

WILLIAMSTOWN, MASSACHUSETTS 01267

Tues. A.M. 7/29/97

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Dear Connie,

C-span continues to be a must for me in the A.M. One day I'll get a fax so I can send my opinions in a more timely fashion.

Today was "passed the budget" day. All the big things both parties want to claim credit for we are hearing about but I shudder to think about all the little pieces of pork or power that were snuck into this bill that we'll never hear about. It has been ever thus. It amazed me to hear all the battle over giving a tax credit to low income families who by virtue of a tax credit they already receive pay 13 federal income taxes now. Why couldn't Congress, instead of complicating the tax code, simply give a payroll tax decrease to middle class and low income workers. That would have been right fair, and saved much on bureaucracy that administers these things, and it wouldn't have contributed to the perpetuation of dependency on Big Brother.

Another point, few people ever discuss is that it's about time businesses, from the

smallest to the largest corporations, start finding
a way to pay employees a "living" wage. No,
I don't mean we should legislate "wages",
via the minimum wage laws. I believe we should
debate and discuss and point out that we'd all
be better off if the profits generated by
business expansion were shared more equitably
with employees instead of going in large
measure to upper management and stockholders.
I'm in my 60ies now and looking back
it seems to me that the scales used to
be better balanced so that even those without
college education could get a job with benefits,
work hard and look forward to having a
modest home in a safe place someday. We
didn't have the huge "homeless" population and
so very many unwed mothers and two incomes
weren't a "must" for middle and lower middle
income families. I realize that corporations
have a fiduciary responsibility to their stockholders
but that has always been so. It's complicated
and perhaps it has been the tinkering with
regulations and complicated tax codes that
have made it impossible for bosses to pass
along more to middle class workers.
Whatever the problem it, we need to air all
sides open and over until we see a solution
which doesn't involve yet another program
or handout from Uncle Sam. The large
majority of people want to be independent
and everyone should have the opportunity
to be which should mean, "If you work
hard and are honest, there is a decent
(maybe modest) place for you and your family
in our society. Our government will let you
keep enough of your earnings to do it to."
Sincerely yours,
[redacted]