

## The AIDS pandemic

Given the millions of persons already infected, and the number infected doubling approximately each 8 to 12 months, the AIDS pandemic is established as probably the leading domestic issue of the 1988 campaign, and barring perception of an immediate threat of war, will be rivaled only by economic issues, and that only after an imminent financial crash is either perceived, or has actually erupted.

AIDS is an evolving complex of primary infections and cofactors, a complex specific to the human species. It is apparently two distinct diseases caused by the same primary infection: a blood disease, centered in the infection of chromosomes and the immune system, and a disease of the central nervous system, the latter converging upon death through dementia. Strong concentrations of the infection are also carried in saliva, and other secretions are more or less carriers.

Its specific political effects are:

1) It is a slow-incubation infection, such that, without effective biological testing, the infected person may remain an unsuspected carrier for several or more years prior to presentation of disease symptoms.

2) It is probably 99.9% fatal.

3) No vaccine or cure is likely earlier than five years, even with the most massive effort in biological research, and development of a cure could not be seen as a certainty earlier than approximately ten years of massive biological research.

4) It is the first known infection capable of rendering mankind extinct, possibly within approximately two generations, unless either a cure is developed, or measures of isolation of carriers contain the spread of the infection.

It would be a fair estimate, that even if we launched appropriate programs immediately, and presuming that we refuse to tolerate the proposal to introduce euthanasia as a way of reducing medical costs, we must expect that the combined direct and indirect costs to society will reach as high as 20% of real national income. Each year we delay necessary actions on biological research and testing-centered measures of isolation, the forward costs mount at a rapid rate.

Lacking more precise census through testing, government must estimate that approximately 5 million Americans are presently infected, with higher percentiles of infection and rates of spread in the more densely populated European nations. In the United States, the so-called "high-risk" sections of the population are approaching saturation with the infection, and the early stages of a take-off within the non-drug-using heterosexual populations are now manifest.

The role of "low-risk" routes of transmission will increase in importance, as the infection evolves its adaptative qualities, and as the density of the percentile of infected persons increases. At levels of 10-15% of the population infected, according to computer studies of known factors, the entire population enters a state of high risk.

## The candidate with a program: LaRouche

Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr. is the man who called for a strategic defense system one year before President Reagan officially announced the SDI in March 1983. Two years before any other political leader was willing to take a public position on the AIDS epidemic, LaRouche made it the centerpiece of his campaign platform, describing it as a "species-threatening" disease. LaRouche is the only politician and political economist identified internationally for his critique of the Bretton Woods financial system, and his program to reorganize the system to prevent a depression collapse.

In contrast to the treatment accorded his rivals for the 1988 Democratic presidential nomination, there has been a panicked silence in the mass media about LaRouche's campaign, except for the occasional article describing him as a "political extremist," and attributing to him outlandish policies which have nothing to do with his actual beliefs. Those who so fear and hate him, are the ones responsible for bringing on the very crisis which America must now address.

We present here a summary outline of his platform:

### National security:

LaRouche is considered by the Soviet leadership to be the intellectual author of the Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI), and is unique among the candidates in that he does not accept the myth of nuclear weapons as "the ultimate weapon." LaRouche has recently called for an all-out Allied effort in the field of Radio Frequency Weapons, citing evidence that the U.S.S.R. is way ahead in this technology and that deadly RF pulses could be delivered against NATO targets not by ballistic missile, but by a well-trained terrorist with a truck.

LaRouche has campaigned to prevent the decoupling of the United States from Europe, and opposes any "zero-option" treaty that would remove U.S. weaponry or personnel



from the continent. He has characterized recent Soviet offers as “one of wily Soviet Marshal Nikolai Ogarkov’s really clever strategic tricks,” whose acceptance would lead the West into “virtual strategic suicide,” as the Soviets prepare to deploy their own SDI.

LaRouche declares, “There has to be a better way of avoiding nuclear war, than surrendering, inch by inch, to expansion of the Russian empire. . . . What most of you know by the name of “Strategic Defense Initiative is the key to that better way.”

