

AIDS PANDEMIC THE AIDS PANDEMIC THE AIDS

U.S. politicians comment on AIDS

George Bush, U.S. Vice-President and Republican presidential hopeful for 1988, interview with the *San Francisco Chronicle*, appearing Sept. 12, 1985:

"It is a critical epidemic, and it has a fear factor for the average person out there that we're seeing manifested in these school things. If I had a child and actually thought or had reason to believe the child would get a disease that, I guess, heretofore had been fatal, I'd be concerned. . . .

"I just hope that people don't think that a lack of statements is equated with a lack of concern. I'm behind our program of research until we know more about it."

Asked if there might be a backlash against gays because of AIDS, Bush scoffed, "I don't think the American people are overly supportive of that lifestyle anyway, so I don't know that it's going to affect it one way or another. . . . I would readily speak out against indiscriminate sexual practices that risk spreading something of this nature, but I want to be sure what the research reveals."

Mario Cuomo, governor of New York and presumed Democratic presidential hopeful for 1988, remarked on Sept. 5:

"It's an excruciatingly difficult decision for a parent. The problem is going to get worse. We have to recognize that people are right for being afraid. You're talking about my 15-year-old. Obviously I would be scared to death to put him in a classroom where one of the other children or a teacher might have AIDS. . . . We also have obligations to the children with AIDS. They're entitled to a little compassion."

Cuomo said his wife Matilda was talking with women who suggested kids with AIDS all attend the same school. "So far we have talked only about the danger the AIDS child imposes on the other child. The other children also impose danger on the AIDS children . . . that's the other side. I'm afraid we're going to live with this stress for a long, long time. We must protect our health and we must protect our children. We have to be able to do it without panicking."

Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr., internationally renowned economist, who ran for the Democratic Party presidential nomination in 1984, released this statement on Sept. 15:

"It is now becoming clear, that during the period of the 1986, 1987, and 1988 election campaigns in the United States

and Western Europe, the hottest political issue will be the spread of a new global pandemic more deadly than the bubonic plague: Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS). Governments, political parties, and candidates will rise or fall, on the basis of a spreading, and entirely justified popular panic directed against those politicians and governments which attempt either to cover up the spread of this pandemic, or to use the immoral and fraudulent pretext of 'homosexuals' civil rights' as a pretext for blocking urgently needed measures of quarantine and prevention.

"My medical advisers from inside and outside the United States, and the public health professionals who have worked with those medical advisers, have collected facts and scientific opinions on the AIDS pandemic from around the world. I have conducted a series of fact-finding seminars with leading such professionals over many months to date, and have set up a worldwide daily monitoring of reports on the current outbreak of a series of old and new global pandemics, including prominent attention to the explosive spread of AIDS. Although there are aspects of AIDS' character and spread which are currently either unknown or debatable, there are several facts which are incontestable.

"These facts show that AIDS is the most deadly global pandemic since the bubonic plague.

"1) The number of known cases of AIDS in the United States is doubling approximately every six months. In Western Europe, the pandemic has reached the level the U.S.A. reached about 1982-83, and is spreading in the same pattern as in the U.S.A.

"2) The death-rate among victims of AIDS is currently indicated to be between 70% and 80%, because so many new people are constantly getting the disease. But no AIDS victim has lived beyond a few years after contracting the disease—thereby making the true AIDS fatality rate 100%.

"3) Although the known cases of AIDS are concentrated among those with dirty sexual habits or drug-users, studies of the spread of AIDS among heterosexuals in Africa correlate with trends in the U.S. and Europe: Every sector of the population is threatened.

"If the present rate of doubling of the number of known AIDS cases were to continue approximately every six months, the population of the United States would be wiped out by sometime during the 1990s. It is only a guess, to assume that the present doubling-rate will continue in that way, but it is no exaggeration to assume that AIDS currently has the potential to exceed the death-rates caused by the Black Death during the middle of the 14th century. No part of the population of the Americas, Western Europe, or Africa is safe from the contagion. . . .

"The fact is, right now, the Number One Political Issue in the United States, is not making the Soviet empire happy at the next Summit Conference; it is the AIDS pandemic. . . . Every one in politics had better set their clocks accordingly."