

Ahead of the Curve

News Tips, Futures, Leads and Amazing Facts for Broadcasters from the
 Republican National Committee
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Buddy, Can You Spare a Job?

Crimes may be a lead fish among plenty of politicians, but if you're out of a job or about to be out a job, seems unemployment might rise to the surface in a big hurry.

A growing number of Clinton Administration policies are putting jobs on the line, at least in the opinion of think tanks and policy wonks who count those numbers and compile those data. The big question now is whether the WH will sacrifice jobs on the altar of change. Let's put a couple of those policies under the ever-probing AOTC microscope.

The White House Line

In the spirit of fairness, let's look at what the administration is selling. President Clinton's own Council of Economic Advisors took a look at the president's health care reform plan and came to the conclusion that the employer mandates in the bill would kill-off 600,000 jobs. This isn't GOP spin here, this is the WH.

Some folks could brush that off as insignificant, unless your gig is one of the 600,000 to go.

The Industry Line

What about the people who are going to have to foot the biggest part of the bill for the WH health care plan, to wit, the employers?

A study for the Employment

Policies Institute indicates that if *everything* in the mammoth Clinton health care plan actually went as the WH sez it will, (don't bet the grocery money on that...) we can expect 780,000 - 890,000 jobs down the drain. Mind you this is the **BEST** case scenario, according to the study. Sez EPI chief economist Carlos Bonilla, "Ironically, the Clinton health care plan may ultimately hurt those it was designed to help; the low-income wage earner." The only other angle on this item is that the numbers could get worse. If the employer mandates and regional health monopolies and price controls and criminal penalties in the Clinton health care bill *don't* work the way the WH sez they will, this same study estimates more than 2 million lost jobs. Gulp! **SOURCE TIP:** Wanna get the skinny? Ring up EPI at 202-347-5178.

Do Spotted Owls Give a Hoot?

If the Clinton health care plan was the only WH job nuker, that would be one thing. But wait, there's more!

Remember the ruckus over the spotted owls in the Pacific Northwest? Well, the Clinton administration has hatched a timber harvesting plan designed to save these critters. That's all well and good. Now, let's look at the price tag.

In the process of revising the timber policy around owls, as opposed to people, this new policy will cost only 9,500 jobs in Washington state, Oregon and Northern California. There's no GOP english doctoring this spin either. This figure comes straight from the WH!

Want more? Upon releasing this timber policy, the administration

actually fessed up to grossly under-estimating the number of lost jobs as a result of this new and improved timber policy.

Never mind whether we should or should not give birds a higher priority than humans who have kids and bills to pay. Here we have a WH staff that can't come up with a projection that's worth the paper it's written on! Talk about the gang that couldn't shoot straight, geez!

Tax-O-Rama

Now that the Congressional Budget Office has deemed the employer mandates in the Clinton health plan as being "on budget," (read: taxes) the next logical step is to figure out what kind of tax action we're looking at.

According to the Alexis de Tocqueville Institution, an economic think-tank in Northern Virginia, the Clinton health care plan would increase federal taxes by -- are you sitting down? -- 27 percent over the next 10 years! Gadzooks! Where is this 27% tax increase coming from and where is it going? According to economic analyst Bruce Bartlett, "The vast bulk of these new revenues, \$513 billion, will come from compulsory payments by individuals and businesses to health alliances."

Now that we know who will pay and who will get this dough, how does it stack up in the historical context, hmmm? Sez Bartlett: "A tax increase of this magnitude during peacetime is unprecedented in American history." Well, that's one way for Bill Clinton to get into the history books... **SOURCE TIP:** Want more on the de Tocqueville analysis? Give 'em a call at 703-351-4969.

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