

Kennedy's hospice movement: 'death with dignity' for all

Odell Rhodes, an eyewitness to the Jonestown mass suicide, presented a chilling picture to NBC reporters and a nationwide television audience on Nov. 25. According to Rhodes, as hundreds of people were seized by convulsions a grim Rev. Jim Jones intoned over the compound's public address system, "Die with dignity."

Just seven weeks before, a closed-door session was held in Washington, D.C. under the sponsorship of the National Hospice Organization on the same "die with dignity" theme. But the speakers were Senator Edward Kennedy, HEW Secretary Joseph Califano, and a host of other dignitaries.

The Oct. 5 gathering marked the end of a year-long campaign by the Order of St. John of Jerusalem to introduce the British hospice movement into the USA, a movement that traces back to the 11th century death clinics for the terminally ill founded by the Order at its Cyprus and Rhodes fortresses. With well-manicured phrases like "the right to die," "living wills," and "death with dignity," the Order has taken public leadership of a movement to make the death-cultism of a Jonestown the norm for America. "Concern for the dying" is the pretext to force not only acceptance and even embrace of death, but the corollaries of mind-killing drug use and the destruction of modern health care and all other forms of hated technology.

The Order of St. John itself, is not a fringe cult like the Rev. Jones's Temple. On the contrary. The Most Venerable Military and Hospitaller Order of St. John of Jerusalem is the most prestigious "secret" organization of the oligarchy of Western Europe. Its members include the most prominent London merchant bankers who stand behind the World Bank-International Monetary Fund policy of narcotics as a Third World cash export crop, top officials of British and

Canadian intelligence services, and the leading allies of British policy in the United States.

In its Oct. 6 edition, New Solidarity printed an exposé of the hospice movement, particularly Ted Kennedy's role in furthering it, that warned that the movement's death-idolatry would go into high gear soon after the November elections. We reprint that exposé here.

On Oct. 5 in Washington, D.C., Sen. Edward Kennedy and HEW Secretary Joseph Califano, among others, will address the First Annual National Hospice Organization Meeting to kick off a nationwide campaign to create a death cult in America.

The hospice movement, which traces its origins directly to the 11th century clinics for the terminally ill of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem, prescribes the following program of health care for Americans: widespread use of hard pain-killing drugs such as heroin and cocaine; destruction of advanced medical life-preserving practices and research; and acceptance of euthanasia as the first step toward generalized genocide against the elderly, the seriously ill, and other "useless eaters."

In the next month the American population will be inundated by over 100 newly released books focusing on the subject of "death with dignity." This philosophy of death is aimed at subverting the American commitment to constantly upgrading the conditions of life through scientific and technological progress and, instead, conditioning the population to accept genocide against "marginal" layers of U.S. citizens.

Under the cover of advancing a new treatment for terminally ill patients experiencing constant pain, the hospice movement plays an active part in the campaign to proliferate drugs in America. Operating through organizations like the National Committee on the Treatment of Intractable Pain (NCTIP), the

hospice movement has hooked up with drug lobbies like the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws (NORML) to weaken U.S. drug laws and legalize drugs such as marijuana, heroin, cocaine, and LSD for "medical purposes."

The political center of this movement in the U.S. however, is Sen. Edward Kennedy and his political machine. Through the combination of his criminal code reform (S1437) and his national health-care bill, Kennedy has incorporated every basic tenet of the hospice movement into his proposed legislation.

The new cult of Isis

The hospice movement's glorification of death marks it as the present-day heir to the ancient Egyptian cult of Isis and Osiris. The Egyptian cult drew its members together on the basis death oath against the city-builder faction in Egypt.

The leading ideologue for the revival of this ancient death cult today is Sandol Stoddard, author of *The Hospice Movement: A Better Way of Caring for the Dying*.

The central idea behind the programs of the hospice movement is that the experience of dying should be the focus of attention for the living, and that all living people, including children, should experience some facet of death in the most primitive and "direct" fashion in order to live a more gratifying life. According to Stoddard, America is a "death-denying society." "The hospice concept is the realization that our entire planet has now become one village seeking to be healed," she writes. "With the hospice concept in our culture, many of us may discover that we are learning from the sick how to be well again, and from the dying how to live."

Stoddard and the other creators of this new cult of Isis have developed a complete brainwashing program for inculcating death worship in society, starting with the family of a terminally ill patient. The family is led through a series of counseling sessions, including "comfort control" for the ill, patient and family education and support, total hospice care during the dying process itself and bereavement counseling. Exemplary of the "counseling" practiced by the hospice brainwashers is encouraging young children to adjust to the loss of a loved one by getting into bed with the deceased to express his final farewell. The St. Francis Burial and Counseling Society, Inc., in Washington, D.C., one of the counseling organizations involved in the hospice movement, also suggests that a person buy "a simple casket and use it for other purposes before its final service."

