

April 26, 1993

Washington Post - C-SPAN
1150, 15th NW
Washington DC.

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Subject: Health Care

Televised Programme Apr 26/93

Dear Sir/Madame

In the past 24 hours there has been a number of televised programmes on the subject, during which there has been critical comment on the Canadian system, particularly as it pertains to quality and waiting time. In this regard, the following comments are volunteered.

In a recent programme "Sonya Live" on the subject matter when the guests were American and Canadian nurses, the response by an American nurse to a Canadian nurse's description was, to quote, "I am sick and tired of hearing about the Canadian system when the Canadian citizens have got to come to the US for medical service and, the American government continually hasn't got to bail out the Canadian government". How can objective consideration be evaluated when

such ignorance exists.

With regard to; wait time, quality and costs, consider the following personal factual situations:

In April 1992, without prior announcement, I flew up to Winnipeg, Manitoba from Barbados, after a stress test indicated a possible blockage. In 24 hours after arrival I had an appointment with a Cardiologist and within 2 weeks after numerous required tests and counselling, I was admitted, had quadruple by-pass surgery. I was in and out of the Hospital (St. Boniface) in 7 days. The quality was extremely good judging by the continued high standard of physical health. The external appearance of the surgery in my view, seems superior to what I have witnessed of my American friends who have undergone similar operations. Now, here is the clincher in terms of costs. While a Canadian, I was obliged to pay the full costs myself. The total cost was less than \$13,000.00 Canadian. I have been reliably informed by American members of the medical profession and, the experience of friends and others

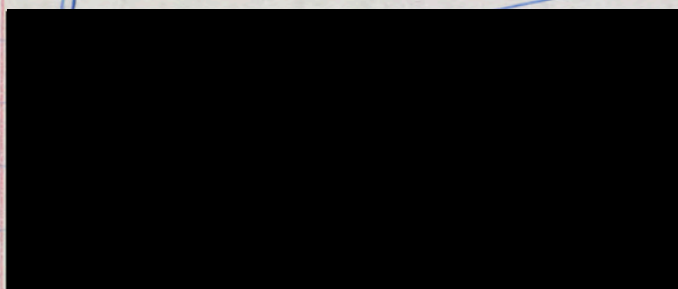
who have had similar operations in the U.S., their costs has run from \$50, - 75,000.00 US dollars.

On the other hand, a number of months ago, I sustained a cut arm that eventually was sutured at a local hospital here in Sebring Florida, when the following was experienced: It took one hour and a half to receive attention after I reached the hospital. The attention they did not take more than 15 minutes and five sutures. For that visit the cost was \$500.00 and I was informed two more visits would be required, one for dressing and the other for the suture removal - each was expected to be at a cost of \$150.00 each, which would have made the resultant total cost \$800.00. You can form your own conclusion as to comparative costs anywhere in the world.

The last by unrelated subject which was one of the topics during the C. SPAN programme; relates to the pieces at Waco. The Attorney General - Ms Reno made reference to the number of yards a specific firearm could fire. In her exact words she stated one mile or

1720 yards. Perhaps at the next meeting
with the press someone should educate
Ms Reno that they are 1760 yards to a mile.
Hopefully, her performance for the good of
Americans will be more knowledgeable than
her linear conversion.

Yours truly,



Sebring, FL 33872.

P.S. May be Dan Quale should be informed
about Ms Reno faux pas.