

A piece of unenacted legislation, which is likely to generate headlines and committee hearings this fall, is Rep. Rangel's H.R. 526, "The State and Local Narcotics Control Assistance Act of 1985." The Rangel legislation, which has over 100 House sponsors, and Senators Al D'Amato (R-N.Y.) and Daniel Moynihan (D-N.Y.) as Senate sponsors, tries to throw some money in the direction of state and local authorities, to help those who have been "overwhelmed" by the investigative, enforcement and prosecutorial costs of narcotics enforcement.

Any legislation which has as supporters, Moynihan, one of the international financiers' most faithful spokesmen, and Rep. Mickey Leland (D-Tex.), a towel boy for Dope, Inc.'s de Menil family, to name a few less-than-clean co-sponsors, can't be taken very seriously.

However, H.R. 526, is likely to be the anti-drug show-piece of the fall session of Congress.

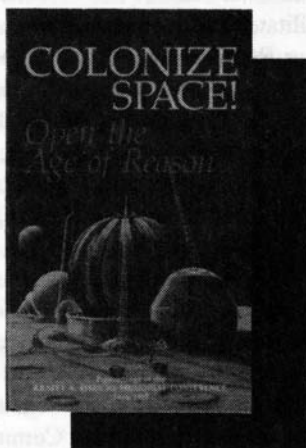
Local law enforcement does need help, but if Congress is going to do more than generate publicity for itself, it must take on drug enforcement as President Alan García has—as a military deployment against the producers, the processors, the traffickers, the bankers and the political protectors.

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## Those who destroyed now vying to become

by Mel Klenetsky

The current New York City mayoralty race raises afresh the spectre of the collapse of America's greatest city. Will the city survive another four years of incumbent Ed Koch, or challengers Carol Bellamy and Denny Farrell, the so-called front-runners in the race?

If you say yes, then you've become callous and blinded to things that denizens of this metropolis, who lived in the city through the sixties and even John Lindsay's era, would never have tolerated. Eleven years have passed, including two Koch administrations, and the West Side Highway, one of the major urban vehicular arteries in the world, still remains barely passable, and for all intents and purposes closed as a major artery for Manhattan's North-South traffic.

Whole sections of the city are "bombed out" and abandoned, a Paradiso for the rodent community. The subways are something out of the Wild West, where lawlessness prevails, to such an extent that Bernie Goetz, a man with obvious problems, became the Charles Bronson Hollywood vigilante figure come true, with much of the city cheering Goetz's murderous actions.

From the bag-ladies on Union Square to the urine-smelling, graffiti-ridden subways, New York City is something out of the lower rungs of Dante's *Inferno*. This great city, whose harbors were once teeming with ships, whose Ellis Island and Statue of Liberty embraced newly arrived immigrants and gave them the opportunity to partake in the American Dream, more and more looks like some kind of a Turkish bazaar, straight out of Fellini's *Satyricon*, and presided over by the Caliph of Gracie Mansion, Mayor Edward Koch.

Koch rolls with the punches. Today, the mayor is viewed by the middle class of the city as the bastion of traditional values. Since Koch and his ilk are responsible, in a very direct way, for the AIDS epidemic ravaging the city, his adoption by New York City's middle class, as their champion, shows a combination of ignorance and desperation among the constituency.

The AIDS epidemic of today not only affects homosexuals and other specific "high risk" communities, but is beginning to reach into the general population in a devastating way. AIDS is the great leveler, bursting the myths that our cities have rebounded from the financial crises of the seventies, that our economy has undergone a miraculous "econom-

# New York City its mayor

ic recovery.” According to Dr. James Curran of the Atlanta Centers for Disease Control, more than 12,000 cases of AIDS have been reported in the United States, and between 500,000 and 1 million Americans have been infected. More than 30% of AIDS cases have hit the non-homosexual, non-Haitian, heterosexual community.

The Director of New York City’s Office of Epidemiologic Surveillance and Statistics has said that AIDS is the number-one killer of New York City men between the ages of 30 and 34, and one of the top five causes of death in New York City for men between 20 and 50. It was also the second leading cause of death for women between 30 and 34. There are 3,176 reported cases of AIDS in New York City, of which 1,800 have died. The grim prospect is that not one victim of AIDS has lived longer than three years, all the more reason why we must find a cure for the disease.

