

[REDACTED]  
Yachats, OR 97498  
February 2, 1994

Dear C-SPAN,

This morning on your first call-in show (5 a.m. here) during the discussion on health care programs, the comment was made that most people were satisfied with Medicare programs and that they had been ~~mx~~ successful in keeping the costs down.

Most people I have talked to would find serious exception to such a statement!! During the twelve years that my husband was suffering from Parkinson's Disease, I had a crash course on our medical system. Medicare would "allow" about half of the physician's fee (and most neurologists would not accept Medicare assignment) so that even with supplementary insurance we were regularly paying half of our total medical expenses. And the paperwork was mind-boggling. And pay-backs very delayed. Then we had to xerox copies of the bill and Medicare's decision and send to our other insurance company.

A week before my husband died, I tried to get him into a hospital -- but they would not admit him because "there's nothing the matter with him except his Parkinson's and that isn't covered by Medicare". Nor is Alzheimer's. These are supposed to be "custodial diseases", which is the way our present system gets around accepting responsibility for time consuming care. Canada's system is much better. We even considered "emigrating" to Canada so that we could be assured of the care my husband would need, but we were turned down. During his last four months, I had difficulty getting help so that I could sleep at night and even more ~~ix~~ difficulty paying for it (Fortunately, some inheritance money from his parents helped us over this period. So much for Medicare.

I am afraid that President Clinton's plan is likely to go the way of Medicare and continue to increase our health care costs. Private insurance is NOT the way to go - a good single-payer system is.

Sincerely,  
[REDACTED]