

Editorial

Buy, buy, buy

The Christmas season is upon us and the Big Question appears to be whether Americans will go on a manic buying spree this year. At least that is the question according to television commentators who are trying to convince us not to worry about the real state of the physical economy, but to participate in the grand illusion of prosperity.

Leaving aside for the moment the ugliness within our culture which degrades a holy day intended to celebrate the birth of Jesus, to a mere matter of spending, the situation is still ludicrous. At a time when many Americans have a spouse or a parent, or other household member out of work, what is this talk of a recovery which is supposed to fuel an orgy of consumer spending? It is a cynical lie.

Of course there are economic analysts who do not go along with the current "recovery" line, but, with the exception of Lyndon LaRouche and his co-thinkers, they accept the fallacious premise that such analysis can be competently grounded in a study of financial data. Making or losing money are not irrelevant concerns: After all, money in the pocket puts food on the table—or does it? If there is no food to be bought because of transportation breakdowns, or because not enough has been grown, then your family will go hungry. This is the situation facing many people in Russia and elsewhere around the world this Christmas.

It is a sign of collective insanity to suppose that the monetary and financial system can be decoupled from the real physical economy, but it is the delusion rampant today, even among the more realistic analysts who recognize dangers inherent in the present speculative bubble.

Christmas should remind us of the God-given creative potential which is the birthright of every child. Christmas should be a time for reaffirming the family and a time of charity to the less fortunate, but also a time when we reflect upon the condition of humanity. At such a time it is useful to examine the axiomatic assumptions which have guided our daily life. Too many of us have been content to turn our eyes away from the larger problems which we feel are beyond our

ability to solve; rather than locating those resources within ourselves which will allow us to rise to the challenge before us.

It is not more toys and games and videos which our children need, but rigorous and strict education, so that they can meet the challenges of the future—and the same is true for most of the adult population. It is not just skills in counting and measuring, much less financial wizardry (the method taught by modern economics) which are needed, but an understanding of Leibnizian science and education (LaRouche's method) which we must master.

Nor is real economics merely the study of the production of physical items. To the contrary, what we must measure in economics is the effect of a unique creative discovery by one particular individual, in transforming the potentials for all mankind today and into the future. Such a discovery can be within the domain of science or its application to technology, or in the arts, but it will affect the potential of the entire culture.

Think about the time two centuries before the birth of Christ, when the Greek astronomer Eratosthenes accurately estimated the size of the Earth by measuring the distance along a great circle from the city of Alexandria to Rome, by determining the line of sight to a star. Relive with Johannes Kepler his joy in imagining what the Earth would look like when viewed from the vantage point of the Moon. Then relive man's first steps on the Moon in 1969.

None of these discoveries could have been made by individuals who were content to accept the relatively trivial, sense-certainty perceptions of daily life. Rather they were concerned to expand man's inner vision so all of us might better probe the beauties of God's universe and thus transform ourselves for the better.

To be part of this process by which true knowledge is acquired; to play a role oneself in that process of creative discovery, which has time and again transformed the entire basis of human existence, is the birthright of every child. Is this not what we should celebrate when we commemorate that unique historical moment of the birth of the Christ child?