

## NDPC tells Congress: We need war on AIDS

*Warren J. Hamerman, chairman of the National Democratic Policy Committee, testified on April 30 before the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education. Committee chairman Rep. William H. Natcher (D-Ky.), and Representatives Louis Stokes (D-Ohio), Joseph D. Earley (D-Mass.), John Porter (R-Ill.), and Carl Pursell (R-Mich.) were present during the testimony. Excerpts follow:*

... I wish to thank you, Mr. Chairman, for the opportunity to testify. You stand in welcome contrast to those at the administration's Justice Department who have recently denied Mr. Lyndon LaRouche and his associates their constitutional rights of free press and speech, in large part because of Lyndon LaRouche's outspoken ideas on the need for a full-scale global war on AIDS. . . .

Since the early months of 1985, we have warned that AIDS is a species-threatening disease, which is far deadlier than nuclear war. The pandemic threatens all of humanity and is a threat to our national security. We have advocated and championed a three-fold policy to deal with this threat:

Firstly, we need a Manhattan Project- or Apollo Program-scope crash scientific research effort. We call this the Biological Strategic Defense Initiative or "BSDI," because it is based upon the most advanced 21st-century space-age methods. We cannot fight AIDS with the biomedical equivalents of bows and arrows. Our proposed "Manhattan Project" crash Biological Strategic Defense Initiative against AIDS will not only accelerate research in the traditional biomedical domains. The BSDI global crash research effort, in order to conquer every potential scientific barrier in sufficient time, must prioritize and massively upgrade research in the newer and more advanced areas of optical biophysics.

Secondly, we must impose traditional public health measures which have been historically proven to assist in slowing the spread of deadly diseases. These public health measures include: universal screening, contact tracing, isolation of those capable of infecting others from those not yet infected.

Thirdly, we must massively upgrade health care and public health programs. We need new state-of-the-art modern hospitals. We need completely upscaled sanitation programs. We need a total plan for insect-eradication, especially in our nation's tropical and poor areas. We need new prison facilities, and so forth.

The public health aspect of this program was codified in the famous California Proposition 64 ballot initiative. Today, six months after Proposition 64, more and more authorities admit that Lyndon LaRouche was right.

Ever since we developed our advanced-science and public health war plan to fight AIDS, we have been challenged in a constant fight by those in the administration who believe that it is "cost-prohibitive" to fight AIDS. They have fought our campaigns because we represent the center of the fight against AIDS.

It is true that it will cost a lot of money to fight AIDS. AIDS will transform the world economy drastically. The costs will be as high as Mount Everest. In a few years, we have calculated, the total budget expenditures to AIDS-related areas of research, health care, and so forth may well surpass the current level of the defense budget. Furthermore, we must begin planning now to meet real economic costs that may consume up to 20% of the national economy.

Yet we have no choice but to meet those costs. All serious scientists admit that a vaccine or cure within the next 5-10 years is *not* probable.

We can turn this seeming economic crisis into its own solution, if we invest in high science. Let me explain.

### The frontiers of research

Standard molecular biology, genetic engineering, and other mainline biomedical research methods, however impressive their rapid accumulation of basic facts about AIDS, have nonetheless proven scientifically unable to meet the formidable biological challenge of this disease. These mainline technologies and approaches of the 1960s, 1970s, and 1980s will soon be left in the dust, if we are to conquer AIDS. We must turn to the 21st-century advanced areas of basic optical biophysics research, and spark the development of an entire new industry, the optical biophysics industry. . . .

In conclusion, let me emphasize that there are three and only three alternatives:

1) We can continue the current *pay as you die* policy, which will either bankrupt or kill us, or both at once.

2) There will be a selected and limited policy-tilt toward some testing, some public health, and a little more research money. This approach will not win the war on AIDS. It effectively amounts to the same thing as the first approach.

3) The only other alternative is the one of Lyndon LaRouche. We must embark on a full-scale crash research and public health program. We can create the wealth necessary to pay for the program by unleashing scientific development. This is the Biological SDI program.

We will not be able to defeat AIDS with bows and arrows, or their technological equivalents. Even the famous molecular biology technologies of the 1960s, 1970s, and 1980s are not up to the challenge. We must advance the scientific frontiers through optical biophysics, if we want to win the war on AIDS. . . .