

[REDACTED]  
Key Colony Beach  
Florida 33051

December 3, 1993

C - Span  
400 North Capital Street, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20001

Dear Sirs:

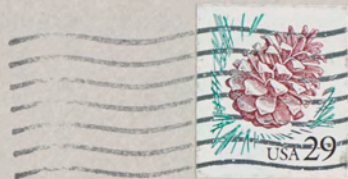
Thank you for showing your mailing address on the TV screen. For more than one year I have tried without success to complete calls to your spokesmen and panels on a few issues including the nomination of Mrs. Beard for Attorney General, homosexuals in the U.S. armed forces, US intervention in Somalia and, today, on the subject of a national health care plan. I request that when you next have a discussion about health care with either journalists or politicians you present the following comment and question to your speaker(s) and endeavor to get a full answer and response to the issue involved.

Comment - In all the discussion over the last year about a new national health care plan I have not heard anyone seriously address the question of how much and what kind of health care our politicians think every man, woman and child in this country is entitled to receive at the public expense. It seems to me that whenever this question comes up the speaker at the time, including Mrs. Clinton, ducks the issue by saying "We are not going to ration health care". Even George Bush avoided the whole subject during his administration when HEW refused to approve the State of Oregon plan on the excuse that that plan set a limit on (rationed) the medical procedures which the plan would cover. No one should be permitted to talk about a national health care plan without first addressing the issue of limited or unlimited entitlement and the corresponding cost. So far it seems that every premature baby or octogenarian is going to be entitled to unlimited public expenditure in the pursuit of dubious life prolongation because our politicians will not face the issue of how much and what kind of health care the public (as opposed to individuals and private institutions) can or should afford, regardless of whether the cost is disclosed up front or buried under the table and in corporate expense accounts.

Question - What is wrong with "rationing" health care? Webster's Seventh New Collegiate Dictionary defines "ration" and "rationing" as "a share esp. determined by supply", "distributed equitably" and "used sparingly", all derived from "reason". Is this bad or just too difficult for our public figures to wrestle with?

Frustratedly yours,  
[REDACTED]

PS: The important issue is not "Liberal" or "Conservative", but rather whether individuals make rational judgements about what they want, can afford and the corresponding trade-offs. Only then, can we discuss philosophy and priorities.



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