

## Nazi Gov. Ridge is at eye of U.S. political storm

by Nancy Spannaus

Pennsylvania is rapidly turning into a central battlefield for the American public this year, including both political parties. On the Democratic side, the test is whether the party in Pennsylvania, and nationally, will follow the lead of Presidential candidate Lyndon LaRouche, in demanding the impeachment of Gov. Thomas Ridge for his implementation of Nazi-like cuts in health care. On the Republican side, the basic moral question is compounded by the fact that leaders of the Dole Presidential campaign have indicated that they are considering Ridge for the vice-presidential slot.

On the broadest level, the outcome of the battle initiated by LaRouche will determine the character of the fall election campaign, and whether the American public will finally reject the Nazi-like economic policies represented by Newt Gingrich's Contract on Americans. If President Clinton is re-elected through pragmatic adaptation to the Republicans' policies, as his sleazy adviser Dick Morris is proposing, he is probably headed for a prison term, rather than a full second term in office. If the Democrats take up the lead from the LaRouche campaign—as some of them did during the anti-Ollie North effort in Virginia's 1994 U.S. Senate race—there will be a clear basis for the U.S. to carry out its necessary mission in reorganizing the world financial system, and saving the world from a New Dark Age.

### LaRouche campaign saturates Pennsylvania

On Aug. 1, the LaRouche Exploratory Committee, LaRouche's 1996 Presidential primaries campaign committee, began broadcasting a series of more than 20 half-hour television advertisements throughout the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The ads feature an address made by Lyndon LaRouche at an *EIR* seminar in Washington, D.C. on July 17, during which he walked the audience through the argument

as to why Governor Ridge must be impeached for *knowingly* implementing Nazi-style health cuts. By acting on this clear case of criminality, in which Ridge is documented to have *known or should have known* the murderous impact of his *unnecessary* budget cuts, LaRouche argues, Americans will be going up against the faulty axioms of thinking which have prevented them from saving the country, and the world, from the decline of the last 30 years.

Already, the LaRouche effort is creating a huge stir in Pennsylvania, and is known to be under scrutiny in Democratic Party circles around the country—including in nation's capital.

So far, LaRouche campaign spokesmen, led by the well-known Lewis du Pont Smith, have given press conferences in 49 county seats, and 10 major cities, throughout the Commonwealth. While the media have not necessarily attended these public events, they have served as an occasion for distributing the pamphlet put out by the LaRouche Exploratory Committee (LEC) on Ridge's impeachment, as well as for discussions with local citizens. Some excellent articles on LaRouche's impeachment campaign have been published in the local press.

In addition to the media events, LaRouche supporters are circulating "Impeach Ridge" pamphlets by the tens of thousands. Labor leaders, Democratic Party officials, and private citizens are taking hundreds for distribution in their social and political circles.

Over the last two weeks, LaRouche supporters have also staged high-profile interventions at public appearances by Governor Ridge. Two of these occurred at ceremonial events, and two at events where Ridge was hosting the likely Republican Presidential nominee, Bob Dole. In each case, a dozen or more supporters manned picket lines, holding signs about

Ridge's Nuremberg crimes, distributing pamphlets, and changing slogans about the governor's guilt.

## A dilemma for the Republicans

Over the last few weeks, the Dole campaign—which is otherwise in such serious disarray that even leading Republican pundits are publicly expressing the hope that he will yield to another candidate—has let it be known that it has put Governor Ridge on the “short list” of potential vice-presidential nominees. The idea was even promoted in the British press.

Ridge's qualifications, the argument goes, are that he is a Vietnam War hero, that he attended Harvard, and that he is the governor of one of the populous northern states which Dole needs in order to have a chance at the Presidency. Ridge is also a Catholic, with moderate pro-abortion beliefs, the argument goes.

