

Editorial

A world in crisis

The Mexican and U.S. electoral crises are being played out against the onset of the worst international crisis of the twentieth century. Obviously, in the case of the United States, the international stakes are considerably higher, but the principle of honest republican elections (republican with a small "r") has been violated in both countries.

In Mexico, the ruling PRI party is committed to a blatant vote fraud. In the United States, the lack of qualifications of the two leading contenders is only a more subtle example of the same fraud. Both are intended to usher in a period of vicious austerity, which will put an end to representative constitutional government.

If the U.S. election results in the kind of fiasco now threatened, the world as a whole will most probably slip into the kind of hideous crisis which Europe experienced during the time of the Thirty Years War, or even worse, in the mid-fourteenth century dark age. If such occurs, AIDS will by no means be the only, or worst, plague to afflict a famine-ridden, war-torn world.

Were appropriate investments made in major infrastructure—particularly with regard to water projects—over the past two decades, then cyclical crises, such as the present drought, would be easily manageable. At present, we appear to be threatened with the reemergence of famine in sections of the world, because we have violated elementary principles of physics by willfully lowering the productive powers of labor.

The economic crisis which is now afflicting the West is the result of the stupidity of the postwar drift since the assassination of President Kennedy, into policies supposedly intended to lead to a post-industrial utopia, but calculated instead to destroy the prosperity of the United States as a world power, thus leading to the destabilization of her Western allies as well. Similar economic problems afflict the Soviet bloc, but these would be manageable were it not for the precipitous decline of the United States.

The same stupidity which has led us into the present

crisis, leads policymakers to applaud the wave of unrest throughout the East bloc. "Ah hah!" these fools reason. "The Soviets are afflicted with the same problems as we in the West. Therefore, we needn't worry about our own increasing military and industrial weakness."

These self-deluded blunderers have failed to understand that Mikhail Gorbachov's policies of *glasnost* and *perestroika* are intended solely to enhance Russia's war-winning capabilities. Just as the Soviet government is now responding to unrest in Armenia by imposing military rule, so they will never tolerate any significant degree of destabilization in the East bloc, but will be provoked into military moves against the West, in order to ensure that we are not able to take advantages at their expense.

The very dependence of the Soviets and the East bloc as a whole on U.S. grain supplies, in a period in which grain reserves have been deliberately reduced and in which several years of drought may be before us, means that the otherwise tolerable austerity which they have imposed upon their own populations in order to support a massive military build-up, have now become insupportable. In the face of food riots at home, and the growing weakness of the Western alliance, what will prevent the Soviets from seeking to alleviate their own economic crisis by military measures?

We are not the victims of some ineluctable fate. It is possible that the vote fraud in Mexico be reversed, and the legally elected Cárdenas government be certified. It is still possible that a candidate for President in the United States such as LaRouche be elected. But human nature being as it still unfortunately is, our best hope for averting the impending disaster probably is the awakening of more and more people to its awful magnitude.

In the meantime, the Atlanta Democratic Party Convention appears slated to be an ugly replay of the Chicago Democratic Party Convention of 1968, where dirty tricks and "clever" politicking substitute for serious policy.