

- Better training and counseling of health care staff working with people living with AIDS.

- the risk for health care workers becoming infected at work is so slight that it would be "unethical" for them to refuse to care for people living with AIDS.

### On Social Support

- More counseling and psycho-social support for people living with AIDS, as well as for their friends and families.

- "the effects of AIDS are social, psychological and economic as well as physical."

- Improved social benefits including financial support and subsidized housing for people living with AIDS and their dependents.

### On Legal Issues

- Enforced legal sanctions against the release of confidential health information, including the results of HIV tests.

- any breach of confidentiality about an individual's test for HIV "may well have devastating effect."

- The amendment of all human rights legislation to prohibit discrimination based on HIV infection, perceived HIV infection, sexual orientation and perceived sexual orientation.

*Excerpts prepared by Mark Gerson*



AAN! Pentamidine Project under way with two participants using nebulizers under the supervision of Dr. Wayne Boone. Photo by Chuck Grochmal

### Pentamidine Update

Over thirty individuals are currently receiving aerosolized pentamidine as a prophylactic treatment to halt the occurrence of *Pneumocystis Carinii* pneumonia (PCP), under the project set up by AIDS ACTION NOW!. The atomizers, which convert pentamidine into a mist, are running non-stop on Thursdays, when the clinic is in full operation.

AIDS ACTION NOW!'s mandate is to make such treatments immediately available, extending the lives of PLWA's. If you have had PCP, and think you might need pentamidine, phone 591-8489 to get more information about the treatment and how the project can assist you.

*Jeff Kirby*

### Second US Presidential AIDS Report Supports Activists' Policies

AIDS activists in the USA have hailed the final report to President Reagan from the Presidential Commission on the Human Immunodeficiency Virus epidemic. The report contained 583 recommendations.

The report recommends the strengthening of measures to prevent discrimination against PLWA's. It also acknowledges gay families and calls for measures to deal with increased violence against gays. Admiral James Watkins, chairman of the Commission, stressed the need for new laws to protect confidentiality.

The report also called for greater state and federal innovative methods of financing health care, a shift in the focus of collecting statistical data to "the entire range of the HIV epidemic," and the implementation of a comprehensive health education system.

US AIDS activists are concerned, however, over two of the report's

recommendations; one that would put in place a partner notification system, and another that would institute laws criminalizing the knowing transmission of AIDS. It is generally believed that partner notification systems act as a disincentive to high-risk individuals to take the HIV antibody test. Similarly, it would be difficult to prosecute a person for knowingly transmitting AIDS if s/he did not know what her/his HIV status was.

Of particular interest to AIDS ACTION NOW!, the report included recommendations calling for 120 new full-time employees for research, 50 to work on the approval of new drugs/treatments, and 73 at the National Institute of Allergies and Infectious Diseases. It also stressed the important need for scientific researchers to work with community-based research initiatives.

*George Smith*