

demiology which I have read. Mr. Sermos is one of those extremely rare persons who possesses solid knowledge of his field, courage, and literacy.

The title of this review, "Deadly Poker," comes from one of the chapter titles in the book, which examines the systematic avoidance of proven infectious disease control measures by the CDC and other agencies. As I once described this policy in a response to the California Medical Association, these officials are playing "we bet your life" with the health of the American people. This is the actual result of the official policy of "not spreading panic," as exemplified by Dr. Robert Gallo's response to the question of "what he would do if he concluded that the AIDS virus was going to kill a large part of the American population. He answered that he would not inform the public of his conclusion because the information would cause panic. And that there was no use in causing such a panic if nothing could be done to stop the virus."

What becomes clear in the rest of the book, is not that nothing *can* be done but that present official policy is that political considerations have determined that nothing effective *will* be done. But how can an agency whose role is to prevent unnecessary illness and death and to enhance the health of the American people operate under a policy which contradicts the very reason for which it exists? On one level you can cite the general cultural and economic deterioration of the U.S. population and the current concern to preserve the fiscal health of crumbling financial institutions at the expense of the physical health of the population, as exemplified by the gutting of public health and other services by budget cutting austerity.

But what about the physicians and other health professionals who staff institutions such as the CDC and Public Health departments? What about scientific integrity and professional honor? Would not such persons stand up and protest a policy which is unscientific, shortsighted and ultimately suicidal? As the author documents, with rare exceptions outside the established institutions, the answer is a resounding no!

In the case of the CDC, Mr. Sermos documents that such moral flexibility did not start with the AIDS epidemic, but that "the CDC came into the ethical scientific world with a crippling birth defect. That defect came to be known as the Tuskegee Syphilis Study."

In the Tuskegee study, which began in 1932 and was finally discontinued in 1973, medical treatment was withheld from 400 uninformed, unconsenting citizens with syphilis in order to study the long range effects of the disease. These 400 black males from Georgia were simply designated as human guinea pigs and, as late as 1969, a Public Health Service review panel recommended that surviving participants should not be given appropriate treatment. The study was finally discontinued, not because of ethical or scientific considerations, but because of adverse publicity.

As Sermos observes:

Now we are all unconsenting guinea pigs in a study that encompasses a scale which dwarfs the Tuskegee study.

At the end of World War II, our government, through the Nuremberg Military Tribunal, tried German physicians for crimes against humanity. Testimony at their trial by official representatives of the American Medical Association clearly suggested that research like the Tuskegee Syphilis Study would have been intolerable in this country or anywhere in the civilized world. Yet the Tuskegee Study was continued after the Nuremberg findings and the so-called Nuremberg Code had been widely circulated in the medical community.

So why have we come to this pass? Because in the Newspeak of our current culture, any person who takes a principled moral stand against such Nazi measures is labeled an "authoritarian personality" and a fascist, and subjected to defamation and legal and extra-legal harassment. This has been the case with Gus Sermos, with former presidential candidate Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr., and with the small number of courageous physicians and others who have spoken out against the present suicidal non-policy on dealing with the greatest epidemic threat to human existence.

If we succeed in breaking the grip of the real fascists, those forces responsible for the present economic and cultural destruction of Western civilization, (and the present AIDS policy), then this little book will indeed be one of the most damning pieces of testimony at a future Nuremberg Tribunal. Those who are interested in surviving to see that day would do well to read this book.

Books Received

Iphigene: My Life and The New York Times, The Memoirs of Iphigene Ochs Sulzberger, as written by Susan W. Dryfoos, Times Books, New York, 1981, \$22.50 hardbound, 312pp.

Economics in Perspective: A Critical History, by John Kenneth Galbraith, Houghton-Mifflin Co., Boston, Mass., 1987, \$19.95 hardbound, 324pp.

Cloak and Gown: Scholars in the Secret War, 1939-1961, by Robin W. Winks, Wm. Morrow and Co., New York, 1987, \$22.95 hardbound, 607pp.

I Swear by Apollo: Dr. Ewen Cameron and the CIA Brainwashing Experiments, by Don Gillmor, Eden Press, Montreal, Can., 1987, \$24.95 hardbound, 188pp.

Condemned to Repetition: The United States and Nicaragua, by Robert A. Pastor, Princeton University Press, Princeton, N.J., 1987, \$24.95 hardbound, 392pp.