
Commentaries

The Confederate coup against the Presidency

The following is a selection of commentaries on the coup d'état against the Clinton Presidency, including statements by leading analysts responding to Lyndon LaRouche's article published in last week's EIR, "Al Gore and Adolf Hitler," and to the analysis presented in this week's Feature, "To Defeat Impeachment, You Must Defeat the New Confederacy."

Prof. John Erickson, University of Edinburgh, Scotland, interview with EIR, Jan. 4:

"What is being carried out in the United States is a constitutional coup," affirmed Erickson. He expressed full agreement with LaRouche's likening of the situation now, with a possible early Gore Presidency, and what happened in Germany, in 1932-33, with the coup that brought Hitler to power.

He noted that "many people are quite appalled at the proceedings undertaken against Clinton. There is great concern over what is going on in the United States. What is being carried out is a constitutional coup. It's the final act, in 20 years of a politics of regicide in the U.S., and the Constitution is being undermined by these constant attacks on the Presidency. We see three aspects of this, now: the denigration of the Presidential office, the vilification of the person occupying the office, and a constitutional coup. This could swing the political spectrum in the U.S. to the far right. This has all the trappings of a coup d'état, with awful implications for global politics. I am seriously worried."

Erickson expressed alarm that Al Gore could soon be President, stressing that his behavior in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, at the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) conference on Nov. 15-18, 1998, was "awful and frightening." What Gore did, is symptomatic of the "IMF steamroller" around the world, which is causing "considerable social damage." He saw Gore's action as signalling a dangerous potential policy shift in the United States. Erickson confirmed that there were long-standing ties between Gore and British Prime Minister Tony Blair, dating to the late 1980s, when the Labour Party was carrying out "intensive investigations" of the U.S. political system, with particular emphasis on establishing links with the U.S. "New Democrats."

Noting the most recent assault on Clinton, with the "illegitimate son" story, he called this evidence of a "multi-front attack" by an "interlocking directorate, transnational in

nature," typified by the Hollinger Corporation media empire.

As for the 1932-33 parallel, Erickson drew special attention to the role of Bank of England Governor Montagu Norman, who represented the "European clearing banks, a financial system totally independent of governments."

Erickson is a signer of the appeal to President Clinton to make LaRouche his economic adviser.

Former members of Australia's Whitlam government.

The following call was issued on Jan. 7 by the Honorable Clyde Cameron, a leader in the Australian trade union movement for over half a century and the Minister for Labour for the Australian Labor Party government of Prime Minister Gough Whitlam (1972-75). It was immediately endorsed by two other members of the Whitlam government, and is being circulated by Mr. Cameron throughout Australia. The popularly elected Whitlam was sacked by Her Majesty's Governor General, Sir John Kerr, on Nov. 11, 1975, an event greeted with mass protests on the streets of Australia. Prime Minister Whitlam was known for his attempt to re-assert national economic sovereignty.

"Judging from all the information which has thus far publicly surfaced, the ongoing impeachment proceedings against President Bill Clinton have all the appearance of an unconstitutional coup d'état against a lawfully elected, and overwhelmingly popular President of the United States. We hereby call for an end to this charade, and urge influential figures and statesmen in Australia and internationally to join us in this call. Enough is enough! Let's end the prurient fascination with sex scandals, and get back to work!"

—Clyde Cameron, former Minister for Labour (1972-74), former Minister for Labour and Immigration (1974-1975), former Minister for Science and Consumer Affairs (1975)

—Jim Cairns, former Deputy Prime Minister (1974-75), former Federal Treasurer (1974-75), former Minister for Overseas Trade (1972-74)

—Adrian Bennett former federal Member of Parliament for Swan (1969-75), Secretary, Municipal Employees Union, Western Australia

A well-informed Asian source with multiple contacts in China, interviewed by EIR on Jan. 5:

It has not gone unnoticed in Chinese leading circles that the forces going after President Clinton, are the same as those trying desperately to undermine U.S.-Chinese relations, said the source. As a result of the anti-Chinese moves by the forces going after Clinton, he claimed, "the understandings reached between Clinton and [Chinese President] Jiang Zemin are beginning to unravel, very fast." He blamed "the American Congress and certain branches of the administration," for this deterioration.

