
Biological Holocaust Report

AIDS issue will shape 1988 presidential campaign

by Warren J. Hamerman

The global war which must be waged against the AIDS pandemic cannot be won without a U.S. President who is committed to deploying the immense scientific, governmental, and military resources at his disposal to winning that war. Furthermore, given the reality of the threat of AIDS to the general population and the fury of citizens at the inaction and incompetence of government response to date, it is inevitable that policy on AIDS shall shape the 1988 presidential elections.

Addressing several hundred government, medical, and other officials on Feb. 12 at an international conference on AIDS in Rome, Italy, 1988 Democratic presidential candidate Lyndon LaRouche, globally known for his energetic campaign on behalf of California Proposition 64, emphasized that AIDS has emerged into general focus as the most profound issue of our time and, perhaps, all times.

In nation after nation, while traditional health and government institutions such as the Atlanta Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and Geneva-based World Health Organization (WHO) have lost their credibility through inaction, cover-up of the threat of the disease to the general population, and failure of adequate policy leadership, associates of Lyndon LaRouche and advocates of his policies are fast becoming the rallying-point for all those who wish to take effective action against AIDS.

This occurrence has resulted from three simultaneous processes: 1) the willful inaction and malfeasance of those authorities and institutions who ought to have acted; 2) the desperate attempt of governments to "keep the lid" on the true dimensions of the threat because they were opposed to the immense budgetary expenditures necessary for adequate public health and research programs; 3) the precision of the programs proposed by LaRouche and his associates.

In Atlanta, Georgia, responding to intense pressure to change policies, on Feb. 3 the CDC's AIDS coordinator, Dr. Walter Dowdle, announced that the agency is considering recommending mandatory AIDS tests for hospital patients, pregnant women, and couples applying for marriage licenses, in a bid to slow the AIDS epidemic. The agency has not

drafted such proposals, he noted, but intends to sponsor "debate" on the issue. "We're not saying this is what we're actually going to do. We're looking at the options right now." Dowdle stated that the CDC would sponsor a public hearing on mandatory AIDS testing in Atlanta on Feb. 24-25.

One week later, Dowdle issued a public statement "retracting" his previous announcement that the Atlanta forum on mandatory testing is an "open hearing." Typical of CDC's policy of cover-up and hypocrisy, Dowdle claimed that the previous CDC statements were in "error" because the event was a "conference" with invited speakers and not an open "hearing." Why the retraction? The CDC admitted the maneuver was an attempt to keep LaRouche's policies from dominating the meeting. The defensive Dowdle told a LaRouche representative that "everyone knows LaRouche's policies already" and "all you really want" is a head-to-head confrontation with the CDC.

Global battle

With the entire human species threatened by the out-of-control spread of the AIDS pandemic, governments from the United States to Brazil, Colombia, and Venezuela—where *EIR's* Dr. John Grauerholz has been conducting a highly successful tour—and from France, Britain, Germany, and Italy to Japan are feeling immense political pressure to implement necessary emergency public health and crash research policy actions needed to stop the spread of AIDS.

- *Italy:* On Feb. 4, Italian Health Minister Carlo Donat Cattin called for compulsory AIDS screening for jail inmates, military personnel, and hospital workers. He also called for monitoring of AIDS carriers with regular check-ups.

- *England:* The British government is drawing up plans for a multimillion-dollar research program to find a cure for AIDS. The *Times* and *Daily Telegraph* said that authorities might invoke wartime powers, last used in World War II, to find a cure for malaria, to organize the massive research effort. Sir James Gowans, secretary of the Medical Research Council, said officials would soon approve an AIDS cure program costing the equivalent of \$4.5 million in its first

year. The newspapers said the government was considering invoking rarely used powers to direct scientists to organize a \$15 million research program. The government is considering a policy of anonymous testing on all blood samples taken from hospital patients, in which the patients would not be told the results, British Chief Medical Officer Sir Donald Acheson told the House of Commons Social Services Select Committee Feb. 4.

