

Editorial

Incompetence and miscalculation

In the aftermath of the contemptible proceedings of this year's Democratic National Convention at Madison Square Garden, the nation is once again being sobered by the new outpouring of ominous news on the state of the economy, and the more ominous news on the precarious international strategic situation. The corporate sector's liquidity has hit a 25-year low, unemployment an all-time post-war high, consumer price inflation is now well above 20 percent, and the Federal Reserve and Treasury are announcing a new round of liquidity squeezes. The national economy will enter the fourth quarter as the combined impact of the Carter recession and the continuing Volcker policy are moving toward the jugular. Yet President Carter descended once again from Camp David on Aug. 19 with a new plan for economic desolation based on the same logic as last October's "Volcker measures." More monetarist "anti-inflation measures," more austerity and more "conservation."

As the economic gutting proceeds apace, Washington, together with the other major capitals of the world, is rife with persistent and fearful speculations of an imminent, and probably unmanageable major strategic confrontation crisis during the late September-early October period. The sensational revelations of columnist Jack Anderson about the now notorious scenario of a Carter-inspired invasion of Iran in October merely scratch the surface. A systematic buildup for confrontation has accelerated since the formal proclamation of the "Limited Nuclear War Doctrine" (Presidential Directive 59) by Defense Secretary Harold Brown. Given that forces from the Carter camp as well as the camp of Governor Reagan's advisers are cooperating in shaping up this confrontation crisis, it would be inaccurate to claim that the projected confrontation crisis is simply a reelection ploy on the part of the Carter forces.

Something more sinister is occurring in the land which spans both nominally opposite Carter and Reagan camps. There is a clique of highly placed, highly influential, incompetent and miscalculating

bunglers who pull the strings on both sides and who are now toying with a "constitutional crisis scenario" that involves Rep. John Anderson's candidacy and an electoral deadlock in November.

What we have before us is the full unfolding of the bankruptcy and moral degeneration of what once passed as the American ruling elite, now the laughingstock of our European allies and the object of derision among Peking's mandarins. Events occurred in and around the Democratic convention this month which, when in due course they see the light of day, will provide the true flavor of incompetence and decay on the rarefied heights of the American Olympian elite.

What remains to be done by this publication, its collaborators and the increasingly influential circle of its readers and supporters is what Americans have always done in time of crisis: roll up our sleeves and get down to work on the fundamentals. Admittedly, the *EIR* is an exceptional sort of publication in these times. Not because we ourselves are in any sort of way exceptional, but because our competition in public life is exceptionally disoriented. We seem to be exceptional, but the kind of competence we represent ought to be ordinary in our republic.

In terms of the two matters of vital importance for the country, namely strategic intelligence and economic theory, embodied in the *EIR*'s Riemannian model, we have come to represent the kind of authority and competence ordinarily associated with a well-ordered republican elite. Thus it has been a matter of moral fulfillment and pride for this publication and its collaborators to have had its founder and contributing editor, Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr., run for the Democratic presidential nomination. Mr. LaRouche's courageous effort shall continue after the national convention, and so will our efforts and those of our collaborators and our readers. The task ahead is to form a growing circle of national scientific and political leadership informed by the republican principles which founded this nation.