

# Inquiring Minds topic – 22 December 2017

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## What to Wish For?

Today is but two days before Christmas when we were taught that good children will get wonderful things and bad children will get a lump of coal. This is a myth we perpetuate with joy and self-interest, if we think we are good. How may myths make up the view of what the world ought to be?

Is an entitlement to good health care one of these myths? Does our government have an obligation to provide good health care? Is that one of those wonderful things?

Congress seems to be having doubts as to funding for health care. These are not new. NPR reported that the appropriation for Native American health care was \$1300 per person per year and life expectancy of Native Americans was twenty years below the average for the US population. The Children's Health Insurance Program was not in the Trump budget and has not been funded by Congress.

Speaker Ryan has stated that entitlements such as Medicare must be reduced to ease the deficit (caused by the proposed tax cuts).

US life expectancy is apparently starting to fall. Infant mortality rates are rising.

Who should be responsible? What should be done?

What is necessary for a successful health care system? That radical, Henry Ford, understood that to sell a lot of cars it was necessary to have a lot of people able to buy them. These people had to earn enough money. There were other factors such as the construction of roads, development of stations to sell fuel, &c. This is also applicable to health care. To support doctors and hospitals and research institutions there must be lots of patients who can pay for their care. Is there any other way than tax collected to provide this economic foundation?