

Editorial

The End of an Era

It is no exaggeration to say that the events of the Spring of 1968, forty years ago, shook the industrialized world, including the United States, to its very foundations. The assassination of Martin Luther King, the eruption of violent student strikes on both sides of the Atlantic, the assassination of Robert F. Kennedy, and then the explosion at the Summer's Democratic Party Convention, shaped the political life of the nation profoundly, and much for the worse.

Today, in the Spring of 2008, we have the potential, and the obligation, to put an end to the era of the "68ers" once and for all.

In many respects, the assassination of King, undoubtedly sponsored by intelligence circles who used James Earl Ray as a patsy, had the most devastating impact on the nation. King's removal from the political scene eliminated not just the only effective leadership figure in the civil rights movement, but also a man with the potential to be an excellent President of the United States. *No one* could replace King's quality of agapic but decisive leadership, and no one did.

The murder of RFK eliminated the one prominent political figure who was committed to advancing King's legacy.

Like the murder of King, the student upheaval around the world, and the spawning of violent political groups who launched terror and disruption throughout society and politics for years to follow, can only be understood as the result of social engineering by political-intelligence circles who were determined to "retool" and "derail" a culture committed to technological progress and human dignity. In Europe and the United States, in particular, a radical polarization was effected which ripped up such institutions as the FDR Democratic Party. The stage was set for the growth of the anti-progress, pro-hedonism cultural current, with instinctive hatred of the traditional worker-farmer base of the Democratic Party—which current still corrupts that institution today.

Ironically, the 1968 student strike process was also the occasion for the birth of the LaRouche movement, which first emerged as a political force during the Co-

lumbia University student strike of 1968. Unlike the radicals such as Mark Rudd, who get all the publicity today, the LaRouche supporters, who actually called the student strike after the assassination of King, attempted to use the occasion to mobilize the students behind the goal of improving the conditions of life of the surrounding ghetto—and from there, the nation and world as a whole. LaRouche himself began to teach classes to hundreds of students, challenging them to prepare themselves to understand economics, and rebuild the world.

In the ensuing political conflict between the 68ers and LaRouche forces, there is no question but that the 68ers, blessed by powerful financial and political forces in the United States, "won." They and their anti-industry ideology became part of the dominant culture of society, taking over many institutions, including political parties. But those few cadre who rallied around LaRouche, planted a seed that grew dramatically in the wake of the 1971 financial crisis, and has spread LaRouche's ideas of economic development into every corner of the world.

Forty years after Spring 1968, it is much easier to see how the vicious ideologies spawned by those upheavals have contributed to the destruction of the path to progress. Infrastructure has been allowed to collapse, productive industry shut down. Education in science has sunk to the point where we could not reproduce the Moon launch of 1969. Mind-altering drugs pervade society, and consumption, not production, is considered the measure of our nation's output. Having degraded ourselves, we are now at the point of self-destruction.

But wait, we have the opportunity to change! We can reject the ideology of the 68ers, with their rage and anti-industry fervor. We can reach back to not only Martin Luther King, but to that great political leader who brought our nation through the devastating crises of the 1930s, Franklin D. Roosevelt. We can learn from the horrendous mistakes of the last 40 years.

In 1968, the youth generation failed the test of history, and went the wrong way. In 2008, we cannot afford to fail.