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First you get the money, then you give the money back. It is like the children's dance where you stick your left foot out and then put your left foot back. Like in the children's dance, we are being "shaken all about."

While I do not collect social security yet, I am over 65 and receive Medicare. Last year I had extra income which put our family income just slightly above the threshold for a premium increase. I was financially better off than most. It was a one time thing because of a retirement golden handshake. My premiums almost doubled. I called. I cannot get the premium reduced until I get all of my tax statements and file this year's tax forms. Then MAYBE I will get a refund. Meanwhile, I have to pay \$183.20 per month instead of the old rate of \$314.70 every three months. My sister has adopted children from Ethiopia. Because of the large family, she cannot afford medical insurance and has to pay doctors on a time by time basis. She gets fined for not having insurance.

My good friend is a family doctor trying to stay in practice. Last month he learned that he has to pay \$1300 more in unemployment insurance. Surprise!

You asked! There are many things that need fixing and we are building busways to nowhere. We are threatening to shortchange hospitals, education, and needed mental services. At the same time we are have \$10 million cost overruns on the new baseball field in Hartford. I love baseball, but it is a lower life priority than adequate medical care. State funding should not have gone into this project.

This is vent time! I applaud the budget work you are doing. Keep up the hope as I am doing, but the incompetence from the Motor Vehicle Department to the year after year state budget deficits are discouraging. We are seeing the result of this in the national elections where we are presented with a socialist from one party and extremist or religious intolerants from the other. When do we get a moderate with common sense, energy, knowledge of history, and the mathematical knowledge to budget? (By the way, when are you running for Congress?)

Thanks for asking.