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Letter from an American Supporter in Malaysia to Geraldine Ferraro

Geraldine Ferraro

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URGENT: REQUEST FOR QUACKERY REPORT

RECEIVED
OCT 09 1984
WASHINGTON OFFICE

The Honorable Geraldine A. Ferraro
U.S. Home Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

21 Sept. 1984

Dear Representative Ferraro :

On May 31, 1984, the House Select Committee on Aging, Subcommittee on Health and Long-Term Care, held hearings in Washington, D.C., allegedly "to review the problem of quackery and its impact on senior citizens."

The Subcommittee's press release announcing the hearings said:

"The hearing will include the release of a *REPORT* summarizing the findings of what Chairman Pepper called "the most comprehensive review of quackery ever undertaken by a Congressional body." (*Emphasis supplied*)

I RESPECTFULLY REQUEST A COPY OF THAT REPORT.

According to Clinton Ray Miller, this 250 page report does not include a single word about the real MEDICAL QUACKERY of unnecessary surgery.

WHY?

I agree with the National Health Federation that "the biggest, most costly and dangerous quackery rampant in the United States today is the quackery INSIDE organized medicine."

If Congress is going to investigate medical quackery, then it should most certainly hold hearings on how to stop the thousands of fatalities each year from UNNECESSARY SURGERY performed by real medical quacks who are licensed M.D.s in good standing with the American Medical Association.

If Congress is to pass any tougher laws governing quackery, it should start by considering that every surgeon who advocates, then gives, unneeded surgery—and their patient dies on the operating table—should, by law, be tried for murder. If found guilty, the surgeon should have his or her license stripped and never again be allowed to perform surgery in the United States.

Thank you in advance for sending me a copy of the 250 page report mentioned above. If there is any charge, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Signature [REDACTED] Print Name [REDACTED]

Address [REDACTED] City Hicksville

State NY Zip Code 11801

(Presently living in Malaysia)

This form letter was prepared for my convenience by Clinton Ray Miller, Health Freedom Legislative Advocate of the National Health Federation, 5001 Seminary Rd. #1330, Alexandria, VA 22311. Phone: (703) 379-0589. Additional copies: \$5.00/50; \$9.00/100; at NHF, Box 688, Monrovia, CA 91016, (818) 357-2181.

(B-105)

(Over please)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: CLINTON RAY MILLER
(703) 379-0589

FOR RELEASE: MAY 31, 1984

The National Health Federation today told Senator Claude Pepper and members of his House Subcommittee on Health and Long-Term Care that "the biggest, most costly and most dangerous quackery rampant in the United States today is the quackery INSIDE organized medicine."

Clinton Ray Miller, Health Freedom Legislative Advocate of the National Health Federation (NHF), leveled the charges against the American Medical Association at Pepper's hearings on quackery and its impact on senior citizens.

Mr. Miller said that "...topping the list of life-threatening medical quackery in the United States are unproven surgical procedures. Close behind are the millions of costly prescriptions for ineffective drugs and dangerous laboratory tests."

Mr. Miller gave figures compiled by Dr. Robert Mendelsohn, immediate past president of the NHF, who warned:

"In 1974, knives were the instrument of 15,000 absolutely senseless deaths in the United States. Three thousand of them were used by murderers. In the other 12,000 cases, a surgeon held the knife!

"The evidence is clear: We have too many surgeons who are being paid to do too many operations that their patients don't need. A variation of Parkinson's Law is at work: The number of needless operations performed increases to fill the time of those who are paid to do them.

"In 1976, a congressional committee concerned about the soaring costs of medical care studied the problem of unnecessary surgery in the United States. It reported that in 1974 doctors performed nearly 2.4 million unnecessary operations. Think of it! This is about equivalent to placing every resident of Kansas, Colorado, Mississippi, or South Carolina on the operating table for surgery they don't need.

"The committee estimated the cost of this worthless surgery at nearly \$4 billion. Undoubtedly, it wiped out the life savings of many families, forcing some into bankruptcy or overwhelming debt. Yet those who paid only with money were the 'lucky' victims. About 12,000 patients paid with their lives."

(Over please)