

Set 1: deficit, deduct, balanc, budget, cut, trillion, revenu, add

Set 2: health, insur, care, cost, cover, afford, obamacar, premium

Set 3: militari, world, nation, forc, peac, mission, around, troop

Set 4: welfar, budget, capit, veto, educ, gain, child, centuri

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AUDIENCE Dr. Robert N. Berkley. Im a cardiologist from Fallbrook, California. Mr. President, I would like to know if you would please explain your plans for — in a substantive fashion for addressing the problems with the health care system in our country.

BILL CLINTON I will. First of all, let me say what we have done. In the last four years weve worked hard to promote more competition to bring down the rate of inflation in health care costs without eroding health care quality. The government pays for Medicare and Medicaid, as you know, and thats very important. Secondly, weve added a million more children to the ranks of the insured through the Medicaid program. We have protected 25 million people through the passage of the Kennedy- Kassebaum bill that says you can use your health insurance if you change jobs or someone in your family has been sick. We just recently ended those drive- by deliveries saying people cant be kicked out of the hospital by insurance companies when theyve just had babies. So this is, thats a good start. In the next four years, I want to focus on the following things. Number one, add another million children to the insured ranks through the Medicaid program. Number two, keep working with the states, as we are now, to add 2. 2 million more people to the insurance system. Number three, cover people who are between jobs for up to six months. That could protect 3 million families, 700, 000 kids. Number four, make sure we protect the integrity with the Medicare program and Medicaid program and not do anything in cutting costs which would cause hundreds of hospitals to close which could have been the case if the 270billion dollar Medicare cut that I vetoed, had been enacted in the law.

BOB DOLE Well, first, let me say there you go again, Mr. President, talking about a Medicare cut. I have heard you say this time after time. I have heard you say on one TV appearance, “the media made me do it.” You were trying to defend your cut which was not a cut either, Reduction in the growth of spending. Weve always had at least 7 percent. Youve said publicly that its now three times the rate of inflation. We ought to cut the growth to twice the rate of inflation. Its about where we are now. So lets stop talking about cutting Medicare. In my economic plan we increase it 39percent. Dont forget what he tried to do with health care. 17 new taxes, spend 1. 5 trillion dollars, 50 new bureaucracies. Can you believe that? You couldnt even have been a cardiologist because he had quotas. Youre a cardiologist, it wouldnt affect you. But if somebody wanted to be a cardiologist, ten years from now, youd have to be certain you complied with some of the rules in this extreme medical plan the government was going to take over for all Americans. There are things we can do like the Kassebaum bill. We changed many provisions I authored, cover preexisting conditions, portability, and there are other things we can do. We still need to cover about 20million people and a lot of children.

BILL CLINTON I dont have time in 30 seconds to respond to fix all that. But let me just say the American Hospital Association said that the budget I vetoed could have closed 700

hospitals. Not me. On a per- person basis, it did cut way below the rate of inflation in medical costs. But the important thing is what are we going to do now? We need to help people who are between jobs. We need to cover more kids. Provide more preventative care. My balanced budget covers mammograms for ladies, women on Medicare and also gives respite care to the million- plus families who have someone with Alzheimerâ€™s. These things are paid for in the balanced budget plan. Itll move us forward.

MODERATOR Next question is for Senator Dole from here. Yes, sir.