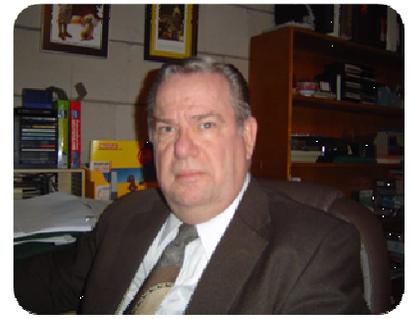




'Bent Miles

"My Two Cents"

February 2008



<http://www.thejokester.net/Joke%20Archive/Archive04/031404.htm>

Do You Believe Everything Your Government Tells You?

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Used to, I believed everything my parents told me; then I learned about Santa, the Easter Bunny, and the Tooth Fairy.

Used to, I believed everything my teachers told me; then came reality; they are not always right.

Used to, I believed whatever a policeman said; then came police brutality and cover-up on my teen-age son.

Used to, I believed whatever my government told me; then came Vietnam.

I'm not required to believe what my government says at whatever level; neither are you. Should you take at face value what government or elected officials tell you? Absolutely not!

These elected officials have not told you the truth—

except when it made them look good—from the first time they introduced themselves to you while running for office.

As the First Lady under Bill Clinton, Hillary had a national health plan. However, when she needed money to run for office, what happened to her ideas? Have you heard her thoughts lately? Who does she blame for the run-away, spiraling out of control medical costs in our country? She blames us fat folks. Yep, you heard me correctly. You, overweight? Then all of this is your fault. Now, go lose some of that fat and everything will be just great. We will reduce medical costs in this country by thirty percent.

It's not as if we fat folks don't already feel guilty enough. Now, not only do we have to feel guilty about eating, falling off our diets, and not exercising enough, Hillary would have us to feel guilty about all the medical woes she does not have the courage to lay at the feet of greedy doctors, and hospitals.

Why is she reluctant to do this? We are not likely to give her the money she needs for her campaign; they may.

How in the world did the out of control spiraling medical costs ever become the fault of the average obese American? You say, "What the heck are you talking about? How did you ever come up with such a preposterous idea?" I didn't. Hillary did. Just take a look at her presentation dated **May 24, 2007**.

Well, about 30% of the rise in health care spending is linked to the doubling of obesity among adults over the past 20 years.

<http://www.hillaryclinton.com/news/speech/view/?id=1789>

We all do understand the importance of preventive care for our bodies; all of us except, maybe for the insurance companies who routinely use it as an excuse to deny medical claims. Read her presentation. Do you see anywhere that she lays the responsibility at the doorstep for which it actually belongs? Namely, doctors

and hospitals. She does hit the main culprits, insurance companies, a lick and a promise.

In her presentation, the greedy and unscrupulous hospitals and doctors escape any blame whatsoever. The insurance companies didn't fare so well. However, she suggests that she should deal with them on an equal footing. I disagree; insurance companies have had years to make things right and have gotten forever worse. They have congressmen and senators in their hip pockets. In dealing with them, as the president of the United States, one should set policies that force them to be fair and equitable. Why should we ask someone if they will be fair? They will never reform on their own and congress will not likely pass a viable medical program that puts any real demands on the insurance companies because they are congress' "goose who laid the golden eggs".

It is reported that one congressman got up and cried about "our poor mothers," when he was trying to get the current diabolical HMO debacle passed. Likely, his poor mother never had to face HMO. He cared not for our poor mothers. All he cared about was satisfying the big business for which he was lobbying. He was later hired by big business to the turn of two million dollars a year. I'm sure he would say there was no conflict of interest there at all.

The government should not ask big business if they will please play fairly. Our president must set down a viable medical policy and insist that all players adhere to that policy. If you want to play outside the rules, you pay fines. If you want to break the law, you go to jail. Yes! Stealing from me while I'm in the hospital, even by insurance companies and doctors, is breaking the law; and they should go to jail.