Invoking the model of FDR’s 1939-43 economic mobilization that won World War II, LaRouche says, “My solution is a policy of ‘peace through strength’ . . . the policy which President John F. Kennedy was to present in the address he would have delivered on the evening of the day he was assassinated. This includes not only military strength, but also cultural, political, health, and economic strength, and greatly improved internal security against irregular Soviet forces such as terrorists, drug-trafficking, and spetsnaz.”

**Economic policy:** LaRouche is one of the few living economists who represent the economic policy on which our republic was based: the policy which Alexander Hamilton named “the American System of political-economy.” The economic forecasts which LaRouche and his associates have produced, are the only accurate forecasts published by either governmental or private agencies during the past seven years.

Known as an ardent opponent of the austerity conditionalities of the International Monetary Fund, LaRouche is the author of the “Operation Juárez” plan for reinstating the principles of the Monroe Doctrine in the foreign relations of the Western Hemisphere, and for solving the Ibero-American debt crisis.

LaRouche writes, “The problem is approximately 20 years of bad monetary and economic policies by all western industrialized nations excepting Japan. (We sometimes complain that Japan is being ‘unfair,’ because it refuses to be as stupid as the governments of other industrialized nations.)” Yet, LaRouche thinks the “greatest technological boom in human history” is possible if the United States is unshackled from the folly associated with the “Reagan recovery that never was.”

“If the Reagan administration continues its present policies, it is certain that the world’s economic situation will become much worse than it is today over the summer months,” leading quite possibly into an October financial crash of historic proportions, LaRouche writes.

While blasting the Gramm-Rudman budget act and tax reform as “disasters” that will hasten a crash by slashing investment in technologically advanced defense industry and basic economic infrastructure, he calls for a sweeping “Chapter 11-style reorganization” of the world economy led by a low interest-rate, heavy-industry build-up in the United States that would feature investment tax credits for basic industry, agriculture, and infrastructure, and an export policy hinged

on large-scale “Great Projects” in the Third World. He calculates this could create 10 million American jobs virtually overnight.

**AIDS:** In an Oct. 4, 1985 release announcing his candidacy for the 1988 Democratic presidential nomination, LaRouche underlined the threat of the AIDS epidemic, which he called *the* leading issue that every serious candidate must face. “The popular demand for massive action against the spread of this deadly disease, will trigger an explosion of traditional American moral and scientific values,” he wrote.

In 1974, LaRouche commissioned a study which showed that the economic policies then being pursued by Western governments and financial institutions would result in a gradual build-up in death rates from the combined effects of famine and epidemics, into the 1980s, followed by a zooming death-rate from these causes beginning approximately 1987. The study emphasized that under such conditions, new species of global pandemics would erupt.

LaRouche endorsed the 1986 campaign in California for Proposition 64, the referendum which called for public-health measures to stop the spread of the AIDS epidemic. “Gay rights” groups and a bevy of Hollywood movie stars, led by Liz Taylor, formed a well-funded lobby, under the slogan “No to Prop 64/Stop LaRouche!” which succeeded in defeating the referendum in the November election—for the time being.

LaRouche advocates an “open-ended budget” and international cooperation for a “crash biomedical research program” and a worldwide upgrading of sanitation, nutrition, and insect eradication. “To defeat AIDS will require mastering the new science of Optical Biophysics—not the sort of ‘education’ sponsored by homosexual lobbying groups,” LaRouche writes.

**Science, technology, education:** LaRouche emphasizes that “four general areas will dominate all important technological progress” and education for the next 100 years. All of these areas are essential steps in LaRouche’s design to establish a permanent manned colony on Mars by 2027. This “new sort of Apollo project” the candidate foresees as the “driving force of technological progress here on Earth,” well into the next century.

The four areas cited are: controlled plasma processes, including fusion power as a primary energy source; coherent directed energy pulses such as high powered lasers, especially for machine tooling; optical biophysics and the revolution in biology implied by radio frequency technology and its potential to overcome AIDS; and computer breakthroughs in true parallel processing and analog-digital hybrid systems.

He sees the Mars-colonization project as the heart of his economic policy, and writes that under a proper policy, for a hundred years and more to come, the commitment to colonization of Mars will be the technology-driver which contributes most greatly to improvement of the material conditions of individual life on Earth.