

## Editorial

### *What's not being discussed in the debates*

*The following is Democratic Presidential pre-candidate Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr.'s opening statement to a live webcast with press, on Jan. 27.*

There are several things which are not being discussed generally in the so-called debates on television in the campaign so far, either on the Republican side, or among the two [Democratic] candidates who are allowed to appear on television in these debates, Vice President Al Gore and Senator Bill Bradley.

First of all, the world is gripped presently by the worst financial crisis in more than a century. No crisis of the 20th Century is as deadly as that which is in the process of erupting now—contrary to statements made by Federal Reserve chairman Greenspan and other wishful thinkers. This will hit soon. We don't know exactly how soon. It will hit in one form or the other; we don't know exactly what, because political decisions will largely determine how the explosion of the present financial system occurs.

At the same time, since the summer of 1998, we have not only the disintegration of countries in the developing sector, such as the present assaults and problems in Indonesia, or Ecuador, today, but we have a spread of warfare and warfare-like situations, throughout the world, beginning with the bombing of the Sudan pharmaceutical plant in August of 1998, which is the beginning of this period of accelerating warfare in various guises, or quasi-warfare.

We have at the same time, as I've indicated, the disintegration of nations, under the impact of an ongoing financial crisis. The case of Ecuador, most recently, is exemplary of that problem. Other nations are in the same condition: Africa, and so forth.

At the same time, in Europe—in France, and in Germany, a destabilization process has been unleashed under these conditions, like the "Clean Hands" operation in Italy earlier.

Similarly, in the same period, while the President of the United States is working with various governments in the Middle East to attempt to bring about a peace agreement, there's an attempt to destabilize the peace agreement with a similar operation, similar to that being run against France, going on in Israel right now. We

have a similar situation in Austria. Those conditions are spreading around the world.

Unfortunately, in most of the local parts of the United States, there's virtually no factual coverage of these issues, or actually, of even the candidacy of the leading Presidential candidates in the United States. You have to rely largely upon major press for little gobbets of things, which do not really include reference to the important issues of world affairs, and national affairs now.

We also have the leading candidates, who are eminently disqualified for occupying such a powerful office as that of the United States President under these conditions. For example, the case of George W. Bush is notorious: a man whose ignorance of anything of importance, and his cruelty—the fact that he's conducting a killing program in Texas, in executions, which is something abhorred by all civilized nations, especially those in western Europe today. And the fact that Al Gore, if he sticks to the policies he's shown, as by his unconscionable behavior in Kuala Lumpur in 1998, that the man is totally unqualified for President, particularly President of the United States, a position of great power in the world. And in these times of present national and international crisis, one must say that the major media of the United States, and others, are not treating the matter of the selection of a qualified President, with the seriousness history demands.

At the same time, of course, the suppression of a real process of discussion in the party. The attempt to rig, pre-rig, the elections, to predetermine that Bush will be the Republican candidate, who will defeat candidate Gore in the November 2000 election—that kind of thing does not go well in this time of crisis, at a time when people should not be cheering for candidates the way populations cheered for the gladiators in the Roman arena, rather than citizens seriously considering what kind of a candidate they might be supporting.

So, these are very dangerous times, and I hope that my activities here, as on other occasions, will help to force the people of the United States, and also some other countries, to look seriously at the real issues, which are being totally ignored by the candidates who are featured in the television and related news media in the United States.