- *West Germany:* A leading AIDS doctor from Frankfurt University on Feb. 5 told a TV audience: "We need a kind of defense ministry in order to fight AIDS, with a budget of millions of marks." In the same interview, Dr. Stille warned that saliva can keep AIDS viruses alive for some time, and thus could transmit the disease through kissing. According to statistics in the Feb. 8 *Bild Am Sonntag* newspaper, AIDS has infected about 1% of the population in Germany's largest cities.

- *France:* The Feb. 7 issue of *Figaro* magazine reported that 13 million Frenchmen will be contaminated with AIDS in the next five years. It cites calls by French scientists to "wage a war against AIDS at once."

- *Japan:* The Japanese health ministry released a 16-page booklet on AIDS Feb. 2, that warns that 100 million people internationally could die from AIDS by the year 2000.

The American mood

A February poll taken by *Newsweek* magazine asked respondents: "Which of the following groups should have their blood tested for AIDS?" Fifty-two percent of those surveyed said that "everyone" should be tested; 87% said that high risk groups such as homosexuals, intravenous drug users, and their sex partners should be tested; 71% said that people in occupations such as food handlers, teachers, and health-care workers should be tested; 80% of respondents said that people applying for marriage licenses should be tested; and 77% said that people entering hospitals for treatment should undergo AIDS tests.

On Feb. 11, Surgeon General Koop stalked out of his own forum at Harvard University after an associate of Lyndon LaRouche confronted him. According to Boston area newspaper accounts the next day, "Koop stalked quickly from the stage after a member of the audience accused the media and the Reagan administration of a conspiracy to cover up the true causes of AIDS and how it is spread. When the questioner's comments drew scattered applause, Koop called the question and the response ridiculous and left."

Summarizing the mood of millions of Americans, the questioner referenced the fact that Americans are furious that the government has done virtually nothing to stop the AIDS holocaust. The questioner charged: "Your AIDS report and safer sex policy is a fraud which will help kill millions, and possibly everyone in America. Dr. Koop, when will this administration finally dump Don Regan, and spend the money necessary to combat AIDS with a crash program?"

Koop has made himself a target of public outrage for his promotion of "condom education" on television and in grade schools. While many independent stations have carried Koop's suggested advertisements for condoms, the three national networks refused to broadcast them. Koop's position is based upon what he knows to be an untruth: the assertion that AIDS is merely a venereal disease and can therefore be stopped through contraceptives.

Pressure for more stringent public health measures to slow the spread of AIDS was intensified when it was reported Feb. 3 that two doctors at Chicago's Cook County Hospital had recently died of AIDS, and a third was still working there. The doctor, who was suspended from his job briefly, was reinstated when the Cook County Medical Board ruled Feb. 10, that he can continue working as long as he does not conduct physical examinations.

The same week the CDC announced its call for a debate on mandatory AIDS testing, it also released an estimate that by the year 1991—just four years away—more than 12,000 children will have been diagnosed with AIDS or AIDS-related complex. "It's quite possible that in certain major urban areas, AIDS will kill more children than any other infectious disease," said Dr. Martha Rogers, chief of pediatrics and family studies for the CDC's AIDS program.

The basis for optimism

In his speech to the Rome conference, Lyndon LaRouche declared: "While grasping the awfulness of what has already happened, we can be optimistic about our chances of conquering the species-threatening AIDS pandemic." Unless governments act along the lines of a combined optical biophysics research and traditional public health approach, LaRouche predicted that more people will have died in the next 10-12 years than in all wars in this century combined. And yet, governments are doing nothing, thus demonstrating their unwillingness to defend their own populations. "Those governments appear to have lost the moral capacity to survive, and they will not survive." The reason governments have not instituted the two obvious measures of screening and isolation, is, they themselves say, that they "can't offend homosexuals and drug users, that they can't interfere with the political right of infected persons to kill 200-300 others by silently spreading the disease." The other reason is budgetary; governments say they "can't afford" to care for the sick.

Yet, in the midst of this apocalypse, LaRouche stressed, we can be optimistic, like a commander in warfare. "We look at the casualties which we have, in a certain sense brought upon ourselves, but we bring the casualties to an end by winning the war. Funds can be generated for the effort, by increasing the economic output of the economy, as was done with the Manhattan project."

No 1988 prospective U.S. presidential candidate can avoid addressing this question in concrete terms.