

Re: MSNBC (Oberg) – Deadly space lessons go unheeded

Source: <http://sci.tech–archive.net/Archive/sci.space.shuttle/2005–01/0462.html>

From: Fred J. McCall (fmccall_at_earthlink.net)

Date: 01/30/05

Date: Sun, 30 Jan 2005 03:46:33 GMT

JazzMan <No_Spam@airmail.net> wrote:

:Rand Simberg wrote:

:>

:> On Fri, 28 Jan 2005 10:59:14 –0600, in a place far, far away,
:> "Christopher M. Jones" <christopher.m.jones@gmail.com> made the
:> phosphor on my monitor glow in such a way as to indicate that:

:>

:> >JazzMan wrote:

:> >> I have what's considered fairly decent insurance through my
:> >> employer, coverage that I could in no way afford on my own
:> >> since it runs upwards of \$6,000/year, and even with that my
:> >> annual out of pocket costs are over \$3,000. That's a \$1,200
:> >> deductible, and the rest is 20% copay up to a maximum copay
:> >> of \$1,800 in any given year.

:> >

:> >Here's a quiz for you. Your employer pays "their" share of
:> >your medical insurance, why? Obviously it is because they
:> >consider the value you provide to the company to be worth
:> >that compensation. Will they continue to pay that
:> >contribution if you no longer work there? Obviously not.
:> >The only possible conclusion from these two incredibly
:> >obvious facts is that the "employer contribution" to your
:> >health insurance premiums is, in fact, nothing other than
:> >compensation for employment, just as any wage would be.
:> >The only difference is that it is kept on a different
:> >balance sheet so that you do not perceive it to be such.

:>

:> The fact that it's not taxed if your employer pays it, but is taxed if
:> you do, is one of the fundamental problems with the system.

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:Not only that, but for someone making 5\$.15 an hour it doesn't
:matter simply because even if they spent 100% of their net
:income on medical insurance to the exclusion of food, shelter,
:child costs, etc, they still wouldn't be able to get good
:medical care.

:

:I challenge all you allegedly intelligent people here to sit
:down and write out a simple budget using real world numbers
:and show proof that someone making minimum wage can afford
:health insurance and live a minimal life out of the rain on
:at least 1,600 calories a day. Electricity, phone, entertainment,
:and education costs extra, of course.

:

:Hehehe...

Practically nobody who doesn't have parents or a spouse to take care of them is earning minimum wage. Anyone who is and stays in that job has bigger problems than health care (unless you consider menta