

I announce my candidacy for the 1988 Democratic presidential nomination

by Lyndon Hermyle LaRouche, Jr.



The world today is threatened by the most deadly pandemic disease so far known to mankind, a disease far more deadly to its victims than the Black Death which wiped out between one-third and one-half of the population of Europe during the middle of the 14th century. This deadly pandemic is called Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome, or simply AIDS.

During the recent six months, a team of specialists has been advising me on the nature and the spread of this pandemic. These advisers have included teams of physicians, of other scientists, and of other specialists. These teams of experts have reviewed the facts with leading epidemiologists and institutions in a number of countries, and have cross-checked the opinion of each expert with numbers of the world's leading authorities. The experts emphasize that many important questions about the disease can not yet be answered, but certain facts demand very clear courses of action by governments. Most of the world's leading experts denounce the Switzerland-based World Health Organization and the U.S.'s Atlanta CDC [Centers for Disease Control] as behaving irresponsibly, and many accuse these institutions of circulating false information as part of a political cover-up.

The facts about AIDS

The facts which every citizen must know include the following:

1) AIDS is what is sometimes called a "slow virus."

The person infected with the AIDS virus may not develop AIDS symptoms for years, but during that long period of incubation, the infected person can transmit the infection to others, even though he or she does not yet show AIDS symptoms.

Such a slow virus, with such a high fatality-rate, is the most insidious kind of pandemic which could threaten mankind. An infected person can circulate for a year or more, spreading the infection to others, without revealing symp-

toms. They might die of AIDS-caused complications within a few years, or might die gradually of degeneration of the brain—since AIDS is an infection of the central nervous system.

2) The present best guess is, that as many as 100% of the persons infected with the disease will die, in either a few years or as many as 12 years after they are infected. This makes AIDS a more deadly pandemic than the Black Death.

3) The estimated number of persons infected with AIDS in the United States is estimated to be not less than 1 million persons. Some experts estimate that about 50% of the United States' homosexuals are infected, and at least an equal percentage of drug-users. In cities with high concentrations of homosexuals, 70% could be presently infected. Some estimates say that more than 1 million Americans could already be spreading the disease to others.

4) The number of cases of Americans reported as having the disease has been doubling every six months. This would mean that a minimum of 8 million could become infected by about the end of 1986, and a minimum of 32 million by the end of 1987. These estimates are only the best guesses which can be made on the basis of trends observed by medical experts so far, but they are accurate insofar as they indicate the seriousness of the danger to the entire population.

5) The argument, that AIDS can be transmitted only by sex or by needles, is already shown to be a dangerous fraud.

In central black Africa, teams of experts estimate that between 10 million and 32 million are already infected, with infection distributed without regard to age or sex. Medical experts report that AIDS is raging out of control already in Brazil. A similar pattern is found in parts of the United States where sanitation is extremely poor and the population badly nourished. It is absolutely clear, from these cases, that it is a fraud to argue that AIDS can be transmitted only by persons who are already showing symptoms of AIDS, or can be

transmitted only by homosexuals or by hypodermic needles. The tracing of most cases to homosexuals and drug-users, applies only to environments where levels of sanitation and nutrition are still within normal standards.

True, AIDS is a medical problem. It is also a political issue. No epidemic in progress was ever stopped by the discovery of a cure. Since the Black Death, which killed one-third to one-half of the population of Europe, during the middle of the 14th century, civilization has learned that the only way to stop the spread of epidemics is public health measures, especially sanitation and isolation of infected victims. Only public health measures by governments can halt the spread of a pandemic.

Public health and the law

At the beginning of the Constitution of the United States, the highest law of our nation, our forefathers compacted to "promote the general welfare." Until 1975, our Federal, state, and local governments enacted laws, and created public health institutions, to enforce public health measures against communicable epidemic diseases. Most of these laws are on the books; they are the law. Any law, any act of negligence by the Federal, state or local government, which attempts to overturn that provision of our Constitution, or to violate that law by negligence, is grounds for impeachment and other appropriate actions against any public official whose acts or negligence cause injury to the general welfare.

