

## LaRouche Targets HMOs, as Financial Collapse Nears

by Nancy Spannaus

Democratic Presidential pre-candidate Lyndon LaRouche took the occasion of a town-meeting with Washington, D.C. citizens on April 26, to launch a campaign which he called the “acid test” for shifting the political situation within these United States. Americans must act now, he said, to *ban* the intrinsically evil Health Maintenance Organizations (HMOs), and return to the Hill-Burton approach of guaranteeing quality health care to all citizens. At the same time, the voters must go to the polls in order to remove from office every single Congressman or Senator who supports this Hitler-style mode of medical practice.

LaRouche’s campaign team had prepared copies of draft legislation which LaRouche supports, and distributed them to the audience of about 100 (see p. 6). Called The Right to High-Quality Health Care Act, the bill affirms three simple points:

First, that “every person has a right to the highest quality health care available,” and “any practices by health insurers, that deny any person [that right] . . . are hereby prohibited.”

Second, that the 1973 legislation providing for Health Maintenance Organizations is repealed.

And third, that the provisions of the Hill-Burton Act of 1946 are reestablished as the “governing principles for U.S. health care policy.”

### A Political Turning Point

In motivating citizen action on this bill, LaRouche argued that such a campaign exemplifies the issue, the state of mind, and the action we must take now to get our country back to what it was intended to be: a republic in which citizens are not beggars, but a repository of the highest authority in the United States, the “General Welfare” commitment of the U.S. Constitution.

The Democratic candidate, who is the only challenger to would-be Presidential appointee Al Gore in the late primaries, including Washington, D.C., began his speech by outlining the current state of U.S. political crisis. With the onset of the collapse of the Internet bubble, in which 75% of these speculative companies can be expected to collapse, Gore is clearly finished, he said. And, some Democratic Party figures in the back rooms are beginning to realize this, and to look for an alternative, who could be brought into the limelight at the August Democratic Party Convention in Los Angeles. These Democrats are not ready to rally behind him, LaRouche said, but they are looking at people like Nebraska’s Bob Kerrey, or other “dark horses,” as options.

Feeding into these Democrats’ alarm is the understanding that leaving the nomination to Vice President Gore, who has relied, as he had to, on an election “fix” in order to become the frontrunner, will lead to devastating defeat in the U.S. Congressional races as well. And, as LaRouche put it, we need a new Congress, “without DeLay”—a reference to House Majority Whip Tom DeLay (R-Tex.), who has played a crucial role in leading the defense of HMO policies.

With the financial system coming down, the United States must have a President who thinks like Franklin Delano Roosevelt, and makes the necessary moves to work with Europe, Russia, China, and Ibero-America in forming a new monetary system. Restoring what was right about the Bretton Woods System, will be the first step in reversing the downward spiral of the last 30 years.

### Hitler Would Love HMOs

In elaborating why the HMO issue is the most crucial at this time, LaRouche described its features in some depth, all of which added up to the fact that the system must be

eliminated, not “reformed.”

First of all, he said, you can't simply try to make this health system accountable through class-action suits and the like. It's like trying to negotiate with Hitler, and the U.S. Supreme Court majority, which agrees with such evil, is not going to provide justice.

Second, people have to realize that the HMO system was actually devised with the *purpose* of cutting health care. The system began in 1973, during the phase-shift of the world financial system from industrial growth to post-industrial Malthusianism, and at the same time that the Club of Rome and other institutions were promoting anti-people policies internationally. So, health care was targetted as a means of providing profit for the insurance companies and Wall Street—with the results that you currently see, including the obscene salaries and profits which are being made by HMO executives and companies which systematically deny care to medical patients.

Third, LaRouche stressed, you have to realize that the HMOs have developed policies which *deliberately* target certain groups for an increase in the death rate, such as African-Americans, senior citizens, and others. Such a policy explicitly follows the approach of Adolf Hitler, in calculating the way to eliminate those who were considered “useless eaters,” with “lives not worthy to be lived.”

Such a Hitler policy violates the U.S. Constitution, as well as the international human rights conventions that the United States has signed. In 1949, it was the U.S. government which initiated prosecution at Nuremberg for the crimes of the Nazi doctors—the very same kind of crimes which the HMOs are carrying out with impunity today.

### **Clean Out the Congress!**

How can these crimes be stopped? There is *no* political leadership fighting to stop this policy at present, LaRouche then stressed. Much of the Congress, especially the Republican Conservative Revolutionaries, are getting huge payoffs from the HMOs and insurance companies, and won't do anything. And Gore and Texas Gov. George W. Bush, expected to be the Republican Party nominee for President, are both in the pocket of Wall Street. Gore doesn't want to stop the HMO murder; his program is the equivalent of sending toothbrushes to concentration camp victims in order to “help them out.” Bush's financial partners run predator HMOs (see Richard Freeman, “The Bush Mob Destroys America's Psychiatric Hospital System,” *EIR*, March 3, 2000; and Richard Freeman and Linda Everett, “How Wall Street ‘Shareholder Value’ Destroyed America's Hospital System,” *EIR*, April 7, 2000). And even well-meaning people such as former Sen. Bill Bradley (D-N.J.) refuse to go for the jugular by attacking the system itself.

But the biggest problem, LaRouche said, is that the citizen himself refuses to take action. He or she has become disillusioned with politics, and only participates, if he or she partici-

pates at all, by acting like a subject begging for favors from the “big guys.”

Mobilizing American citizens around this HMO issue, and cleaning the Congress out of those who are complicit in promoting this genocide, is one way to change this reality, LaRouche said. Health care is a life-or-death issue for every citizen, and by mobilizing to ban the HMOs, the citizen will get a very clear idea of the *standard* by which to judge Congressmen. Put your Congressman on the spot, to declare whether they are for or against the Hitler HMO system; if they're for it, they have to go!

### **Making the Change**

Americans have to go into action now, LaRouche concluded. Health care is not the only issue affecting people's lives directly. In some respects, the education crisis, which is being fuelled by the spread of Nintendo games and violence, could become even worse. The spread of violence by Nintendo cops, such as those in Mayor Rudolph Giuliani's New York, and by youth as young as six years of age, programmed by Nintendo games to be killers, is also creating a social crisis.

Add to this, the fact that the health care system is a murder system, that the neighborhoods are terrible, that the prisons are filled to overflowing and being turned into slave-labor complexes, and that there is a lack of good jobs.

But what candidate can the citizen trust?

The first thing we have to do, LaRouche said, is to direct the citizens' minds away from simple community issues, to the national interest. Then they'll be able to move to bigger issues, and to mobilize their neighbors to vote, and take the country, and the Democratic Party, back.

Over the immediate months ahead, there will either be a total deflationary collapse of the financial system and the economy, or a hyperinflationary blowout like that of Germany in 1923, LaRouche went on to say. The third alternative, is to mobilize around LaRouche's candidacy, and build a movement around the policies that he has proposed, nationally and internationally. And this health care policy is the place to start.

We have to forget the “big people,” and get back to the good tradition on which this country was based. Our Constitution established a different kind of country, the United States of Abraham Lincoln and Franklin Delano Roosevelt, which is based on the ideas of the Declaration of Independence and the Preamble to the Constitution's commitment to the concept of the “General Welfare.” Under our system, the authority of the government depends upon the authority of the citizenry in enforcing these principles.

As the financial crisis will make even clearer, there are no “big boys” to crawl to, in order to try to get things fixed, LaRouche said. It's the American citizenry who must take power back, and force adherence to the principle of the General Welfare, which is the only basis for legitimacy of our, and any, government.