

ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30338

May 2, 1993

Mr. Brian Lamb
C-SPAN
400 North Capitol St. NW
#650
Washington, DC 20001

002594 MAY 17 93

Dear Mr. Lamb:

I have just completed viewing virtually all of the 20 hours of your coverage of health care in the United States. I have a number of comments that I hope you will take into consideration when planning future coverage of this topic.

My first comment is that I am amazed, frightened and appalled at the ignorance of the nature of medical care, and how it is given, manifested by those in government and those the government is apparently choosing to consult in this race to "reform". Sadly it is obvious that even your reporting, which normally I greatly admire, is equally uninformed.

To my best recollection today, the last day, is the first you have included participation by private practitioners and only two at that. No patient has participated in that context. The face to face interaction between the one who is ill and that professional whom he must trust to first and foremost have his best interest at heart is what most concerns your viewers.

Following this association, you will be of great service if you will in the future make clear the distinction between "managed competition" and managed care. I also would hope you would explore this latter at great length including exactly how it works, who makes the decision regarding the care of the individual patient and currently available statistics regarding its cost effectiveness .

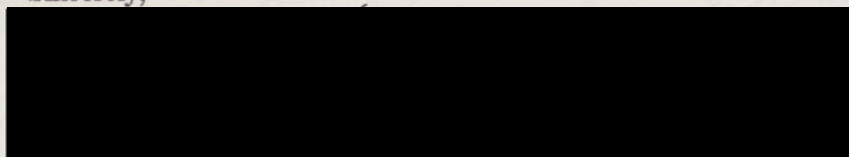
I was especially outraged at today's C-SPAN segment characterizing the AARP and the AMA as lobbyists. These organizations come closer than any other group you have had to representing the real players and certainly the most affected groups in this whole debate. This was especially galling in the face of the failure to so represent hospital associations, drug manufactureres, the idealogs, the politicians and the massive "pork" represented by the university "teaching" and research institutions such as the Johns Hopkins. As a matter of fact a case can be made for the empire building collaboration of these latter institutions and their local communities and elected federal officials having contributed substantially to the financial ruin into which we have permitted ourselves to be driven.

Fianlly, the false assumption that physicians are exclusively economically motived should be addressed not only as an insult by the well publicized cynicism of politicians and the press. This assumption by those writing regulations would be a serious miscalculation and indeed will result in the eventual establishment of a system so motivated.

In that had I been able to get my call through you would have quickly established that I represent a "special interest". I will tell you I am close to senior-citizenhood and have practiced medicine through it all. I have done general practice, served for 15 years as principal investigator of a cancer drug research grant and faculty member at a major teaching and research medical university and most recently been in the solo private practice of psychiatry. I am fortunate if my "wealth" extends to the end of each month.

Since no one has asked my opinion I am giving it free. Thank you Mr. Lamb or whoever may have read this far.

Sincerely,

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



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