



Candidate Larsen launched campaign to alienate seniors

I read with much interest William Larsen's letter in The News-Sentinel recently. Now I know whom I will not vote for at the next congressional election.

I also know who else will not be voting for him — the many, many seniors who read his letter.

Mr. Larsen, how would you like to be a senior, retired, and wonder where you will get the money to pay for a prescription?

The question is, should I buy food for myself or buy the prescription that I need for my health?

True, the financial problems in this country

are way out of line. The president and Congress think nothing of sending billions of dollars to help other countries. Poor planning of the Iraq war is now costing billions of dollars. Seniors who are now collecting Social Security worked for their Social Security and Medicare plans. Nothing has been handed to them, as you seem to believe.

You ask, "Has anyone thought about the economic ruin this will bring upon future workers?"

I suggest that you ask the present Congress and the president.

They are the ones ruining the financial future of this country, and they are the ones we must insist take care of the seniors in their districts.

As I mentioned before, members of Congress have good health care benefits and great pension plans.

I must believe that in many cases they do not care about taking care of the seniors in their districts.

Donald Backofen

Backofen explained need for prescription help very well

I would like to respond to Congressional Candidate William Larsen's letter of July 30, criticizing Donald Backofen's recent Guest Column.

I am in a quandary to understand the tone of his letter, which indicates that seniors are attempting to get something for nothing on the issue of prescription drugs and medical care. I would like Larsen to explain why it is that the United States, although the wealthiest of nations, is the only country of the industrialized world without price controls for its prescription drugs for senior citizens.

The failure of the Congress, which has lagged behind on this issue for years, has placed a hardship on many of our elderly who must resort to choosing between taking their medicine and eating.

It is a fact that many go to food banks and soup kitchens because they have had to spend their money on prescription drugs, which they take to stay alive.

Others have traveled to Canada or other countries, where controls have been placed on prescription drugs, to purchase their medicine.

The intent of Backofen's article was to right some of the above mentioned wrongs, and he deserves high marks, not criticism, for his effort.

Dorothy Frary