Certain "Christians" are reworking theology to support the cult of death and hospices, and to edge towards acceptance of euthanasia. The March 1978 issue of the *U.S. Catholic* was devoted to this question, noting that "most Christian moralists" agree with

rephrasing the fifth commandment to "Thou shalt not kill, yet need not strive officiously to keep alive."

Nurses employed at hospices are instructed to get "personally involved" with their dying patients by hugging and caressing them. In one proposed hospice facility planned for Connecticut, the nurses and staff will be provided with a carpeted, windowless room called the "screaming room" where the staff can "cool the psyche," in the words of the architect.

Beneath its veneer of concern for the agonies of the dying, the purpose of the hospice is to undermine any and all advanced technological application to medical practice, medical science, and society as a whole. Stoddard states this clearly:

"The hospice teaches a new attitude," explained Dr. Liegner, "with the realization and conscious acceptance of dying and death as part of being born and part of the struggle of life." If the dying patient can be perceived first as a person, and as an individual accomplishing an important part of

Building a 'grass-

From Victor and Rosemary Zorza's column in the New York Post of Oct. 19:

Some politicians believe that a new grass-roots movement is taking shape in the United States, comparable in some ways to the great movements for civil rights and against the Vietnam War. The comparison was made by Sen. Edward M. Kennedy (D-Mass.) when he addressed the first national convention of the hospice movement in Washington last week — and some of his views were echoed from the other side of the political fence by Sen. Bob Dole (R-Kan.).

What is it about hospice that can stir people's emotions to the point at which two such disparate politicians feel moved to declare their commitment to the idea and to pledge their support of the movement?

The hospice groups now springing up around the country are responding to one of the deepest needs in all of us — the need to feel that when our time to die comes, we will be able to do so in conditions that reduce the physical suffering and the spiritual anguish to the minimum. In the hospice setting, the dying patient can even feel "happy" at the way a previously dreaded experience turns out to hold no terror — as our own daughter told us she was happy when she was dying in a hospice last year....

One man who visited a patient of the New Haven (Conn.) hospice recently has come away a different person because of the experience. The two talked for a few moments, and the visitor realized that the cancer patient, a man of nearly 70, felt more

a full life-cycle, then care givers can concentrate upon giving what is really needed in the situation. They can actively prevent the interference of mindless technological tricks, and can instead provide surcease from physical and emotional pain. They can offer, instead of mechanical resuscitation, a hospitable place in which the personal and spiritual growth of the individual can continue during the process of dying."

Stoddard compares modern, advanced hospital care to a war zone where patients are prisoners of life-sustaining equipment:

"There is a mystique about this war against death that makes us turn our heads away from those who are hopelessly, incurably ill; and also from those who are quite consciously ready to die. These are the ones who disturb our picture of the way things ought to be. From hospes (Latin for host, guest — ed.) to hospital, the psychology has changed from one of love to one of war, and in the

psychology of war, force is imperative. Therefore we arrive at the strange, new embrace that pins the inert body of a man or woman, terminally ill, to a machine which forces that person's body to breathe without even knowing its name."

And Stoddard lashes out at advanced industrial society's "alienation" of the individual:

"The new unit of society was economic man. The purpose of hospitals in an industrial society is to mend machine tools, or to lock up separately those such as orphans, the insane, or the contagious, who may prove useful at some later date: hospitals as storage bins for society's spare parts . . . human life is only a machine."

Purporting to characterize industrial society's view of man, Stoddard reveals her own ideology.

The model for American hospices is St. Christopher's Hospice in London. Established in 1967, St. Christopher's was the first "modern" hospice to incorporate all of the psychological warfare techniques developed by the Tavistock Institute during World War II. However, the history of hospices goes back to the 11th century, when the Poor Brothers of the Hospital of St. John organized the first hospice on the island of Cyprus.

The Hospitallers, later the Order of St. John of Jerusalem, moved to the island of Rhodes, where they set up one of the largest hospices in existence. There, for the first time, "patients with incurable diseases were separated from all others." To this day, the Knights of St. John control and deploy the hospice movement.

From the beginning, the Knights specialized in the use of "potions" and elixirs to "ease the pain" of their patients — and enemies — permanently. Today one of the major objectives of the hospice movement is to increase drug use and replace technology-oriented medicine with drug taking. One of the Order's major evil contributions is the so-called Brompton Mix, which was developed at St. Christopher's in 1967. The mix is administered every three or four hours, day and night, until the patient dies.

Death camps with lace curtains

Who is pushing the "die with dignity" cult? **SENATOR EDWARD KENNEDY** is the key promoter for implementing IMF austerity conditions in the U.S., exemplified in all of his proposed legislation:

- Author of Senate Bill S.1437, which proposes to rewrite the entirety of U.S. criminal codes, calls for the decriminalization of marijuana, and a reduction in the penalties for possession and sale of other controlled substances.
- As initiator of Project 87, along with the Brookings Institution, Kennedy has decided that the "Constitution has outlived its usefulness" and is organizing the re-writing of the U.S. Constitution.
- Kennedy's proposed National Health Bill is designed to dismantle America's advanced medical system and

roots movement'

comfortable about the conversation than he did. "He had come to terms with the idea of dying," the visitor recalls. "I had not. I was 47 years old, and I had never come really close to someone who was dying."

