

Editorial

A thought for Christmas

If we compare this Christmas season with that of a year ago, a first thing to take note of is President Clinton's political strength this year, as compared to last. A year ago, Phil Gramm and Newt Gingrich had achieved an apparently stunning congressional victory; but that has turned out to be short-lived.

Then, Bill Clinton's prestige was at its lowest ebb; now, he is virtually assured reelection—especially after his central role in the successful peace negotiations in the Middle East, the Balkans, and Northern Ireland. What is most important about President Clinton's foreign policy initiatives, more than the specifics of their concrete implementation, is their cumulative effect in weakening the ties between the United States and the British monarchy. Bill Clinton is an *American* President, which, sadly, has not been the case with anyone who has held that office since the death of President John F. Kennedy, nor, before that, with any of Franklin D. Roosevelt's immediate successors.

Yet, this is not a time for self-congratulation, because the situation which the world faces in the coming year, is one of accelerating disintegration, fueled by an escalating economic collapse. Take, for example, the former Soviet Union, in which 75 million individuals are now living in absolute poverty, under conditions which are comparable to the devastation suffered by the Soviet Union in World War II.

The present strike confrontation in France is also directly attributable to economic collapse. Here the British are attempting to impose the same kind of insane austerity economics on the French which destroyed Russia and the other economies of the former East bloc. The tragedy is that the German government has allowed itself to be used against France, in its insistence on the adoption of "sound financial measures" by the French government, as a prerequisite for fulfilling its obligations under the European Union's Maastricht Treaty.

Unless free-market ideology is widely acknowledged for what it is—a vicious British hoax—and as

such, repudiated, there is no solution to the crisis. What we face in the not-too-distant future, if this is not done, is the disintegration of western civilization.

It is from the vantage point of the future that we gain the strength and intellectual maturity to face up to the tasks that are before us. It is we, who have inherited all of the beauties of the Renaissance, who are the heirs of Dante and Nicolaus of Cusa, of Leonardo da Vinci and Johannes Kepler, who must guarantee that these treasures are not lost to a humanity driven back into a new and terrible Dark Age.

Immediately, there are many problems which must be urgently addressed—most notably to do with the economic collapse; but as the Christmas season approaches, it is a good time to rise above the immediate. Lyndon LaRouche has spoken out in the strongest terms against the Venetian perversion of science and culture, which has created an intellectual elite that is literally brainwashed by Aristotelianism. The very best Christmas gift which we can give to anyone, is to reawaken in him or her the joy of expressing the God-given gift of creativity.

At the European conference held by the Schiller Institute and the International Caucus of Labor Committees on Dec. 2 and 3, Lyndon LaRouche gave a keynote speech, which expressed this most beautifully. He pointed to the great power for evil which is presently concentrated in an oligarchy that wishes to dominate the mass of humanity, reducing them to little better than slaves. Even despite the great gains of the Golden Renaissance, the society of the past 500 years has failed to get rid of this disease of oligarchism, and the Aristotelian ideology by which it is buttressed.

This is the task which is before us now. To accomplish it, we must assert the human right, LaRouche said, for all men and women to be creative, to "play," as did Leonardo da Vinci, so that their lives, like his, will have the character of a great musical composition.

This is our Christmas thought.