Yet, in violation of the law, today, agencies of our Federal government, as well as the municipal government of Los Angeles, are in such violation of their oaths to uphold the Constitution in the matter of the spread of the most deadly pandemic in the history of mankind. They are, in fact, guilty of complicity in mass-homicide, in defiance of established law. Every person who becomes ill, or who dies of infection with AIDS, under conditions fostered by such mixed negligence and obstruction of law, should hold such officials personally accountable under the law.

Therefore, those who violate the law, or who attempt to overturn the public health law of the United States, have made AIDS the leading political issue of 1985. The attack on the law has been made chiefly by two classes of persons. The first, is composed of lobbyists representing themselves as working in behalf of the "civil rights" of drug-users and homosexuals. The second group includes officials of governments who are acting in collaboration with certain supranational institutions to falsify the facts about AIDS. Both groups are acting to assist the spread of a pandemic worse than the Black Death, a disease more deadly to mankind than a full-scale thermonuclear war.

Yes, we must have medical research, but to do nothing until medicine discovers a cure, would be a criminal act of negligence. Let us suppose that a cure is discovered three years from now. At the present doubling-rate, that would

mean that at least 64 million Americans would be infected, many of whom would already be dead or doomed to die. Former Health Secretary Margaret Heckler proposed that 1990 is the target-year for a medical breakthrough. That means four years, by which time most Americans might be infected!

Medical support is necessary. We should be spending between a half-billion and one billion dollars for research, and should be providing hospital treatment-places for isolated infected persons, as we did for tuberculosis victims, adequate to the number of expected cases needing treatment. But, medical support by itself will not stop the deadly pandemic. Public health measures must be taken on the Federal, state, and local levels, immediately.

We must identify and isolate the carriers of the AIDS virus, until we are assured that those infected are no longer capable of transmitting the virus. We must, especially, be certain infected persons are not employed as food-handlers, or in service occupations which require them to make bodily contact with non-infected persons. We must provide treatment centers for these victims. We must correct lack of adequate public sanitation. We must improve levels of nutrition, including levels of animal-protein consumption consistent with the individual's immunological potential. We must recognize that drugs which depress the immune system help to spread AIDS; the consumption of such drugs for "recreation" must be stamped out ruthlessly. We must recognize that the spread of other epidemic diseases, including the recent explosion in spread of tuberculosis, contributes to the spread of AIDS.

It is the urgent public health measures which are the most costly actions we must take to control this deadly pandemic. Those public health measures are far more costly than the medical action needed. That is why government agencies are covering up so many of the facts about the AIDS pandemic, during the present fight in Congress over "balancing the Federal budget."

This is the first time in our nation's history, that so many in government have attempted to balance the budget by allowing a deadly pandemic to kill off the tax-payers.

Economic collapse and pandemics

Ten years ago, a team of my collaborators and I warned, that if the monetary policies which the U.S. government adopted in August 1971 were continued indefinitely, that by the second half of the 1980s, the world would be attacked by waves of famine and epidemic diseases like those which wiped out half of the population of Europe during the first half of the 14th century. We predicted that epidemics of cholera and other disease would explode in the Sahel region of Africa by the middle of the 1980s. That happened, exactly when we warned it would happen, unless our monetary policies were changed. We also warned that new varieties of

pandemics, previously unknown to medicine, would also break out in areas such as Africa, and would spread throughout Europe and the United States. That, too, has happened; AIDS is a new pandemic, which broke out in Africa, and which built up toward an explosion in the United States and Western Europe over the first half of the 1980s.

On July 1 of this year, the international newsweekly for which I am contributing editor, the *Executive Intelligence Review*, issued a special report, named "Economic Breakdown and The Threat of Global Pandemics." This report compared the 1975 forecast of pandemics issued by my collaborators, with the spread of famine and disease in the world today. Public Health officials of our government rejected that report. They admitted that the reasoning about the connection between economic conditions and the spread of epidemics is correct, but they insisted that these economic conditions do not exist, because, they said, the world is experiencing an economic recovery. That is the reason that CDC and other governmental institutions are now acting to prevent urgently needed public-health measures to control not only AIDS, but the rapid rise in old types of epidemic disease, such as the tuberculosis epidemic hitting slum populations in the United States today. They are trying to avoid the spending of the amount of money needed to control AIDS, and they are unwilling to face the fact that the world is on the edge of a general collapse of the banking-system, and sliding deeper into a worldwide depression in levels of employment in production of food and industrial goods.

