

I think that it's also clear that we're going to be able to do far more at lower burden than had originally been assumed in terms of providing basic coverage for the unemployed, uninsured, locking in people to some coverage even if they have some preexisting health condition or someone in their family does, and promoting some significant insurance reforms and Government reforms to simplify the administrative costs.

I think there needs to be a sort of baseline comprehensive care package that every American has access to. But I also believe the States should be left a considerable amount of freedom to experiment with whether they want to provide other services or alternative delivery networks or alternative financing systems. So I think you can look forward to seeing a fairly significant amount of State flexibility here.

It's interesting, if you go back and look at the Canadian system, they've started that in one Province. We now have a lot of States trying different things. Hawaii, for many years, has provided some health insurance to virtually all their employees, although not all children were covered. But they did more sooner than anybody else. Now you've got Washington State, you've got Minnesota with new plans, you've got Kentucky and Vermont with plans on the griddle, a lot of other things being considered. So I think we need to maintain the elbow room and the creativity of the States in solving some of these problems, but there needs to be enough of a framework so that no one fears being left out and so that there's enough systematic change to bring these cost increases down. We have got to get health care costs down closer to inflation, plus population growth, or we're never going to turn this economy around in the long run. We're spending 14 percent of our income on health care, and only one other nation in the world, Canada, is even over 9 percent of income, and they're just barely over.

So we are going to have to have some uniformity, but I want the private system to remain in place, and I want as much flexibility for the States as possible.

Mr. Wesely. Thank you, Mr. President.

[At this point, Mr. Hamilton thanked the President for participating in the program.]

The President. God bless you, Art. Thank you all, and goodbye.

NOTE: The President spoke at 5:10 p.m. in Room 459 of the Old Executive Office Building. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Statement on the Death of Matthew Ridgway

July 27, 1993

There can be no greater tribute for a patriot than to say he spent his life serving his nation. General Matthew Ridgway was such a patriot. He fought for our liberty and in opposition to tyranny through two great conflicts, World War II and the Korean conflict. Through his efforts, General Ridgway became one of our most venerated military leaders. His greatest legacy is the freedom his tireless work helped preserve and promote.

Hillary and I wish to extend our condolences to Mrs. Ridgway and the rest of his family. We all owe a debt of gratitude to Matthew Ridgway, soldier and patriot.

Proclamation 6582—40th Anniversary of the Korean Armistice

July 27, 1993

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

The friendship between the United States and South Korea is one formed in blood, for our troops fought shoulder to shoulder in defense of freedom. On the 40th anniversary of the signing of the Korean Armistice, it is appropriate that we honor those who fell in defense of freedom and human dignity and that we strive to create a new vision of how