AIDS is the Black Death of the 20th century, and like the Black Death of 1341, caused by the austerity programs of the Bardi and Peruzzi banking houses, this plague is caused by financial policies that are causing the city’s economic collapse. The simple fact is, Ed Koch and his ilk are responsible for AIDS.

I say this not because Koch has been a champion of the gay rights movement and its efforts to get legislation through the city council, but because Ed Koch and his buddies over at Lazard Frères, like Felix Rohatyn, have implemented a “bankers’ dictatorship” over the city, which has destroyed infrastructure and public health services to the extent that we now face multiple life-threatening situations.

From 1976 on, the Big MAC program for New York City totally destroyed urban infrastructure in the areas of rodent and pest control, basic sanitation, health services, hospital care, water purification and treatment, sewage systems, etc. Mayor Koch, City Council President Carol Bellamy, State Legislator Denny Farrell, Governor Mario Cuomo, and the whole gaggle of politicians that run New York State and City, presided over this Lazard Frères/Felix Rohatyn plan to destroy the city. Moreover, Koch and Rohatyn used New York City as a model, to do the same thing to other cities across the country.

These policies are, unfortunately, not merely limited to the United States. AIDS is ravaging Africa, about to break

out of control because the International Monetary Fund has done to Africa what Koch and Rohatyn did to New York City. A recent medical conference in Senegal put forward the theory that the AIDS virus was probably converted from an otherwise harmless virus in green monkeys to its current form, a lethal, rapidly mutable virus. The doctors hypothesized that the AIDS virus only recently emerged in its deadly virulent form, due to the collapse of socio-economic conditions in Africa.

As this disease, and other diseases break out of control, and reach into the streets and homes of America’s cities, we can blame the high-interest-rate programs of Federal Reserve Chairman Paul Volcker and the IMF for perpetrating austerity programs, on a global scale, that have destroyed not only the economic infrastructure of this country, but of the entire world.

The combined effect of the destruction of America’s living standards by Paul Volcker’s usurious policies and concomitant policies of razing the nation’s urban infrastructure, through the application of Felix Rohatyn’s Big Mac programs, has led us to the current debacle.

## 50,000 homeless

According to the 1982 census 24% of New York City is below the poverty line of \$10,178 for a family of four. The nationwide figure was 15%. According to *EIR*’s June 1985 *Quarterly Economic Report*, it would require an income of \$41,171 for a family of four to meet the costs of the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s “moderate” food plan, spending 16% of income. This gives a sense of the nutritional depletion and malnutrition that is prevalent in our cities.

It is estimated that there are more than 50,000 people homeless in New York City. This doesn’t include the people who moved back into their parents’ homes because they couldn’t afford their own apartments. With 50,000-plus homeless and 24% of the population below the poverty level, the city is one big Petrie dish for breeding and transmitting diseases.

The growth of tuberculosis and sexually-transmitted diseases in New York is truly remarkable. Reported tubercular cases increased 50% between 1978 and 1983. Many of the 50,000 homeless in the city have tuberculosis and don’t even know it. The number of reported gonorrhea and syphilis cases, in 1983, was 52,939, a 15% increase over 1978—and many teenagers and adults with these diseases don’t check into clinics.

Meanwhile, the successive administrations of Mayors Lindsay, Beame, and Koch have collapsed hospital care. It should be noted that New York City medical research and treatment were considered the finest in the country. Therefore, the dismantling of the health and hospital capacity of New York City set a national tone for dismantling hospital care.

In 1968, New York City had 124 hospitals and 37,090 beds, servicing over a million admissions for an average stay of 11.3 days. In 1975, hospitals had dropped to 111, but beds increased to 37,397, servicing 1,125,810 admissions for an average stay of 10.1 days. By 1983 these figures totally collapsed: 80 hospitals, 32,051 beds, 1,128,362 admissions, an average stay of 9.1 days.

This more than 30% cut in the number of hospitals and similar cutbacks in bed space has accelerated since 1983. Liberal Gov. Mario Cuomo, the so-called champion of the people, and his henchman, Health Commissioner David Axelrod, appointed in 1979, brag that they helped eliminate 12,000 hospital beds since 1975. Axelrod's policy is to block hospital construction. In 1983, he put a one-year moratorium on all hospital construction, repair and improvement. An aide lauded this as a courageous act since "New York has some very old hospitals and they need repair, and he blocked them. He held up construction on \$7 billion worth of hospital plans."

