

6/7/99

O.W.

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C-SPAN

400 NORTH CAPITOL ST, NW SU 650
WASHINGTON, DC 20001

Dear C-SPAN:

I got up at 8AM to hear about
AARP on Washington Journal. I was
quite interested regarding what would emerge.
You might be able to tell that I'm
suspicious (that's too harsh a word -
That's too much - I want something that says
"they make themselves seem more modest
and yet important than they are").

My experience with AARP over
about 5-6 years.

1. The first year or two I was a member.
Since their dues are only \$8 a year, it
didn't seem much, since you got
"Modern Maturity" free, plus the occasional
Ralph Nader type letter about writing
Congress to stem an emergency. I didn't seem
However, "Modern Maturity" didn't seem
to offer much. It ended up being for

the retirement of the future - not somebody 65 or older.

2. This morning on C-SPAN, Horace Datto seemed to bring this out. He talked about the modest \$8 dues from many people, but never said a word about AARP's activities.

The name AARP is given to much of the Medigap (20% that Medicare doesn't pay). I have it even though I stopped being a member about 5 years ago. AARP takes \$137.50 out of my checking account every month to pay for it (I think they work with Hartford Insurance so, of course, they only retain a percentage of it), and money comes into the organization. I'm not complaining about my insurance, but they never talk about it. (It seems they're in auto insurance, also). It seems they're well known in medical circles because

as soon as you say "AARP", an office or clinic knows what it means. I feel that they do a lot of this 200% work; make money on it, but never talk about it.

3. Actually, I was surprised at the number of calls coming in to Washington Journal from 75 and 80 year people with problems in Social Security, etc. which people turning 50 aren't often concerned with.

As I write, I realize as I write, I don't have the whole story, but I feel that somehow there's a lot of their activity (though legitimate) they don't talk about.

Sincerely,

