



From the Capitol

Congressman Ron Wyden

Q . Congressman Wyden, this week you introduced a bill which would eliminate the requirement that Medicare recipients spend three days in a hospital prior to being admitted to a skilled care nursing home. What does this really mean for patients - and taxpayers?

A . For patients, it means more humane treatment. For taxpayers, lower cost.

Under the current regulations, Medicare recipients who want to be admitted to a nursing home must first spend three days in a hospital - whether there is medical justification or not. One of the biggest problems with this is that it frequently means patients have to be transferred from one facility to another when they are not physically capable of withstanding

such a move. As a result, many patients die or are severely traumatized.

In addition, the 3-day prior hospitalization rule is costly. In Portland, for example, it costs \$200-\$400 per day for hospital care, compared to only \$60-\$100 per day for skilled nursing care. Since the average Medicare stay is only 24 days, that means that the amount

saved by avoiding unnecessary hospital days would pay for the entire stay in a skilled nursing home.

It is high time we brought an end to regulations which encourage needless hospitalization -- and discourage less costly health care. Patients and taxpayers alike will benefit from a more responsible approach.

African expelled from USA

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He was ordered to leave the country by July 21st. On July 20th he had carried a letter to INS, asking that he be granted additional time to get his business in order. The next day, an extension was denied but he was told that if he leaves by August 1st, he will have no problem. The following day he received a letter from his attorney advising him to leave (and also to pay his bill before leaving the country).

Bob Krieger, district manager of INS, said Munne had come to the attention of the office because of

his arrest but that the arrest is not directly involved in his deportation. Krieger said there is no record that Munne had ever asked for an extension of his visa beyond June 30, 1980, and that if he had applied at that time it is possible that it would have been extended. Munne was represented by legal counsel at the hearing and no appeal was filed. He was given 90 days to get his business in order, then on July 20th was given until August 1st.

Munne said he was not informed of the appeal process and that now his attorney is out of town.



An Open Letter

By Ron Still
Chief of Police

One of my goals as Chief of Police, is to facilitate a better understanding between the community and it's Police Bureau.

An area of great concern to me is that citizens know what to expect when they call for the police.

The Bureau of Emergency Communications handles most requests for Police service. As you might expect, the Emergency Communications Center is a very busy place, averaging approximately 500,000 calls to the police annually. Forty-five percent of these calls result in a car being dispatched.

Because the demand is so great, some calls will be placed on hold. When this occurs, a recording will explain to the caller that all emergency lines are temporarily busy, to please wait, and that an

operator will be with them shortly.

Part of this problem could be solved if citizens who do not need a police response, would call directly to the Division or detail their need. These numbers are listed in the blue pages of the telephone book.

However, if you do need the police, call! You will talk to an emergency operator. The operator will first want a brief description of the situation to determine if the police should be dispatched. If it is appropriate, a report will be taken over the telephone. If a police officer is needed, the operator will ask for the location of occurrence in order to start an officer in that direction.

While the car is enroute, the operator is obtaining additional information, such as suspect and

vehicle descriptions or other information that will assist the arriving officers. If the operator determines the situation is not an emergency, a car may not be sent immediately, but as the district car becomes available.

Here are some additional tips that will aid you and assist the emergency operator:

1. Please be patient if you are placed on hold. Do not hang-up, an operator will be with you shortly.

2. Don't worry about the order in which you should give the information to the operator - the operator will ask the necessary questions.

3. Please do not use the emergency police number, 760-6911, as a directory assistance, it may prevent someone with a bonafide emergency

from getting through to the operator.

I realize this is a brief article on the Bureau of Emergency Communications, but I hope it gives you a better understanding of what you will encounter when requesting police service.

Again, I invite your comments and questions regarding the Portland Police Bureau to be sent to me through the Public Information Office, 222 S.W. Pine, Portland, Oregon 97204. I will not be able to respond in my open letters to each and every concern, but will select those which assist in improving communications and relations with the community.

Oregon Bar seeks citizen members

The Oregon State Bar is looking for three public members (not attorneys) to add to its policy-making body -- the board of governors. Currently the board is composed of 12 attorneys of the bar. The board will appoint the public members.

The public members, who will begin their terms in late October, will have the same functions and duties as the attorney members with one exception. They will not be permitted to serve as nor vote for officers.

The only requirement for the voluntary positions is that a candidate be an Oregon resident and not a member of the Oregon State Bar.

The board meets regularly nine times each year in two-day sessions, generally all day Friday and the following Saturday morning. About one-half of the meetings are held in Portland with the remainder held at locations around the state. Expenses are paid for all meetings. Public

members would be expected to attend all regular meetings and other board committee meetings.

Those interested in applying for a position on the board need to complete an application form and submit it to Robert J. Elfers, Executive Director, Oregon State Bar, 1776 S. W. Madison, Portland, OR 97205, no later than Friday, August 7. Application forms may be requested by calling 224-4280, Portland, or toll-free, 1-800-425-8260 in the rest of the state.

The move to include public members on the board is part of "sunset legislation." In 1977, the State Legislature adopted a "sunset law" requiring review of about 50 state agencies, including the bar. The law said the bar would cease to exist as a licensing agency after July 1, 1982, unless action was taken by the Legislature to continue it.

The Legislature this year agreed to extend the life of the bar but tied

in several administrative changes, including the addition of the public members on the policy-making body.

The bar is a public corporation -- an arm of the Supreme Court and part of the judicial department of the state. It receives no state funds, however, but is supported by dues, programs and publications paid for by attorneys. Membership in the bar is required in order to practice law in Oregon.