During the 1984 presidential campaign, I delivered 15 half-hour broadcasts on national television networks. These broadcasts were devoted to issues of national defense, to warning of the 1985 wave of bankruptcies among farmers, to the continuing collapse of our industrial sectors, and to the deadly failures in our foreign policies. Those who remember those broadcasts, if they are men and women capable of learning lessons from experience, know that the facts and warnings I reported on those broadcasts were true. They know that those who doubted my warnings were mistaken. The same could be said of the several network telecasts I made during my 1980 campaign for the Democratic presidential nomination.

Suppose I had been nominated by the Democratic Party in 1980 or 1984. I might not have won the election, but the effect of my Democratic presidential campaign would have meant a better and much stronger Democratic Party than we have today. It would have meant a much stronger voice in government today, for the interests of our basic industry, our industrial workforce, our farmers, and our poor. Because I have earned more respect among countries friendly to the United States than any other presidential candidate, it would have meant that most of the terrible failures in the continuing conduct of our foreign policy, would be more easily corrected. Also, had I been the 1984 Democratic candidate, instead

of Walter Mondale, Moscow would have stopped its attempts to bluff President Reagan on the issue of the Strategic Defense Initiative.

The proper function of any candidate for the presidency of the United States is not necessarily to become the President in the next election. The most important role which a presidential candidate must play during the long campaign, is to provide leadership on the great issues of our nation's domestic and foreign policies. The duty of a presidential candidate is not really to win a popularity-contest; the sacred duty of a presidential candidate is to educate the citizens of our nation on the life-and-death questions of policy, and to work to ensure that whoever the next President may be, that President will be greatly influenced by the policy-issues raised during the campaign.

For more than 20 years, the United States has been dominated by the wrong policies on most major issues of the economy and on foreign policy. Whether the President was a Democrat or a Republican, that President continued the same direction in policy left over from his predecessor. The crowd we associate with the Trilateral Commission, ran the policies of the Johnson administration, the Nixon administration, the Ford administration, the Carter-Mondale administration, and has dominated the policies of the Reagan administration. Through all these administrations, only two important changes in policy have been made by any President; the one change was President Ronald Reagan's adoption of his change in strategic policy, the Strategic Defense Initiative; the other change has been the President's and Mrs. Reagan's commitment to fighting the "War on Drugs."

The ruin of America

Over 20 years, the kinds of policies we associate with the Trilateral Commission today, have dominated our government, and have been the policies of nearly every one of the major parties' presidential candidates. Over 20 years, under these policies, we have watched the United States collapse into a second-rank power. We have watched our industries collapsing, our exports vanishing, inflation soaring, and our nation's farms and banks driven into bankruptcy. We have watched tens of millions of Americans transformed into drug-users, wasting hundreds of billions of dollars a year on drugs and pornography, and the recruitment of millions of Americans into the ranks of AIDS-riddled homosexuality. Our cities are collapsing. Every year, the areas of burned-out slums resembling bombed-out cities in postwar Europe, increase. At least 30 million Americans are desperately poor. The material living standards of the majority of Americans are below the average of the 1960s, while the savings accounts of the 1970s have become the credit-card debt of the middle 1980s.

This ruin of the United States did not happen naturally. It happened because of bad policies of the Federal government,

the kinds of policies we associate today with the Trilateral Commission. The United States was ruined because of the Presidents most of you elected, and because of the majority of the members of Congress which most American voters voted into office, over and over and over again. The faces of the elected officials changed, but the policies stayed the same or became worse. Don't blame the government; blame those who voted, again and again, for politicians who followed the line of the Trilateral Commission crowd.

