

How Obama Created an Opioid Epidemic

By Jeffrey Steinberg

From a LaRouchePAC.com video

Oct. 25—As many of you know by now, over the past several weeks, approximately 1.6 million American households received notice that their Obamacare annual premiums were going to be increased by anywhere from 50 to 70%. These households largely involve families either in the middle class or families that are living barely above one and a half times the poverty level; in other words, people who are among the most vulnerable in the population. In addition, many insurance companies are now pulling out of the Obamacare insurance pools altogether because the whole system is collapsing and the payment scales that have been set up for doctors and insurance companies are crashing through the floors. There is a certain degree of irony in the fact that President Obama was given the opportunity to create a genuine revolution in health care by going with a single-payer or Medicare-for-all program, but he chose not to do that. He gave the authorship of Obamacare to a bunch of insurance companies, and the net result is that the entire system is now collapsing.

Large and Growing Body Count

As the result of that, many tens of millions of Americans are going to be facing choices between accepting these exorbitant rate hikes, and by the way, at the same time, they will be experiencing substantial reductions in the actual medical coverage, or, basically, in many instances, having to trade off against vital other requirements: food, shelter, transportation. This is an enormous bite out of households, and in many instances the reductions in coverage are going to add up to a large and growing body count of needless deaths of people for whom basic medical services could mean the difference between life and death. In other words, Obamacare is in a freefall, and even President Obama himself had to admit this in an interview recently, where he said

that many products come out initially flawed, but there's always the opportunity to improve them, unless, he laughed, it is something like the recent disaster of the Samsung cell phones that catch on fire, and had to be recalled and thrown in the garbage. Well, Obamacare is ready to be thrown in the garbage, and until that happens Obama's legacy on the domestic front is going to be one of mass suffering, increasing death rates, and destruction of household fabrics right here at home in the United States.

There are a couple of other dimensions to this emerging domestic crisis that are the direct result of the disastrous policies that have come out of the Obama administration for the last eight years. Right at the time that President Obama came into office, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention issued an alert and they declared a nationwide epidemic of opioid addiction. In many instances we're talking about over-the-counter and prescription drugs, mostly prescription drugs like OxyContin that are pain relievers that have been flooding out from major pharmaceutical companies and drug distribution companies, of which there are only three in the United States, directly into the black market. In the last twelve months, there have been 249 million prescriptions for opioids given out in the United States alone.

CDC and DEA Warnings Ignored

That is an increase in prescriptions of several hundred percentage points over the span of the Obama Administration, and a recent report, published just the past several days, on the front page of the *Washington Post*, made clear that there were constant warnings coming from agents in the Drug Enforcement Administration and other agencies that there was a massive flood of pharmaceutical-grade opioids landing in the black market, and when there were cases presented, the U.S. Department of Justice, clearly under orders from the White House, simply said, "No prosecution."

We already know that too-big-to-fail bankers are al-

lowed to steal from their customers, steal from American taxpayers and get away with it because they are “too big to jail.” Well, guess what? The same thing is true for the top executives of the major pharmaceutical companies who are behind this epidemic outbreak of opioid addiction and deaths. The rate of increase of opioid deaths in the United States stands at fifteen percent per year, again according to recent studies that have been published.

Nazi Health Care

If you put the picture together, and this is really two thirds of the picture, you have an Obamacare public health system that has been an abysmal failure and is cranking up the body count of America’s most vulnerable people, those barely living above poverty: senior citizens, those with serious medical conditions, who are being looted and literally told to drop dead as the consequence of this fatally flawed policy that has been known to be a rotten program from the very beginning. Way back in 2009, Lyndon LaRouche drew the parallel between the Nazi euthanasia program known as T-4 and key elements of the Obamacare program, and that was even before the final version was produced and passed through Congress and signed into law. Now we’ve got the Administration clearly responsible for a failure to develop a policy for effectively dealing with what CDC has called an epidemic of opioid addiction and deaths by overdose.

There is a third leg to this policy. Many of you may remember that, going back to the 2008 Presidential campaign, candidate Barack Obama attacked the Bush Administration, rightly so, for the disaster of the Iraq war, but he also took full ownership of and responsibility for the Afghanistan war. Here we are, eight years later, and what do we have? There is still a U.S. and NATO military presence on the ground in Afghanistan. Sixty percent of the country, according to one recent Pentagon estimate, is under the control of Taliban, ISIS or other rebel forces. The place is a worse mess than it was when Obama first announced that he was claiming ownership of that conflict.

Afghan Opium Skyrockets

Last week, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime produced an astounding report. It said that opium production in Afghanistan, year on year, from 2015 into 2016, is up 43%, and the estimate is that 4,800 tons of opium have been produced in Afghanistan, and are now

streaming on to world markets, in Russia, in Europe, now in Africa, and in the United States. It happens to be part of the same opioid addiction picture, that people who become “hooked” on prescription OxyContin and other similar drugs find that they have an alternative. They can buy heroin on the streets in middle class suburban and even rural neighborhoods anywhere in the United States, and they can buy the heroin at one quarter the price of prescription OxyContin and other opioid drugs. You have a great increase of heroin addiction among formerly exempt segments of the population. White, middle class suburban areas, not to mention the inner cities and the poor rural communities, are all being flooded with cheap, abundant, high quality heroin, and those are the same areas that are experiencing the greatest increases in opioid abuse, addiction and death by overdose.

So, let’s step back and look at the Obama legacy when it comes to the basic, most rudimentary conditions of life for the American people, for you, your relatives, your neighbors, your friends. This is an epidemic; it is a man-made epidemic, and it is an epidemic we can trace back to the fatally flawed policies of a President who is beholden to people like George Soros, the biggest drug legalizer in the world, beholden to the British Crown, which has always carried out opium war policies. Now those policies are being directed with a vengeance against the population of the United States, coming directly from the White House, and its destruction of the health care system, which means that people who develop drug dependencies—whether by opioids they get by prescriptions from their doctors, perhaps get them from pharmacy mills or things like that, or get heroin directly on the street—if you need help to overcome these problems, then you’re looking at a health care system that will simply kick you out the door.

Legacy of Death and Destruction

We have a legacy of death, of destruction, of genocide, that must be understood as an absolutely fundamental aspect of the legacy of eight years of this Obama Presidency. We’ve still got months to go. There are no signs whatsoever that this problem is being seriously addressed or is going to be resolved at any time in the future. The death rates are going to continue to spike. The collapse of the health care system that is now assured in the immediate months ahead is going to immediately compound this and make it worse, and you’ve got Barack Obama to thank for it.