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# In Memoriam Curtis Webb Caine, Sr., M.D.



The Association of American Physicians and Surgeons mourns the loss of our longest-serving warrior for freedom. Dr. Curtis Caine, born Oct 13, 1921, died Jan 1, 2019, at age 97.

Dr. Caine joined AAPS in 1949, served many terms on the Board of Directors, and was president in 1980-1981. He was the first anesthesiologist in Mississippi, where he attended patients for 60 years.

In his inspirational videotaped address at our 75th anniversary meeting in Indianapolis, Dr. Caine advised:

We physicians in the practice of private medicine find ourselves bloodied and on the ropes—put there by the deep state's underhanded, below-the-belt, "no holds barred" gladiators, and traitors in our own profession.

We are given a reprieve by the bell. While on the stool in our corner of the ring, our Trainer patches us up and advises, "in the next round, go back to basics. Go swinging with the following approach, KO the intruder, and win back freedom."

In our situation, do not waste time cutting the tentacle off of the octopus, which will be replaced with another, but skewer the head, using the tactic below.

Dr. Caine cited Scripture and the U.S. Constitution from his deep knowledge. He authored a timeless 34-article series on the U.S. Constitution published in the *Medical Sentinel*, the precursor to the *Journal of American Physicians and Surgeons* (<https://aapsonline.org/the-constitution-plain-and-simple/>).

We "practice private medicine," he frequently admonished us. We are not in the "private practice" of what might be government or third-party medicine. Patients are the only indispensable reason for the existence of medicine—not "healthcare," a new term that encompasses the bureaucratic infrastructure, revenue streams, and government objectives.

"Curtis was a visionary," writes AAPS past president Thomas Kendall, M.D. "What he saw regarding the devolution of medical freedom caused him to stand with vigor against the forces of darkness." His prescience was shown in his 1966 Letter to Mississippi Physicians (<http://www.jpands.org/vol17no2/caine.pdf>), which correctly predicted the damage the imposition of Medicare would inflict on the practice of medicine and the primacy of the patient-physician relationship.

Presenting 122 considerations, he wrote: "You will now decide whether or not you are going to be a government employee and practice socialized medicine." It is "perhaps the most important decision you have ever made. There is no middle or 'neutral' ground."

Today, physicians are still facing the decision about declaring independence or signing contracts with employers, managed-care plans, or Medicare/Medicaid.

"Are you saying to yourself as King Agrippa said to Paul in Acts 26:28—'Almost thou persuadest me, but, but...."

"Do not let as yet unresolved conflicts and unanswered questions deter you. Take your stand now on PRINCIPLE. You can work out the details of implementation as the necessity arises.

"Choose you this day whom ye will serve'—Joshua 24:15."