



# Mottos for Health Reform War Room

- The politics, stupid
- Don't forget fear
- Changed politics vs. more of the same

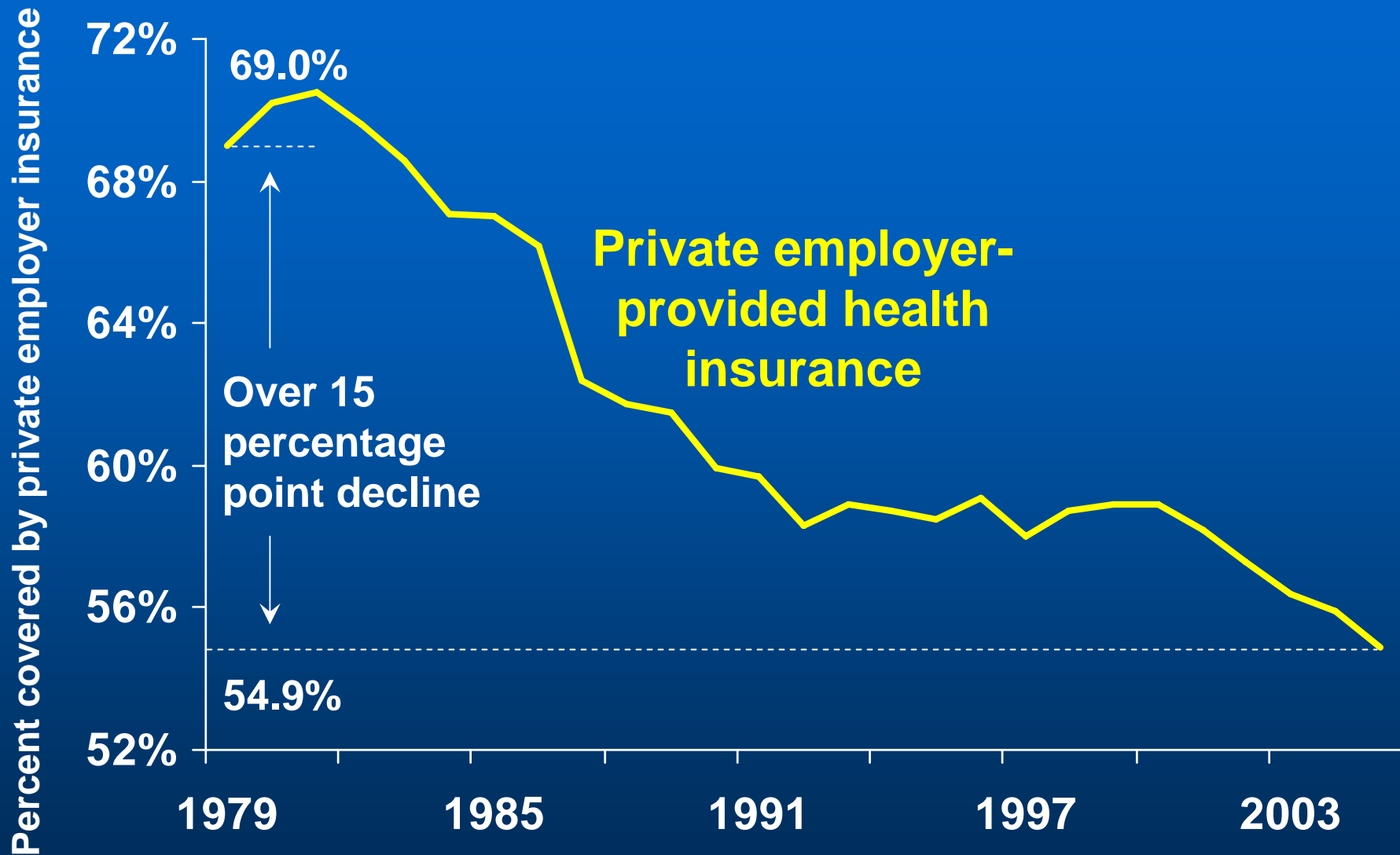
The politics, stupid

**“We have found a unique blend of approaches that is better than competing models....It is not a low-level compromise, a product of political give and take, but a genuinely higher synthesis....We have something...we can really be proud of—a true political breakthrough, and [a] new possibility of achieving the kind of consensus we’ve never gotten to before.”**

