

their state. It's a question of profit margins versus patient care, she said, and demonstrated with numerous cases how this was exemplified. The Institute of Medicine claims there is no definitive evidence of how much harm HMO's are doing, but the testimony given by Pennsylvania nurses this last summer, showed there to be plenty of evidence. She showed how "downskilling" and the replacement of nurses with all kinds of technicians are tantamount to murder.

Dr. Kildare Clarke, who is both an attorney and a physician, first posed the question: is health care a right, or a privilege? He then told numerous stories about the decline of health care in New York, as doctors have knuckled under to those who put profit above care.

Dr. Clarke stressed that doctors and patients have the power to break the HMO's. He said that he, along with others, had also taken out a law suit against HMO's, which charges that they are responsible for the murderous acts of those under their authority—along the lines of the Nuremberg Tribunal principles.

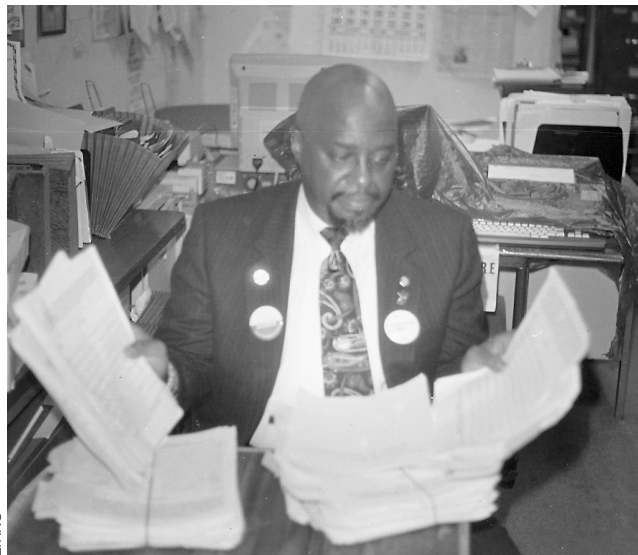
The final speaker on the panel was E.I.R.'s Marcia Merry Baker, who gave a national overview of the change in health-care policy from the late 1960's/early 1970's, and the spread of HMO's. She then contrasted HMO policy with the Hill-Burton policy: It's a question of "universal care," she said, "versus managed care."

## Impeach Governor Ridge! Call for Hearings on Pennsylvania Medical Cuts

*State Representative Harold James (D-Phila.), chairman of the Pennsylvania Legislative Black Caucus, released the following statement on Oct. 31.*

Last May, Democratic leaders warned of the deadly and devastating impact that Gov. Ridge's medical cuts would have on the people of Pennsylvania. Our beloved state senator, the late Roxanne Jones, told Gov. Ridge that his plan was "a form of genocide."

Yet, Gov. Ridge rammed his killer bill through the legislature, despite all warnings and appeals, including some from his own party. This means that an estimated 220,000 poor and disabled Pennsylvanians are in the process of being systematically



*Representative Harold James reviews petitions signed by 7,000 constituents for the impeachment of Governor Ridge.*

cut off state medical assistance.

I recently asked that research be done on the impact of Ridge's medical cuts so far. The preliminary report I have received reveals a picture of death, devastation and threat to innocent lives beyond what many of us thought possible in a civilized society. This includes:

- the mass layoffs of medical personnel at hospitals and other cutbacks, including the severe restriction of emergency room care for persons without medical coverage, and the replacement of nurses with unlicensed substitutes, which according to the testimony of nurses before the Pennsylvania House Committee on Health and Human Services, has already led to the unnecessary suffering and death of patients;
- the cutoff of people in the middle of life-saving medical procedures, such as chemotherapy;
- the cutoff of mentally disabled people from treatment and medication, leading to at least one tragic death already, and inhumane conditions for

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## Suicide' with Supreme Court *Amicus*

the conclusion of World War II.

"The Schiller Institute's brief supports the position of Petitioners, and points out where such Nazi policies have led in the past and where they will lead again. . . ."

The brief then argues, with documentation from Dr. Leo Alexander, a consultant to the Chief of Counsel at Nuremberg, from the Nuremberg Tribunal itself, and from the history of Nazi euthanasia, that there can be "no constitutionally protected right to suicide. To judicially accord a terminally ill competent individual, a constitutional right to the assistance of a physician to

commit suicide, will lead to punishable acts under future Nuremberg-type tribunals established to punish those who commit such crimes against humanity."

Dr. Alexander, in particular, sharply identified the way in which a philosophy of "lives not worthy to be lived," which began in small ways, led to the genocidal mass killings in Nazi Germany. It was Dr. Alexander's belief, expressed in an interview with the Schiller Institute in 1984, that moves to legalize euthanasia in the U.S., and the philosophy of individuals such as Dr. Richard Lamm, were leading toward Nazi crimes.