

Clinton revises health plan

WASHINGTON — Insisting the "bottom line" on health-care reform has not changed, President Clinton Wednesday released a retooled version of his plan that puts off the guarantee of universal coverage for a year and sets limits on federal subsidies for medical care.

The president and his wife and adviser, Hillary Rodham Clinton, delivered their 1,300-page Health Security Plan to a cheering crowd of legislators in the Capitol's historic Statuary Hall.

Clinton laid down a straightforward challenge: "Just one simple request: I ask that before the Congress finishes its work next year, you pass and I sign a bill that will actually guarantee health security to every citizen of this great country."

He said his basic goal remains unchanged — guaranteeing a standard set of benefits to every American, calling it "my bottom line."

"When it is over, we must have

achieved comprehensive health care security for all Americans or the endeavor will not have been worth the effort," Clinton said.

Still, bowing to the political reality of the long debate ahead, Clinton now hopes to ensure every American is guaranteed a standard set of benefits by the start of 1998.

And trying to balance competing demands for more generous health coverage against calls for tighter cost controls, Clinton is proposing to expand benefits in some areas while slowing the phase-in of others. He also has agreed to cap subsidies for small businesses and low-income workers.

Mrs. Clinton, signaling the long road ahead, called the legislation "a framework off of which to work" and urged legislators to subject all competing health proposals before Congress to the "highest level of scrutiny."

She expressed hope for a "vigorous, honest debate that sheds light and not just heat."

"This will be, for the next month, an opportunity for all of us to work together to go beyond politics as usual, to make it clear to the American people that this president and this Congress hear them and are committed to solving their problems in a very real way," Mrs. Clinton said.

Offering a preview of the battles ahead, however, House Minority Leader Bob Michel, D-Ill., cautioned that there are "substantive and profound policy differences" over how to proceed and that today's ceremony was "just the beginning of a long, tortuous process."

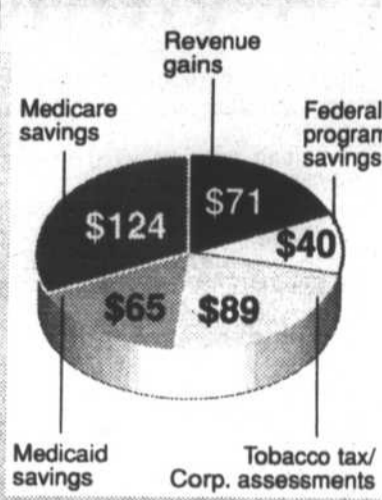
"What we owe the people is a promise that we will not worry about authorship and that we will work together on a bipartisan basis for what is good for Americans," said Senate Republican Leader Bob Dole.

Paying for health care

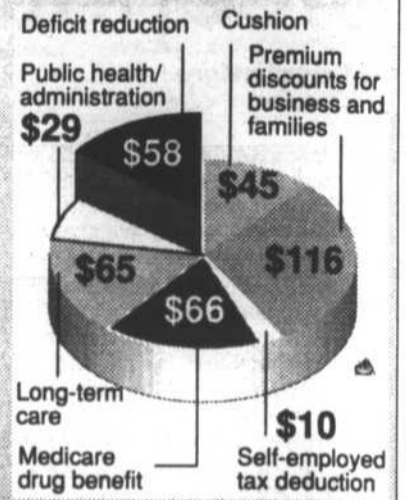
New federal expenses and revenues under President Clinton's revised Health Security Plan from 1995 to 2000, in billions:



Sources of funds



Uses of funds



AP/Wm. J. Castello

Fires blaze through Southern California

THOUSAND OAKS, Calif. — Fires fanned by fierce Santa Ana winds torched dozens of homes and thousands of acres throughout Southern California Wednesday.

Gusts to 70 mph turned spot fires into maelstroms and pushed firefighters to the limit. Traffic was chaotic, roads and schools were closed, and a smoky pall dimmed the sun over downtown Los Angeles, where winds dropped ashes from fires miles away.

"We have what we call a blow-up condition at this time," said Norm

Plott, a Fire Department spokesman in Ventura County, where a 15,000-acre arson fire was raging out of control.

Overwhelmed firefighters ran out of water and called for reinforcements, and helicopters made daring water drops in futile efforts to douse burning homes.

At least 12 major fires were reported burning from Ventura County, northwest of Los Angeles, to the Mexican border. No letup was in sight with temperatures reaching the 80s in

some areas Wednesday.

The fire around Altadena, a heavily populated area northeast of Los Angeles where homes can cost \$500,000, burned 1,000 acres of Sand Gabriel Mountains foothills. Authorities confirmed that 45 homes have been destroyed.

One of the largest fires was a 11,400-acre blaze that damaged or destroyed 28 homes and injured at least five residents in Riverside County east of Los Angeles, authorities said.

Couple cited in infant's death

HEMPSTEAD, N.Y. — A woman who helped bury her baby alive to save her husband the shame of supporting another man's child was found out when she became pregnant again, police said.

