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C-Span Networks,
650 Capitol St., N. W. Suite #450,
Wash. D. C.

Dear C-Span Producers:

i want to thank you for one of the most wonderful Health Care Series of features, I have ever seen.

(mistake)
i saw it from the beginning, on Sat. April 21, with Dana Priest columnist, who writes for the Wash. Post, and said there were 750,000 Lobbyists who were registered on Capitol Hill, John Fairhall, of the Balti. Sun, the lady author on Booknotes, Sun. April 22nd, Lisa Belker, who wrote, "First, do no Harm," about her experiences while her husband, I believe, was a Resident in Pediatric Cardiology, at Houston's Texas Medical Center, and the inequities of "the system"

Also, from Baltimore, Johns Hopkins Pres., Dr. James Bloch, who spoke glowingly of all the medical accomplishments at Johns Hopkins, now rated as one of the world's best, or the country's, as well as the Community rating system where he had practiced previously in Rochester, New York.

Also, Dr. Jonathan Weiner, PHD of Johns Hopkins School of Public Health, Karen Heller or Haller, Nurse Admin., Dr. Barbara Starfield, Div. of Health Care Policy, who was a Pediatrician at Hopkins for (7) seven years, and said some very good things about the rights of the poor to accessible medical care, and Dr. Michael Deans, Dean of the Medicine School, who was a practicing Ear, Nose, Throat Spec., and operated on Cancer victims for (17) seventeen years. also whose son and daughter both attend the medical school. Also, appreciate the back-ground of facts on the wonderful man who founded all this great work this institution does, Johns Hopkins son of a Quaker Grocer, who amassed a fortune in Banking, Railroading after starting out as a Tobacco Processor or seller, I assume.

Also, the feature from D. C. General Hosp., ^{Hosp Admin} Mr. Mark Chastang, sorry if I mis-spelled that, pointing out all the community good works with health care and education, the center offers to the poor. How in the Public health sector they are competing for funds with private non-profit hospitals and re-imbursement from Medic-Aid, and Medic-Care doesn't cover much ~~and~~ they have an up to date Trauma and Burn Unit, as well as Medical Laboratory services,, a full service hospital, that can do the job, as good as any private hospital, also operating in association with Georgetown and Howard School of medicine

Also, I believe Johns Hopkins operates in conjunction with their sister or flag-ship hospital, Francis Scott Key, after the composer of the Star Spangled Banner, our national anthem

C-Span Net-works,
page @2

May 4, 93"

recently wrote "Health NUTS" article, Amer. Spectator

Editor
New
Republic

Also, appreciate so much your inter-views with Dr. Arnold Relman, of Harvard used to be Editor for 16 years of New England Journal of Medicine, and Dr. Jane Fulton, Univ. of Atlanta, and the awful Fred Barnes, "Socialism is a disease," on the phone, he was later on C-Span that next Mon. morning the 24th, I believe.

Dr. Relman said, sorry if I mis-spelled his name, there are many reasons for the escalating cost of medical care in this country, un-necessary tests and procedures, duplication of services, Fraud, which is one of the only (2) two doctors I have ever heard with the courage to admit this does occur, and very little is done about it either by the doctors themselves, the insurance cos., or the federal government

Also, that the Consumer is at a dis-advantage as being ill, he can hardly afford to "shop around" he does not have consumer choice, and you are at a dis-advantage, as you are not knowledgeable about the system, or what is needed.

You do not know how to bargain, if the doctor says you need the tests, you get them out of fear.

Also, the debate I believe over the phone with Michael Kraus, Prof. of Law, at Geo. Mason Univ. School of Law, who used to be a Law Prof. in Quebec Canada, who says the 'Single Payer' system of Canada does not always work comprehensively either, citing government accountability which is often in-complete, that the system is financed out of general tax revenues, there is a lot of cheating on taxable income, research has suffered, also that the Canadians enjoy a 'Free Ride' on the American health care system, because they can come and be treated here, and take what the insurance Co. will pay their system, and that a Voucher system where-by you can purchase a fixed amount for health care, is probably better.

Dr. Relman argues, that the Canadian system is at least affordable as you move from Province to Province, I believe there are (10) ten, and if you are rich, you do not need a voucher system, as you can pay for Private hospitals, of which there are some up there.