The bar is one of the few in the country that handles all matters in connection with the organized legal profession, including admission, membership, discipline, resignation and reinstatement. Although the Supreme Court has the final authority on admission to the bar, disciplinary action and resignation and reinstatement, the initial complaints, investigation, grievance hearings and trials are all handled through the bar office and the board of governors.

Zimbabwean teacher faces deportation

Dennis Brutus, a Black African professor at Northwestern is being pressured to leave the U.S. sooner than what had been agreed to, after two Black congressmen stepped in to challenge immigration procedures in this case.

Immigration officials also say that they have "lost Brutus' file," and although they have dropped all five reasons for not renewing his visa they have come up with a new charge. Clear political overtones are surfacing. Dozens of letters of support are coming in from scholars who feel Brutus, who has been critical of racial policies in South Africa, should be allowed to remain at the university where he has taught for the last 11 years.

The National Conference of Black lawyers, represented by Lewis Myers, is working with Brutus Defense Committee.

On June 11 Black Congressman George Crockett (D-Michigan) sent a letter to immigration officials asking for details about the Brutus case. On June 19, Joel L. Rogers, acting district director for immigration in Chicago, replied in a letter: "Inasmuch as there are similar cases pending that have an earlier filing date, it is expected that Service action on this request for

reconsideration will remain pending for at least six months. This should not create a problem for Mr. Brutus as he will be permitted to remain in the United States while this matter is pending."

No mention was made that Brutus file was lost.

Brutus was then informed that he had to leave the U.S. by July 5. Myers, who was in Texas, put officials on hold and rushed back to Chicago and arranged for a hearing July 21.

The Crockett letter was not the first one sent to officials. Black Congressman Harold Washington (D-Illinois) sent two letters, dated May 5 and June 5. He also wanted details, but officials did not fully respond.

On July 8, officials told Brutus and Myers that because several Black Congressmen had intervened officials would pull the Brutus case "out of turn" because this is the normal procedure following congressional inquiries. Therefore, Brutus only had until July 21 to render appeals. There would not be a six month waiting period. The Black congressmen were never told of these procedures.

Brutus was also told that five charges against him, first leveled in

February, were being dismissed. Those charges related to a failure to document and make clear his "status" in the U.S. Brutus claims he filed all the needed papers.

Now officials say Brutus is linked to subversive elements relating to South Africa. He was banned in South Africa in 1966.

Brutus, who was born in Zimbabwe, said "If anyone speaks out against the government there they are subversive. The U.S. is responding to charges given by the South Africans." Last month Brutus demonstrated against a conference on South Africa at Northwestern. He lashed the university for not allowing an discussion of the \$80 million it has invested in South Africa, and for not inviting Black South Africans, fighting for their freedom, to the conference. In 1965 Brutus became the first Black to leave Robbins Island alive after a 16 month term because of his political views.

Supporters say letters of support should be sent to: The Black Press Institute/Brutus Defense Committee, 7917 S. Exchange, Chicago 60617.

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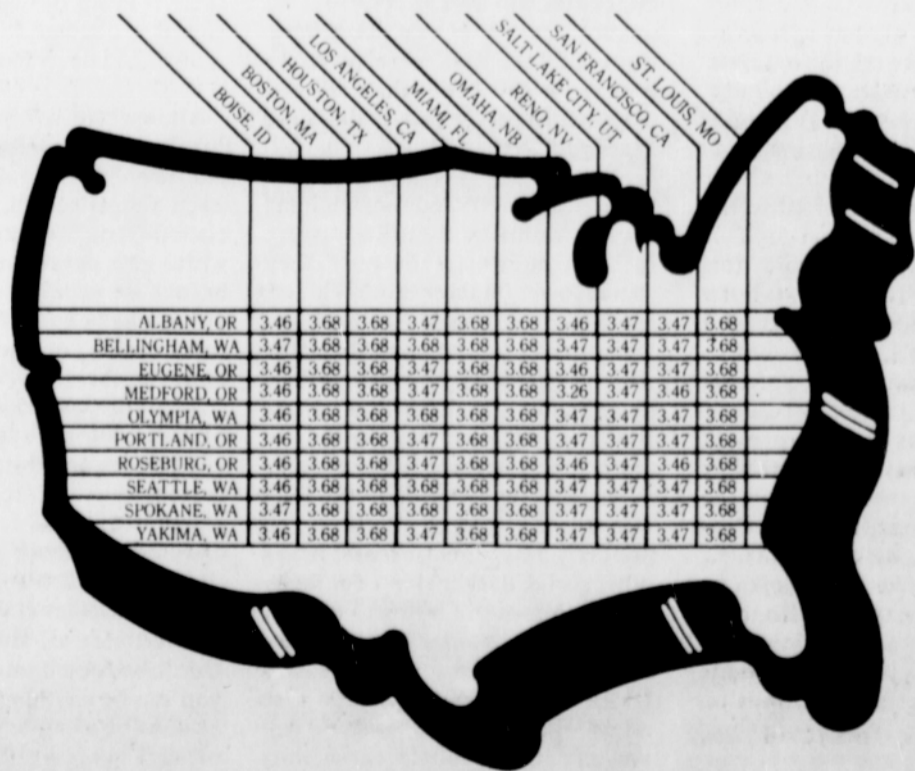
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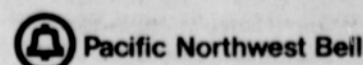
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