CAN THERE BE REFORM?

1. SYSTEM

Employment based, decentralized, fragmented, variable

But most (75-80%) Americans get comprehensive access to high quality care vs. all (95% plus) Germans, British, Japanese, Canadians get good to very good care (and 5% get better than that).

System flexible, innovative---open to new technology, new organizational forms (Which way does the learning go? Change here is not a national system decision)

Medical Research well supported/diffused----biotechnology, scanners, artificial heart

2. PROBLEMS

10-15 % limited access, charitable dependant, state dependant care

Variability

Cost?

Better elsewhere? UK clearly underinvests, Canadians losing confidence in system, Germany can't control costs. Japan ?

3. MISSED OPPORTUNITY?

Clinton political errors but could it have happened with better judgements?

No cost increase unrealistic at best; creates opportunity for fear of being worse off

Cold War dividend missed?
4. FUTURE

If no big system change decision likely then will significant change be done incrementally?

Technology forces change? End Stage Renal Disease. The artificial heart?

No change----housing, education----mixed system, lots of variability, decentralization, lack of coordination, but pretty good

Mostly listen to your mothers---don't smoke, drive fast or hang around with the wrong crowd and don't worry