

End the low-budget Reagan-Bush folly on AIDS

by Warren J. Hamerman

On the same June 7 ballot that will select the California presidential primary winners, the voters of the state will have the opportunity to vote for a traditional public health referendum virtually identical to the famous Proposition 64 of 1986, which has fully qualified through a citizen petition drive which gathered the signatures of about 725,000 registered California voters last year. The State of California has given the June 1988 ballot initiative the name, "Proposition 69."

Back in 1986, the Reagan-Bush administration and the state health establishment of California squandered millions of dollars orchestrating a campaign of lies and lulling misinformation to defeat Proposition 64, a referendum which simply stated that our public health officials, to fight AIDS, should apply the same *on-the-books* reporting procedures and public health regulations that have been used to slow the spread of 55 other diseases. As a result of those lies, many who would not otherwise have been infected with AIDS have now become infected and may die as a result. To save more innocent people from becoming needlessly infected, the proponents of Proposition 64 have now qualified a nearly identical referendum.

'Budgetary constraints'

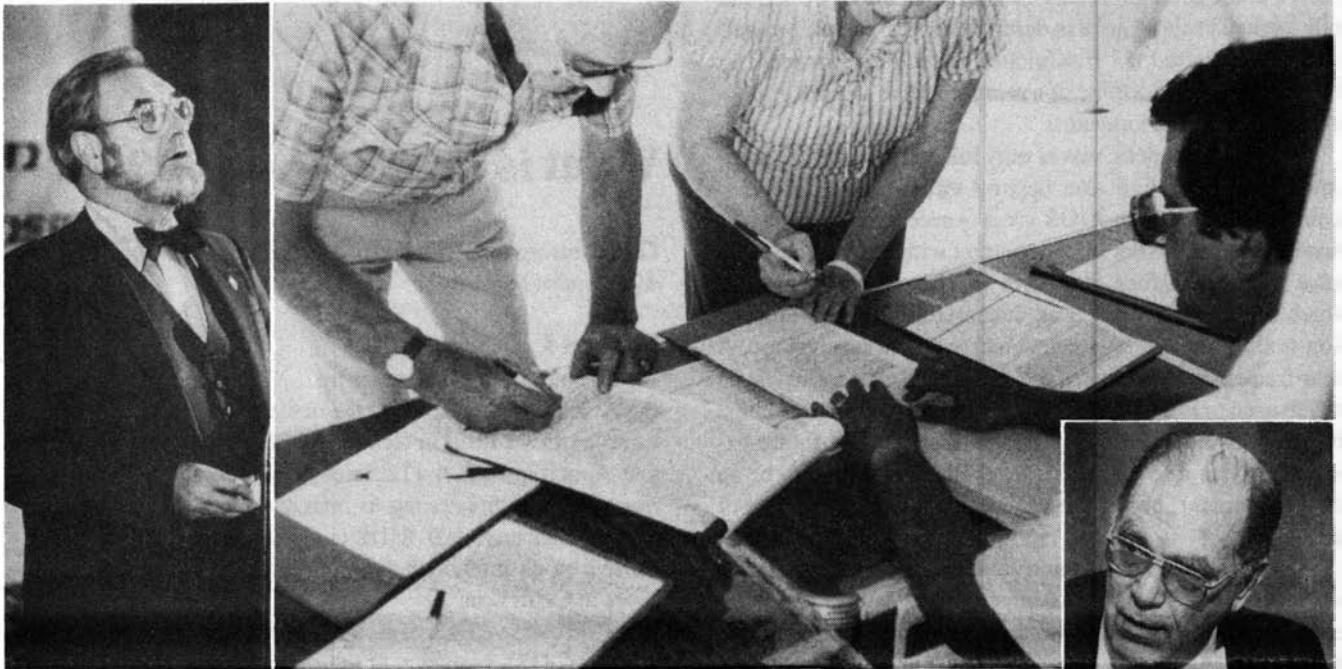
What was the motive for all of the lying by high officials who knew better?

Their motive was saving money and more money! Their accountants informed them that condoms cost less money than basic scientific research; that pseudo-civil-rights promises cost less money than traditional public health measures; that low-care hospices which promote the Nazi practice of euthanasia cost less money than new hospital beds with state-of-the-art medical treatment; and that ignoring the out-of-control situation in Africa and Ibero-America costs less than global action.

So, budget-slashing Republicans joined hands with libertine Democrats in spreading false propaganda and scientific untruths to defeat Proposition 64.

Ronald Reagan, in a nationally televised press conference, defended not spending more on AIDS research, on the grounds of "our budgetary constraints."

Gov. George Deukmejian of California broke his long silence on Proposition



Over 700,000 California voters signed petitions to place Proposition 69 on the ballot. Inset: Proposition 69 proponent, presidential candidate Lyndon LaRouche; what does he know that Surgeon General Everett Koop (left) does not?

64 to call for its defeat, at the same time that he ordered the AIDS budget cut in the state legislature. Deukmejian has formally come out in opposition to Proposition 69 on the grounds that it could cost millions.

Surgeon General C. Everett Koop opposed Proposition 64 while peddling condoms which have been proven unsafe, and asserted that we can't continue to indefinitely set aside beds for AIDS patients, because, "Costs will simply overwhelm the system."

These Republican government officials were joined by demagogic Democratic officials on the federal, state, and local level who were enormously sensitive to the shrinking economic pie which the Bush-Reagan economic policies have caused.

Opposition in the media was whipped up by irrational diatribes and hysteria from the occult, kooky, and "anything goes" set of Hollywood stars grouped around Elizabeth Taylor, Patty Duke, and others. Some of First Lady Nancy Reagan's California Hollywood associates were at the center of this bizarre hysteria.

