

## Editorial

### *'Mad Cow' disease in Pennsylvania*

The essence of "Mad Cow" disease is not the bovine spongiforme encephalopathy virus (BSE) currently infesting the British beef herd, but the political leadership of Britain which allowed this to occur. While, as far as is known, the BSE virus has not been found in the United States, an especially virulent brand of Thatcherism has. Another name for Thatcherism is free-market economics. To put it bluntly, this placing of profits over the value of human life is nothing but fascist economics.

Pennsylvania's Gov. Thomas Ridge proposed health cuts in the state budget which would have resulted in the immediate closure of one hospital in Allegheny County, and most likely two others. Fortunately, a 96-hour mobilization, including the weekend of March 23-24, resulted in a turnaround in the legislature, such that this Republican measure, which was believed to be a shoo-in, was defeated by Republicans and Democrats, in a resounding victory of 125 votes against and only 76 for.

The mobilization against this fascist legislative initiative by the governor was led off by Lyndon LaRouche's campaign spokesman Philip Valenti, who raised the issue of the Nuremberg statutes. Valenti charged that this was a crime covered by the provision "knew or should have known," that the resulting increase in death rates from such cuts in health care was a knowable, genocidal act. The mobilization by LaRouche forces was joined by Cardinal Anthony Bevilacqua, and Christians throughout the state rallied to reverse the proposed cuts.

In Britain, Margaret Thatcher's withdrawal of the funding which would have financed the enforcement of proper health measures in the production and marketing of beef, including quarantine and destruction of herds where necessary, has resulted, after a decade of neglect, in the impending necessity to destroy the entire British beef herd, because of the danger of an epidemic which may have the potential of crossing over to infect humans.

It may well turn out that such a cross-over to humans has not in reality occurred, and indeed it is

the British press services Reuters, which started off the present panic by projections of the possibility of hundreds of thousands of Britons becoming infected with a deadly encephalitis. Thus they have turned their own negligence into a potent weapon to convince their population that eating meat is an unaffordable luxury to an increasing number of the impoverished "lower classes."

Cutbacks in health services, sanitation, food inspection, and the like, have obvious, predictably brutal results—an increase in the mortality rate.

Governor Ridge's attempt to shut down funding for public hospitals would have fostered an even greater danger of epidemics in much less time than the decade it took for "Mad Cow" disease to spread throughout the British beef herd. The tendency in the United States to cut back on necessary health care for the poor has already resulted in an alarming increase in infant mortality within the inner cities. Closing down hospitals means that otherwise treatable conditions, such as appendicitis, become fatal.

In response to news of this situation, Lyndon LaRouche has made the situation in Pennsylvania a priority for his campaign. This is timely, not only because a so-called welfare reform bill is still before the legislature, but because this kind of fascist mentality has infected other states as well. While the proposed health care legislation has been defeated, the kind of austerity which inspired the proposed cuts in health measures has not been defeated, either in the state of Pennsylvania or at large.

The fact that almost 200,000 voters in California supported LaRouche in the Democratic Presidential primary on March 26, indicates, however, that the American people are beginning to understand the enormity of the crime which they committed against this nation in the last election, for placing political control in the hands of Thatcher-supporter Newt Gingrich, and the congressmen who support him. This Thatcherite virus must be expunged from the Congress of the United States, and from state government as well.