

OUT OF POCKET  
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The following news item from the *Atlanta Constitution* appeared in one of Norman Shavin's column last month:

Medical Bill: The news that the American Medical Assn. had spent \$951,570 for lobbying against Medicare during the first three months of this year, sent me flying to Milton Krueger, of the Medical Assn. of Georgia, for a relevant statistic:

The AMA has 200,000 members; their share of the lobbying bill was almost \$5 each. And that means that Georgia's 3,100 members of the AMA (they pay \$45 a year dues) contributed an estimated \$15,000 of the tab. *And we know where that \$15,000 came from, don't we?* (The italics are Mr. Shavin's.)

Mr. Shavin obviously feels that money paid to a physician for service still should be regarded as belonging to himself and the public; that—unlike the lawyer, the newspaperman and the groceryman—the physician is not entitled to receive anything as sordid as money for his professional work. This interesting bit of sophistry at once categorizes the physician as the slick con-artist, profiteering and growing rich at the expense of an innocent suffering public. The implication, as always, is that government's socialized scheme for medicine is going to take care of these crooks before long. It also sets up Mr. Shavin and his sponsoring paper as the noble champions of the put-upon masses. *And we know what to think of that, don't we?*

We certainly do know where the \$15,000 came from, Mr. Shavin. It came right out of the pockets of doctors, who work just as hard at making a living as newspaper columnists. From those pockets also, comes the money that buys the papers and supports the advertisers who help to pay Mr. Shavin's salary. And out of those same pockets comes the tax money supporting the bureaucrats of the Great Society, who have not hesitated to use it for the government's own "lobbying" and propaganda campaign in promoting Medicare.

Well, we have added Mr. Shavin's name to our growing list of people whom we want to be sure and see *all* the benefits of socialized medical care. He will have deserved it, too.