

Editorial

Who is to blame?

At first glance, one might become seized with horror at the spectacle of 90 U.S. senators supporting the Omnibus Crime Bill. The bill appears to be a return to the Dark Ages, with its expanded definition of what constitutes a capital offense. Are we soon to come to the point where a pickpocket can be executed, by lethal injection or electrocution, for his crime?

Certainly, the bill targets political movements in the United States such as the National Rifle Association and various of the more militant farmer organizations. It will also create a climate in which the new FBI "shoot a fleeing prisoner" guidelines become even more ominous.

What must be borne in mind, however, is that the Senate was not acting in isolation, but was merely reflecting a bitter, frustrated mood in the American population.

Fury is certainly on the rise. It is estimated that about 70% of all Americans are at the point where they want to see drug offenders—i.e., drug pushers—hung. Many are also in a rage about the threat to their life-savings. *EIR* has long warned that such would come to pass—particularly from 1982 on, and most emphatically since 1984. We have documented the process which has now led to the imminent collapse of the U.S. banking system.

If people had listened to us earlier, and if they had acted on our warnings, then they would have no reason now to fear for the safety of their bank accounts and jobs.

Now, lynching is popular, because of the drug issue, and because the economic basis of existence of most of the population is vanishing. It is especially popular among those who are losing their jobs and their savings, and those who, if not their homes, are losing their equity in their homes, and who find themselves a couple of paychecks away from becoming homeless.

And so people seek a human sacrifice—someone on whom it is acceptable to vent that rage.

This profile of the popular mood is picked up by the pollsters, and election campaigns are modeled ac-

ordingly. We saw that in the last year's elections, when incumbent candidates for state office ran on their boast of the number of people who had been executed during their terms. And that is what we now see reflected in the unbelievable barbarism coming out of the Senate in the form of the new Omnibus Crime bill.

It is important to address this growing climate of barbarism. It is not sufficient to castigate those 90 senators who went on record supporting the bill; what we must address, is the flaw within the American population itself.

In the days of apparent prosperity, as the productive economy of the United States was being systematically gutted, most Americans were willing to accept the myth of prosperity, just as they willingly adopted other popular fashions. Many went along with the new, trendy hedonism of the "singles" culture, recreational drugs, and the works. They subscribed to the lies of the "choice" and right-to-die lobbies—because it was fashionable to do so.

And that is how a nation is destroyed. A republican system of representative government is turned into a mindless gaggle, a democracy ruled by a popular opinion which is skillfully molded and manipulated by the mass media. Then the caprices of popular opinion become a substitute for law.

Most Americans nowadays have swallowed the environmentalist myth, and have bought the fantasy of a post-industrial society. They have bought deregulation and the "flea-market" policies which have governed the United States, emphatically since Jimmy Carter installed Paul Volcker as head of the Federal Reserve.

And now, these people are threatened with destruction. If they don't look now at the way they have been manipulated, and act to reject it, then they will surely be destroyed.

This is not the time to make a scapegoat out of some immoral fool who had his hand in the till. It is more than the time for a national reckoning. It is a time to find out how we let things get into this mess, and what we must do to turn the situation around.