Clinton Offers Compromises On Health Reform Provisions

By Paul Taylor
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Clintor offers a new bid for support for his health care reform plan, President Clinton offered Monday to compromise on two key provisions, but he failed to please many critics.

The president's proposals encounter resistance from U.S. governors that he is willing to compromise on proposals to limit health care spending and to require employers and employees to buy insurance through proposed regional bureaucracies called "alliances."

But the governors later dealt the White House a setback by approving a health reform policy that doesn't achieve the president's goal of guaranteed health care coverage for all Americans.

The chief problem for many of the governors and for many in Congress is the president's proposal to finance universal coverage by requiring employers to pay 80 percent of their workers' premiums.

Critics fear this would burden employers and ultimately lead to less employment and fewer businesses.

Although Clinton has proposed subsidies to help smaller businesses pay for health care, congressional Republicans are generally united in opposition to this provision, which also upsets many Democrats.

Maryland Gov. Parris Glendening, a Democrat who endorsed President Bush in the 1992 election, said of Clinton: "I don't think he fully understands the impact on small business.

Although Clinton did not specify what compromises he would accept on other features of his plan, his willingness to consider changes could rob critics of some of their ammunition. Sen. Jesse Helms, Majority Leader Bob Dole, R-Kan., the most prominent congressional opponent of the president's plan, has attacked the alliances and health care spending limits as harmful government intrusions.

"What I and my colleagues refuse to accept," Dole said Monday, "is the destruction of the best health care delivery system in the world ... in the guise of making government more efficient." Dole spoke to the American Hospital Association, which Clinton will address Tuesday.

Republican lawmakers have volunteered a number of different bills, but most new agree on similar goals that they say would make it easier for American workers to try and retain private health insurance.

Vote Talks in S. Africa Break Off

By Paul Taylor
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Talks aimed at persuading right-wing parties not to boycott April's election. Party leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi, who authorized his Zulu-based Inkatha Freedom Party to expand well beyond the borders of the Vatican, even beyond the Pope's offer to be the Vatican envoy -- a job he has tried to expand with ongoing efforts to bring American aid to the Vatican.

"These changes would worry me less if the underlying attitudes and beliefs were also continuing to shift in the direction of being favorable to drug use," Johnston said.

"The country as a whole has not been paying attention to this issue," said Johnston.

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Rory Flynn, the former mayor of Boston and U.S. ambassador to the Vatican, says he's looking seriously at challenging Massachusetts U.S. Sen. Edward ("Ted") Kennedy this year.

"These are disturbing findings," said Lloyd Johnston, a researcher at the University of Michigan's Institute for Social Research.

"The Zulu-based Inkatha Freedom Party, a leading force in the Free State, has been involved in elections over the next two years, reversing a trend of generally decreased use that began in the 1970s and the early 1980s, according to a long-term study by the University of Michigan's Institute for Social Research.

"We are questioning in 400 schools across the nation. Although the numbers are reason for concern, perhaps more disturbing is the change in attitude toward drugs, researchers said. Fewer students disapprove of drug use and fewer see it as posing a risk.

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"This is the destruction of the best health care delivery system in the world ... in the guise of making government more efficient," Dole said Monday.

"It's an effort to satisfy all political interests that society that the improvements of the last decade can't be taken for granted. Each generation of American youth is naive about drugs and has to learn the same hard lessons."

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