### **The candidates**

Cuomo, Koch, Bellamy, and Farrell, at both the city and state level, have each helped destroy New York City. First, the Big MAC (Municipal Assistance Corporation) program in 1976 and then Paul Volcker's high interest rate regime starting in October 1979, set the conditions for the city to be deprived of more than \$200 billion in vital infrastructure. In 1975, before Big MAC, the city budget was \$14.5 billion. Ten years later, after Volcker's double-digit usury was in effect, you couldn't buy the same services for \$75 billion, taking into account inflation. Yet, city expenditures for 1981 were \$13.7 billion. For fiscal year 1986, they're projected at a little over \$20 billion. Figure out what amounts should have been spent to buy \$14.5 billion of 1975 services, taking into account inflation, and you will see that the city has been looted of more than \$200 billion in infrastructure services.

### **The burning of a city**

Even in 1975, the city infrastructure was depleted through years of deferred maintenance. Exemplary is the firefighting situation. Between 1966 and 1968, New York experienced a wave of crime and fires in ghetto areas like the South Bronx, Harlem, Bedford Stuyvesant, East New York, and the Lower East Side. During that period, total fires increased 42% with fires per uniformed firefighter growing 50%. Mayor John Lindsay, in 1968, hired the Rand Corporation to do an efficiency study of the fire department. Rand recommended closing down units. In five rounds of closings beginning in 1972, the city eliminated or relocated 35 fire companies, of which 27 units were taken out of areas with the highest incidence of fires. Many areas, such as the South Bronx, were simply razed to the ground. From 1972 to 1976, fires increased 23%, fires per fireman went up 50%, and nearly 23% of the force, 2,400 firefighters, were laid off. Today we are seeing fires,

once again, ravaging the city, and there are still fewer uniformed firefighters than in 1975.

There are also fewer uniformed sanitation workers and police. New York City's water main pipes are over 100 years old. They should be replaced every 50 years, but Big MAC replaces them on a 275-year replacement cycle. Sewers that should be replaced every 100 years are being slated to be replaced every 300 years, and city streets with a 25-year life span are to get replaced every 200 years. This is where the \$200 billion, looted by the Rohatyn crowd, should have gone.

Instead, real estate speculation and drugs have been allowed to run rampant. Real estate speculators are given tax write-offs and abatements to such an extent that the total value of Manhattan real estate clocks in at well over \$1.5 trillion dollars. This means real estate rentals for Manhattan alone come in at over \$200 billion a year, barely taxed. These kinds of rentals are driving out small industries. According to the Garment Association of Lower Manhattan, which employs over 20,000, they are being forced out by the realtors. The top rentals and skyrocketing values for Manhattan real estate do not just apply to a Pan Am building or a Trump Tower. Today a four-story tenement in China Town goes for over \$1 million. Produce stores in the area pay \$5,000 a month rent and \$80-100,000 under-the-table "key money."

In drugs, the situation is the same. While still a congressman, Ed Koch championed the Shaeffer Commission, whose recommendations prepared the way for a wave of bills in state legislatures across the nation for "decriminalizing" marijuana. In 1977, Koch used his influence to ensure that New York State enacted a pot "decriminalization" bill. Koch, as mayor, according to the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws, turned New York city into a model decriminalization city. This 1977 law opened the floodgates, as proved in official New York State studies of heroin, cocaine, and a 300% increase in marijuana-smoking among school children, down to the elementary-school level. Today, New York City has half the heroin addicts in the country, with more than \$50 billion a year in illegal drug trafficking.

Koch, Bellamy, and Farrell played major roles in all of these developments, or lifted not a finger to halt them. Of the other candidates running, the National Democratic Policy Committee-endorsed ticket of Judah Rubinstein for mayor and Dennis Speed for Comptroller ticket is a viable alternative. They are committed to reversing Big MAC, Paul Volcker's usury, and all of the rotten, corrupt policies that have led the city to the brink of Armageddon. They propose to use the technologies spinning off of President Reagan's Strategic Defense Initiative to rejuvenate the cities, and the cities' historical role as the cultural centers which produce the engineers and scientists we need for a space-defense and Moon-colonization program.