That visit will have momentous consequences, for the visitor was Joseph Califano, secretary of health, education and welfare, who has since instructed his staff to devise a number of steps to ease the progress of the hospice movement, pending the more elaborate measures that can only be taken after more detailed study and legislation. The visit, Califano says, made him realize that he had been shielded from the idea of dying, that he was the product of an "enlightened" society that had banished the idea of death....

Califano's visit helped him to break the taboo. It was an intensely personal experience, but the result of it — coupled with an HEW study — will enable the bureaucracy to waive some of the restrictions on fees paid by Medicare and Medicaid for hospice care.

But that is only a small beginning. Califano was deeply impressed by the spontaneity and enthusiasm he found in the hospice movement, and he is concerned about the danger of upsetting the delicate mechanism of private and voluntary effort by federal intervention. "Our challenge is to nourish this movement," he says, "not to force-feed it."

It will be up to the Congress to decide what constitutes adequate nourishment. This is where the pledges of such men as Kennedy and Dole assume a particular importance....

replace hospitals with hospices based on cost cutting, and stresses out-patient care.

- His proposed Pharmaceutical Bill, working in conjunction with the National Institute on Drug Abuse, advocates the creation of a special center to study heroin, LSD and other controlled substances for the possible use of these drugs for medicinal purposes.

- Kennedy openly endorses the hospice movement and will deliver a keynote address, "Hospice Care in the U.S. Health Delivery System," at the First Annual National Hospice Organization meeting in Washington, D.C. Oct. 5.

- The Joseph and Rose Kennedy Institute for the Study of Human Reproduction and Bioethics at Georgetown University, providing tax-exempt support for Senator Kennedy's death-dealing "health care" proposals, stands squarely behind the hospice movement. Director Dr. André Hellegers noted that Sen. Ted Kennedy felt "Congress was disenchanted with the way health care costs had gone so high. . . . Congress was less interested in massively financing basic research, but more interested in applied research that brings down health care costs." This, Hellegers stated, made him think "the public as a whole has to realize that as you approach the end of the genetic life span, not dying from one cause makes you die of another cause. . . . If you believe as I do that eternal life is more the product of the clergy than a function of physicians, you had better consider how you would like to pass from the here-and-now to the hereafter and what it will cost in kind and suffering."

JOSEPH CALIFANO, Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare, is the chief implementor of austerity measures working within the Federal government:

- As Special Assistant to the President on Domestic Affairs under President Johnson, Califano played a leading role in the Appalachian Regional Planning Commission which implemented labor-intensive work projects throughout the area.

- Califano is actively coordinating with Hospice, Inc. in New Haven to review HEW standards for Medicaid and Medicare so that these programs cover hospice treatment. Recently, Califano granted one million dollars to Hospice, Inc. to "prove a justifiable case for the therapeutic advantages of heroin."

- Califano will also attend and address the National Hospice Organization meeting in Washington, D.C. Oct. 5.

DR. ELIZABETH KUBLER-ROSS, chairman of the Hospice National Advisory Council since its inception

in 1971, is the key spokesman for death cult ideology:

- She was trained by the U.S. wartime intelligence organization OSS in military systems analysis and population control.

- As director of psychiatry at the University of Chicago's Billings Hospital in 1969, Ross set up the first seminars with terminally ill patients which later became the subject for the first major book based on "death with dignity."

- Ross's book *Death and Dying* espouses the line that Americans deny the reality of death and are less advanced than Samoans and Alaskan peasants who accept death scientifically, with *acceptance and resignation*.

- Ross has recruited over 75 hospice teams ready to disperse throughout the country to organize for the death cult. After the October hospice meeting, Ross will begin a massive recruitment campaign, touring the country to promote her book.

DR. NORMAN ZINBERG, a long-time advocate of the "nonabusive effects" of marijuana, heroin, LSD, has published 67 studies on drugs:

- As a consultant to the Department of Defense, Zinberg played a leading role in flooding Vietnam with drugs, through his profiles of drug use among demoralized American soldiers.

- He is a founding member both of NORML and the NCTIP, groups which advocate the use of drugs for medical purposes. NORML is lobbying for legalized personal possession and use of drugs.

- Zinberg has played a leading role in the Drug Abuse Council since 1975 and has endorsed the Office of Drug Abuse's call for the decriminalization of all drugs for "further scientific study."

The Oct. 5 national hospice conference will provide the movement's leaders with a critically important reading of just how widespread is the support for "living with death" in the United States. Indications are, however, that the movement will continue a fairly low profile until after the November elections. At that point, nothing will stand in the way of the "grim reapers" proceeding with a national campaign to introduce bills into state legislatures endorsing "alternative" hospice treatment plans for the aged and terminally ill, bills to legalize hard drugs for medical purposes, and bills to extend Medicaid and Medicare benefits to cover hospice care.

— Karen Steinherz
Marie Mendez