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In Memoriam
Chester C. Danehower, M.D.

A strong believer in the sanctity of the patient-physician relationship and the art of medicine, Chester Danehower, M.D., (1937-2023) practiced dermatology for 32 years in Peoria, Ill. He served as AAPS president in 2003 and several terms on our board of directors. He also fought against socialized medicine in many other medical organizations, even as delegate to the AMA. He reached the rank of lieutenant colonel in the U.S.A.F., where he served for 10 years.

From the Archives
Out of Touch

Members of the AMA who live and practice in small towns—including members of the Board of Trustees, past and present, and numerous former AMA presidents—must have been more than mildly surprised to learn from the November 11, 1974, *American Medical News* that in the affairs of medicine they are considered in AMA headquarters as irrelevant and "out of touch."

This attitude toward small-town doctors was disclosed in an article on the AAPS Annual Meeting in New Orleans. *AMN* writer Dennis Breo attended the meeting but reported very little of what actually transpired. He decided instead to try his hand at a hatchet job on AAPS. His editors labeled his exercise in invective as "news analysis"….

[Mr. Breo] tried hard to portray AAPS as insignificant and inconsequential… [by pointing] out that most physicians who attended the meeting came from "small-town America"…. He said they opposed "Big Brother Government, the Liberal Media, the Eastern Establishment,... the Professional Standards Review Organization law, health maintenance organizations, national health insurance, and all other aspects of 'socialized' medicine'"….

AMN concluded, "there was left hanging the question of AAPS's role and relevance in contemporary medicine"….

"In a nation increasingly committed to the health care of its citizens and in a Congress increasingly liberal after last week's election, there are those who would question if AAPS isn't out of touch"….

The statement seems to be saying that AAPS, to be in touch, should recognize that the enemies of medical freedom in Congress outnumber its friends and AAPS should therefore abandon principle, cower before medicine's enemies and meekly accept Big Brother Government control of medicine.

If being "in touch" means surrendering principle to accommodate a shift in the political complexion of Congress, AAPS will remain out of touch.

AAPS News, December 1974