

national strategy for combating AIDS.

5) On June 12 in Stockholm, Sweden, the World Health Organization's Fourth International AIDS Conference will begin.

The Establishment's secret agenda

The bad policies being promoted by the national health establishment flow from the guidelines presented to them by America's leading families and elites—that we are in such an economic crisis that only the most brutal austerity policies, such as low-cost hospices, euthanasia (the Nazi practice of “mercy killing”), and drug legalization to bring black market revenues into the “legitimate” banking system will be allowed. These elites have determined that, under either Dukakis or Bush, America will only pursue a cosmetic effort against AIDS. For instance, liberal Democrats such as Cyrus Vance and Baltimore Mayor Kurt Schmoke, and mainline Republicans such as Elliot Richardson and conservative economist Milton Friedman, have all endorsed a common proposal for drug legalization in the United States.

Therefore, the American elites not only lie and cover up the nature of AIDS, but they cynically wish to use the population's concern to “sneak through” some of their most loathsome policies—such as euthanasia and drug legalization.

What follows is a representative sample of some of the more outrageous policy recommendations which the higher-level backers of both Dukakis and Bush agree upon. The source of the new reports that the policy is contained in is given in parentheses:

- “Pediatric AIDS further disrupts families that may be already weakened as a result of parental drug abuse or HIV infection. Consequently, with few resources or social supports, pediatric AIDS patients remain hospitalized for prolonged periods. *The committee urges* that foster care, community-based residential care, and hospice care programs be developed or expanded to meet the needs of pediatric AIDS patients and their families so that hospitals are no longer the home of last resort.” (Academy of Sciences)

- “The committee continues to believe that evaluation of the effectiveness of providing sterile needles and equip-

How Washington infected the nation

For a book which promises to explain “why society failed to meet the AIDS crisis,” it is curious that Sandra Panem's *The AIDS Bureaucracy* (Harvard University Press, Boston, 1988, 194 pp., \$22.50 hardbound, \$9.95 paper) lauds virtually every key bureaucrat at the Centers for Disease Control, Public Health Service, National Institutes of Health, the Congress, and the San Francisco Public Health Department—anyone who has consistently made all the wrong decisions.

The author, at the time a guest scholar at the Brookings Institution and currently at the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, is extraordinarily well-connected into the top levels of those who set national health policy. All those bureaucrats who made deadly policy mistakes to keep budgets down as the Reagan administration and think tanks like Brookings demanded, are politely let off the hook on the grounds that they didn't really understand the complicated scientific nature of the disease or that the “system” didn't run smoothly enough.

Panem was granted interviews with all the kingpins of national AIDS policy, from the top AIDS officials at the CDC to Mathilde Krim and Mervyn Silverman of the

American Federation of AIDS Research, to top AIDS researchers, Virtually entire sentences she wrote appear verbatim in the Watkins Commission recommendations.

While we do not know precisely who borrowed from whom, it is extraordinary that the recommendation of Admiral Watkins's Presidential AIDS Commission for the declaration of a centralized health emergency plan, modeled upon the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), to cut through “business as usual” and “micro-management,” is virtually word-for-word the same as Panem's concluding chapter, “Lessons for the Future.” If there must be a fall guy for the mistakes made, Panem suggests the “system” whereby the executive and Office of Management and Budget (OMB) negotiate to formulate the President's budget. The “system” has become even more inefficient with the adoption of the line item approach in the Gramm-Rudman-Hollings Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

While protecting the individuals, the author manages to speak unkindly about the effects of what she calls the “rivalries” between the NIH and CDC, and between civil-service and university-based scientists.

Going through a catalogue of all the things which didn't work right, she stumbles into the correct conclusion: Nobody was in charge and there was no master plan. Instead of improvements in the way the cogs turn in the system, we had better improve the quality of the man who is supposed to be in charge, namely, the President, before the entire nation is infected.—*Warren J. Hamerman*