

Nomination of Alison Podell Rosenberg To Be an Assistant Administrator of the Agency for International Development

June 1, 1992

The President today announced his intention to nominate Alison Podell Rosenberg, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Administrator of the Agency for International Development, U.S. International Development Cooperation Agency, for the Bureau of Africa. She would succeed Scott M. Spangler.

Since 1988, Ms. Rosenberg has served as Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Economic Policy and Assistance for the Bureau of African Affairs at the Department of State. Prior to this, she served as Director

of African Affairs for National Security Council staff, 1987–88, and Associate Assistant Administrator and Director in the Office of Policy Development and Program Review at the Agency for International Development, 1985–87.

Ms. Rosenberg graduated from Smith College (B.A., 1967). She was born September 5, 1945, in Miami, FL. Ms. Rosenberg is married, has one child, and resides in McLean, VA.

Nomination of Walter B. McCormick, Jr., To Be General Counsel of the Department of Transportation

June 1, 1992

The President today announced his intention to nominate Walter B. McCormick, Jr., of Missouri, to be General Counsel of the Department of Transportation. He would succeed Arthur J. Rothkopf.

Currently Mr. McCormick serves as Republican chief counsel and staff director of the U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation in Washington, DC. Prior to this he served as a legislative

assistant to Senator John C. Danforth in Washington, DC.

Mr. McCormick graduated from the University of Missouri School of Journalism (B.J., 1976) and the University of Missouri School of Law (J.D., 1979). He was born February 8, 1954, in Kansas City, MO. Mr. McCormick is married, has one child, and resides in Alexandria, VA.

Remarks at the Health Care Equity Action League Briefing

June 2, 1992

Please be seated, and thank you very much for coming. And Dirk, thank you, sir, and Pam, the cochairs of HEAL. I am delighted to have an opportunity to speak to you briefly here. And then our experts come on and you'll learn—I wouldn't say more than you want to know about this, but you'll be hearing from our very best in a few minutes, people that have shaped our approach to health care.

We are grateful for your support. I'll tell

you, the strong support of this organization for our health care reform plan is absolutely essential to getting something done for the people in this country. I can't overemphasize the importance of your contacts on the Hill today, of your organizing of the local coalitions. Both of these efforts are going to be determining factors in steering health care reform in the right direction.

We're at a crossroads, literally, at a crossroads on the issue of health care reform.

The real debate concerns the direction that health care reform is going to take. I don't think there's any argument in the country that health care reform is not needed. Nobody's taking that tack. The question is, will we preserve our public-private health care system through comprehensive reforms or are we going to substitute a plan that is Government-dictated, Government-mandated, Government-controlled? That's the bottom line. We have to spell out as clearly for the American public as we possibly can: The decision is as simple and as pivotal as that.

We have to make it clear to Americans that other proposals like the national health care, expanded Medicare, Americare, and "play or pay" are fundamentally Government-controlled. Some are a little more obvious about it than others, but ultimately each ends up controlled by a Government bureaucracy.

Let me also assure you that I share your specific concerns. Individual entrepreneurs need help in order to compete with the conglomerates; I understand that. You need a tax deduction for 100 percent of health insurance premiums, and you need market clout. As small business owners you also need rescuing from cherry picking by these insurers, and you need help in shopping smart, and you need a way to avoid costly frivolous coverage. Our plan provides comprehensive reform, and that's going to benefit, we compute, more than 95 million Americans.

We have two bills on the Hill already. These are nonpolitical; that is, the liberals agree with us in principle; that makes them nonpolitical. [Laughter] That being the case, I say Congress ought to act according to principle and pass this legislation for the good of the country. Where we agree, we must act. With your help up on the Hill, Congress will pass the bills immediately.

Under our plan, health insurers would have to cover all employers requesting coverage, and that coverage would be guaranteed. It would be renewable, and it would have no restrictions for preexisting medical conditions. It would also be portable, allowing workers to change jobs without fear of not being picked up by their new employer's plan. We would establish networks that

would help small businesses purchase insurance and manage their premium costs. Our coordinated care provisions would reverse the upward spiral of health care costs, too.

