

EIR Feature

California's Proposition 64 has shaken the world

by Warren J. Hamerman

Presentation to the Patriots for Germany conference on AIDS in Bonn, Federal Republic of Germany, Nov. 9, 1986:

It is my honor to speak to you Patriots of the land which has given the world its greatest achievements in science and musical culture, and the inspiration for the founding fathers of my nation, who, like Benjamin Franklin, father of a nation originally dedicated to scientific development, came to this world-enriching nation of yours to learn scientific method and its relation to statecraft from the great universal thinker Gottfried Leibniz.

Today I wish to give you an overview—both in my capacity as the director of the international Biological Holocaust Task Force of *Executive Intelligence Review* (*EIR*) magazine and the chairman of the National Democratic Policy Committee (NDPC), the rapidly growing multi-candidate political action committee of the LaRouche wing of the Democratic Party which initiated and campaigned for California Proposition 64—of the scientific, strategic, and political implications of the worldwide war we must wage for the survival of mankind against AIDS.

California Proposition 64 is destined to go down in history as the most successful “alarm-ringing” public health proposal and “call to arms” for a scientific crash program in human history. Several days ago, nearly two million voters in the state of California, approximately 30% of the electorate, cast their ballots for Proposition 64, despite the fact that virtually every medical, public health, political, media, cultural, and religious institution in the state, and many in the nation, had publicly demanded that they not vote for it.

Proposition 64, while it was defeated on the ballot, has shaken the world. It has catalyzed a global movement of growing citizen mass action in numerous countries for emergency public health programs such as obligatory reporting of AIDS cases and universal screening, and a demand for governments to initiate crash scientific efforts of multibillion-dollar expenditures. In Britain a national poll showed that over 70% of the population favors Proposition 64-type measures. In Norway a nationwide poll demonstrated 70% support and here in West Germany 60% for Proposition 64-like measures.



Left: A Los Angeles "No on 64" rally in September. Millions of dollars were spent to defeat the measure. Right: Warren Hamerman displays the NDPC pamphlet with the scientific evidence on AIDS, which was circulated to California voters in October.



America's largest newsweekly magazine has commented that Proposition 64, although destined to defeat because of a lavishly funded opposition, "may still be a harbinger of a national debate on AIDS" which could require even President Reagan to commit his office to controlling this species-threatening pandemic.

In other words, government, against its current will, inclination, and budgetary priorities, may be forced to spend large sums of money to protect life. Here in fact, has rested the real story of the opposition to Proposition 64.

The opposition had on its side money, Hollywood stars, powerful political machines, and organized government intransigence.

High government officials such as White House chief of staff Donald Regan have fostered a policy of "Don't panic, don't act, and therefore don't demand any large budget expenditures." Their national health and medical spokesmen have publicly stated that emergency public health and crash research programs are "cost-prohibitive." The President of the United States even went on national television during the summer and told the citizens that his government was doing all it could against AIDS "within the given budget constraints."

As a result of presidential inaction, one leading California newspaper editorialized that President Reagan had let the policy leadership against AIDS be taken by Lyndon H. LaRouche, the founder of *Executive Intelligence Review* and a 1988 presidential candidate.

Now the National Academy of Sciences, which has warned of a national "catastrophe" demands presidential action.

Is life 'cost-prohibitive'?

Those scientific and public health authorities who have consciously perjured themselves by spreading lies and disinformation against Proposition 64, will be proven fools, liars, and incompetents by the scientific evidence over the coming months. Several major scientific papers which prove the threat of AIDS to general populations through casual contact, have been withheld from publication until after the U.S. elections. Within three to six months the population will be clamoring for Proposition 64-like measures and more.

Unfortunately many, many people will die unnecessarily as a result of this vote. As the death toll rises due to this species-threatening disease, the voters will remember with indignation all those who advised them not to panic. A growing majority will soon give its overwhelming support to the forces who have led the fight to end the cover-up and begin waging a war on AIDS.

The Republican administration policy of Don Regan, the Centers for Disease Control, and Surgeon General Koop, to cynically toss condoms and free hypodermic needles at a threatened population because an Apollo-moonshot style crash research program and screening are "cost prohibitive," will be remembered as the worst medical/public health malfeasance in history.

