

Critics disagree. "I think it is a very dangerous trend to have this kind of private-public partnership where it insinuates into the very process of government corporations and individuals that stand to profit from it," said Jane Orient, head of the Association of American Physicians and Surgeons, which successfully sued to force the White House to disclose task force working documents.

HHS paid at least a dozen advisers to Hillary Clinton between \$33 and \$49 an hour in consulting fees. Among the highest paid was Walter Zelman, a former California state official and activist for the citizens group Common Cause. He received \$101,649 in consulting fees between January 1993 and March 1994, at a rate of \$48.39 an hour, according to HHS records. Zelman left the administration after the plan's defeat.

Another top consultant was Brian Biles, who was paid \$97,950 over the same period. Biles, a former congressional staff aide, began as a consultant and eventually was hired as a deputy assistant secretary at HHS. He recently left for the private sector.

The AP identified at least 18 members of the working groups as receiving \$851,620 as HHS consultants. They included:

Clifton Gaus, former director of Georgetown University's Center for Health Policy Studies: \$87,336 at \$357 a day. He now heads the Agency for Health Care Policy and Research at HHS.

Roz Lasker, a University of Vermont medical professor and former analyst with the Physician Payment Review Commission: \$85,151 at \$46.48 an hour. She works full time at HHS.

Lawrence Levitt, a former California state insurance official: \$70,429 at \$33 an hour. He has left the administration.

Arnold Epstein, a Harvard University medical professor: \$47,999 at \$48.78 an hour. He has returned to his job.

At the same time, some medical professionals who volunteered their time to advise the task force could not even get their travel costs reimbursed. "I paid for the privilege," said Norman Fost, a University of Wisconsin researcher who absorbed \$7,000 in travel expenses.

He wrote a letter in March 1993 seeking reimbursement for colleagues who were "experiencing more severe hardship." His plea fell on deaf ears.

Several contractors also were hired for technical tasks. Some work multiple hats.

VHI Lewin, a Washington-based consulting firm, did numerous studies for both proponents and opponents of health reform. At the same time, the company was paid by the government to analyze the Clinton plan's impact on long-term care and academic hospitals.

Meantime, VHI Lewin produced what it called an independent study of the economic assumptions in the administration plan. The company picked up the tab for the study, touted repeatedly by Cabinet officials as independent proof that the plan was solid.

The company maintains it did not have a conflict in doing both jobs, saying the personnel who worked on the federal contracts were kept separate from those who did the public analysis.

"We were doing studies for a wide variety of people, including people who opposed the Clinton plan very ardently as well as people in the government," founder Larry Lewin said. "And we tried to do that and maintain the balance so no one side could make the claim they were exerting influence over our objectivity."

CONTRACT WITH AMERICA LACKS TRUTH IN CONTRACTING CLAUSE

HON. ED PASTOR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 23, 1995

Mr. PASTOR. Mr. Speaker, as you, more than anybody, are aware, today marks the start of the second half of the Contract With America's 100-day campaign. Even though we are 50 days into the legislative process, only now are the details beginning to surface of how the contract will impact on the lives of working people and hinder the ability of our Nation's cities and towns to meet the demand for local services.

Yesterday, the Phoenix Gazette featured a preview of the difficulties the city of Phoenix will face if the legislative proposals contained in the contract are enacted into law. According to the Phoenix's city manager, the program cutbacks called for under the contract will reduce the city's finances by \$10 to \$20 million. The budget items at risk in the city include funding for mass transit, job training, meal programs for the elderly, and emergency utility bill assistance.

Mr. Speaker, what the Contract With America lacks is a "truth in contracting" clause. The contract is being billed as a program that will get the Government off the backs of the people. What communities like the city of Phoenix are beginning to discover is that it will force local governments to abandon the people they seek to serve.

I commend my colleagues to read the Phoenix Gazette article.

[From the Phoenix Gazette, Feb. 22, 1995]

GOP CONTRACT CLOUDS CITY'S FINANCES—\$20 MILLION AT STAKE FOR PHOENIX WHEN FEDERAL CUTS ARE ENACTED

(By Russ Hemphill)

In recent years, Phoenix has survived a slumping economy, layoffs and cutbacks.

But the Republican Congress' Contract with America could be one of the city's biggest challenges yet, officials said Tuesday as they began work on next year's estimated \$1.27 billion municipal budget.

"There really is an extraordinary cloud over us," City Manager Frank Fairbanks said, referring to potential cuts in federal funding.

Fairbanks said "even a conservative guess" would peg federal cuts of Phoenix funds at \$10 million to \$20 million.

"It's not a question of if they cut, it's a question of how much they cut and where they cut," Vice Mayor Craig Tribken said.

"Actually this year's city budget is much improved," Fairbanks said. "If we didn't have some other situations, we would be in a very strong position . . . to respond to some of the community service needs."

Fairbanks said before potential federal cuts are considered, the City Council will have an estimated \$4.7 million for favored projects.

But Phoenix officials estimate at least \$20 million to \$52 million of the city's \$99 million in annual federal funding is at risk.

The highest-risk funding, they said, include \$8.4 million to \$8.9 million for mass transit, job training and human service grants that include meals centers for the elderly and emergency utility bill assistance.

Medium-risk funding includes \$11.9 million to \$42.8 million for programs that include public housing assistance and community development block grants.

President Clinton and Congress have made "strong declarations that the budget needs to be cut," Fairbanks said. His administration understands that, but any significant federal cuts in funding will mean a substantial cut in services to the community," he said.

Councilman Sal DeCiccio said the city should accept the federal cuts without complaint. "The bottom line is the federal government is spending money it doesn't have," DeCiccio said.

"The United States of America is having some problems right now and we all have to chip in," he said.

Fairbanks urged the council to use restraint when committing money to new programs, in anticipation of federal cuts.

"Together, we must prepare for that situation," he said.

Complicating the council's job is timing.

The city will wrap up its budget this summer for the 1995-96 fiscal year. However, some of the federal budget cuts won't be known until September, city officials said.

"The challenge of this is, you not only don't know the amount, you also don't know" which program will be cut, Fairbanks said.

THE INTEGRATED SPENT FUEL MANAGEMENT ACT OF 1995

HON. FRED UPTON

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 24, 1995

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I introduced the Integrated Spent Nuclear Fuel Management Act of 1995. This is comprehensive legislation designed to address our national problem with high-level nuclear waste by providing workable solutions for managing used nuclear fuel from America's commercial nuclear powerplants.

Nuclear powerplants currently provide more than 20 percent of America's electricity. They do so by harnessing the heat from uranium filled fuel rods to produce steam that turns electric turbines. When the energy in these fuel rods is depleted, the rods are removed from the reactor's core and placed in pools of water.

Where they go next is the focus of this legislation. In Sweden, used fuel rods will eventually go directly to underground storage. In France, the rods are chopped up; the radioactive materials within them are separated and then reprocessed into new fuel rods. These completely different approaches meet both the energy and the environmental needs of their respective countries.

In America, spent fuel rods go nowhere because there is nowhere for them to go. This elliptical sentence accurately describes the nexus of our peculiar problem with nuclear waste: We have been producing thousands of tons of post-reactor wastes over a period of decades without providing a place for their ultimate disposal. The wastes from over 100 nuclear powerplants have accumulated and continue accumulating at 70 sites in more than 30 States.

Nuclear wastes didn't come as a surprise problem like DDT or ozone depleting compounds. We have known from the earliest days of the nuclear era that spent fuel and other nuclear wastes would need the most careful attention. In those early days, however,