

## shut it down

entire fiscal austerity apparatus would be put into place by the time Kennedy makes his bid for the White House in 1980.

Like the closely related campaign to shut down the U.S. nuclear energy industry, the Kennedy "health" plan is part of something bigger that gets lost in the debate over "cost containment" versus skyrocketing inflation. Ironically, the increasing cost of health care as a percentage of total social expenditure is largely a result of the U.S. economy being oriented away from technologically-advancing productive investment.

The Kennedy health package is the product of more

than 50 years of planning, as our report demonstrates. These "planners" now believe they have created a sufficient climate of distrust in science to convince the public that its self-interest is best served by undermining advanced medicine, and replacing it with a system of consumerist cost containment and palliative treatment.

The purpose of modern scientific medicine is to increase the productive lifespan of a precious citizenry. The grim, but logical consequence of denying an increasing proportion of the population a productive life is to award both the medical profession and a large number of patients the "right to die."

### Call for blue ribbon commission

*Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr., a candidate for the 1980 presidential elections, issued in December 1978 a proposal to defeat what he termed Kennedy's "Kool-Aid for the aging" approach to health insurance. LaRouche, chairman of the U.S. Labor Party, proposed the creation of a blue ribbon commission. That proposal, excerpted here, includes an outline of the commission's responsibilities:*

The primary focus of the commission's work should be the service of those ethical principles for which all honorable professionals stand in essential agreement, despite secondary divergences among them on the issue of financing the delivery of a quality of professional service on which all honorable professionals are generally agreed....

The issue to be emphasized at this moment must

be made the issue of what is to be delivered. After the fight for the quality of health services is won, we can settle the issue of financing delivery properly....

The duty of the medical profession—and of national policy-makers—is to encourage the medical profession to promote high rates of expansion of services and high rates of improvement in basic research and in high-technology equipment. *It is the economy which is sick, not the medical profession.* With a return to emphasis on generalized scientific and technological progress, and an emphasis on high-technology forms of employment in production of useful tangible goods, the economy will begin to be cured of its own disease, and with that development the burden of medical services will begin to evaporate....