

March 22,2001

Dear Editor,

Regarding your January 2001 article Becoming an Information Master¹ , you just got my attention for at least another six months.

Universal Health coverage was first instituted in Germany in 1883. In the U.S., medical health services are reserved for the wealthy. As Slawson etal so succinctly notes, “We don’t ration services in the United States, we ration people.”

That politicians and their agripharmaceutical managers should complain loudly is no more surprising than pigs standing on their hind legs and speaking perfect English. Of course they don’t, and of course we don’t hear intelligent discussion in the halls of Congress on universal health care.

We hold these truths to be self evident:

- 1) The first and foremost Right is the right to make a profit.
- 2) Every Corporation has the right to representation.
- 3)Freedom of speech may be purchased by anyone with the means to do so.
- 4) The Calvinists are of course correct, but Freedom of Religion will be tolerated as long as it does not interfere with the orderly conduct of business, and is socially acceptable.
- 5) Every citizen has a Right to choose their own health care. The underside of this is that those who can’t afford it can continue to chose no

coverage. Is there a qualitative difference between standing by while neighbors go to concentration camps and allowing one in seven Americans to “choose” no coverage when that translates into a 5-10 year deficit in terms of life expectancy ? We are clearly not ready for a discussion of the ethical subtleties of the well being of one in four HIV + South Africans versus the rights of patent holders.

But do not despair. At an obscure point sometime in the next 12 years when the average citizen’s age hits 65 and a “decent” profit can no longer be made, discussion on a meaningful coherent health care system will again be permitted in the halls of Congress.

John H Juhl, D. O. NYC

Drjhjdo@yahoo.com