A significant expansion of the “pro-Ridge campaign” came with the July 18 London *Times*. In a feature news-article, at the top of its “America” page, Tim Hames wrote that “the man most mentioned” as a possible Republican vice-presidential candidate is “Tom Ridge, the governor of Pennsylvania.” Hames affirms that the source for his *Times* article was Dole's campaign manager, Scott Reed, who identified Ridge, to him, as “one of the four to five really serious contenders” for the vice-presidential post. Based on information from other U.S. sources, Hames admits—although he omitted this in his article—that the one factor working against Ridge, is the “very large backlash” against him within Pennsylvania, particularly in Philadelphia and other urban centers. While trying to dismiss the role of LaRouche, Hames concedes that there is serious consideration of an initiative to impeach Ridge by leading black politicians in Pennsylvania.

Interestingly, Ridge was aided in his previous electoral campaigns by Dick Morris, the Rasputin of President Clinton's inner circle. Morris is well known for manipulating polls, and advising his clients to preempt the issues of their opponents, regardless of what they intend to do when elected.

If the Republicans are paying attention to polls, they may also be getting a bit sour on Ridge. An article in the July 24 edition of the *Philadelphia Daily News* reported on the Keystone poll, which had been commissioned by KKY radio and the *Daily News*, and called 500 registered voters to ask them a series of questions about Ridge and Dole. This is not a significant sample, of course, but still, the results could not have been consoling. They indicated that Ridge's addition to the Republican ticket would not help Dole at all, and that Ridge's personal approval rating, when the ratings of good or excellent are taken together, had gone from 61% in September 1995, to 47% today.

## The issues of life or death

Meanwhile, on the level of the daily lives of the citizens of Pennsylvania, the issue of Ridge's health care cuts is becoming white-hot. Especially in the city of Philadelphia,

where the majority of the 220,000 individuals targeted for cutoff from the states' medical assistance program live, the uproar is growing.

For example, State Legislator John Myers (D-Philadelphia) stunned an audience of community activists on July 18, when he told the story of a young diabetic man, one of the 220,000 poor and disabled Pennsylvanians cut from the state medical assistance rolls by Governor Ridge.

The man was informed earlier that week, that he was no longer eligible for state health benefits—he came straight from the welfare office into Myers's office, and told Myers's staff: “If I don't get insulin, I will be dead next week!”

“The people in my office took about 15 minutes for this to sink in,” Myers said. “It took them a while to come to terms with the seriousness of what was being said. Then, it hit my staff like a ton of bricks—Ridge's legislation is literally going to cause people to die.”

Myers reported that the young man was finally directed to a nearby Philadelphia City Health Clinic, but he warned that “thousands will die” in the coming months, unless Ridge's cuts are reversed. The city is already turning needy people away from homeless shelters for lack of money—officials are warning that the same thing could soon happen to the health centers, since at least 50,000 people are being cut from state medical assistance in the city of Philadelphia alone.

Myers, and City Councilwoman Donna Reed Miller, called on the public to help them document the devastating impact of Ridge's policies. “We can't let folks just die in silence,” he said. (Myers has introduced House Bill 2678, which would nullify Ridge's deadly cuts in the state health program.)

## The funds are there

Less well known than the horrors Ridge is creating, is the fact that legislation to raise the monies needed to restore funding for medical assistance and other vital services—and then some—has been introduced. State Bill 2833, introduced by State Black Caucus leader Harold James (D-Philadelphia), would put a small sales tax on financial transactions, which would, it is estimated, raise *billions* of dollars of revenue for the state. Ridge argued that the murderous medical cuts were necessary in order to save approximately \$250 million.

In a release issued July 17, Representative James described the tax, and indicated that he intended to hold public hearings on it sometime in August. The Securities Transfer Tax which James proposed would impose a levy of 20¢ per \$100 on transactions of trading in stocks, bonds, and other financial instruments. Noting that such a tax would be one-thirtieth of the sales tax paid by people buying their necessities every day, James asks: “We already impose a sales tax on the purchases made by people of low-income and modest means. Why not impose a tax, which is minor by comparison, on the million-dollar deals being done so casually by rich people?”