

# Re: The end is in sight

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"Richard the Dreaded Libertarian" <[freedom\\_guy@xxxxxxxx](mailto:freedom_guy@xxxxxxxx)> wrote in message [news:pan.2009.05.01.20.10.36.67060@xxxxxxxx](mailto:news:pan.2009.05.01.20.10.36.67060@xxxxxxxx)

I guess it's time for a little history lesson:

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There was no control on the price of care – you'd just turn the bill over to the insurance company, who'd rubber-stamp it and pay the bill, without it affecting you at all.

....

So the medical industry came up with more and more expensive crap, a billion tests for the sniffles and so on, and the insurance company would pick up the tab and raise the cost to your employer.

....

This lack of Free Market medical care caused prices to skyrocket, since nobody knew or cared how much it was actually cost them. "Oh, the insurance will cover it!"

There's something to your history lesson there, Rich, but it's really somewhat more complex than that -- countries that have far more socialized medicine than the U.S. does pay far less for some of the exact same procedures/drugs/therapies/etc.

And it's not fair to say nobody knew or cared how much the health care costs were -- certainly the employers footing the bill always did, and I'm sure they cared greatly.

If, when Latisha took little Mobutu to the ER for a skinned knee or so, If they billed her the three grand or so, she might be motivated to invest in a first-aid kit and learn how to use it.

Re: The end is in sight

In a more sensible world, the triage nurse at the ER would tell Latisha, "look, there doesn't appear to be any problem here -- you might go home, clean it up and cover it with gauze, and it'll be fine; we'd