**—Walter Zelman, March 1993**

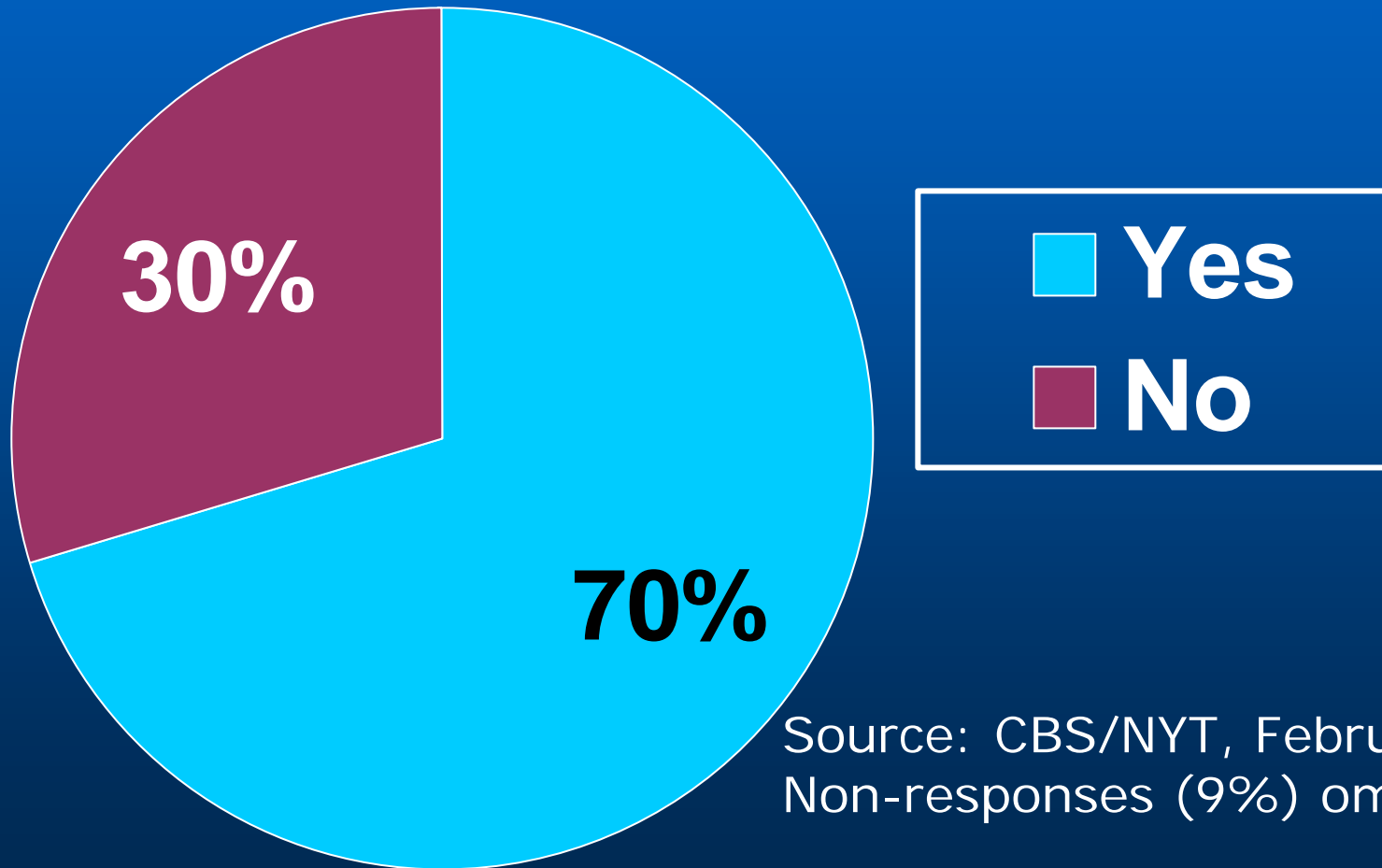
Don't forget fear

# The Great Risk Shift in Health Care



Source: Economic Policy Institute, *State of Working America*, 2006/2007

# Do you think the federal government should guarantee health insurance for all Americans?

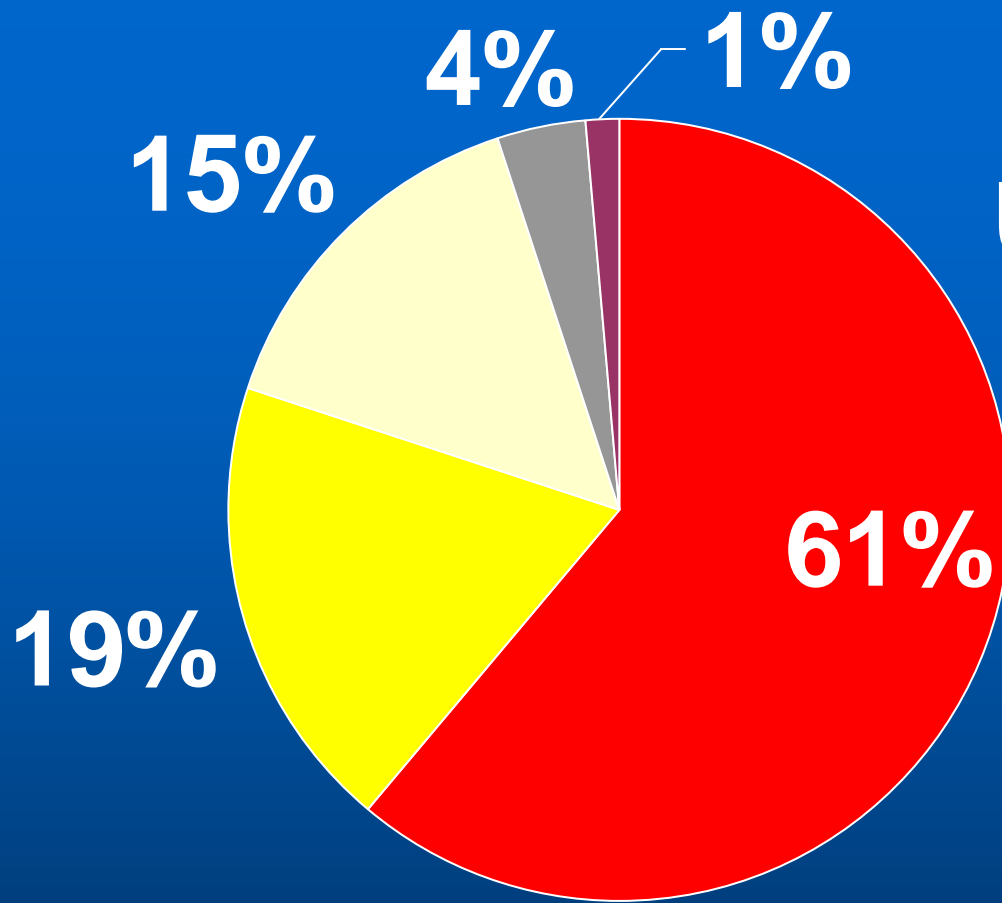


Source: CBS/NYT, February 2007.  
Non-responses (9%) omitted.

# The “Big Three” Elements of Top Democratic Candidates’ Plans

- The creation of a new government insurance pool that would allow all Americans without workplace health insurance to choose among a range of regulated private plans, as well as to enroll in a new public insurance plan modeled after Medicare;
- a requirement that employers either provide coverage or pay a mandated contribution to help finance their workers’ coverage through this new pool (aka “play-or-pay”); and
- a requirement -- initially, or eventually if necessary -- that all Americans show proof of coverage (a so-called individual mandate).

# Coverage of U.S. Nonelderly, Current Law, 2007



Health Care for America Proposal (<http://www.share Prosperity.org/>)

