

From Democracy Now September 15, 2009:

Study: Contractor Use at Record High in Afghanistan

The allegations come as a new congressional study shows the US is relying on contractors in Afghanistan at an unprecedented rate. A Pentagon census last month revealed contractors account for 56 percent of the Pentagon's force in Afghanistan, outnumbering US troops 74,000 to 58,000 by the end of June. The Congressional Research Service, or CRS, says that figure moves up to 65 percent if averaged over the past two years. The CRS says 16 percent of contractors in Afghanistan were performing "security" duties as of March, before President Obama's deployment of 21,000 additional troops had begun.



National Civil Disobedience Comes to Chi- Town Demanding Single Payer Health Care

On October 8, C-SPAN kept the chain of the national sit-in action going! In Chicago seven citizens, including many C-SPAN members, were arrested and received civil trespass violations while many others held a legal rally just outside the offices of Cigna Insurance. Shown to the left they are standing in the order they were dragged out of the building by the cops. The arrestees are known forevermore as Chicago's own **Cigna 7**.



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"I have worked in health care for over 15 years and every year the crisis gets worse, the numbers of uninsured increase, and my patients suffer more. I work at Fantus Clinic, which is part of the Cook County clinic system. A few weeks ago I saw an undocumented and uninsured elderly patient. She needed oxygen. The patient had a tank of oxygen given to her from a medical supply company when she was discharged from another hospital, but she was running out and they refused to deliver more unless she paid. I thought to myself, What kind of a country do we live in that would deny oxygen to a human being because they couldn't pay? It makes me sick." (One of the seven)