

"I suggest that the question should not be the overthrow of the government of Nicaragua," Murkowski said, but a trade-off which he introduced as Sen. Res. 172. "U.S. Contra aid would cease completely if the Soviets, Cubans, and their weapons are withdrawn, not just new Soviet aid suspended."

While Murkowski supports the Arias (President of Costa Rica) peace plan with this modification, 111 Congressmen sent a letter to Reagan March 30 urging a cutoff in military aid for a 90 day ceasefire in the region and bilateral U.S.-Nicaragua talks. Signers included 42 House members who had voted for the \$100 million last year.

Sen. Chris Dodd (D-Conn.) introduced S. 184 on Jan. 6 to provide \$300 million in assistance to Costa Rica, Guatemala, El Salvador, and Honduras, and end Contra funding entirely.

## Contagion 'civil rights' faction holds key posts

Several Congressmen who submitted a friend of the court brief to the Supreme Court in the *School Board of Nassau Co., Fla., vs. Arline* decision supporting the court's opinion that people who have contagious diseases are protected as handicapped under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, hold key committee positions with jurisdiction over the nation's public health laws.

In their *amicus curiae* brief, they argue that Sec. 504 of the Act "unambiguously prohibits discrimination against individuals who have or are perceived to have contagious diseases," consistent with their view that AIDS has civil rights. They claim they

"would oppose any interpretation" of Sec. 504 "that would require exposing school children, or any other individuals to an appreciable risk of contracting a serious disease." Appreciable risk is the key phrase as they argue that "for example, if a disease can be transmitted only by biting, a two-year-old might be excluded from a program but an adult would not."

Sen. Lowell Weicker (R-Conn.) is ranking on the Senate subcommittee on the handicapped. Rep. Augustus Hawkins (D-Cal.) is Chairman and Rep. James Jeffords (R-Vt.) is ranking member of the House Education and Labor Committee, which has jurisdiction over Sec. 504. Rep. Henry Waxman (D-Cal.) is chairman of the House Subcommittee on Health and the Environment with jurisdiction over all public health and health regulatory laws. Sens. Cranston (D-Cal.), Inouye (D-HI.), Kennedy (D-Mass.), Simon (D-Ill.), Stafford (R-Vt.), and 27 other House members signed onto the brief.

## LaRouche statements highlight NDPC testimony

The National Democratic Policy Committee (NDPC) has submitted testimony to several committees of the 100th Congress on important issues, and more NDPC appearances are scheduled during April. Policy statements by 1988 Democratic presidential contender Lyndon H. LaRouche have been prominently featured.

The NDPC submitted testimony on the trade issue to the Senate Finance Committee in February, and the House Ways and Means Committee in early

March. Two LaRouche releases, "Treasonous Trilaterals Threaten Trade War," and "Brazil Action Brings Down the IMF," were included, as well as NDPC legislation to the federal government on Emergency Economic Measures, and the Vatican document on debt, which has not been mentioned in Congress.

Testimony was also submitted to the House Foreign Affairs International Operations and the Senate Foreign Relations committees calling for a cutoff of funding to the National Endowment for Democracy, and a full investigation into this secret government apparatus, which has aided the drug lobby and Soviet interests. The NDPC is scheduled to appear before the Appropriations subcommittees that have jurisdiction over NED in early April. Mr. LaRouche's introduction to *EIR's* "Project Democracy" special report was heavily excerpted.

The House and Senate Appropriations Agriculture subcommittees received testimony, including Mr. LaRouche's policy statement "Keep the Local Banks Functioning," which applies to the insolvent Farm Credit System.

The House and Senate Appropriations Energy and Water subcommittees have also received testimony, although only the House heard oral testimony from the NDPC on April 1. LaRouche's statement condemning the Reagan veto of the highway bill and explaining the importance of infrastructure spending to help generate an economic recovery, prompted several questions from the three members at the hearing, an unusually high number. The NDPC is scheduled to testify on defense, NASA, Foreign Operations, AIDS and other issues during April.