 **Employer**

 **Medicaid/SCHIP**

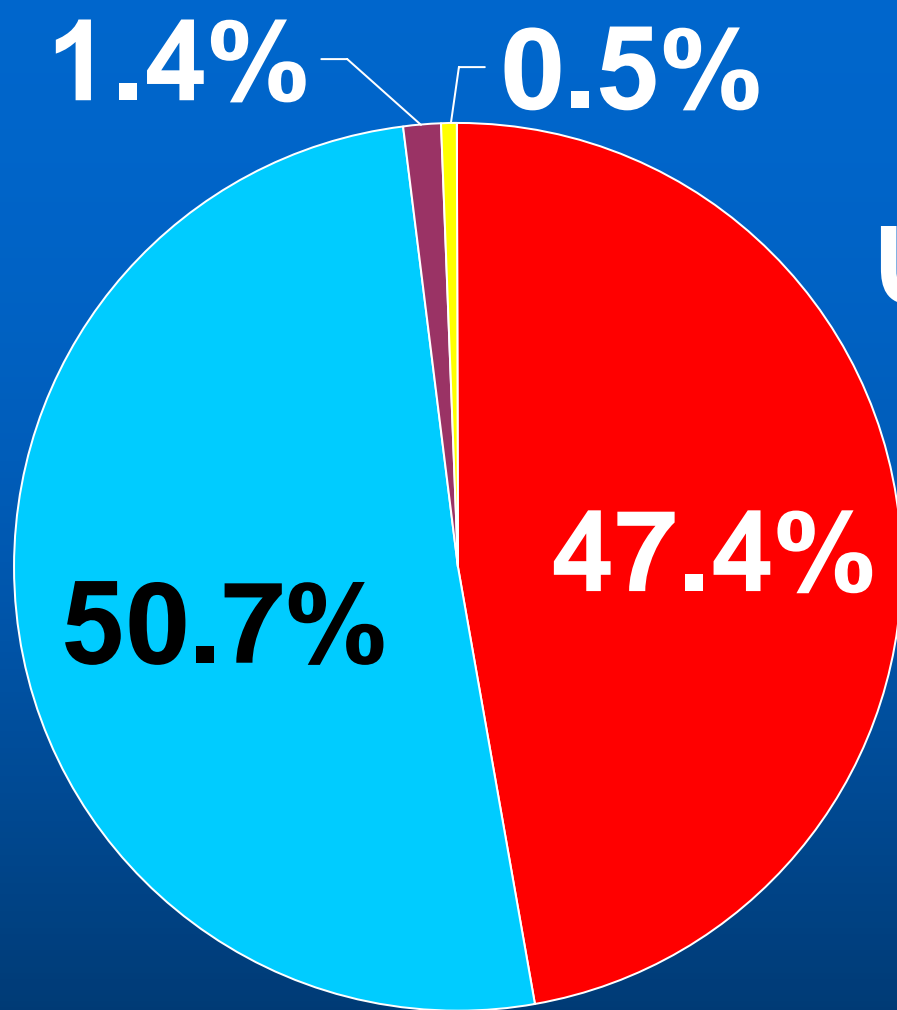
 **Other**

 **Uninsured**

 **Non-Group**

Source: The Lewin Group using the Health Benefits Simulation Model.

