

Economics prof says

Health insurance won't lower cost

"Until government edict can heal the sick, national health insurance programs cannot produce more medical care nor can they lower its

cost," Dr. W. Philip Gramm, professor of economics at TAMU, said Wednesday in a presentation at the annual convention of the American

Medical Association in Chicago. "It is an exercise in self-deception to think that letting the government pay America's medical bills will lower costs. In fact, if our experience follows the pattern of other nations which have used a government payment system, costs will rise sharply and quality will fall," Gramm said.

Dr. Gramm noted that "the problem with all government programs is that they fail to recognize that government intervention affects the way people behave. When Medicare cost estimates were made, the bureaucrats assumed that the level of usage of care of those covered by the program would remain the same as before the program," he said. "In fact, the demand for medical care by individuals covered by Medicare

rose by 200 percent more than did the demand by non-covered individuals in the period '66-'68. Hospital care usage rose 191 percent and physician services usage rose 192 percent more than the usage of non-covered individuals."

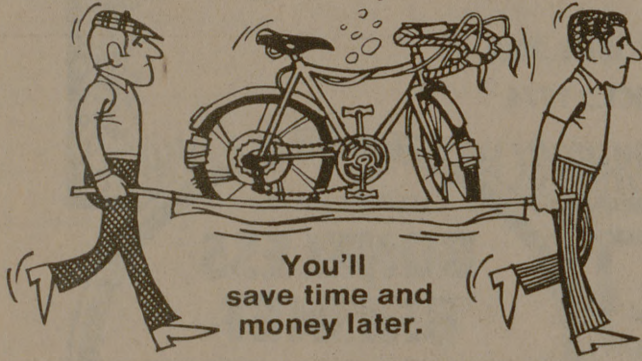
Gramm warned against failing to account for increased demand when the user cost falls under National Health Insurance. He claimed that the Kennedy plan would send medical demand up \$50 billion and cause prices to skyrocket.

Gramm said that Professional Standards Review Organizations (PSRO), a system of price and methods control by government over physicians' practices, "will not hold prices down nor will they produce more medical care. PSRO's are a form of price control and a review of our 5,000 years' history of

price controls clearly indicates that they do not work. If government has never been able to make controls work in basic products such as food, how can we expect them to work on medical care where the product is not quantifiable."

Gramm urged America's doctors to refuse to participate in PSRO's. "To give bureaucrats the power to dictate medical practice is to invite government control of medicine in America," Gramm said. "Surely the American people are not ready to transfer the control of the greatest medical care system in the world to a government which has balanced its budget once in 26 years, defaced the value of its currency by 50 percent in a decade, and proven itself incapable of providing any form of goods or services to its citizens on an efficient basis."

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Oil independence in US called for

A Texas A&M University professor will call for U. S. independence in oil and gas at an energy self-sufficiency symposium.

Dr. Paul B. Crawford, assistant director of the Texas Petroleum Research Commission and professor of petroleum engineering, is chairman of a research committee sponsored

by the Interstate Oil Compact Commission (IOCC).

The project will explore requirements for oil and gas independence in a symposium that is scheduled to begin Monday in Vail, Colo.

Crawford gave a preview of what he will tell members of the commission. "Energy self-sufficiency will provide substantial benefits to our nation," he reported. "Energy self-sufficiency will provide new jobs and employment for several million Americans. On the basis of past and current trends in the volume and prices of imported crude oil, energy self-sufficiency is indicated to provide the United States people with a \$100 billion savings in our foreign purchases in the next decade."

"Energy self-sufficiency will make our nation stronger for national defense," Crawford went on. "Americans will sleep a bit sounder at night, knowing that we do not have to rely on crude oil tankers to bring energy to America."

"No longer would our energy supply be exposed on the oceans for three weeks per trip and thereby serving as sitting ducks. In the event of a national emergency we have no reason to expect that a single tanker of foreign crude would ever reach our American shoreline."

The commission chairman, Oklahoma Gov. David Hall, said of Crawford and the symposium, "If America is ever to develop energy self-sufficiency, it will be men like Dr. Crawford who provide the necessary hard work and technical expertise. In the future, we shall all be indebted to Dr. Crawford . . . in this time of energy uncertainty."

Additional discussions and expertise will be provided by IOCC members attending the meeting, according to Crawford. He said panelists and attendants are expected to also discuss the legal environment regulatory, secondary recovery and conservation requirements for self-sufficiency.

The goal of this symposium, says Crawford, is to provide some answers to the many difficult problems that lie ahead.

Registration of housing at 'Y' asked

Bryan-College Station area property owners should stop at Room 216 of the MSC. They may list available property for rent or lease in the following categories: Rooms in private homes; houses, furnished and unfurnished; apartments, furnished or unfurnished; mobile homes, furnished or unfurnished.

"Since student enrollment exceeds on-campus housing capabilities, incoming students are searching for living quarters now very much in demand," says L. E. Weston, Secretary, Student "Y" Association.

This information cannot be taken over the phone because property owners are required to sign a certificate that they will abide by the Fair Housing Act as endorsed by the State of Texas.

Car-bicycle accidents increase

The number of car-bicycle accidents in Texas has increased by 113 percent since the 55 miles per hour speed limit was invoked, according to a Department of Public Safety report.

The report went on to say: "There has been a 120 percent increase in the number of speeding tickets issued on state highways."

Traffic fatalities have decreased by 28 percent since the slow-down. State drivers have decreased their total number of miles driven by five percent.

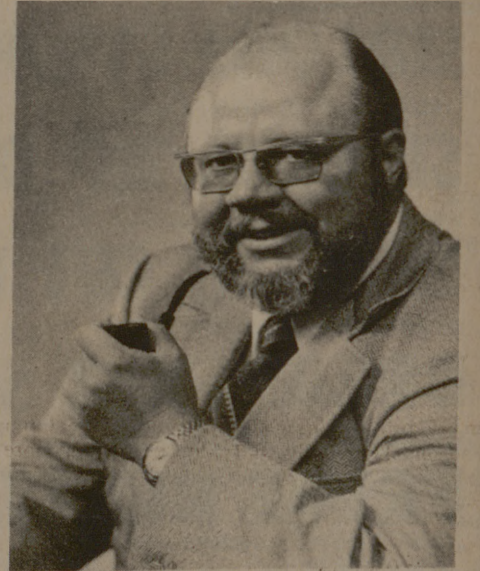
The only drawback visible to the average observer of the 55 mph speed limit is a loss in time, while the 400 lives saved in the past four months make the wait well worthwhile.

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