

But Senator Jeffords voted with us yesterday, and many of the Republicans offered amendments and did other things that you gave them a chance to do. And I hope this will be eventually like Social Security and Medicare, where a number of them will finally come around in the end. And I think they will, in part because you kept the door open and worked with them so carefully.

Senator Kennedy. Well, just on that, on the benefit package approach on it, we had 17 to nothing, all the Republicans as well as the Democrats; and the long-term care, we are 15 to 2; on the privacy provisions that are going to even fill in some of the abuses that exist today, we had virtually unanimous support; the training programs, 11 to 6; the quality issues, which are so important, 13 to 4. We picked up many Republicans on different provisions of it. And I think, obviously, I know how you have worked to try and make sure they're going to be there during the debate on the floor. I think they will be.

The President. We've just got to keep hitting it. I'm ready if you are.

Senator Kennedy. Okay. Listen, it's good to—really appreciate you. We're all looking forward to you coming back to Massachusetts sometime.

The President. Me, too.

Senator Kennedy. Particularly Patrick. He said you had a good time up there with him the other day, too.

The President. We really had a good time. And I was so pleased. He seemed to be doing very well, and he seemed to be enjoying himself immensely.

Senator Kennedy. Well, it was very kind.

I talked to the First Lady this morning, as well. So she's already busy strategizing and moving along on the program.

The President. Thanks.

Senator Kennedy. Thanks an awful lot.

The President. All right, man.

Senator Kennedy. Good to talk to you.

The President. Goodbye. Thank you, sir.

Senator Kennedy. Thank you very much, Mr. President.

The President. Bye-bye.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:48 p.m. from the Oval Office at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Rhode Island congressional candidate Patrick Kennedy, the Senator's son.

Remarks in a Telephone Conversation With Senator James M. Jeffords on Health Care Reform

June 10, 1994

The President. Hello.

Senator Jeffords. Hello, Jim Jeffords here.

The President. Hi, Senator. I just wanted to thank you for your help yesterday and for your leadership on the health care bill and to say especially how much I appreciate the work you did to get the WIC program fully funded. I know how much it means to you and how much good it's going to do for the children of this country.

Senator Jeffords. Well, thank you, Mr. President. I deeply appreciate that. And I want to thank you for your leadership. You got us going on this road, and I think with Senator Kennedy's help we took a big step yesterday to getting our health care bill that we all want.

The President. Well, I really appreciate the fact that you were willing to work with us and to vote for it. I know that some other Republicans offered some amendments and voted for some of the provisions of the health care bill in the committee, and I hope that by the time we get around to voting on the floor we'll have a bill that can get some more bipartisan support. I know they're under a lot of pressure not to vote for anything, but I know that you have some colleagues who agree with you and who will eventually put the interests of the country first just as you have done.

I'm just honored to be in this fight with you, and I think we have to keep working and reaching out to others and trying to broaden the

base. And I know that's what you want to do, too.

Senator Jeffords. I certainly do, and we made a big step in that direction yesterday. And Nancy Kassebaum and also Dave Durenberger, with me, put an amendment in that I think if we'd been able to pass it, it probably would have gotten on board. And—

The President. What was the amendment?

Senator Jeffords. —it gave me confidence that we're going to be able to do it on the floor. And I've talked to a number of others. I'm confident, again, that when we get on the Senate floor and with a little more tinkering,

we'll be able to get a good bipartisan bill for you.

The President. Well, I'm ready to work with you. We can do it. We can do it. Thanks to you, and I'll never forget it. And let's just keep working at it.

Senator Jeffords. Okay, thank you. And I thank the First Lady for her call this morning. I deeply appreciated that, and it's been great working with her and Ira Magaziner. They're two wonderful people.

The President. Thanks. Have a good day.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:54 p.m. from the Oval Office at the White House.

The President's Radio Address

June 11, 1994

Good morning. For me and for many of you, last week was a time of remembrance and rededication. As we marked the 50th anniversary of D-Day, a grateful nation honored the generation of heroes who fought and won World War II and built us 50 years of freedom.

I had the privilege of representing our country at ceremonies honoring all those who liberated Europe. It was an experience I'll never forget. And I came home with a renewed sense of commitment to the work we must do in our time.

The generation of heroes whom we honored last week never lost faith in the promise of America. They worked their way out of the Great Depression, defeated fascism on three continents, and built half a century of prosperity for their children and grandchildren. With the history they made they proved what a great democracy can accomplish when we work together for a great purpose.

Yet today, too many have lost that faith. After years of deadlock and division and drift, too many doubt that our democratic process can change our lives for the better. Well, democracy can be imperfect. After all, it's run by and it represents human beings. Its workings are often untidy, and its pace can be frustratingly slow. But unlike any other system of government, it allows the people's wisdom to prevail, and ultimately something good and decent gets done.

This morning I want to tell you about something profoundly important we're working to accomplish. For weeks we've been told that health care reform is dead, that America will continue to be the only advanced country in the world that spends more than anybody else on health care and does less with it, leaving tens of millions of our fellow citizens without health insurance, tens of millions more with inadequate insurance, and even more with the constant risk of losing their coverage. But the truth is, in spite of all the naysayers, our Nation is closer than ever before to achieving a goal that President Truman set after World War II, "real health care security for every family."

Last week, for the first time in history, Congress took several giant steps toward a bill that answers the call of history and provides guaranteed private insurance for every American. Senator Kennedy's Labor and Human Resources Committee approved a bill providing guaranteed private insurance for every family. The Senate Finance Committee is moving forward under the leadership of Chairman Moynihan, who is also committed to achieving coverage for all Americans.

Meanwhile, other important congressional committees continue their work, and soon the House and the Senate will debate and decide on a bill that will make our families' anxieties about health care a thing of the past.