# Coverage of U.S. Nonelderly, Health Care for America, 2007



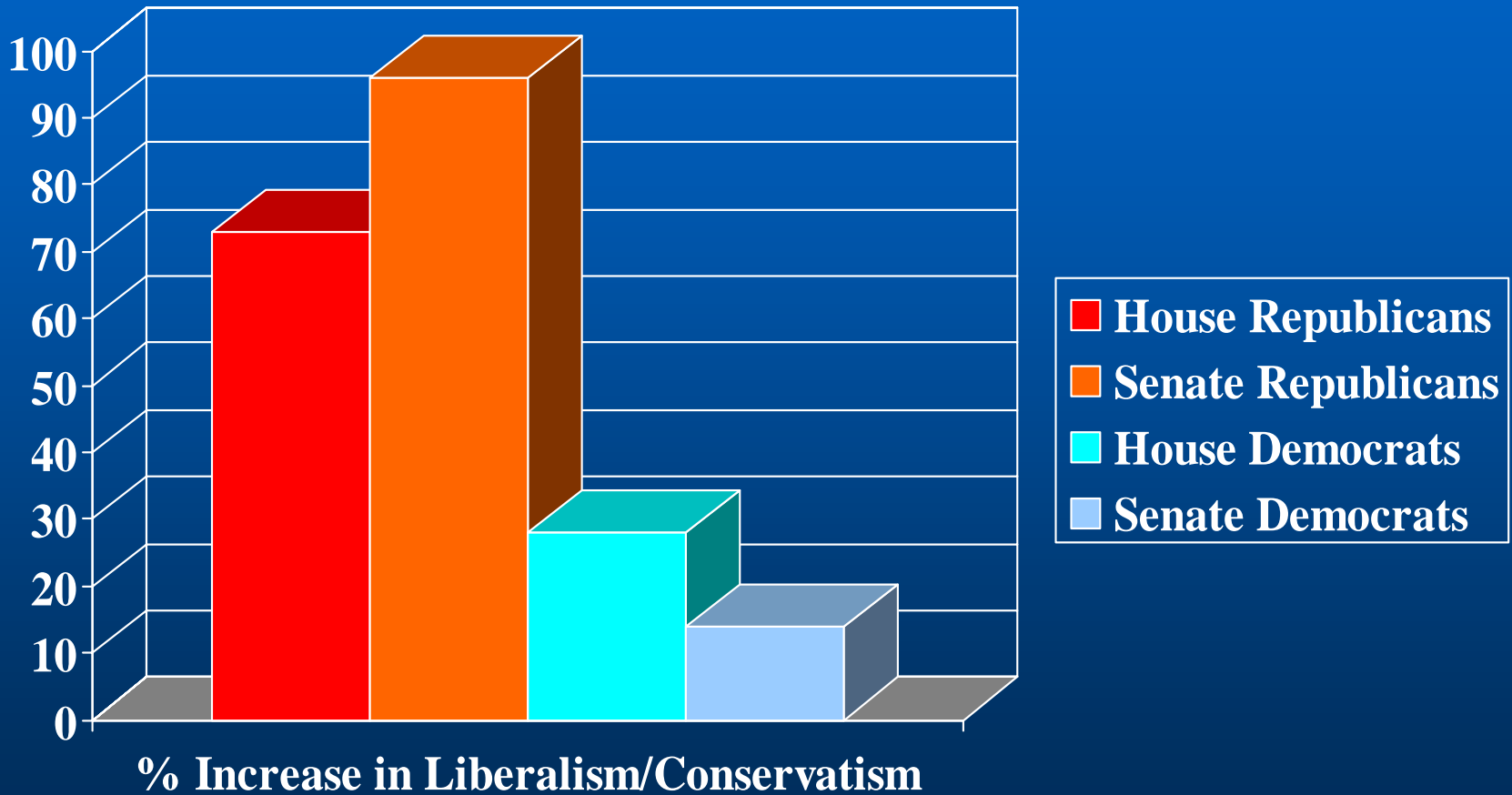
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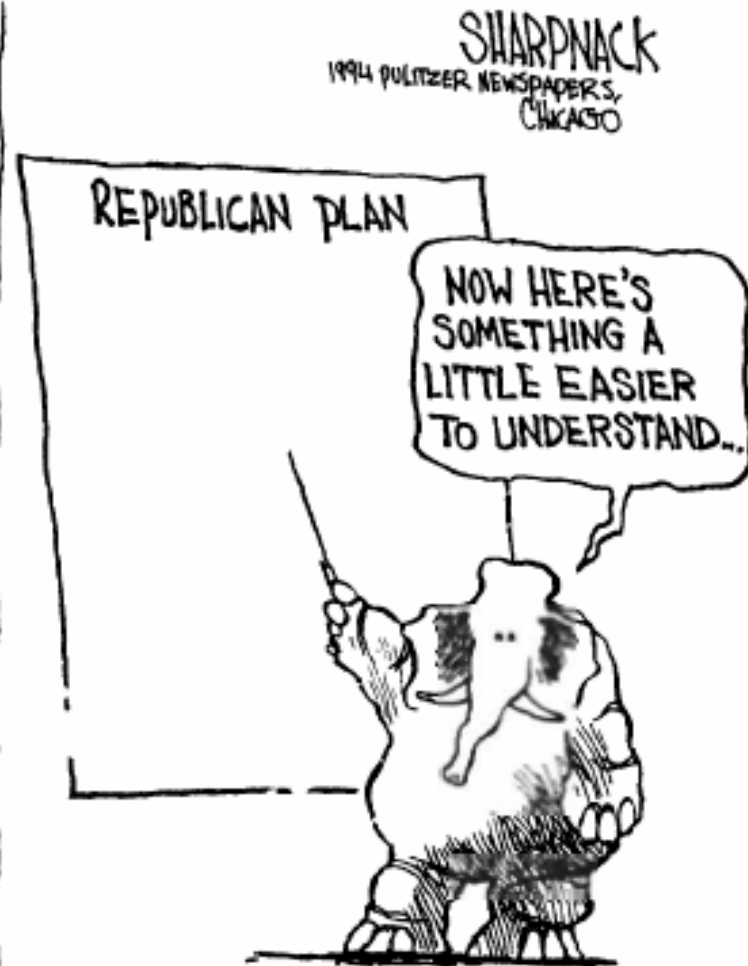
Source: The Lewin Group using the Health Benefits Simulation Model.

Changed politics vs.  
more of the same

# “Unequal Polarization,” early 1970s-early 2000s



Source: Poole-Rosenthal, D-W Nominate Scores



# Signing of Medicare, 1965



# Signing of Health Care for America?

