

5146 Roble Ave.
Spring Hill, Fl 34608
September, 1, 1994

To Whom it May Concern:

As a long time friend of the late Harry Snow and his dear family, I am compelled to testify that during his illness and hospitalization at Tampa General Hospital I witnessed the most deplorable treatment of a human being by the health care profession.

Harry Snow was transferred after a four day stay at Bayonet Point Hospital to Tampa General Hospital in the early AM of April 20, 1994. Although in severe pain he remained very keen and alert throughout my visits with him at Bayonet Point and also at Tampa General Hospital.

I made a minimum of five visitations to Tampa General at three to five day intervals. On my first visit I learned that Harry Snow fell out of bed and fractured his hip. Harry had mentioned that the attending nurse had failed to put up the side rails. This incident began a decline in Harry Snow's spirit and general attitude. The discomfort of a broken hip and a spinal tumor took away the needed strength to defend himself in the subsequent days.

I was with Marie Snow (wife of Harry Snow) when she asked a Dr. Assad about the radiation. He said that Harry should receive radiation treatments. The radiation would not cure his cancer, as it was terminal and he would live no longer than one year, but the radiation would stop the pain. Harry's hip was screwed back together and daily radiation treatments were begun on April 25.

At this time we were puzzled as to why radiation treatments were not administered at Bayonet Point which is closer to the family residing in Spring Hill. No explanation was ever given by anyone as to why Harry Snow was transferred to Tampa General. Bayonet Point certainly has the equipment for radiation treatments as a neighbor of mine was successfully treated of prostate cancer with radiation treatment at Bayonet Point.

As I continued to visit Harry, I noticed a lack of care that one would never expect to see in a hospital. His room was unkept. Soiled towels were draped over chairs and miscellaneous articles strewn about the floor. When a nurse was called they were always slow in responding, sometimes acting as though a response was an imposition for them.

Harry was given over doses of laxatives and consequently uncontrollable bowel movements in bed and at one time it was about one hour before an attendant cleaned his bed. Harry's back became very raw and took on the color of uncooked hamburger during his hospitalization at Tampa General.

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On an occasion when his noon meal was one hour late, an attendant finally arrived with a tray of food and placed it on the bed table. Harry asked the attendant if he would help move the bed tray closer to him. The attendant said, "It's not my job."

In my subsequent visits, Harry's spirits sank almost daily. Heavy radiation and 'rehabilitation therapy' was taking its toll. Increased pain, sleepless nights and never ending transport for treatments at Tampa General made this dying man's last days a living Hell on Earth.

Harry was finally sent home on May 6, 1994. His family went through such a period of serious anguish during the hospitalization and the inhumane treatment that he received. The mistreatment that Harry received has left an indelible and everlasting nightmare that will forever torment them.

I have not exaggerated in any of the above comments. Frankly it was far worse than I have described.

The Clinton health plan is being criticized for supposedly not providing the quality of health care that Americans want. From my experience with what I witnessed with the mistreatment and negligence that Harry Snow received at Tampa General Hospital; there is no plan that could be worst than what we have now. What was done to Harry is precisely what we want stopped, as Americans. Such disregard for the rights of a human being demands inquiry which will prevent such abominations from ever happening again, to anyone.

Respectfully Submitted,

Alexander L. Alberice 9/1/94
Alexander L. Alberice Date