
National News

After 40 Years, NY Times Says Carson Wrong on DDT

Forty years after its “Ban on DDT” editorial, a *New York Times* columnist has finally acknowledged the “horrific” human costs of the DDT ban inspired by Rachel Carson’s *Silent Spring*. The clamor created around her 1962 book was used by the Malthusians to ban the pesticide that had pretty much wiped out malaria worldwide. As a result of DDT’s ban, millions of people have died each year of the disease.

In its March 21, 1967 editorial, the *Times* wrote, “DDT is highly dangerous.... It is an obnoxious and totally unnecessary threat to health.... [T]here is no valid reason to continue production of this random killer.”

On June 5, 2007, veteran *Times* journalist John Tierney noted that on her 100th anniversary, the disciples of Carson are still drowning out science. He called her book a “hodgepodge of science and junk science.... Nature was good; traditional agriculture was all right; modern pesticides were an unprecedented evil. It was a Disneyfied version of Eden.”

If You Get Sick, Get Out Your Passport

In health care, the United States ranks last among six industrialized countries examined by the Commonwealth Fund of New York.

In the non-profit foundation’s 2007 study, “Mirror, Mirror on the Wall: An International Update on the Comparative Performance of American Health Care,” the United States finished last compared with Australia, Canada, Germany, New Zealand, and Britain—just as it did in the foundation’s 2004 and 2006 studies.

The U.S. ranking comes despite Americans spending twice what Australians, Canadians, and Germans spend on health care—\$7,000 a year for every man, woman, and child. As a percentage of Gross Domestic Product, America also spends more

on health care than any of the other countries.

The study measured five categories of health care: access, efficiency, equity, healthy lives, and quality.

The results of the study, released in mid-May should be no shock, since America’s health care crisis has only worsened since 2000, when the World Health Organization ranked U.S. health care 37th in the world.

Among the particulars reported by the study, is that 30% of U.S. children lack access to health care.

Of the six countries in the 2007 study, the United States in the only one without some form of universal health care coverage.

H.R. 676, the “Medicare for All” bill introduced again this session by Rep. John Conyers (D-Mich.), now has 71 co-sponsors. It mandates a universal single-payer system modeled on Medicare, that would circumvent the for-profit health care insurance companies, which have refined the art of insuring primarily the healthy.

The Commonwealth Fund describes itself as “a private foundation working toward a high performance health system.”

Principal Ranks LaRouche Most Engaging Candidate

Manchester, New Hampshire’s Central High School began inviting Presidential candidates to speak back in 1980. The first was Ronald Reagan. Since then, Assistant Principal Michael Clemons told the June 6 *Manchester Union Leader* “scores” of Presidential candidates have spoken there.

“We had George Bush (the first), John Anderson, Pierre DuPont, (Walter) Mondale, Jesse Jackson, (Gary) Hart, Paul Simon, (Tom) Harkin, Pat Buchanan, (Pat) Robertson, (Al) Gore, (Richard) Gephardt, (Paul) Tsongas, (Michael) Dukakis.

Of all the candidates, down through the years, said Clemons, the most engaging, the one who drew the biggest audience, was the state’s native son Lyndon LaRouche.

“More people showed up at that assembly than any other one,” said Clemons, add-

ing that the student body peppered LaRouche with “outstanding questions.”

This year, for the first time, a Presidential candidate, Hillary Clinton, will address the school’s commencement exercises.

Industrial Collapse Is An ‘Economic Epidemic’

Tom Buffenbarger, president of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers, called on Senate Democrats on June 6 to treat the collapse in manufacturing as an economic epidemic.

“We cannot afford to be anaesthetized by incremental improvements in one index or another,” Buffenbarger said at a meeting of the American Manufacturing Initiative of Senate Democrats.

“Since 1999, we have lost over 43,000 manufacturing plants and more than 3.2 million good-paying American jobs. No economy can continue to absorb that kind of damage and hope to survive,” he warned.

Buffenbarger spoke as apart of a day-long session held by the Senate Democratic Steering and Outreach Committee, chaired by Sen. Debbie Stabenow (D-Mich.), entitled “Open Discussion on American Manufacturing.” While others attending the conference, including the CEOs of the automakers, complained about the high cost of health care, Chinese currency, and Korean trade policies, and offered alternative fuels as a so-called solution, Buffenbarger called on the committee “to lay the foundation for a national industrial policy that will put the brakes on this epidemic of job losses.” He called for tax incentives for renovating and retooling older factories, as well as educating high school graduates, and putting a “tourniquet on trade deals and tax breaks that are killing jobs and hope for so many American families.”

Outside of the conference, members of the LaRouche Youth Movement were educating Democratic Senators on Lyndon LaRouche’s capital budget and the Russian proposal to build the Bering Strait Tunnel as both a war avoidance policy and an economic recovery policy.