Also, appreciate the opinion of Dr. Stephanie Woolhandler, of Cambridge Mass., I suppose Harvard, of the Physicians for a National Health Care Program, who along with Dr. Sydney Wolfe, has done so much good speaking out in public in support of a more equitable fairer system, who believes that we should educate within the medical system, and that a system such as Canada's simplicity with lack of paperwork, and administrative costs and our fine technology, would make for a system such as 'Canada Deluxe', also Canada has more Primary Care or Family Drs., and tries to reduce population of Spec. in accordance with population

Also, the words of Dr. Nigel Bateman, of St. Thomas Hosp., of London, and Dr. Michael Suttlefield, ~~TOM STUTTARD~~ Med. Comm., The TIMES of London explaining the British system, the old ward system, and the new also that their salary system is scaled, it is not 'fee for service'. I believe the system covers Pharmaceuticals, trips even to doctors Eye glasses, medical equipment, etc.

C-Span Networks,
Page 3
May 4, 1993

Also, that there is a National Hosp. for Nervous Diseases, and a National Children's Hosp. on Ormond St., where I believe two little Irish girls (conjoined twins) were successfully separated as shown on '20-20', but one died a few days later, they were adorable

Also, the words of Uwe Reinhardt, who is an expert of Public health policy, thru Princeton Univ., Woodrow Wilson School of Government, who explained how Germany's 'sickness funds' work, where you are billed by your income, yet it is not a tax, and doctors are paid on per-diem, hospital doctors are completely separate from Primary Care or at home Doctors, who also make house calls, they also have a Rest & Recuperation units where heart patients can relax which are like luxury spas, the medical education is under the Ministry of Culture where the student as long as he has a straight A average, has a constitutional right to medical education, their patients stay longer in hospitals, where as opposed to the U. S., as Dr. Relman says there is a great rush to get the patient out of the hospital, who may be better but not necessarily well enough to go home, yet especially someone who is alone, purely for economic or insurance reasons. The only criticism of Germany, is lack of technology compared to ours, you may have to go to a specialized hospital for a certain type of operation, and a Doctor glut of actually too many doctors in ambulatory care

I believe between Great Britain and Germany between 6% and 8%, Canada 10% as opposed to ours of almost 14% of the GNP, is spent on medical care. While there is a long wait for elective surgery in Britain, the doctors own the private hospitals, and the government owns the others.

Also interviewed on the Baltimore segment were Dr. John Shigo, of Gaithersburg Md., used to practice in Bowie, Md., who had graduated from Temple Med School in Phila., and explained the various reasons why his costs were up, I also appreciate the interviewer asking him about the cost of his office visits in comparison to when he was just starting out, as he explained the cost of vaccine, syringes, even paper was up, more clerical workers to deal with expanding practice the cost of blood and lab test work, the cost of even gas to go to the hosp., as if that is the poor patient's fault.

I appreciate your interviews with the wonderful Gov. John Waihe of Hawaii (D) and Dr. John Lewin, Dir. of the Public Health Admin Program there who had such good things to say about the Clinton's Health Care Plan, and explained Hawaii's plan SHIP, also Gov. Barbara or Patricia Roberts (D-Oregon) who explained the Oregon plan, I believe by phone, and her representative from the health dept., Dr. Merrill Silapes Fisk, sorry if I have that name wrong, who explained about the rationing program.

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PAGE 3

C-Span Networks,
Page 4
May 4, 93'

Alo, Dr. Paul Griner, Dir. of Strong Memorial Hosp., Rochester New York, who shows so much compassion in explaining the various problems wrong with our present system, too much technology causes demand, over-competition, use just to pay it off, leads to inflation, cost and abuse, Rochester has done such a good job with Community rating they are advising people from the state of Vermont, how to go about a state plan, we must ensure thru our own program every person has access, as well as set certain limits, as has been done in Oregon, explained in their community they have maybe (10) ten or (11) eleven M. R. I.'s as opposed to other similar sized communities which may be a small amount, then again a lot for Canada, which has very little.

Also, the words of Michael La Force, of Genessee Hospital, of Rochester, New York, who claims a good system is the V. A. system, following or monitoring acute or long term care, and explained how rich the area is in medical personnell as coming from the fine Univ. of Rochester Medical or Dental school.

Dr. Griner also explained there is no common billing system, or benefits utilization, as well as intrusion by the insurance cos. of the relationship between doctor and patient.

Dr. LaForce spoke of the Capitation system.

(STATESMAN JOURNAL)

You also inter-viewed Diane Dietz, Health-Care reporter from Salem by phone, who explained the current rationing system is more for the poor than for everybody, as 450,000 Oregonians are getting basic health care for the first time, as others are being restricted.

