

OBAMA'S DEAL PBS Frontline April 2010

Themes: law-making, logrolling, lobbying, partisan politics

Terms: special interest groups, lobbyists, individual mandate, public option

Key players (besides President Obama):

Chief of Staff Rahm Emanuel

Karen Ignani, President America's Health Insurance Plans

Billy Tauzin, head of PhRMA

Senator Max Baucus, Chair Senate Finance Committee

Senators Ted Kennedy, Chuck Grassley, Ben Nelson

1. What do you learn about the role of lobbyists in passing healthcare reform? What is your opinion of the role they played? Do you think they helped or hurt the legislative process?
2. What "backroom negotiations" were made for the healthcare bill to become law?
3. What is your opinion of President Obama's his actions and decisions? Be specific. Why do you think he made the deals he did? Do you think he had to?
4. How and why did this legislation worsen party politics?
5. Do you think the passage of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act was worth it? Explain!