

LaRouche Was Right: Austerity Policies Will Cause Pandemics

by Nancy Spannaus

The genocide policy which is now creating the threat of a new global flu pandemic, was first identified *35 years ago* by physical economist Lyndon LaRouche. Had his alternative policies been implemented then, we would not face the current threat.

LaRouche's argument, which has been articulated many times in this magazine, was succinctly summarized in a May 7, 1985 article in *EIR*, entitled "The Role of Economic Science in Projecting Pandemics."

"The conditions for economically determined pandemics," he wrote, "may be either the instance in which the average consumption is determined by a fall of potential relative population-density below the level of

requirements for the existing population, or the special case, that the differential rates of the households' goods 'market-basket' falls below the level of 'energy of the system' for a large part of the population. We are most concerned with the effects on health, as the nutritional throughput per-capita falls below some relative biological minimum, and also the effect of collapse of sanitation and other relevant aspects of basic economic infrastructure upon the conditions of an undernourished population.

"The first assumption, that the death rates would be increased by malnutrition, requires no special inquiry in the language of economic science as such. It is the second alternative, that the undernourished population might become a breeding-culture for eruption of epidemic and pandemic disease, which requires special attention. . . .

"It is merely necessary to estimate the rate of fall of population potential toward such threshold-levels, and to take into account the duration of such conditions historically indicated as consistent with brewing of a new upsurge of pandemics, to foresee when, how, and where a continuation of 1974 trends in monetary and economic policy would probably generate such eruptions."

The following chronology summarizes the LaRouche record. (Readers can find much of the documentation at www.larouche.com.)

September 1974: LaRouche sets up an interdisciplinary research team, called the Ecological Holocaust Taskforce, to explore the thesis that IMF and World Bank policies of slashing food and energy consumption, and denying health services in poor countries, would lead to biological holocaust, including pandemics.

November 1974: LaRouche testifies to the U.S. House Judiciary Committee in opposition to the nomination of Nelson Rockefeller for Vice President, and outlines his biological holocaust thesis.

January 1975: The results of the taskforce study are published in *New Solidarity*, the newspaper of the LaRouche political movement.

September 1983: The LaRouche movement identifies the outbreak of the AIDS crisis as "the harbinger of a series of holocaustal epidemics." The campaign is led by the Club of Life, an anti-Malthusian organization set up by Helga Zepp-LaRouche in 1982, as a counter to the genocidal Club of Rome.

April 1985: *EIR* publishes a Special Report entitled “The IMF’s Ecological Holocaust: More Deaths than Nuclear War,” warning of the consequences of devastating austerity policies in the world’s poor nations.

July 1985: LaRouche writes in *EIR*: “Unless there is, immediately, a sudden and rapid reversal in accelerating, 1967-1985 trends in nutrition, medical services, and sanitation, there will be an unstoppable eruption in both old and new varieties of bacterial and viral pandemics, from which no population of any part of the world will escape.”

October 1985: LaRouche announces his candidacy for the Democratic Presidential nomination, on a program which stresses the need to stop the threat of global pandemic disease like that of the Black Death, as foreshadowed by the AIDS pandemic.

February 1986: *EIR* publishes a special report with the title “An Emergency War Plan To Fight AIDS and Other Pandemics.”

1988-89: LaRouche escalates the political and scientific campaign against the emerging threat, in which he insists on an Apollo-style crash program on research, and massive construction of hospital bed capacity. This includes a ballot initiative in California, the publication of an *EIR* Special Report entitled “AIDS Global Showdown: Mankind’s Total Victory or Total Defeat,” and a half-hour national TV special on AIDS as part of LaRouche’s 1988 Presidential campaign.

January 2000: The CIA releases National Intelligence Estimate 99-17D, entitled “The Global Infectious Disease Threat and Its Implications for the United States.” The unclassified document admits that 20 well-known killer diseases, such as TB and cholera, have re-emerged since 1973, while 30 previously unknown disease agents have been identified, for which no cures are available. The document, in effect, substantiated the warning that LaRouche had put out 25 years before, and which had not been acted upon.

2001: LaRouche initiates a campaign for Hill-Burton public health standards, around the closure of D.C. General Hospital, and the scare of the Anthrax attacks.

2004: During the Avian flu outbreak, LaRouche carries out a sustained attack on the globalization of the world’s food supply, saying that it must end, and for the buildup of public health measures.