

## CDC admits casual spread of AIDS virus

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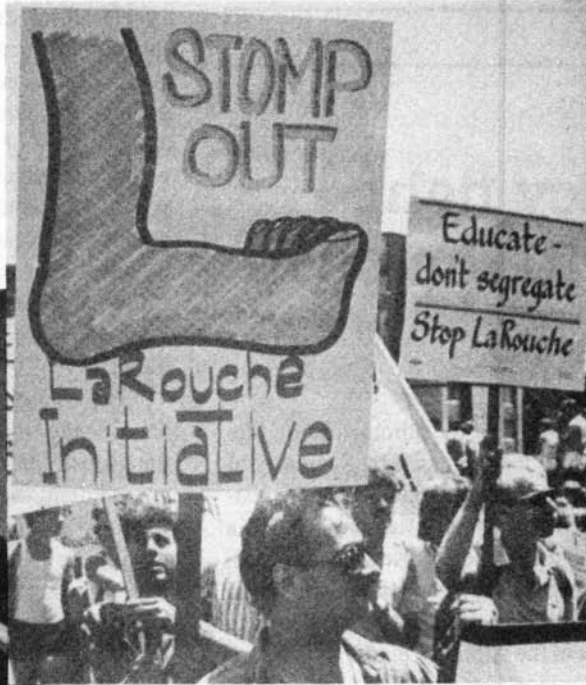
According to a report published in the Atlanta Centers for Disease Control's *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report* (May 22, 1987), three female hospital workers, none of whom belongs to any known risk group for AIDS, have tested positive to the virus after they came in contact with the blood of an infected person.

Reports of health workers becoming infected with the AIDS virus from skin contact with infected blood or body fluids have come to this magazine in the past, but this startling admission by the CDC of what must be considered casual transmission of the AIDS virus has blown the lid off the most outrageous cover-up in medical history.

All three of the women apparently contracted the virus after a single skin exposure to infected blood. Two were not wearing protective gloves at the time of exposure. The third was wearing both gloves and goggles. Although CDC officials declined to name the women or give the locations of their hospitals, rumors abound in published reports from Atlanta that all three were actually employed at CDC itself. An unnamed CDC official expressed concern that many health workers have been exposed to the virus without knowing it, and that as many as 50% will eventually test positive for AIDS.

These admissions stand in stark contradiction to previous public pronouncements from the CDC hierarchy. CDC officials, and the state public health officers who work under them, have long insisted that the risk to health care workers of becoming infected with the AIDS virus while caring for patients was minimal. Many hospitals have discouraged (and some have even prohibited) health workers from wearing full protective garb when dealing with AIDS patients, claiming that the use of gowns and surgical masks might have a deleterious psychological effect on the patient. Often, no one but the physician is even aware that a patient is suffering from AIDS. Furthermore, CDC has repeatedly stated that the fact that there were no reported cases of health workers or family members contracting the virus from AIDS victims (except via sexual or direct blood routes) proved the impossibility of "casual" transmission.

*EIR's* Biological Holocaust Task force has maintained that the lack of docu-



*Proven wrong: Centers for Disease Control director James Mason, Surgeon General C. Everett Koop, the homosexual-rights lobby, and Elizabeth Taylor. But the nation still lacks a viable policy to stop this species-threatening disease.*

mented reports, until now, of AIDS virus transmission to health care workers and family members, was easily explained. HIV, the virus which causes AIDS, is a slow incubation virus. Very high rates of transmission clearly occur in blood transfusions, sharing of hypodermic needles, and sexual contact. But, these "fast track" modes are atypical. *Over time*, slow-track modes of transmission—what the CDC refers to as casual transmission (anything other than sex or direct blood exchange)—would dominate.

The other reason for the lack of documented reports of casual transmission, up until now, is simply that the CDC lies. From the outset, it has run a vicious and relentless campaign to sabotage and suppress all scientific data which supports any theory but the "sex and dirty needles" line, for which CDC is now notorious. The CDC has lied and covered up the documentation of non-risk-group AIDS cases in Belle Glade, Florida, and elsewhere. They have worked to keep the lid on the explosive AIDS situation in Central and South America, and have suppressed the dimensions of the biological holocaust in Africa.

CDC has been in the forefront of the drive to prevent public health measures traditionally employed to contain the spread of deadly communicable diseases. A scandal erupted in Washington, D.C. recently, when President Reagan learned that operatives from CDC lobbied in New Hampshire to defeat a proposal to require AIDS tests for marriage license recipients (see article, page 28).

This incident may settle a raging debate over the AIDS issue within the administration. Koop, the Public Health Service, and CDC have fought any form of mandatory testing

as a waste of money. Instead, they have pushed a campaign of "condom madness," which includes teaching of "safe sexual practices" to third grade schoolchildren. Others, led by Secretary of Education William J. Bennett, have endorsed mandatory testing.

Some say the First Lady is opposed to testing, largely as a result of social pressure from her Hollywood friends. At the very same time that the President is voicing his support for mandatory testing, Nancy has accepted an invitation on his behalf from none other than actress Elizabeth Taylor, the high priestess of the AIDS lobby, for a May 31 testimonial in honor of Koop!

Whatever the outcome of the scuffle within the administration, there is wide speculation in Washington that it may all be over for CDC. The intensity of public outrage following the release of the new reports is growing daily. Trade unions representing firemen, police, ambulance drivers, and hospital workers are denouncing CDC for not releasing the information sooner, and for failing to devise a policy to protect the uninfected. Similar attacks on CDC have come from nurses' associations and hospital administrators. And well-placed sources on Capitol Hill are indicating that a renewed Senate investigation by the Health and Human Services subcommittee, of CDC malfeasance, may be in the offing.

But even if the CDC is forced out of the picture, we are still a nation without any adequate policy to contain the spread of the most deadly plague in all of human history; nor has this government shown the inclination to launch the type of crash scientific mobilization necessary for its prevention, treatment, and cure.