They have been aided and assisted by institutions which have an ideological and philosophical commitment, politely known as "Malthusianism," to brutal population reduction programs in tropical areas.

The State Department of my nation is such an institution with an operational policy to drastically reduce, with any means necessary, what they view as the "overpopulated"

areas of Africa, Ibero-America, and Asia. On the international front, global banking institutions such as the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank have deliberately organized against scientific-technological transfers to solve the problems of the Tropical Areas because they view those areas as "overpopulated" with too many "excess eaters."

They have been assisted by other international institutions, many associated with the United Nations, who are committed to this anti-life, anti-science philosophic view-

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point. For example, the World Health Organization (WHO) in Geneva, Switzerland, has pushed a policy on Africa of "don't panic or act on AIDS and especially don't request emergency funds." Since AIDS is a slow-acting lentivirus, the delaying tactics of the WHO have allowed AIDS to spread silently and rapidly through the population.

Interestingly, the division of the World Health Organization which has been responsible for this policy, its Communicable Diseases Division, is Soviet-run, Soviet-coordinated, and Soviet-administered under a Russian infectious diseases expert named Dr. Sergei Litvinov. Not only African policy has been coordinated in this way. The European subsection of the WHO's Communicable Diseases Division, with responsibility for setting policy in your nation and all nations between the Atlantic and the Urals is also Soviet-controlled.

Patriots of every Western nation must be ever-vigilant of Soviet-directed policy disguised through international institutions. The health of any population, especially its armed-forces-age youth, is a nation's most important national defense.

Any nation or alliance which forgoes defending the health of its population, is doomed.

History of Proposition 64

Nearly one year ago, in December of 1985, the California secretary of state cleared for circulation a proposed ballot initiative that would place AIDS on the state's list of "communicable diseases and conditions."

On June 20, 1986 the initiative was certified and placed on the ballot as Proposition, 64 after it was signed by nearly 690,000 voters.

The purpose of the proposition was straightforward—to enforce and confirm that all of the existing public health statutes be applied to AIDS by declaring that the disease is "an infectious, contagious and communicable disease and the condition of being a carrier of the AIDS virus 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 [the] Health and Safety Code."

That citizens would be forced to vote for such a measure is itself a startling fact.

That every established institution in the state, the nation and many worldwide would object to traditional public health and medical approaches is even more astounding.

That heretofore reputable scientists would knowingly perjure themselves and propagate scientific untruths is shameful.

National Academy of Sciences report

Yet, since Proposition 64 had scientific truth and the ever more compelling reality of the inexorable spread of AIDS on its side, it created a context in which two world-historical events occurred on the eve of its passage: the simultaneous release on Oct. 29 of a report by the National Academy of Sciences and Institute of Medicine in the United States and a letter from Cardinal Ratzinger, approved by the Pope, to all Roman Catholic bishops worldwide.

Days before the election, the prestigious National Academy of Sciences and its Institute of Medicine released a report calling for a \$2 billion annual budget to fight AIDS in order to avert what it termed a national "catastrophe."

Two billion dollars was the precise budget amount specified in our Proposition 64 brochure of which we had distributed 1.35 million copies before the election. The pamphlet was entitled *A Vote for Proposition 64 Could Save the Life of Someone in Your Family*, and contained the results of a study by our Biological Holocaust Task Force.

One of America's senior scientists, the co-chairman of the National Academy of Sciences report, confirmed to the entire world our assessment when he told a packed news conference in Washington that the Academy itself was "quite honestly frightened" by the spread of the disease. He stated: "This is a national health crisis of a magnitude that requires presidential leadership to bring together all elements of society to deal with the problem."

The report openly criticized the past federal so-called

education program on AIDS, which has been piously oversold around the world as a model for other countries, as "woefully inadequate." The 374-page report was sponsored by the Institute of Medicine (IOM) and the National Academy of Sciences (NAS), prepared by a blue-ribbon committee of several dozen medical and scientific experts, and is titled *Confronting AIDS: Directions for Public Health, Health Care and Research*.

The Academy of Sciences made the following stark assessment: "Beginning in 1990, we will lose as many Americans each year to AIDS as we lost in the entire Vietnam War." About 58,000 Americans died during the conflict. Overall, the several tens of senior scientists who prepared the report, concluded that the death and devastation from AIDS would be the most severe in the developing or Tropical sector, where the majority of the at least 10 million infected worldwide reside.