Strategy for victory: science

To the cynical minds who have controlled national AIDS policy, fighting AIDS with proven public health measures in the same way our nation once mobilized against tuberculosis or polio, costs too much money. Furthermore, the costs of a full-scale scientific mobilization seem staggering to them, so all attempts to launch a crash research effort have been sabotaged. To Hollywood, fighting AIDS with science and tra-

ditional public health measures is a threat to the magical "beliefs" associated with their loose "Aquarian Age" life-style.

Combined, they did not want to stir up public sentiment for a national scientific mobilization. Many opponents of traditional public health measures openly argue that such policies are unrealistic because science has not developed the means to deal with this disease.

Rather than wallowing in despair, our nation can adopt a strategy for total victory over AIDS, by forcing through a succession of major breakthroughs at the frontiers of basic physics, biology, and chemistry. Such a broad-based "crash" scientific program, along the lines of the Manhattan Project of World War II or the Apollo Program of the 1960s, not only maximizes the chances for an early scientific solution to AIDS, but also returns the greatest profit in the form of new technology and increased productivity in the economy as a whole.

Among the most fruitful areas of interdisciplinary research is an advanced area of science known as *optical biophysics*, the area which studies the electromagnetic radiation "tuning" properties in living systems.

The healthy living cell is much more than the sum of its chemical elements; it is a highly ordered electromagnetic domain defined by complex interactions. Many of the scientific achievements of our space program and Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI) program—from the free electron and x-ray lasers to high-power pulsed magnetic fields—have direct relevance to this domain of basic biological science.

We don't need gimmicks and miracle cures. We require fully backed basic science in depth. Already, certain projects have demonstrated the fruitfulness of such an approach, as the following brief outline of a representative sample of pilot projects in the area indicates:

1) Electromagnetic waves may kill AIDS virus in blood.

Low-power laser light can destroy viruses in the blood—including possibly the AIDS virus—according to a leading physiologist. His work under contract with the Strategic Defense Initiative Office is a form of photodynamic therapy which has already been used successfully against tumors. Non-toxic dye particles are attached to the virus envelope. A laser frequency that excites the dye to a higher energy state is then used to irradiate the virus. The laser-excited dye alters the viral envelope and “inactivates” the virus. In future experiments, the free electron laser (FEL) may prove to be an ideal instrument, because it can be tuned to a wide range of frequencies.

2) Microwaves may inactivate the virus. One physicist has proposed to pass AIDS-infected blood through an intense, solenoidal magnetic field, where the field is changing rapidly, forcing the electron-dense RNA nucleus of the virus to align its symmetry axis parallel to the direction of the blood flow. While held in this position by the magnetic field, the nuclei are to be irradiated by polarized microwaves propagated directly into the oncoming flow of blood. The patient's blood could be circulated outside of the body in the manner of renal dialysis, in order to treat it. Various other scientists throughout the United States and Western Europe are working on similar approaches to deactivating the AIDS virus.

3) The signal between the AIDS virus and its targeted cell may be jammed. A leading biophysicist is working on experiments based upon “radar jamming” techniques to interfere with the electromagnetic tuning signal between the AIDS virus and T-lymphocyte cells. Essentially, the horns on the outside of the virus function like broadcasting antennae to the receiving antennae (receptors) on the T-lymphocytes. Using basic radar, experiments are under way to see if the radar signals can be jammed by electromagnetic means.

4) Nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) and radio frequency therapy against AIDS. For several years, NMR and magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) devices have given scientists graphic images of the way in which the virus alters the brain and neurological system of AIDS patients. Experiments have demonstrated that certain experimental NMR techniques, at least with cancer, can go beyond mere “picture taking” to actual radio frequency magnetic therapy. Several biophysicists are engaged in long-term experiments to assess the possibilities of applying such approaches to AIDS.

If we could successfully send our citizens to the Moon and bring them back healthy and happy to Earth nearly two decades ago, there is no reason we cannot achieve a total victory over AIDS. We have a lot of scientific work to do before we conquer this disease. But with basic science, we shall.

What is Proposition 69?

The following is the full text of California's “Proposition 69” AIDS ballot initiative.

Section I

The purpose of this Act is to:

A. Enforce and confirm the declaration of the California Legislature set forth in Health and Safety Code Section 195 that Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) is serious and life-threatening to men and women from all segments of society, that AIDS is usually lethal, and that it is caused by an infectious agent with a high concentration of cases in California;

B. Protect victims of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS), members of their families and local communities, and the public health at large; and

C. Utilize the existing structure of the State Department of Health Services and local health communities, and the statutes and regulations under which they serve, to preserve the public health from Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS).

Section II

Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) is an infectious, contagious, and communicable disease and the condition of being a carrier of the HTLV-III virus or any other viral agent which may cause Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) is an infectious, contagious, and communicable condition, and both shall be placed and maintained by the director of the Department of Health Services on the list of reportable diseases and conditions mandated by Health and Safety Code 3123, and both shall be included within the provisions of Division 4 of such code and the rules and regulations set forth in Administrative Code Title 17, Part 1, Chapter 4, Subchapter 1, and all personnel of the Department of Health Services and all health officers shall fulfill all of the duties and obligations specified in each and all of the sections of said statutory division and administrative code subchapter in a manner consistent with the intent of this Act, as shall all other persons identified in said provisions.

Section III

In the event that any section, subsection, or portion thereof of this Act is deemed unconstitutional by a proper court of law, then that section, subsection, and portions thereof shall be stricken from the Act and all other sections, subsections, and portions thereof shall remain in force, alterable only by the people, according to process.