Also, Mr. Howard Berman, of Rochester or New York Blue Cross, who explained their community rating system

Also, Mr. Bernard Tresnowski, Pres. of Blue Cross, Blue Shield, who is a graduate and taught at univ. of Mich., Business and Health Admin., or Insurance, explained that Blue Cross-Blue Shield has two (2) central offices, or head-quarters, in Chicago, Ill., and D. C. by the way it was interesting of your cameras to go in, and inter-view or observe workers there.

Also, Mr. John Motley, of The National Federation of Independent Businesses, a graduate of George., who was going for a PHD in History till due to family obligations he switched his major, or had to leave school early to pay the bills, and became involved in business, who explained most Americans have paid for their health care thru fringe benefits thru job, thru union or what-ever, and that the burden of any new health care plan or policy, should not be put on small or independent businessmen rather the government must take the role of providing the funding for the un-insured.

Of course, Mr. Tresnowski, and Mr. Motley, are chiefly concerned in their own areas for lobbying for more of the same health care system, which completely locks out the poor or un-insured from access

C-Span Networks,
1/4 Page 5
May 4th, 93'

I appreciate the last week-end, with Larry Smar, of Physicians Insurers Assoc., Robert Hunter, of The Insurance Assoc of America, and Dr. Thomas Conolly, Internist with offices in D. C., who were on a Panel discussing health care, Dr. Conolly explained why his health care office visits have gone up, and also that we need more Primary Care doctors, and about the hazards of the cost of a medical education, also seemed to be upset, when Mr., Hunter alluded to many doctors are drunks or on drugs, and of course while admitting there were some, defended the doctors.

Also, on the last day, you had on a Panel with Leslie Rose, of Group Health Assoc., Mary Nell Lehnhard, rep. of Blue Cross, and John Rothe'r of AARP, each explaining the impact of change in health care policy, within their own particular fields. The only one that seems leaning to a National Health Care program is AARP, which under their wonderful Pres. Ron Pollock, does such active lobbying, and speaking out publicly for same.

Also, appreciate you showing the lobbyists from the National Assoc. of Retail Druggists and Phar. Assoc. going into the offices of members of Congress such as Rep. Dorothy Johnson (R-Conn.), Rep. James (Jim) Greenwood (R-Bucks-Mont Co., Pa.) Rep. Pat Danner (D-Missouri,) who had a grand-daughter in the same high school as the lady lobbyists daughter, ^{x rep} Shardea Letterwood of Florida ^(D)

Also, appreciate the seminar with the three (3) senators, David Durenberger (R-Minn.), Harris. Wofford (D-Phila., Pa.) and John Jay Rockefeller (D-West Va.,) who ^{was} former gov, who did such good work as Chair, of the Pepper Comm., I believe a caller had a criticism of him.

Some of the calls I remember are a Physician who called up from Cal., and said it is the Physicians themselves who are at fault because the poor patient has no choice, or chance, they are not a medical person, and have no knowledge, when certain tests are ordered what they are for, what they are going to cost the Physicians himself does not care as he automatically assumes it will be paid for by insurance and the more he does, the more he will be paid, another Physician called up, I believe with a German accent an older man and said the figures that the Clinton Admin Task Force and Dr. Judith Felder put out who is a Prof. of Political Science at George., and has studied Health Care Policy for a long time, I believe she was recently with Heritage or one of the Foundations, that the figures are fraudulent that the 37 1/2 million un-insured people do not receive health care, when in reality they do thru the Hospital emergency room, I thought that was terribly cruel., and a typical remark of a Physician only used to worrying about his income, as Dr. James Todd

C-Span Network
PAGE 6
MAY 4, 93

who was in I believe Sat. or Sun., and as head of the A.M.A. has one of the coldest harshest attitudes toward health care reform I ever heard, purely motivated by worry about income, and I am glad a young lady caller told him off, too.

I saw him once on David Brinkley "This Week on Sunday" tell Sam Donaldson, it has always been in America, that health care will be dominated by how much money or insurance you have, those with more, will naturally get better care.

I also feel Congress is two sided and two faced, taking more money from all the Medical Pacts, while they claim they are for health care reform, Harris Wofford, as recently published in the Phila. Inquirer recently took \$76,000 from various Pacts, while an Aide wrote to the paper and was wild, as so many Reps. take so much more and of course Sen. Wofford is deeply committed to health care reform.

