

[21499001]

Ducks

[21499002]

If the White House spots one, it intends to fire a veto at it.

[21499003]

Ducks are this season's word for new taxes, under OMB Director Richard Darman's formulation that... if it looks like a duck, walks like a duck and quacks like a duck, it's a duck.

[21499004]

George Bush is quite clear: No new ducks.

[21499006]

We see a whole flock of programs that will impose significant costs on the American economy in the form of burdensome regulation and higher liabilities.

[21499007]

Federal child care (quack).

[21499008]

The Clean Air bill (quack).

[21499011]

It comes up with a toned-down version of a Democratic proposal.

[21499013]

Consider, for instance, the very fat fowl known as federalized child care.

[21499014]

The President came up with a good bill, but now may end up signing the awful bureaucratic creature hatched on Capitol Hill.

[21499015]

It would create 38,000 local day-care commissions, answerable to the Department of Health and Human Services.

[21499016]

They'd determine where parents could store their kids during the day, and they'd regulate the storage facilities.

[21499017]

The initial costs are said to be in the \$ 2 billion a year range but that's only the beginning.

[21499018]

Ducks

New entitlements tend to grow , creating a rationale for new taxes .

[21499019]

Quack .

[21499020]

The administration claims that its Clean Air bill will cost businesses between \$ 14 billion and \$ 19 billion annually , but economist Michael Evans estimates that the costs for firms will actually be in the \$ 60 billion a year range .

[21499021]

The House bill also distorts economic efficiency in all sorts of perverse ways .

[21499022]

For example , the administration proposal imposes extremely tough emissions standards on new power plants .

[21499023]

So instead of building more efficient modern plants , utilities stick scrubbers on the old plants .

[21499024]

The money spent on scrubbers is diverted from planned research on new , cleaner technology .

[21499025]

The bill also imposes the California auto-emissions standards on all cars nationwide , as if a car registered in Big Sky , Montana , needed to be as clean as one driven in Los Angeles .

[21499026]

Proponents of the nationwide standards say the cost for car buyers would be about \$ 500 per car .

[21499027]

Other analysts say that estimate is low .

[21499028]

Quack .

[21499030]

It is an intentionally vague document that will create a wave of litigation .

[21499031]

Judges will write the real bill as suits roll through the courts .

[21499032]

Lawyers will benefit .

[21499033]

Private companies , and ultimately their customers , will end up footing the huge bill .

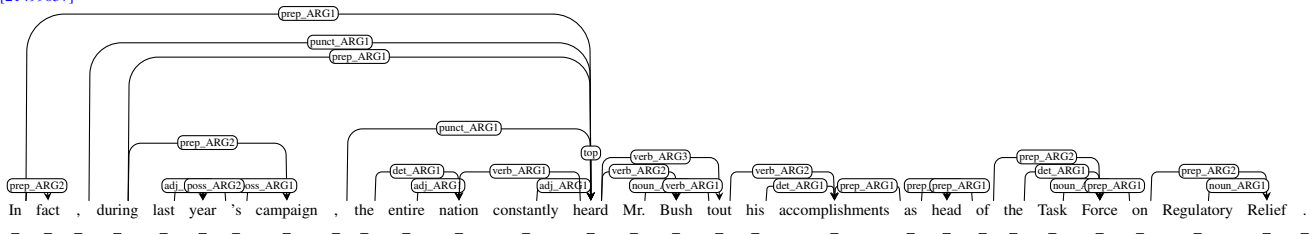
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The effect of Nixon era non-duck ducks was an economy clogged up with regulations and distortions .

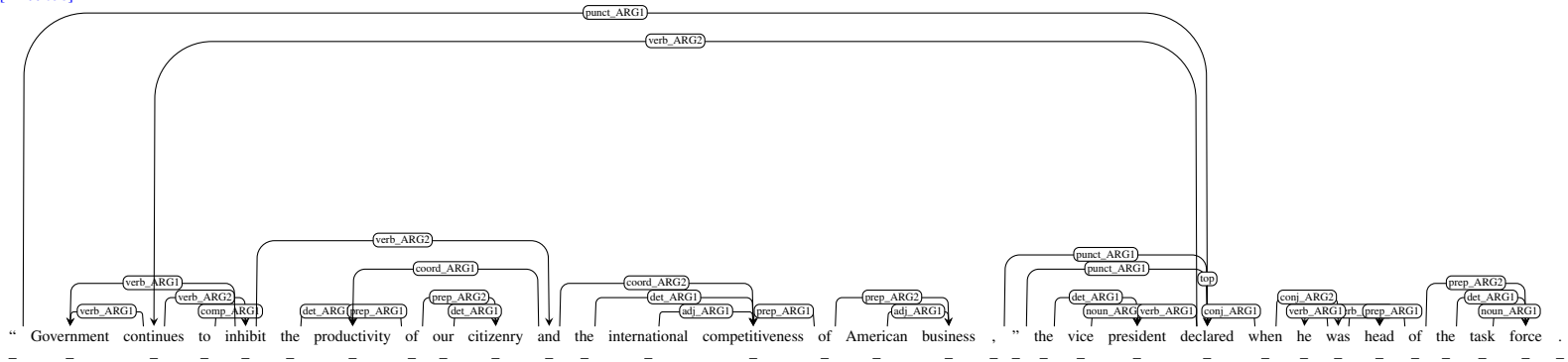
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Running for President in 1980 and 1988 , George Bush also persuasively diagnosed the economic stagnation of the 1970s .

