

Editorial

The need for new leadership

Between the Iowa caucuses of Feb. 8 and the New Hampshire primary of Feb. 16, which bracket the first phase of the U.S. 1988 presidential election campaign, Lyndon LaRouche sized up the stable of Democratic and Republican candidates seeking the highest office in the land, before audiences in Texas and Oklahoma. As a Democratic presidential hopeful, LaRouche said that he would not mind having a couple of his "rivals" as neighbors. As *President*, not one is qualified.

Gov. Michael Dukakis is a front man for a crowd of crooks who stole \$2 billion from the state of Massachusetts over the past 10 years—not the kind of persistence we need in Washington. Gary Hart, while not unintellectual, is wrong in his philosophical and moral views. Paul Simon is nasty, and not qualified to be President.

Pat Robertson is a symbol, not a reality. A lot of the vote for him is useless and volatile, because it is a protest vote against things that people don't like—such as most of the other candidates.

Bush is a "CIA locker-room knuckle-dragger," who wants "root canal economics," just like Robert Dole. Most of the candidates want hardball austerity, and they will repeat the same mistakes of 1929-32, which will bring us to a full-scale economic collapse.

If the present trends in policy continue, the United States is probably finished. The Soviets are about to dominate the world by default. There is a pattern of people who want to be President of the United States: They go to be approved by Moscow.

Bush tells you how well he'll get along with Moscow; that's his qualification for being President. The United States lets its friends starve while we give grain away, practically, to Moscow. In that kind of world, we sell to Moscow what it wants, when it wants it delivered, at Moscow's prices. They pay us when they please, and we give them the credit to pay us.

There is a conspicuous ludicrousness in the fact that such a degree of Soviet threat has come into being. Still today, the OECD nations represent twice the population of the Soviet empire, and their citizens have a

demonstrated potential to be at least twice as physically productive per capita as Soviet subjects, with a greater capacity to assimilate rapid rates of technological progress. We still represent, in addition to OECD nations, almost the totality of the non-communist developing sector, with its population, natural resources, land-area, and implicit bearing on control of maritime chokepoints. To have come so low relative to the Soviet threat, is ludicrous.

The fault lies not in our circumstances, or want of means to improve those circumstances. The fault lies chiefly in the way in which our governments decide, or refuse to decide. *To a certain degree, the fault lies also in our toleration for the selection of governments whose incompetencies had been repeatedly so generously displayed.*

The strategic and related financial and economic crises confronting us are the most important aspect of a more general crisis of civilization. The Soviet threat, on which point we are nearing the last desperate approximation of a *punctum saliens*, is one immediate implication of this. The AIDS pandemic is another. Here, the establishment is playing silly games with the very existence of the human species.

The question of survival is: Will we project into positions of readiness to assume leadership new leaders prepared to supply the needed changes in direction? Without that, we shall not survive for long—at least not survive in any way we would consider satisfactory.

Beyond that, and as part of that, the new policies to be introduced must address themselves efficiently to the need for sanity, both in the population generally and in the public and private institutions of policy-shaping practice and influence. We must define a mission-orientation congruent with fostering of the development and employment of creative potentials, a result to be achieved with aid of strong emphasis upon scientific and technological progress in a capital-intensive, energy-intensive mode.

These are the real issues in the 1988 presidential campaign, as we move past New Hampshire.