

Editorial

Gorbachov undergoes collectivization

The only interesting thing to be said about the profusion of reports coming from Moscow about the celebrated Yeltsin Affair, is that, what happened with the summary dismissal of the Moscow Party boss and Mikhail Gorbachov's favorite, is simply a continuation of a train of events which had been signaled by Gorbachov's three-and-a-half hour speech at the October Revolution jubilee festivities:

Under the rubrics of *perestroika* (restructuring) and *glasnost* (openness), the so-called collective leadership of Russia's oligarchical boyar families, is pushing forward with the final and most crucial phase of their mobilization to extract the last ounce of military utility from the Soviet Union's economy.

We have often documented in *EIR*, that *perestroika* has never been anything other than the second phase of the military mobilization of the Soviet economy under the direction of Marshal Nikolai Ogarkov and his colleagues in the Soviet General Staff and the Central Committee.

More recently, we published an evaluation, penned by Lyndon LaRouche, of Gorbachov's 70th anniversary speech, where we asserted that, amidst Gorbachov's references to "Third Period" themes of collapse of capitalism, popular fronts, and the like, together with his praise of "Stalinism without Stalin," a policy was being announced, not by Gorbachov personally, but by the collective boyar families of the Russian oligarchy.

The point is that this time, the families are committed to implementing their Stalinist program of ruthless economic wartime mobilization without the disadvantage of a Stalin personally exercising dictatorship over the collective boyardom.

The most interesting little detail of the Yeltsin Affair, is that the collective boyardom which purged Yeltsin, did not allow Gorbachov's own speech at the Moscow Communist Party meeting to be made public.

Instead, they ordered TASS, the Soviet news agency, to circulate a news release which, though reporting on what Gorbachov was supposed to have said, failed

to carry one single direct quote from the general secretary.

Moreover, the TASS release presented Mr. Gorbachov in a mildly suspicious light, insinuating that he, perhaps, was in some kind of collusion with the discredited Yeltsin, prior to Gorbachov's own mysterious 52-day disappearance during August and September.

The TASS account of Gorbachov's speech Nov. 11 before the Moscow CP organization included the following:

"... Gorbachov said that Yeltsin had placed personal ambitions above the interests of the party. Yeltsin had been reprimanded for political manifestations of this kind, and he had promised to draw the necessary lessons for himself. However, he did not do that. [Gorbachov] explained that Yeltsin's intention to resign had been known to him before the CC's plenum.

"After Mikhail Gorbachov returned from his leave, he and Boris Yeltsin agreed that it was not an appropriate time to discuss this issue on the eve of the October Revolution jubilee celebrations. Nevertheless, Yeltsin, in a breach of party ethics, raised this issue directly at the plenary meeting, in circumvention of the Political Bureau. Gorbachov said that Yeltsin put forward as a reason for his resignation, a lack of support on the part of the CC Secretariat. The general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee described this statement as totally absurd and contradicting reality. . . . Gorbachov noted that at initial stages, Yeltsin's resolute declarations on the quick solutions of problems that piled up in the capital had met certain understanding and support of the working people. This made it possible to achieve known changes for the better.

"Later on, however, the bureau of the party City Committee, under the influence of Yeltsin, sought to achieve necessary changes by pressure, by mere administering. On seeing that the situation in the capital was not improving, and even worsened in some respects, Yeltsin tried to place responsibility for his own major shortcomings in work on others."