

Candidates address AmeriCorps

(AP) — The following are answers to the major question: "Is AmeriCorps, the national service program, worth saving?"

Bill Clinton
Definitely. Our challenge is to give Americans the educational opportunities they need for the 21st century and to strengthen our sense of responsibility and community. Through AmeriCorps... we are widening doors to college and at the same time building a sense of pride to our neighborhoods. To AmeriCorps has recruited 100,000 volunteers to work in our schools, hospitals, and neighborhoods while earning money for college or job training."

Bob Dole
No. As a concept, this pro-

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gram is as American as apple pie. I am sorry to say, however, that AmeriCorps is another tragic example of a liberal program that sounds great, tugs at your heart strings, waves the flag and steals your wallet. More money is being spent on the federal bureaucracy that manages the AmeriCorps workers than goes into the pockets of those people doing the work. On average, it costs about \$26,700 per AmeriCorps member for 10 months work. The bureaucracy and overhead uses up over \$14,500. The worker receives what's left,

about \$12,000 (\$7,400 in cash and a \$4,725 tuition credit.) In some places the costs are mind boggling. For instance, the Navy's Seaborne Conservation Corps costs \$66,175 per 'volunteer'; the Vermont Youth Conservation Corps costs \$42,758 per participant; and Magic Me of Baltimore 'volunteers' cost \$49,625 each."

Ross Perot
"We need to evaluate its effectiveness to learn whether or not this program is really making a difference in the lives of our children. We should encourage communities to take pride in our children and teach them how to care for their fellow citizens. The federal government cannot teach us to be good; only our parents, schools and communities can."

Dole: Clinton hides his liberal beliefs

WASHINGTON (AP) — Bob Dole tried to pin the liberal label on President Clinton Monday, contending his White House rival was hiding his real political beliefs until after the election. Clinton retorted that his record showed he was no "closet liberal."

Dole made his remarks on the third anniversary of the introduction of Clinton's health care overhaul plan, addressing a crowd in front of a 10-foot banner titled "Bill Clinton's liberal, big government health care plan."

Some of you might remember this chart," Dole said. "The patient finally there on the American, and I want to read from media interviews with the architects, Iraqis families are American families. The Spanish language is expressive for the views haven't changed on health care and that the original model which died in Congress, was still good."

President Clinton came to town a liberal. He's a liberal. The only thing that stopped him in 1994, Dole said. Clinton dismissed the "closet liberal" talk, saying

"The record doesn't support the charge." For evidence, Clinton cited his four-year record of reducing the deficit and signing bills for welfare reform, banning assault weapons, authorizing 100,000 police and sanctioning the death penalty for drug kingpins.

Clinton generally has avoided direct responses to Dole — leaving that to his staff or to advertisements. Senior adviser George Stephanopoulos also said

there was no new strategy and Clinton responded this time because a reporter asked him about Dole's remarks. But Stephanopoulos also said Democrats are concerned when Republicans put labels on them. "There is a fear of caricature — all the time," he said.

In an interview with PBS' "NewsHour With Jim Lehrer," the president rejected GOP suggestions that he advocates "loaded big government."

As for the idea he would become more liberal in a second term, Clinton said "the problem with that argument, it doesn't fit with what I did as president and as governor and won't fit with what I'm planning to do in my second term."



"He (Clinton) is still a liberal. The only thing that stopped him ... was electing a Republican Congress."

Bob Dole
Presidential candidate

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