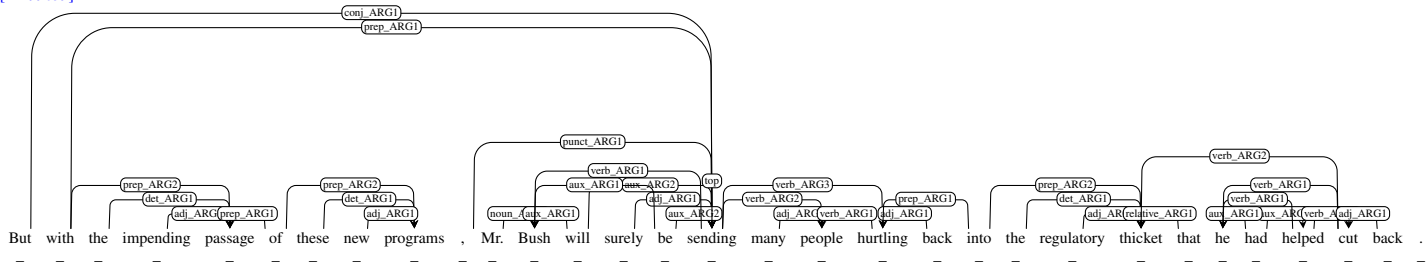
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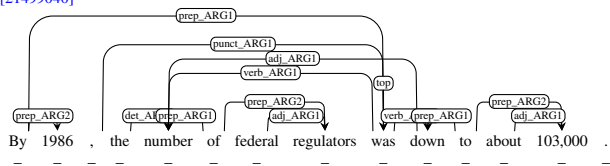
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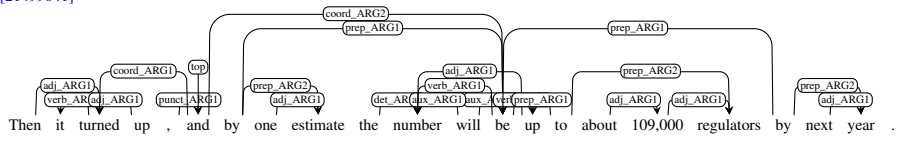
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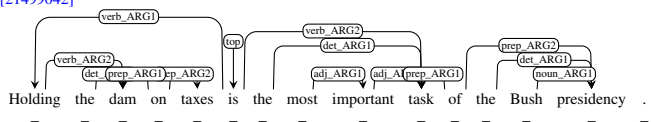
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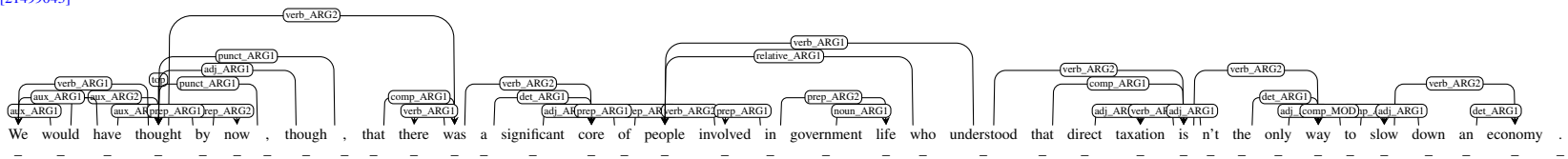
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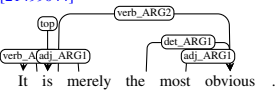
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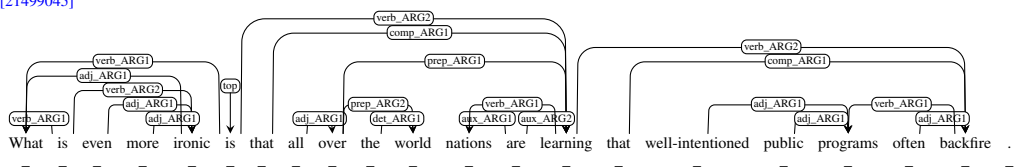
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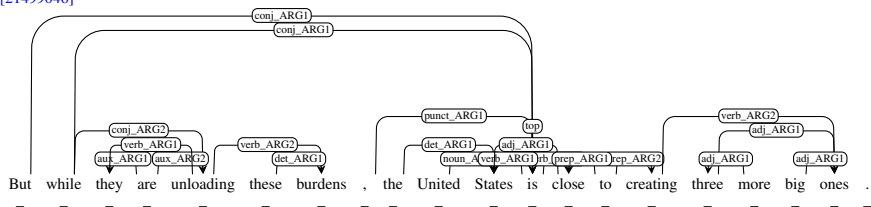
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