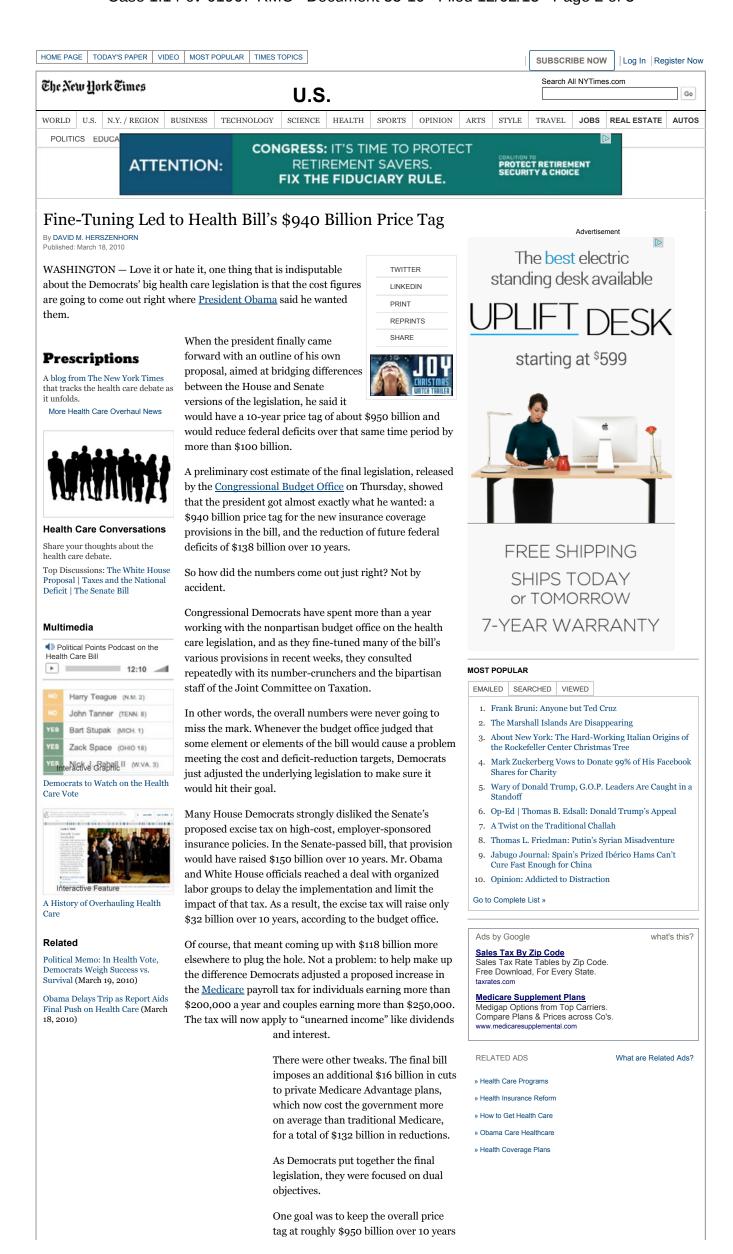
IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,	
Plaintiff,))
v.) Case No. 1:14-cv-01967-RMC
SYLVIA MATHEWS BURWELL , in her official capacity as Secretary of Health and Human Services, <i>et al.</i> ,)))
Defendants.))

EXHIBIT 8

David M. Herszenhorn, *Fine-Tuning Led to Health Bill's \$940 Billion Price Tag*, N.Y. Times (Mar. 19, 2010)



The New York Times

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and to make sure that the legislation would reduce future deficits by more than \$100 billion.

PLAY VIDEO 4:45

The other, even more crucial goal in recent weeks, was to meet the requirements of <u>budget reconciliation</u> rules, which mandated specific savings over five years through changes in laws under the jurisdiction of different Congressional committees.

AUTOMOBILES

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Holonger looking like the box it came in, the new Honda Pilot totes the family with more refinement. Taking cues from its sibling, the popular CR-V, the Pilot now sports more curves.

Think about it this way: Building the health care legislation was not some wild shopping spree in Macy's, running through the store grabbing whatever looked nice off the racks and then

heading to the cash register with credit card and a bunch of coupons in hand, only to let the cash register render its verdict.

Rather, it was more like a trip to the local fruit stand with a set amount of money in hand, and every item clearly marked with a price per pound. The precise mix of apples, oranges, pears and grapes could be adjusted — a little more of this, or a little less of that — so there would be just the right amount of ingredients to make a fruit salad, without blowing the budget.

By the end of the legislative process, Democrats had gone through the various provisions of the legislation so thoroughly that they had a pretty good idea of what would happen to the price tag every time they made an adjustment — rather like being able to guess the cost of a bag of apples just by holding it.

Things did not start out that way. Last spring, Democrats were left scrambling, after early versions of the legislation showed steep costs and limited results. An early analysis of the Senate Finance Committee put the 10-year cost at \$1.6 trillion — far more than Democrats ever wanted to spend. Another early tally, of the Senate health committee's bill, put the cost at \$1 trillion over 10 years, but said the bill would reduce the number of uninsured by just 16 million — a major shortfall.

At times, all the back and forth left lawmakers frustrated as they waited for the budget office to provide answers. At one point, the No. 2 Senate Democrat, <u>Richard J. Durbin</u> of Illinois, declared, "That's what it's going to say on my tombstone: 'He was waiting for C.B.O.'"

A version of this article appeared in print on March 19, 2010, on page A16 of the New York edition

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