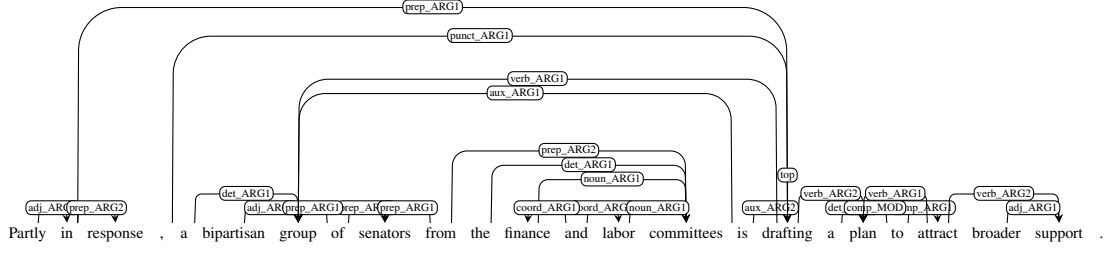
[20314011]



[20314012]



[20314013]



[20314014]

It will feature a cost-containment provision designed to keep expanded benefits from fueling higher care prices .

[20314015]

At 11.1 % of gross national product , U.S. health costs already are the highest in the world .

[20314016]

By contrast , Japan 's equal 6.7 % of GNP , a nation 's total output of goods and services .

[20314017]

Management and labor worry that the gap makes U.S. companies less competitive .

[20314019]

" The cost of health care is eroding standards of living and sapping industrial strength . " complains Walter Maher , a Chrysler health-and-benefits specialist .

[20314020]

Labor is upset because many companies are using higher employee insurance premiums , deductibles and co-payments to deflect surging medical costs to workers .

[20314021]

Health benefits are contentious issues in the strikes against Pittston Co. and Nynex Corp .

[20314022]

In their new contract this year , American Telephone & Telegraph Co. and the Communications Workers of America agreed to look for " prompt and lasting national solutions " to rising health-care costs .

[20314023]

Some analysts are cynical about the new corporate interest in health-care overhaul .

[20314024]

Carl Schramm , president of the Health Insurance Association of America , scoffs at " capitalists who want to socialize the entire financing system " for health .

[20314025]

" They hope they can buy some government cost discipline , " but this is a false hope , Mr. Schramm says .

[20314026]

He asserts that government has done an even worse job of controlling its health bill than business .

[20314027]

So far neither the Bush administration nor Congress is prepared to lead the way toward revamping health care .

[20314028]

The administration lacks a comprehensive health-care policy .

[20314029]

