

## Editorial

### *The cuckoo fell from the nest*

Early Friday morning, Feb. 7, Ecuador's Congress impeached scandal-ridden President Abdala Bucaram, in a 44-34 vote, on grounds of "mental incapacity," electing the presiding officer of the Congress itself, Fabián Alarcón. Although the Congress's action was taken under the authority of existing law for such cases, the scandal-ridden rock-star, Bucaram, refused to step down, threatening to call upon what he claimed as his "monolithic support" from Ecuador's military.

During the following, crisis-ridden weekend, a conference between representatives of the executive and the Congress, reached an agreement which preserves constitutionality. The law passed by the Congress, impeaching Bucaram, was upheld. The forty-year-old Vice-President, Rosalía Arteaga, assumed the duties of the presidency, temporarily, until the Congress completed fully the process of formal election of the President to replace the ousted Bucaram. Since then, on Feb. 11, the Congress voted up Fabián Alarcón's election as President by a vote of 57-2.

Thus far, public signs of tea and sympathy for the unfortunate Mr. Bucaram, are limited chiefly to the Washington and Argentina press outlets of George Bush's Moon-cult sponsors, and to Bush's and Henry A. Kissinger's crony, Argentina's eccentric President Menem.

It will not end there. A week of after-action coverage of Mr. Bucaram's departure in the relevant leading daily press of Washington, D.C., New York City, and London, can be summed up fairly in a single word: *stunned*. As that momentary numbness among the editors wears off, the glint in the eye of those media will follow the lead of the Moon-cult press: very nasty.

There are reasons for that stunned reaction. What happened in Ecuador is not simply an internal affair of Ecuador, nor of South and Central America; the fall of the cuckoo from its Ecuador nest, signals an ongoing, world-wide, chain-reaction collapse of the International Monetary Fund's current policy.

It is always important to get the whole story, especially the parts which are suppressed by the reports in the leading news-media. Abdala Bucaram, like England's King Richard III, had a terrible personality, but that is not the reason either was ousted from his throne. Read

the rest of the law which Ecuador's Congress enacted on the day it impeached Bucaram.

The impeachment was the outcome of the same kind of political mass-strike wave which has rocked France, Belgium, Greece, Serbia, South Korea, Bulgaria, Albania, and a growing number of other nations, around the world, since the second half of 1996. It occurred in the midst of Ecuador's nationwide political mass-strike, in which between 1 and 2 millions of the nation's 12 million population participated, beginning Wednesday, Feb. 5, continuing into Friday, when the impeachment of Bucaram occurred. As part of the same series of legislative actions, the Congress nullified a series of "IMF conditionalities" which Bucaram had imposed by Presidential decree. The fascist-like austerity measures featured in Bucaram's decree, included the usual forced doses of "castor oil" against the poor: in addition to wild-eyed mayhem against the economy, in the name of "privatization," shocking increases in areas such as rates for public transportation, electricity, telephone service, cooking gas, and fuel for homes and vehicles.

The international implications are implied in a pair of quotable utterances, taken from the pages of both the *Washington Post* and the Moon-cult's *Washington Times* outlet. "Ecuador's Congress has opened a Pandora's box," says the *Times*'s Kissinger-linked Roger Fontaine, adding the threat, that no matter what the outcome, the country's democratic institutions "are now too fragile to survive." The *Post* explains Fontaine's ranting: "Ecuador now lacks . . . the constituency to support necessary further major privatizations." It may be the case, says the *Post*, that the resolution of the crisis "bowed to constitutionality, but [it] does not address the sacrifice and discipline that the country's economic crisis mandates."

The onrushing world-wide financial collapse impels the crazed monetarist desperadoes of the financial centers to force governments to impose ever-more-savage measures of austerity. This combination has prompted a booming wave of political mass-strikes, against the governments which bend to the financiers' will. What stunned the relevant editors about the cuckoo's fall from the nest, is, that it shows, that the days are numbered, when Gingrichism and even the mere pretense of "democracy" can still dwell in the same house.