He sponsored a form recently at Temple, also the one with First and Second Ladies respectively Hilary and Tipper, at St. Agnes Hospital and Burn Center in So. Phila., and Harrisburg, and told according to the Daily News (Phila.) a lot of Fruity "Fruit of the 100m jokes," just to trivialize the whole matter, of course none of them have to worry about health care, they are getting the benefit of the best subsidized, socialized medical care there is, completely subsidized by tax-payers, they may earn their money, but we pay for it. While they hold endless committee hearings on the subject incidentally I appreciate Brian asking Rep. Pete Stark (D-Orange Co. Cal., when does all this talk end, because that's all they do, I suspect it is deceiving to make it look to the public like they are busy doing something.

One of them, Durenberger is in trouble for ethics violations why is he even still sitting in Congress, I saw him once on the simplest Health Care panel, where he brought out a pie chart and says to this older retired man who was telling his troubles getting health care to the panel, how many of these things do you think we have and we have to look at all the time, and the man looked at him like what kind of world was he in, also Ms. Johnson, she claimed to be the Lobbyist who I believe had an Irish name, she was one of the firsts or the first to propose health care legislation, I got a copy of her bill, and it is the most confusing thing I ever saw she did not want such a wonderful system changed.

As a medically un-insured housewife and mother of (4) four grown children, one handi-capped and on SSI and Medicaid developmental delay born with rare syndrome, and Blind, and husband on Social Security Medicare I have known much in-justice within the system running the gamut of rejections, being turned away, lack of preventive care, etc., keep up the good work, we need you the media behind us in this great struggle, to recognize what is a great injustice that is treated as a right and not a privilege in almost all countries.

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PAGE 7
MAY 3, 93

Dr. Barbara Forrester said only 150 of
med. school graduates go into PRIMARY CARE
Prithem. Conally said the debt of approx \$100,000 is of
consideration for going into specialties

but ours and So. Africa, last (2) two industrialized nations
not to offer all its citizens some basic affordable access to health
care, due to gross neglect by the medical community and failure of
'past administrations of this government, to enact any lasting form of
health care legislation, Geo. Bush could care less with his stupid
Voucher plan, some saying that a Voucher plan is much better as the
Law Prof. from Canada, from Geo. Mason Univ. in Va., said it en-
courages free enterprise, and people to purchase as much as they
want, not rationed by the government, I doubt it would still work
as due to escalating costs, which many think with the horrible
prices charged by Pahr. cos., and escalating doctors fees and hos-
pital costs as well as insurance premiums, it would be a mistake to
set price controls, as look what happened under Pres. Carter, well
so is this way, bill everybody the 'sky is the limit' assume every
body has insurance, and don't give anyone a break

While Congress talks, we get sick, and die, keep up the good work
and the focus on this great in-justice, which I believe next to the
Housing, education and crime, as well as the deficit, is the greatest
facing U. S. today, we need you of the media behind us in this great
struggle, thanks for also reading some excerpts of letters from viewers
THanks to Brain, Steve Scully, who did a bang-up job, Bruce Collins
Ed Andersen, and all concerned, JIM GATES

Also, want to compliment you on your explaining of various health
care definitions, such as Managed Care, Medicare, Medicaid what it
covers, though it didn't always show enough what Medicare did or
did not cover such as eyeglasses, pressur medical equip., pre rather
than Tv, private room, etc.

Also, explaining how Pres. Truman was the firsts Pres. interested in
some form of National Health Care Program, and was fought by the spec-
ial interests, and Congress did not want to touch it at the time P.C.
Also, your inter-view with Wm. Tobey, Health Care office Admin., or busi-
ness manager, explaining how the office is run, staffed, and set up,
and he is in charge of it all running smoothly like a business, 6 in
billing office, 6 nursing staff, three (3) front office receptionists
fees for services, proposals presented to finance comm., and drs.,
who can accept lower or raise some proposals, unfortunately, some
of us in the good old U. S. A. are out of the business

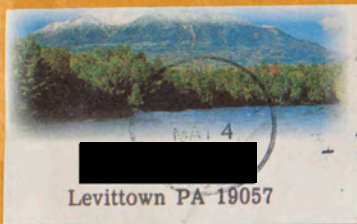
out of the medical care business out of the 'wellness business'
let + to literally die for lack of money or insurance
+ that is un-just, immoral, un-ethical

also enjoyed the
segment from the
WIMEN Eye Unit
John HOPKINS

Respectfully



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