Why wouldn't Hillary place the blame on the medical establishment? Look to whom the presentation is being presented--a medical institution. If you notice, these are the same folks with whose children hers played. Have you seen a medical institution that is not rich? Have you ever seen a poor doctor? Who have been some of the largest contributors to her election campaigns? Check out the insurance industry or the medical folks. You may find a connection there.

When I had bladder cancer, I contacted a well-known clinic. They would not talk to me without a \$2000.00 retainer fee. Another clinic proudly advertised that they had an airfield where patients could land in their private jets. These sound just like the places the average working guy is likely to go with the insurance policy that will likely deny his claim.

Have the pharmaceutical companies, who charge hundreds of dollars for medications that should cost a few cents, no part in the out of control spiraling medical costs? How is she going to change the laws and or policies that give them supreme rule over drug distribution and cost? While she also gave them a lick and a promise, her presentation did not spell out this. Will her policy be more specific?

Have the hospitals that charge several dollars for a single aspirin no responsibility? Double charging in hospitals is a common occurrence.

"Patients No Longer in Clear"
'In the past, the average patient didn't have to worry about errors in billings because if a health care provider overcharged, the insurance company picked up the bills and the patient landed in the clear. But today, any claim denied by insurance companies comes out of the patient's pocket no matter what the policy's out-of-pocket limit, because that limit only applies to what the insurance company agrees to cover. If they don't agree to cover all or part of your treatment, you are responsible for paying.'
ABC News:

According to ABC News, another way hospitals steal your money is by re-naming common items. Then they charge you an inflated price for that item. Do you have

any idea what a "**disposable mucus recovery system**" is? Try tissue. Any idea of just what "thermal therapy" consists? Try a bag of ice cubes. It was reported that one patient paid \$57.50 for a cough support device, which turned out to be a teddy bear he thought was a gift.

Often doctors will complete an operation where they conducted two procedures in one operation and charge for it as if it were two different operations so they can charge more money for one job.

Audits have revealed errors in over 90 percent of the hospital bills. Equifax, reportedly, found hospital bills that totaled over \$10,000.00 had \$1300.00 overcharges. If a doctor sticks his head into your room and looks at your charts, he charges you. You call on the phone to speak to the doctor; he charges you a consultation fee. I called my doctor to tell him some information he was unaware of, and when I reviewed my bill, he charged me a consulting fee for educating him. I dropped him.

As you can readily see, much of the high cost of medical bills is just plain theft and unscrupulous practices by folks who have no honor. If I stick my hand into your pocket and take money, that is a crime; if I'm caught and you press charges, I will go to jail. Yet, doctors can lie, misrepresent the truth, and steal and never suffer a

consequence other than getting richer. As medical students, these lying, stealing reprobates take my hard earned tax dollars and swear that when they become doctors they will serve humanity by practicing for less in poor communities. What happens when they go back—lie—on their word and refuse to practice and do that to which they agreed? Do they get sanctioned? Do they have their stolen licenses to practice revoked? How about the Hippocratic oath they took? Is that just another lie and expression of a lying, dishonest character?

I've known of, at least, one case where the doctor who worked for an insurance company stated that she had been responsible for many deaths because she was doing what the insurance company wanted. Did she go to jail or have to serve the community in any way? Is she still practicing? How about that insurance company? Still making millions a year, just hired a different doctor, didn't miss a dollar.

Used to, I believed everything the doctor told me; then he wanted to sell me antibiotics for my small son's viral infection. I had a degree in science. I knew better; I dropped him.

Somehow, Hillary has concluded that lying, stealing dishonorable doctors, and hospitals have no negative impact on higher costs of medical treatment, just that

we fat folks are mostly responsible and the insurance companies need to be bargained with. Do you agree?

Some of what she says sounds great; maybe she would actually do more than she says after she is in office. But, I think we should ask ourselves why this wasn't done before her husband left office?

How many times have you seen someone running for office saying what he/she would do, only to find out that when they got into office they couldn't or wouldn't do half of what they said? Well, half of what Hillary says is not enough.

Used to, I believed what I read; then I read Hillary's address to the medical establishment.

If you agree or disagree with this article, write us at 'Bent Miles' Magazine and we will give you equal time. Write to: mytwocents@bentmiles.com