

("The Cyanide Gang"). Atrott and his aides have revealed themselves as an association of cynical cyanide dealers, whose methods are reminiscent of the intrigues of the international drug mafia.

Atrott is nothing more than a criminal without a conscience, shamelessly sucking the maximum personal profit from the suffering of other people. And those in Holland in the government and the parliament, who now de facto have given euthanasia free rein, are not much better.

For what does it mean to act recklessly against people who are weak and have no means to defend themselves? With such axioms underlying one's thinking and actions, the step from egoism to fascism is only a small one.

Recently, in another context, Hans Barbier wrote in a commentary in the *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung* that egoism is the "plumbline of collective action" of society, and that it was an injustice to the citizens of the West, and wrong, to accuse egoism — since we have it to thank for our economic benefits — of being a painful disease. And these are in fact the premises of the so-called free market economy. It is naked Social Darwinism, in which the young and strong brutally use their elbows to shove the old and weak out of the way!

'Lead or Leave' fascists

Since the financial establishment in the United States has come to the consensus that it can no longer afford pensions, social security, and health care, a new yuppie organization has been founded, heavily financed by people such as Ross Perot and Lee Iacocca, among others, called "Lead or Leave," who are promoting their monstrosities at the universities. They assert that greedy old people, because of their high living standards and the high cost of their health care, are taking away the resources from the young. To prevent this, they have announced a war between generations. That is how fast yuppies become fascists.

Is there not the great danger, that under conditions of a depression which is becoming more acute, ever more and more people will be declared "useless eaters"? Do we not already have alarming numbers of citizens who have accepted the brainwashing of the Club of Rome, that the so-called Third World is "overpopulated" (and hence that famines such as in Somalia also have their advantages)?

The decision of the Dutch government is a frightful alarm signal, which tells us how far things have gone. Holland must be accused worldwide, condemned, and expelled from the community of nations until it repeals this law.

One of the purposes, and not the least important, of the founding of the Civil Rights Movement Solidarity was to function as an international resistance movement, to parry such fascist dangers, and to defend the inalienable rights of all people on this planet, implicit in their being created in *imago viva Dei*, in the living image of God.

Everyone who wants to defend life in these times must join us.

Interview: P. van Duijvenboden

'Care criteria' pushed for euthanasia

The following interview with Mr. P. van Duijvenboden of the Dutch Patients Union (NPV) was conducted by written correspondence by Jutta Dinkermann, a representative of the Club of Life, on April 13, and has been made available to EIR with Mr. van Duijvenboden's consent. The NPV is based in Veenendaal, Netherlands.

Q: What are the goals and tasks of the Dutch Patients Union?

Van Duijvenboden: We represent the interests of patients in Dutch health-care institutions and, of course, those of our members in particular. Our goal is to protect human life from the time of conception to death, doing this on the basis of God's word. Among the most important of the tasks of our union is counseling and informational work, handling of complaints, and training of volunteers in home care. The NPV was founded in 1982. With 55,000 members, it is the largest patient organization in Holland.

Q: Can you tell us what the practice of euthanasia in Holland has been? Can you give the number of people affected by euthanasia?

Van Duijvenboden: In Holland, euthanasia is criminal by law. In recent years, however, a discussion has emerged whether it should remain so since, in practice, euthanasia is done anyway without punishment. A government investigatory commission was established to investigate how frequently euthanasia occurs, and was named after its chairman, Remmling, then the attorney general with the Dutch Supreme Court. Of course, this commission naturally covered only those cases of euthanasia that in fact were reported by doctors. The number of cases not reported is thus unknown.

The results of this investigation, which were presented in September 1991, and the concluding evaluation led to the newly proposed change in the law, which was discussed in the lower house and passed in February of this year. The discussion by the upper house, the Senate, will take place in May 1993; a decision is expected by mid-September.

Q: What will the new Dutch euthanasia law change?

Van Duijvenboden: On the one hand, euthanasia on request will remain punishable; on the other hand, this legislative

draft determines that a doctor who maintains certain rules of care and records this in writing will not be legally persecuted.

