

Giving the elderly the 'freedom' to die

It cannot be denied that an increasing number of American citizens have been effectively brainwashed into believing that they want the "right" to refuse medical treatment and die. The fact that this brainwashing succeeds does not diminish the fact that what is being carried out is Nazi-style murder. In fact, the practices of our nursing homes, hospices, and hospitals are becoming more and more like the medical "experiments" committed by the Nazis, in which patients were observed moment by moment in the most hideous suffering while they were allowed to die.

Particularly similar is the testimony entered on the starvation and dehydration of the dying. In the Claire Conroy decision, for example, the following "objective" reasoning is entered to justify letting an elderly patient be deprived of food and water:

"Finally, dehydration may well not be distressing or painful to a dying patient. For patients who are unable to sense hunger and thirst, withholding of feeding devices such as nasogastric tubes may not result in more pain than the termination of any other medical treatment. Indeed, it has been observed that patients near death who are not receiving nourishment may be more comfortable than patients in comparable conditions who are being fed and hydrated artificially."

In reality, most of the patients who actually ask for the "right to die" have been bludgeoned into the decision, even if over a period of years. Their medical care costs too much, they've been told. They're taking up resources. And besides, if they live, they will be consigned to a "useless," miserable existence, which will not allow them to make a contribution to society.

Under such conditions, individuals lawfully become depressed and lose the will to live. This is a well-known phenomenon among elderly persons who are admitted to nursing homes. Individuals who may have been actively taking care of homes and relatives prior to their admission to such "care" frequently undergo sudden personality changes and sink into depression and death.

Now this same phenomenon is occurring on the level of our entire society. The lack of freedom to make a creative contribution to society, once an individual reaches a certain age, is transformed into the demand for the "freedom to die."

The way this brainwashing has succeeded in bending

people's minds truly challenges the doublespeak of the Nazi regime, which posted over the gates to its concentration-work camps the slogan "*Arbeit Macht Frei*" (Work Makes You Free). This is shockingly exemplified in the case of William Bartling in California (see *Documentation*), in which the court argued that an insistence on death on the part of the patient indicated clear mental competence, where an expression of the desire to live were signs of mental depression!

Look at how the Claire Conroy decision characterizes the "best interest" of the patient (see *Documentation*). How can it be in the best interest of any individual to cease to exist? What is being discussed here is not the best interest of the individual, but the "best interest" determined by some other authority which wants to be free of the burden of supporting that person's continued life.

There is no secret as to how this brainwashing came about. It began with the circulation of the "limits to growth" propaganda by the Club of Rome in the late 1960s, and gradually seeped into the education system of this country. Institution after institution took up the pitch that we're running out of resources—the World Wildlife Fund, the National Resource Defense Fund, the Ford Foundation, the Rockefeller Brothers Fund, the Aspen Institute, and the WorldWatch Institute. The culmination of this process was the adoption under Jimmy Carter of this Malthusian genocidal policy as the policy of the U.S. government—a process President Reagan is trying to stop!

Underscoring the "practicality" of this brainwashing pitch was, of course, the worsening of the economic crisis, and the inflation of health costs through escalating costs of ground rent and the deliberate suppression of mass production (and thus, cheapening) of the most advanced, life-saving technologies. This is the deliberate outcome of the policies of the Nazi bankers who run the international financial system through the International Monetary Fund and the U.S. Federal Reserve.

Artificial distinctions

Much is made by the euthanasia advocates of the issue of being free from "artificial" life-support. The insanity of their argument is only matched by its genocidal nature.

"Artificiality" is inherent in man's power to control nature to technology. It is "artificial" to live in warm houses. It is "artificial" to sanitize food. Nearly every normal means of saving lives—like artificial respiration—had to be artificially discovered. It is the ordinary citizen's power over nature through artificial means that the right-to-die advocates want to destroy. They want to keep their genocidal power instead.

Like the Nazis, today's euthanasia advocates have manufactured a category of "terminally ill" patients. This is a fraud, since yesterday's terminally ill are the sprightly elderly of today, by grace of medical technology.

Will the "terminally ill" be the Jews of the 1980s Nazi euthanasia movement?