

Piontkovsky wrote that Yeltsin would resign and choose a day for early Presidential elections that would cause the most discomfort to his political enemies, such as holding Presidential and Duma elections simultaneously on Dec. 19. This would create severe complications for leading Presidential contenders, such as Luzhkov, Primakov, and CPRF head Genadi Zyuganov, who head or are placed high on Duma electoral slates. Piontkovsky wrote: "Watch Sunday, Sept. 19. On that day, the President could suddenly start to feel a dramatic decline in his health, and decide to resign — which would automatically make Putin President for three months. We, as usual, will learn of this the following Monday morning."

Yeltsin family desperation

La Stampa accurately portrayed the desperation of the Yeltsin family. Chiesa asked about the Yeltsins, in the event the existing Constitution is honored: "Where do they go? External allies: zero. Internal allies: either compromised (like Anatoli Chubais and Viktor Chernomyrdin) or divided. The right wing risks even failing to be elected to the Duma. They do not have a strong Presidential candidate and will not get one. They have been cornered and can only surrender."

Russian media, such as *Izvestia* in an Aug. 31 article by political analyst Vyacheslav Nikonov, suggest that all the "reformist" parties and blocs running for the Duma elections risk falling below the 5% hurdle. That goes for Our Home Is Russia, led by former Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin and Vladimir Ryzhkov; the New Force of former Prime Minister Sergei Kiriyenko; the Right Cause of former government

leaders Yegor Gaidar, Boris Nemtsov, and Anatoli Chubais.

Nikonov projects that the People's Republican Party of Aleksandr Lebed and Vladimir Zhirinovskiy's ultra-nationalist Liberal Democratic Party of Russia would hover just at the 5% threshold. If elections were held now, in his evaluation, only the three forces mentioned at the beginning of this article would be certain to enter the new Duma.

Desperation in the Yeltsin camp is further evidenced by what could be called the Boris Berezovsky "Flying (Electoral) Circus." This financier, a crony of the Yeltsin family, spent part of late August jet-hopping across the vast expanses and time zones of Russia, covering European Russia, the Urals, Siberia, and the Far East, to try to convince regional governors to form a new bloc of governors to side with a planned Putin candidacy. This would be a counterweight to the "All Russia" component of the Fatherland-All Russia alliance, All Russia having been initiated by Governors Yakovlev of St. Petersburg and Shaimiyev of Tatarstan. Berezovsky's "Flying Circus" was described by Chiesa: "The complicated pilgrimage in the air, by Boris Berezovsky, who in a few hours, without sleeping, flew from Moscow to Krasnoyarsk [Governor Lebed], to Kemerovo [Governor Tulayev], to Nizhni Novgorod, to Kursk [Governor Rutsokoy], and other regions [including Yekaterinburg and Khabarovsk], in the desperate attempt to found a movement of (regional) "strongmen," with Aleksandr Lebed, Aleksandr Rutsokoy, Aman Tuleyev, and others. . . . But he received only refusals."

Should the Yeltsin crowd try to implement the early combined-election scenario, it will have to move fast. September

Schiller Institute on Russian radio

The desire in Russia for sane economic policies sets the stage for ever-increasing attention there to the ideas and proposals of Lyndon LaRouche. Russian translations of two books by LaRouche, *So, You Wish to Learn All About Economics?* (1992) and *Physical Economy* (1997), are popular among scientists, parliamentarians, and high-ranking government officials in Russia, Ukraine, Armenia, Georgia, Belarus, and other Commonwealth of Independent States countries, while his articles in the *Bulletin* of the Schiller Institute for Science and Culture (Moscow) circulate in printed form and on the Internet.

This summer, a regular radio broadcast began in Moscow: At least once a week, Prof. T.V. Muranivsky, president of the Schiller Institute for Science and Culture, expounds the principles of LaRouche's physical economy in 30- to 40-minute studio interviews on Narodnoye Radio

(People's Radio). He takes call-in questions from listeners during the broadcast, providing additional commentary in support of the principles of physical economy.

As a result, LaRouche's ideas and his principles of physical economy are becoming known in still more cities and regions of Russia. One indication of this is a letter to *Nezavisimaya Gazeta*, published in issue #144, Aug. 7, 1999, by Vyacheslav Vysotsky, from the town of Shakhty in Rostov Province. Criticizing the economic situation in Russia, he objects to the poorly considered proposals by advocates of a new redistribution of property, which could lead to social conflicts. He sees the way out of the situation as follows:

"The concepts of the American economist Lyndon LaRouche should be studied carefully. He puts technological progress at the basis of his doctrine, and thoroughly criticizes the IMF and the World Bank, as well as the development of their policies toward Russia. He has elaborated a program for the economic reform of Russia and the world economy. Because of his views, LaRouche was persecuted by the American authorities and even spent a long time in prison."