...And the pursuit of national health: the incremental strategy toward national health insurance in the United States of America

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During the academic year 1991-1992 at the University of Minnesota, I took two courses that inspired me to focus on American health care policy: the social welfare course of professor Clarke Chambers and the social policy course of professor Larry Jacobs. When I began to think about studying national health insurance, both professors helped me to get on the right track. I particularly remember the advice given to me by professor Chambers: 1) start with the exclusion of national health insurance from the Social Security Act, and 2) read *America's Welfare State* by Edward D. Berkowitz. I did both.

Back in the Netherlands, I wrote a thesis entitled "Condition Critical: The Exclusion of a National Health Insurance Program from the Social Security Act of 1935," based on research I did at the National Archives in Washington, DC. I thank Aloha South for helping me with the papers of the Committee on Economic Security and for giving me a personal tour of the National Archives downtown building. Professor Ali de Regt of the Sociology Department of the University of Amsterdam made constructive comments on my original thesis and also on my later work. Professor Rob Kroes of the American Studies Department of the University of Amsterdam has been my mentor since 1989 and my supervisor since 1994. I am grateful for the intellectual guidance and academic counseling he has given me over the last decade.

From 1994 to 1998 I worked at the Roosevelt Study Center, located in the beautiful abbey of Middelburg. I very much appreciated working with RSC director Kees van Minnen and my colleagues Hans Krabbendam, Mieke van Thoor, and Erik van den Berg. Of course, life in Middelburg would not have been so much fun and pleasant without the marvelous Joosse sisters: Leontien, the first lady of the Roosevelt Study Center, and Diana, the first lady of De Bommel. I'll come back and visit soon.

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Parts of Chapter II and III of this study are based on the article "Soon or Later On: Franklin D. Roosevelt and National Health Insurance" that I wrote for the Presidential Studies Quarterly (June 1999). A shorter version of the article will appear in The Roosevelt Years (Keele University Press), a collection edited by Robert Garson and Stuart Kidd. I have also presented parts of this study at the 1995 annual conference of the Netherlands American Studies Association, the sixth international colloquium of the David Bruce Centre for American Studies, Keele University, held in Middelburg in June 1997, the 1997 annual meeting of the American Studies Association in Washington, DC, the 1998 annual meeting of the American Sociological Association in San Francisco, and the 1999 annual meeting of the American Politics Group in Cambridge, Great Britain (where I was in the pleasant company of Marja Roholl and Frits van Holthoon). I am grateful for the constructive comments that I received during these meetings.

In May 1997, the University of Amsterdam was visited by two American first ladies: Hillary Rodham Clinton and professor Theda Skocpol. Fortunately
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I dedicate this study to my parents, Aat Kooijman and Sonja Langeveld, for all the obvious reasons and much, much more.

Jaap Kooijman
Amsterdam, June 1999
As the President of the American Studies Association, I have been fortunate to have received valuable advice and support from colleagues in the field. This has been particularly true of the 1997 annual meeting of the American Studies Association in Washington, D.C., and the 1998 annual meeting of the American Sociological Association in San Francisco, and the 1999 annual meeting of the American Political Science Association in Cambridge, Great Britain. I am grateful for the constructive comments that I received during these meetings.

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