

Cutler Bay

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SERVING SOUTH DADE

Government not as bad as we're led to believe

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I hear a lot of people complaining about Medicare and lapses in security by our government, but I am here to tell you

it is not as bad as we are led to believe. Here are just a few examples.

A few years back when I was about to have my hip replaced, my surgeon insisted on certain blood tests to be sure that I would have no problems in surgery. A Medicare clerk decided that they knew more than my surgeon and refused to pay, thereby saving the government upwards of \$100. Recently I went to my local orthopedic doctor for a knee injection to aid my aging knees. I had received these in the past with great results but the frugal people at Medicare decided that they didn't think I needed this treatment and refused to pay, not just for me but anyone in the state of Florida.

This savings alone could pay for at least a small Mercedes. Speaking of which, I was happy to see that Medicare had no hesitation in sending \$22 million to Ihosvany Marquez who ran seven "clinics"

in Florida. Ihosvany used this money to buy two Lamborghinis, a Ferrari, Two Bentleys and eight Mercedes, some of which he gave as tips to his friends. Good for him. At least he was contributing to our economy.

I only wish I was on his gift list. He also purchased just about every kind of fancy Rolex watch that was available. Think about it...what could I have done with the money for my blood test?

See things aren't so bad. I am glad that the Medicare clerk looking at my claims was so astute.

As for security, everyone gets in an uproar about people carrying a measly bomb aboard an aircraft that didn't even go off. They blame TSA for not being alert.

Well let me tell you that they (TSA) are doing their jobs and doing them well. They now have in their possession two of my mustache scissors and one pair of tweezers. I was caught red handed before I even entered my plane. More important than that, my traveling companion who shares my house and bathroom mirror recently had her \$35 cuticle clippers forcefully removed from her carry-on.

Once she told me how much they cost I began pleading with the TSA agent to at least give them to the

pilot so I might retrieve them once we landed. The ever-alert agent knew his job and threw them into a barrel to be disposed of (or sold) later on.

The image of my companion running down the isle cutting everyone's cuticles is too horrible to even imagine. I certainly feel safer now and I hope you will as well. I just hope that none of us has to make a tinkle during the last hour of a flight, but what are a few wet undies compared to what might happen without this security.

The Economy? Don't worry about it. Things are going just fine. One of the largest yacht repair companies in Florida, Merrill-Stevens, is filing for bankruptcy because their facilities can not service yachts over 150 feet. That seems to be where all the business is now so they hope to refinance and enlarge their facility to handle these. That is good news for me because I have held off on buying my 200-footer until I have a place that does service nearby. Be positive folks. Things are just fine all over.

Other articles of national importance can be viewed at Ernie's website at <www.sochin.com>.