So-called involuntary euthanasia remains in any case formally punishable, and the doctor is obligated to report these cases to the attorney general, who then examines the physician's maintenance report on the "rules of care." The NPV fears, however, that, increasingly, no further legal punishment of these cases by the attorney general will occur. Additionally, it is tempting simply not to report any case that does not fit the "care criteria."

Generally, we can say that, immediately, little will change in principle as a result of the new legal proposal. It is, after all, the consequence of already existing practice. But we certainly have our concerns, because this legal proposal opens the door for an increasingly widespread practice. Thus it is completely possible that, for example, demented old people, handicapped newborns, and comatose patients will legally and officially suffer involuntary euthanasia if the doctor proves that he has observed his "care criteria," insofar as he reports the act at all.

Q: Everywhere in Europe and the United States, it is argued by interested groups that old people cost too much money. From a given age on, expensive medical treatment must be stopped, which in many cases is also a case of euthanasia. How is the discussion on this going with you in Holland?

Van Duijvenboden: In Holland, economic motives formally play no role in the decision to treat or not treat an old person. Rather, so-called quality of life criteria are used that, among other things, concern whether the person needs help and can still (in the view of those making the decision) enjoy his life. Tied to answering this question, the decision is then made whether further treatment is sensible, which, because of the criteria used, more quickly turns out negative with old people.

Q: Who are the political supporters of the practice of euthanasia, who are the opponents?

Van Duijvenboden: In Holland, most political parties are not against euthanasia, as, for example, the Partij van de Arbeid (PVDA), the Demokraten '66 (D'66), and the Partij Voor Vrijheid en Democratie (VVD). The opponents are the small Christian parties such as the Staatkundig Gereformeerde Partij (SGP), the Reformatorische Politieke Federatie (RPF), and the Gereformeerd Politiek Verbond (GPVP). The Christelijk Democratisch Appel (CDA) takes an intermediate position. It wants to allow the criminal punishment to continue, but also thinks that euthanasia must be possible without legal prosecution.

Q: In your opinion, what are the reasons that things have gone so far in Holland?

Van Duijvenboden: The fact that euthanasia in Holland is legalized has, in our opinion, a number of causes, as for

example increasing secularization. More and more people have turned their backs on Christian belief and the related norms and values. Also, the enormous rise of the so-called right of self-determination, which has come to include even the termination of life, has contributed to it.

Q: Is there an organized resistance apart from your own activities? What in your opinion must be done concretely? Can we of the Club of Life help?

Van Duijvenboden: The NPV is only one of many right to life organizations in Holland. Other organizations are, for example, Vereniging tot Bescherming van het Ongeboren Kind (VBOK) and many pro-life professional organizations. All these different organizations work together in an umbrella organization. This organization will present a petition to the upper house soon. We must make very obvious and clear to it that a large portion of the Dutch population is against euthanasia. For that purpose, signatures will be collected, among other things. You can help by also expressing your concern to the upper house.

Q: A question at the request of our American friends of the Club of Life: Holland is praised by the euthanasia lobby there generally as an example worth imitating, as an "island of humanity" and of death worthy of human beings. What is your message to the American population?

Van Duijvenboden: Holland can indeed be given as an example, but please not as an example "worth imitating." God's commands are holy and valid for all, not merely for Christians. That is also true for the command, "Thou Shalt Not Kill."

Q: Mr. van Duijvenboden, we thank you for this interview and with you and your comrades-in-arms much success.

You, too, can help. As Mr. van Duijvenboden assured us, foreign letters of protest really have an effect on the upper house and the Dutch press. Here are the addresses given by him:

The chairman:

Eerste Kamer der Staten-Generaal t.a.v. Mr. H.D. Tjeenk-Willink; Postbus 20017 NL-2500 EA; Den Haag, Nederlands

The secretary:

Eerste Kamer der Staten-Generaal t.a.v. Drs. C.H.L. Balje; Postbus 20017 NL-2500 EA; Den Haag, Nederlands

Newspapers:

Dagblad; Postbus 111 NL-3770 AC; Barneveld, Nederlands

Reformatorisch Dagblad; Postbus 670 NL-7300 AR; Apeldoorn, Nederlands

Katholiek Nieuwsblad; Postbus 1270 NL-5200 BH; Den Bosch, Nederlands