

very well known for her progressive views on health care, did just that, and was really resoundingly booed and hissed. [Dr. Woolhandler noted that doctors in Nazi Germany had made arguments for rationing health care similar to those made today by managed care supporters.]

EIR: I called her after the incident, and she was frightened. She must have really gotten hit hard for saying the truth.

Shindul-Rothschild: She has a lot of courage to put it right out there.

EIR: We're trying to keep this issue right up front, particularly going into the next Congress.

Shindul-Rothschild: Good. I'm glad somebody is. I hope you do manage to put people's feet to the fire.

Interview: Lorraine Wilson

Lorraine Wilson, Ph.D., R.N., professor of nursing at Eastern Michigan University, is co-author of Patho-Physiology, Clinical Concepts of Disease Processes, published by Moseby. The interview was conducted by Marianna Wertz on Nov. 22.

EIR: You mentioned that you had some discussions with your graduate students about managed care.

Wilson: At the University of Michigan Medical Center, I have in my graduate class a number of critical care nurses. And some of them are saying that it's not safe to be in the hospital, because what they have done in the critical care units is put in some unlicensed assistive personnel, in place of professional nurses who have four or five years of education, and many years of experience. So, they have to evaluate their patients by the minute, titrate their drugs, and they're responsible for their patients' lives, in fact. If you are spread so thin that you cannot take care of your patients, you cannot assess them to know if they're getting into trouble or how they're responding to the drugs or whatever, then you can't give safe care, and that's extremely frustrating to professional nurses who are critical care nurses, who are trying to care for the patients.

Some of the students told me that some nurses were leaving the critical care unit crying. They were crying because of the fact that they were not able to take care of their patients properly, in a safe manner. This is not correct; this is fraudulent. People go to the hospital, paying \$900 a day. They expect to get professional care by professionals, not by somebody who was a cleaning lady last week, or somebody who worked in McDonald's last week and had five days of training, who doesn't know anatomy, physiology, chemistry, pharmacology, and all the other things that we study for four or five years, as a minimum, to be able to safely take care of people.

That's what managed care is doing. They are forcing

the hospital administration to cut their costs, and they're doing it by firing professional nurses all over the place, so that the patients are not receiving the kind of care they need. And then they're trying to obscure the fact of who's taking care of them.

I have about 20 graduate students from Jackson Foot Hospital. First they fired all thousand of them, and then put them on the "opportunity list." Then, they have to bid back for their jobs and they call people by different names, and I think that's illegal—like "patient associates." They fired the vice president of nursing services, and they have a new position called vice president of services. It doesn't necessarily have to be a nurse. In other words, *they're attacking our profession and trying to destroy it*, so that you don't have any nursing.

They think that you can reduce nursing to a bunch of tasks that you can allocate to technicians, and that is not true, because that is not what we do. You can't reduce nursing to a bunch of tasks any more than you could take an orthopedic surgeon and reduce that to a carpenter's role.

EIR: It's what Lyndon LaRouche has called the accountant's mentality taking over.

Wilson: They just don't have any understanding of what our role is. I have the feeling also, that sexism plays a role in this, in that they think they can attack nursing because it's mainly a women's profession.

I think that this is a national crisis. I read *EIR* about the history of how managed care has gone, and I guess I knew parts of it, but it's nice to see it in a sequence there, so you can get an overall picture of it.

These people are moving across the country like a blitzkrieg, and stomping over everybody's lives. I think something has to happen at the national level. Clinton needs to appoint a commission to investigate this, and we need to do something so that they can't take over all the community hospitals and force this thing. Because, when they get it all under their umbrella, we will have nothing to say whatsoever. They'll be looting the system till it is nothing. It will eventually destroy the whole health-care system that we have in this country, which is based on having knowledgeable health-care professionals taking care of people, guarding their life and their safety and their health.

I think we have to do something on the national level, because these people have got billions of dollars, and how are you going to stop them? The attorney general can't even stop them.

EIR: Yes, it's going to be a real political fight and we hope to be in the leadership of that. Mr. LaRouche is absolutely committed to stopping this.

Wilson: I think this should be one of the highest priorities in the country, because this is going to be a terribly devastating thing, not just for nurses losing their jobs, but we're talking about patients and their lives. We're talking about people getting killed!