They went on to state, that given the fact that AIDS was a slow-acting viral infection, and the fact that prospects for a vaccine or cure were probably more than five years away: "In view of the numbers of people now infected, it is extremely unlikely that the rising incidence of AIDS will soon reverse itself. Disease and death resulting from HIV infection are likely to be increasing 5 to 10 years from now and *probably into the next century*."

One of the study's directors stated that without "an enormous effort in AIDS prevention . . . a decade from now, we'll have four times more people cropping up with AIDS than we are now projecting. The epidemic will just snowball unless we get into a prevention mode."

Contrasts with CDC cover-up

The independent report lifted the lid of the cover-up on the true threat of AIDS which the Atlanta Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and other administration agencies have been irresponsibly maintaining. White House Chief of Staff Don Regan, the economic policy strongman of the administration, has enforced a brutal policy of "don't tell the truth, don't panic the population, and don't act forcefully because it will cost too much money," and blow up the budget.

Ironically, five days before the IOM-NAS report was released, those two national institutions were placed in charge of an emergency investigation of the collapsing CDC, which has lost all institutional credibility because of its repeated mismanagement of the AIDS program. Seven of the CDC AIDS laboratory's 13 senior scientists have either quit, been fired, or transferred from the AIDS program. At least two of the remaining six scientists have announced that they will leave as well over turmoil at the CDC. Dr. Paul Luciw, the University of California virologist who helped decipher the genetic code of the AIDS virus, commented on the turmoil at CDC: "It is not easy to get people who are skilled and creative. I don't see them recovering. They've lost their credibility almost completely."

The *collective malfeasance* in the leadership of the CDC and their AIDS program was first publicly exposed 13 months ago in a 10-page documentary feature in *EIR*, titled "Why is the Atlanta CDC Covering Up the AIDS Story?" (*EIR*, Sept. 27, 1985, pp. 52-61).

Unfortunately, many, many people will die because of their malfeasance.

Forecast of a catastrophe

In contrast to the cover-up policy of the CDC and other institutions, what did the National Academy of Sciences report? Their scientific conclusions can be summarized as follows:

There is a likely tenfold increase in AIDS cases over the next five years. Anyone who has antibodies to the virus must be assumed to be infected and probably capable of transmitting the virus. A person infected with the AIDS virus may not show any clinical symptoms for months or even years, but apparently never becomes free of the virus. This long, often unrecognized period of asymptomatic infection, during which an infected person can infect others, complicates control of the spread of the virus. At least 25 to 50% of infected persons will progress to AIDS within 5 to 10 years of infection and the possibility that the percentage is higher cannot be ruled out. There is no satisfactory treatment now for HIV infection. Prospects are not promising for at least five years, and probably longer, for a vaccine or an acceptable cure. By the end of 1991, there will have been a cumulative total of more than 270,000 cases of AIDS in the United States, with more than 74,000 of those occurring in 1991. By the end of 1991 there will have been a cumulative total of more than 179,000 American AIDS deaths, with more than 54,000 of those in 1991 alone. Because the typical time between infection and development of clinical AIDS is four or more years, most of the persons who will develop AIDS between now and 1991 are already infected. Pediatric AIDS cases will increase almost tenfold in the next five years. There will be substantially more cases in the heterosexual population over the next 5 to 10 years. The estimate for the direct cost of health care for the 174,000 AIDS patients projected to be alive during the year 1991, will be \$8 billion to \$16 billion in that year alone. This projection does not include the cost for treating ARC (AIDS-Related Complex) cases. [There have been 24,500 AIDS cases and an additional 50,000 to 125,000 ARC cases already counted.] There are an estimated 10 million individuals infected worldwide; the developing sector will suffer the most from the disease.

The Committee itself called for the creation of a National AIDS Commission, initiated by presidential action, and cooperating with parallel efforts in other nations, and funded with a \$2 billion budget from the Congress. The Commission is designed to be organized into a cohesive national program that makes use of all available resources, including those of the government, industrial, and academic sectors.

Given such a scientific assessment, how can we not mobilize worldwide against this menace to mankind?

