

## Report from Italy by Liliana Gorini

### Fortuna demands euthanasia

*Linked to drug-running, gun-running, and terrorism, the socialist parliamentarian now demands the elderly be killed off.*

After years of hesitation due to the strong role of the Vatican and Catholic Church, Italy's death lobby on Feb. 8 unveiled a parliamentary bill to legalize Nazi-style euthanasia. Eight socialist parliamentarians called a press conference to present the bill, saying that this form of murder is an exercise of the murdered person's "civil rights."

They were led by Loris Fortuna, member of both the Socialist Party and the Radical Party, who is known as Italy's main proponent of abortion, divorce, and drug legalization. Fortuna told the press that as far as the elderly and terminally ill are concerned, "survival at any cost would violate the Italian Constitution" and the "dignity of the human person."

Fortuna's bill calls for an end to the "rage to treat" of physicians who try to keep "terminally ill patients" alive. In a previous interview with the weekly *L'Espresso*, Fortuna had declared that the decision on who should die and who should be kept alive should be assigned neither to the patient nor to the relatives nor to the doctor, who are not "objective" enough, but to "a sort of popular jury" formed by various representatives of society, for example, a doctor, a sociologist, a priest, etc.

The Church is now in a full-scale mobilization against Fortuna's Nazi parliamentary faction. The Catholic daily *Avvenire* immediately emphasized in a front-page editorial that this would correspond to establishing "state death" based on the "presumption ac-

ording to which ill people would refuse therapy." Pope John Paul II has already announced the formation of a new Pontifical Commission for Pastoral Work Among Hospital Workers, which is to educate doctors, nurses, and other hospital employees to respect the inalienable right to life.

As the Bishop of Carpi declared to *La Stampa*, "the Church has the duty to oppose with all its force legislation in favor of euthanasia, which could be used to perpetrate the most incredible, if logical, crimes."

The president of Azione Cattolica, a powerful association in Italy, added that Fortuna's bill will be heavily opposed, because "nobody can decide who should live and who should die." He warned of the danger of "a new racism, the racism of the rich, powerful, and healthy people over the weak, poor, and sick ones."

Not everybody in the Church agrees with the Pope. For example, the Jesuit order some months ago published an article in favor of euthanasia in its organ *Civiltà Cattolica*, while a number of Jesuit and Dominican priests have been quoted recently by the daily *La Repubblica* attacking the "rage to treat," indicating that even inside the Church there will be a tough battle on the issue.

Despite the insistence of many that the strength of the Church meant that euthanasia could never come to Italy, two organizations founded by Helga Zepp-LaRouche, the Club of Life and the Schiller Institute, warned of this

threat long ago.

The head of the Club of Rome, the late Aurelio Peccei, first introduced the discussion over how to eliminate "useless eaters" and cut hospital expenses by killing the elderly and terminally ill. At that time, the Club of Life called on all men of good will to oppose such proposals as "crimes against humanity" punishable under the Nuremberg Statutes.

When Fortuna made his proposal known, the Schiller Institute issued a call to all physicians, nurses, social workers, and religious people to mobilize against it. The Institute also made sure that Loris Fortuna would not become the president of a proposed special parliamentary commission on aid to Africa, which would have put him in charge of 1,900 billion lire (\$1 billion). In a January press release, the Institute charged Fortuna with involvement in "weapons smuggling in Africa," and cited his clear position in favor of genocide to assert that placing him in charge of famine relief would be an outrage.

The Italian parliament voted down the proposal to institute such a commission, and Fortuna went back to his domestic genocide proposals.

In 1974, Fortuna became famous for his bill to legalize divorce, which split Italy down the middle between Catholics and non-Catholics, breaking an alliance which until then had kept the Italian government relatively stable. In 1975, he proposed the legalization of all drugs. In 1979, he testified in favor of drug-smuggler Pier Luigi Torri, among whose clients was fascist terrorist Pier Luigi Concutelli. Thereafter, he proposed free abortion. Now, it's euthanasia.

Fortuna is a case in point that between fascism, terrorism, drug-trafficking, and genocide, there isn't an iota of difference.