



Source: Health Care Financing Administration

JIM C – QUIZ OF THE WEEK MONDAY – 10/20/08

HOW DID “*MEDICARE*” ORIGINATE?

Definiton (Wikipedia): Affordable health insurance for seniors over the age of 65, as well as people with certain disabilities.

Origin: Medicare (Federal) Part A - Hospital Insurance and Part B - Medical Insurance and Medicaid (State) programs were signed into law by President Lyndon Johnson as part of his "Great Society" on July 30, 1965. Under original *Medicare*, only a few special cases existed where prescription drugs were covered, but as of January 2006, *Medicare* Part D provided more comprehensive drug coverage.

1902 - The first U.S. workmen’s compensation law was enacted although it was later declared unconstitutional.

1915 - Thirty states enacted the first major legislation to require employers to insure their workers against industrial accidents.

1935 - The first federal government health insurance bill introduced

1945 - President Harry S. Truman was the first sitting president to officially endorse national health insurance.

1961 - President John F. Kennedy recommended health insurance for the elderly under Social Security.

1965 - President Truman was presented with the first Medicare card.

Conventional Wisdom: Medicare = The Third Rail of Politics

Moment of Zen: Aging baby boomers may soon overwhelm Medicare