Scientific and moral truth are one

On Oct. 29, ironically the same day that the National Academy of Sciences report was released, an institution with unquestioned moral authority made an intervention into the AIDS crisis from the highest standpoint of Natural Law.

In fact, the essence of Natural Law is the proposition that scientific and moral truth are one.

The Vatican released a special letter to all Roman Catholic bishops in the world written by Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger, from the Roman Catholic Church's authority on matters of Church doctrine, the Sacred Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, with the explicit approval of the Pope. The letter eloquently stated: "The particular inclination of the homosexual person, although not a sin in itself, nonetheless constitutes a more or less strong tendency toward a behavior which is intrinsically evil from the moral standpoint." Although the practice of homosexuality may seriously threaten the life and well-being of a great number of people, the promoters of this tendency do not desist from their actions and refuse to take into consideration the scale of the risk implied in them. (See article, page 40.)

In addition to the Roman Catholic statement, the Union of Orthodox Rabbis of the United States and Canada released a statement endorsing Proposition 64 and eloquently addressed itself to the question of universal Natural Law from the standpoint of Jewish theology. The Union, the oldest rabbinical organization in North America, represents over 500 rabbis and heads of Jewish seminaries in the United States.

Rabbi Hirsch Ginsberg, the executive director of the Union, enunciated a fundamental truth of Natural Law by stating: "Moral conduct and good health go hand in hand."

We have seen how the battle to mobilize our civilization to wage a full-scale war against AIDS, the first truly species-threatening disease, has brought into play profound historical forces among the scientific, religious, and political spectrum. The issue at stake is the very basis of our science-driven Western culture.

Therefore, we must commit ourselves to sponsor, foster, and encourage a crash scientific research effort.

The scientific frontiers we must conquer

The National Academy of Sciences report makes two absolutely fundamental scientific points about the course of that research program:

1) The progress achieved to date in identifying and characterizing the causative agent of AIDS would not have been possible without the scientific and medical knowledge achieved over the past 20 years' pursuit of basic biomedical research. In that pursuit, the scientific investigator is rarely certain of when or if his research findings will be applicable to a disease.

2) While science has discovered a remarkable wealth of knowledge about the specific AIDS virus, its genetic structure and transmission, much less is known about how it initiates infection, how it maintains infection, and what determines the progression and diversity of the resulting illness. We must overcome the problems presented by the genetic mutability and variation of the AIDS virus, like all retroviruses, if we are to develop a vaccine.

In short, while science has understood the "mechanics" of an AIDS infection, we do not yet understand the basic biological causality.

What is the causality between human economic breakdown, the breakdown of the biosphere as a whole, and the generation of new forms of pandemic diseases? How are different viral diseases created; how do they interact and recombined in living organisms?

What are the co-factors which determine the spread of infection or the activation of the virus in an infected organism?

What new forms of space-age diagnostic methods can we employ from the fields of optical biophysics, non-linear biological spectroscopy, and other technologies to understand the different "tunings" between a healthy growing cell and a contrary diseased cell?

Can the methods of space-age optical biophysics be employed to shift an infected cell from reproducing "pro-viral" genetic material back to reproducing "pro-healthy-cell-growth" genetic material?

Can we cause a shift from a diseased condition to a healthy condition at the cellular level?

If we can explore these questions, we shall not only unlock the secrets to saving mankind from AIDS, we shall be crossing the scientific frontiers to reversing the process of aging and prolonging life to the range of a century and one-quarter to a century and one-half.

We shall be crossing the frontier to being able to sustain healthy human colonies on the Moon and Mars early in the next century, as our astronauts begin to explore the uncharted outer regions of our solar system and beyond.

We need a broad-based crash scientific program which encourages the development of all areas of basic science—from basic biophysics and optical spectroscopy to the more established domains of molecular biology—without knowing what we shall discover or what its immediate benefit may be.

Against AIDS we are compelled to fight with the weapon of science to restore the most fundamental tenet of Western civilization, now lost and degraded into a so-called cost-prohibitive budget item—the notion that each individual human life is precious and worth struggling to preserve because of the inherent God-like creative contribution which that individual may make to his or her fellow man.

In short, for mankind to survive, *we have no choice but to promote and unleash a full-scale scientific renaissance!* Is not that a wonderful historic predicament to be in?