Now, as a result of Trilateral Commission-style policies over 20 years, the once rich and powerful United States is a ruined, nearly bankrupt nation, whose diplomats and politicians beg for mercy each time a Moscow official makes an angry face. As a result of the worldwide impact of those kinds of policies, over 20 years, you and your family today are threatened by an epidemic of AIDS which could potentially wipe out most of the population of the United States by the end of this century.

As Abraham Lincoln is famous for saying, "You can fool all of the people some of the time, some of the people all of the time, but not all of the people all of the time." The AIDS epidemic, and the growing signs of a government cover-up of this epidemic, are beginning to move the majority of the citizens to a mood of political revolt. The spread of righteous anger among the majority of citizens is not caused solely by their legitimate terror of the AIDS threat; AIDS is the last straw. The citizen's willingness to sit back and hope that things will gradually get better, is coming to an end. The condition of the economy, the unpayable mass of private debt piling up on many citizens, the decay in the society around them, popular contempt for politicians generally, and now the AIDS epidemic, are sources of a righteous discontent which will no longer confine itself to grumbling in private. The citizens are no longer willing to continue to be misled by the kind of political-party system which has existed the past 15 years.

My can't fool all of the people all of the time.

There is an earthquake in the political life of the United States in progress. People who, as I do, remember the moral standards and the pro-scientific outlook for which the United States used to stand, are thinking that over the past 20 years we have traveled down the wrong road. The course of events has determined, that the time for change is now ripe. My qualifications and my duty, are that I am the well-known political figure peculiarly suited to provide the kind of leadership for which a growing number of the citizens are now turning.

My candidacy reflects the rapid shift within the population, away from the radicalism of the past 20 years, and back toward the traditional American values of moral law and scientific progress. My candidacy for the 1988 Democratic presidential nomination, addresses that corruption in our political process which is echoed now in the continued cover-

up of the rapid spread of AIDS.

AIDS is the leading issue which every serious candidate must face, but it is also a symbol of the economic and foreign-policy issues in the mind of the majority of citizens. The justified terror of the deadliest communicable disease known to mankind, means that over the coming 12 months the two major political parties will be split apart over the AIDS issue.

The popular demand for massive action against the spread of this deadly disease, will trigger an explosion of traditional American moral and scientific values.

Those who share traditional American moral and pro-scientific values, are the kind of people I represent, whether they are Democrats, Republicans, or independents. Yet, I must continue my fight to rebuild the Democratic Party, because the American Constitution's promise "to promote the general welfare," and the principles of our Declaration of Independence, mean that only a party which represents the vital interests of basic industry, industrial labor, the farmers, and the poor, is using the yardsticks of the American System.

Although I would hope that my campaigning would help to strengthen the best currents and candidates in the Republican Party, my first commitment as a Democrat is to help free the Democratic Party of the sickness of radicalism, and to return control of the party back to those constituencies which choose the kinds of policies consistent with the yardsticks of our Constitution and Declaration of Independence.

It is also extremely important that I campaign for the presidency now, because of the succession of foreign-policy catastrophes created by the State Department. As an editor of an influential international newsweekly, I am in contact with governments and leading circles in Europe, Africa, Asia, and Spanish-speaking America. Our State Department is more hated by the friends of the United States than by our Soviet adversaries. Often, the Department's actions do the work of the Soviet empire. This growing anger against the State Department and the international financial policies of our government is more than fully justified on the most elementary moral grounds. Many foreign leaders have said that they like my approach, and wish I were more influential in Washington. My campaigning will, by itself, help to make possible improvements in the United States' relations with many countries which desire to be our friends.

I have decided to campaign for the Democratic presidential nomination now, because I know that it is indispensable that I exert greater influence on the 1986 congressional elections. What kind of a United States we shall have, going into the 1988 elections, will be decided by the conduct of the 1986 congressional campaigns. The most important of the political issues threatening us right now, AIDS, reflects the fact, that a 1988 presidential candidate who is not campaigning openly for the nomination now, is not serious about the future of the United States.

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