Our plan also addresses something that we must do something about, and I'm talking about the malpractice costs, costs from excessive insurance paperwork, and also administrative costs. We address the special needs of urban and rural areas by providing for clinics and disease prevention activities.

In addition, we think consumers need better information in order to make better decisions. So we propose information booklets that will allow consumers to compare costs and then compare the quality of care provided by hospitals and other health care plans. These are things that I think that we all can whole-heartedly endorse and fully intend to implement.

But no discussion of health care reform is complete without emphasizing the necessity for personal responsibility for health promotion and then again for disease prevention. Tomorrow, Secretary Lou Sullivan, along with Prevention magazine, will announce the results of a survey on the health-related behavior of Americans. The prevention index tracks our national progress in avoiding special specific health-related risk behavior. We need your help in spreading the word that avoiding 10 common risk factors could prevent between 40 and 70 percent of all premature deaths, one-third of all cases of acute disability, and two-thirds of all cases of chronic disability. Individual action, that's what is needed around the Nation, at the level of personal health behavior.

At the same time, up here, right back to Washington, congressional action is needed to ensure that world-class health care continues to be directed by consumer choice and by free-market factors.

There's a crying need to change things. But I feel compelled to uphold the quality of American health care. We must not, in our desire to see change, diminish the quality of American health care. Our plan, I think, upholds the quality. Very candidly, I think the major two competing plans would tend to diminish the quality of American health care. We've seen it happen in some

of these nationalized programs abroad, and I think the same thing would happen here. So we must not go for a program that is going to diminish the quality of American medical care.

So again, Dirk and Pam, thank you. We are very grateful for your leadership and helping to make all this happen. And to each and every one of you, my most sincere thanks. I really believe we can get something done, and I say that, recognizing that this is a weird year. [Laughter] This is what they call one of the weird ones out there. But when you have a commonsense idea, when you have something that is backed by the sound and sensible people like yourselves, we've got to find a way to make it

happen. So I pledge you my full support. My driving interest behind this really can be brought to bear in the Congress in ways that our pros here in the front row think necessary. So I am with you and very, very grateful to you.

Now, on for your real session where you're going to learn a lot more about it. Thank you all very much for coming.

Note: The President spoke at 2:09 p.m. in Room 450 of the Old Executive Office Building. In his remarks, he referred to Dirk Vander Dongen, chairman, and Pam Bailey, executive director, Health Care Equity Action League.

Remarks Prior to a Meeting With Republican Congressional Leaders June 2, 1992

The President. I really appreciate everybody coming down. And we've got several key issues, but one that I am most interested in getting through is this balanced budget amendment. I think it is critical, and I think it's an idea whose time has come. It's an idea that the American people strongly support. One of the things I want to follow up on with you all now is how we do that. I know we've got problems in the Senate that are different than the House, but we've got to get it done for the American people. I'm very pleased with the way our troops are moving out on it, but that's one of the things on my mind for this meeting.

So let's pass a balanced budget amendment; discipline the Congress as well as the executive branch and everything else. We've

got to get it done.

Q. A lot of economists don't agree with you, like 400.

The President. Well, the people, the American people agree with me, and that's what matters. So we ought to get it done and not worry about those who don't. It's out there, and we've got ideas up there before the Congress right now that would accomplish this, too.

Q. What do you hear from the primaries?

The President. I haven't heard anything much there, Helen [Helen Thomas, United Press International].

Note: The President spoke at 3:37 p.m. in the Cabinet Room at the White House. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Statement on the Conclusion of the Presidential Primary Season June 2, 1992

When the votes are counted tonight, millions of American voters will have participated in primaries, caucuses, and conven-

tions from New Hampshire to California. This is a uniquely important election year for our country, and I commend every