The newborn was found Tuesday with a pacifier in her mouth, buried behind a Long Island rooming house.

Urbelina Emiliano, 23, and her husband, Fortino Perez, 28, pleaded innocent to second-degree murder charges.

They were ordered held without bail pending a court appearance Thursday.

"Apparently the motive was that Mr. Perez was not the father and they didn't want the baby to come between them," Detective Lt. Frank Guidice said. "They didn't want him to suffer the embarrassment."

A law enforcement source, speaking on condition of anonymity, said both Emiliano and Perez told police they killed the baby.

STATE WIRE

Governor Nelson says Chinese impressed with Nebraska beef

OMAHA — Nebraska beef is "the door opener" for developing trade opportunities with China and its population of 1.2 billion people, Gov. Ben Nelson said Wednesday.

A Nebraska trade delegation gave about 50 Chinese leaders and business leaders a taste of Nebraska beef at a special dinner Tuesday, and the diners were impressed, Nelson said in

a telephone conference call from Beijing, where he is leading a 10-day trade mission.

"To say that China is a big market is an understatement," Nelson said.

China is moving to a market-oriented economy and entering a consumer age that could provide many opportunities to sell Nebraska products in that country, Nelson said.

Beef is available in China from such places as Argentina, Australia and the Netherlands, but that beef differs from Nebraska beef and the diners at the Nebraska dinner noticed the difference, Nelson said.

"It cuts differently and it's not stringy ... particularly when you cut it and eat it with chopsticks," Nelson said.

SPORTS WIRE

Piazza unanimously voted National League Rookie of the Year

LOS ANGELES — Mike Piazza, a 62nd-round draft pick who had one of the finest rookie seasons ever, was unanimously voted National League Rookie of the Year on Wednesday.

Piazza, who won the Los Angeles Dodgers catching job in spring training, hit .318 with 35 home runs and

112 RBIs. His average was the highest of any NL Rookie of the Year since the award began in 1947, and was the first winner to drive in 100 runs.

His home-run total is the second-most for an NL rookie winner, trailing only Frank Robinson's 38 for the Cincinnati Reds in 1956. The only other

NL rookie with more homers was Wally Berger of the 1930 Boston Braves.

Piazza, 25, became the 13th Dodger to win the award and the second straight, following Eric Karros last year.

Lincoln's new hot spot. Dance to music from the 50s, 60s, 70s, and early 80s Wed-Sat, 8:30-12:30. Check out College Night for 50¢ draws and \$1.99 Margaritas - Wednesday and Thursday from 5 pm to 12:30am. Also, try something from our fantastic menu, there's nothing over \$5.00...food a college student can afford! 301 North Cotner 466-9934

HEY PUMPKIN HEAD, COME SEE US FOR YOUR HALLOWEEN THREADS! Second Wind Vintage Clothing and Collectables 720 "O" Street (Under the Viaduct)

Chesterfield's Lower Level Gunny's Bldg. HALLOWEEN BASH '93 Sat. October 30th (7-9pm) Costume contest at 11pm Prizes: 25 inch color TV, VCR, car stereo by Mobile Sound, Tanning Packages from European Tan Spa, Gift Certificates and much more! Live on Location: 104.1 The Planet Lincoln's favorite party band Finest Hour

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Sleepout Continued from Page 1 valuable message. "I think one of the factors is that the program isn't going to be dark and dismal," he said. "Who says helping people can't be enjoyable? There's nothing wrong with a fund-raiser or public awareness event that's also enjoyable." But Hird said sleepout participants would be too comfortable to identify with the homeless. "These people are out there in their \$300 sleeping bags, nice clothes and long underwear, and they have no idea of what it's like to be homeless. "Most homeless people sleep with what they have on," Hird said. "They are not as concerned with how cold or how hot it is as much as they are worried about living through the night." Sleepout participants can bring sleeping bags and cardboard boxes to sleep in, but tents and cook stoves are not allowed. Janovec said many homeless people lived in more comfort than would the 400 sleepout participants who are expected to stay through the night. "Many of the homeless people will be staying in shelters," he said. "They will sleep in mattresses and beds. They won't have a cold sandwich. They will have a hot meal. They can watch TV, attend chapel or talk to a counselor." Hird said sleepout organizers were ignoring the danger of homelessness. Many homeless people carry weapons to protect themselves, he said. Although Hird said he disapproved of the concept of the event, he did not dispute the fund-raising benefits. But he said better ways to raise the money existed, such as renting the Great Hall in the Haymarket and inviting and feeding all the city's homeless people. "It would be one night in a warm, safe space," Hird said. "We could meet with the people and talk with them." In this way, the homeless would be helped and not degraded, he said. Last year, Janovec said the sleepout raised \$25,000. This year, he said the goal was \$30,000. The money raised at the event will go to the three primary shelters in Lincoln: the Freeway Youth Station for runaway youth, Friendship Home for battered wives and children, and Peoples City Mission for men and families.