

Editorial Comment

by Nora Hamerman

Austerity and euthanasia

A bitter court battle is now underway to determine whether euthanasia—the Nazi policy of putting to death elderly members of society—will be introduced into the United States.

On the one side is the leading liberal daily the *Boston Globe*, which hailed a Massachusetts court decision Jan. 18 to deny kidney dialysis treatments to 78-year-old Earle Spring, a resident of the Holyoke Geriatric Center.

By Jan. 23, after an international outcry spurred in large part by Democratic presidential candidate Lyndon LaRouche, the Massachusetts State Supreme Court granted a stay. As of now, Mr. Spring will receive dialysis “indefinitely.” If the stay had not been issued, it is likely that Mr. Spring would now be dead.

Before that second decision, Mr. Spring had been the first lucid, ambulatory senior citizen to be condemned to death by the policy more generally associated with Senator Edward Kennedy of Massachusetts. This is embodied in Kennedy’s cost-cutting “health” legislation and in the antilife doctrines of the Joseph and Rose Kennedy Center for Bio-Ethics at Georgetown University.

But the Carter administration comes off little better than Kennedy in this matter. The White House has responded to the urgent Spring situation with something worse than “benign neglect.” Through the President’s adviser on the aging, the White House has maintained that it will not interfere in a decision by the Massachusetts state courts—even though that decision represents the introduction of Nazi-like euthanasia.

Lyndon LaRouche, the third major Democratic contender in the upcoming New Hampshire primary, immediately took up the fight for Earle Spring’s life when the *Boston Globe* first published the story of the case on Jan. 19. As LaRouche states in a Jan. 22 release, the ordinary moral citizen should compare Kennedyite proposed genocide against many of our senior citizens, and the Carter

administration’s tolerance of Nazi euthanasia with “evidence of the same lack of morality by the Carter administration in foreign matters.”

It has been *EIR*’s responsibility over the past several years to document the genocidal effects of the policies of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank upon, particularly, that section of the globe below the Tropic of Cancer. As a consequence of IMF “conditionalities” on loans and the World Bank’s program of “appropriate technologies,” billions of people are slated to die before the end of this century.

Carter fully supports those policies.

Nor do the Republicans come off any cleaner. Generally they subscribe, either through ignorance or willful decision, to the “fiscal austerity” doctrines of Milton Friedman’s Chicago School. These doctrines are based, by Friedman’s own candid admission, on the policies of Nazi Finance Minister Hjalmar Schacht. It was Schacht’s “fiscal austerity” solution to stabilizing the German mark that led, first to “euthanasia,” and then to the concentration camps.

The immediate pressures for euthanasia against senior citizens come from the efforts to chisel away income payments and medical benefits from senior citizens and veterans. Once government policies have reduced senior citizens to abject poverty, their families are hammered away at with the argument that they must “die with dignity.” Earle Spring was declared “mentally incompetent” because he did not express the desire to die.

But we *can* afford the costs of meeting our obligations to our senior citizens and veterans comfortably, provided the economy begins to produce enough, under a new gold-backed monetary system and with a massive nuclear-energy program. Rather than killing senior citizens in order to make “zero growth” and “fiscal austerity” work, we should abandon “fiscal austerity” on the grounds that its consequences are immoral.