"The Chinese are convinced that there is a fair amount

of American sponsorship of dissident movements in China,” the source said. “The dissident movements are provided with money, with the Internet, and with other facilities. It is becoming an underground movement. The Chinese see this as coming alive, in the context of the wider international situation. At the same time, especially after the Iraq bombing, they see what they perceive as the hegemony of the U.S. being pursued with force. They point, also, to American aggressiveness on the trade front, and the announced vast increase in the American defense budget.”

He went on: “As a consequence, the Chinese are thinking more forcefully and clearly about the necessity for a multipolar world. This is in line with the proposal by the Russian Prime Minister, Primakov, for the strategic triangle of India, Russia, and China. My understanding, is that the Chinese find this Primakov proposal very, very interesting, as long as the Indians stop justifying their nuclear program on the basis of the supposed threat from China. Recently, Indian ministers were banned from speaking of the ‘Chinese threat.’ Primakov would never have signed the treaty he signed with India, unless he were assured this were not directed against China.”

Pavel Felgenhauer, Russian military correspondent, *Sev-odniya* newspaper, in an interview with *EIR* during the first week of January:

U.S. General Shelton’s “Special Forces” designs guarantee more bombings of Iraq and other episodes of “interventionism” over the coming period, said Felgenhauer earlier this week.

“I see the bombing of Iraq as central to a new developing pattern of interventionism. It is a strategy to use Special Forces and bombing raids to achieve decisive results, a new model of fighting local wars, on the cheap. It is being done under conditions where the American President’s attention is distracted. My reading is that [Defense Secretary] Cohen and Shelton had the initiative, were the real forces behind the bombing. The Presidency is under attack and weakened, so these forces could act on their own, as in Vietnam. Clinton was dragged into doing the bombing, and has since drawn back, but I am sure there will be more attacks.”

He went on: “Shelton is a Special Forces general, the first to become chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs, and he only got in because the man that Clinton appointed, Ralston, lost the job because of an extramarital affair. Now, Shelton wants to impose his own ‘Special Forces’ agenda, to change the correlation within the American defense establishment, so that the Special Forces are firmly established. The aim with Iraq is to paralyze the Iraqi Air Force, and then move Special Forces in, to kill or kidnap Saddam Hussein. The idea is to create a small battlefield, with small forces that can be used, preferably to capture Saddam. Decisive results with small forces: That’s why the name was changed from Operation Desert Storm to Fox. Shelton is using the moment

when Clinton is distracted. New attacks on Iraq are inevitable. What is taking shape, is an ominous and interesting pattern.”

Implicitly, Felgenhauer linked this process to what is being against Clinton in the U.S. Briefed on LaRouche’s evaluation, he said, “What is going in the U.S. is an obvious coup attempt. This has been going on for several years. I know the people involved in it. They’re rather nasty, aggressive, rather unpleasant political forces. I’ve met these guys, in Moscow or Washington. But I think they’re shooting themselves in the legs; the mood in the U.S. is counter-productive for them, as it’s so obviously a witchhunt that it’s backfiring. Meanwhile, it’s having a bad effect on the world, since American leadership is so essential.”

Marc Pitzke, Washington, D.C. correspondent for the German weekly *Die Woche*, New Year issue:

A resurging of Confederate spirit can be observed in the scandal-mongering against Clinton, Pitzke wrote. The real issue is not sex, but the fight for power, and it is the settling of very old accounts, dating back to the secessionist war of 1861-65.

Many a southern politician still does not want to acknowledge the defeat by the northern Union, today, Pitzke wrote; therefore, “it doesn’t come as a surprise, that the fiercest propagandists against Clinton come from the Bible-belt South: Newt Gingrich (Georgia), Kenneth Starr (Texas), Trent Lott (Mississippi), Robert Livingston (Louisiana)—offspring of a reactionary world, which is rebelling against political enlightenment, in which to this day blacks and whites go to separate schools and churches.”

Claudio Uriarte, journalist with *Página 12*, writing in the daily *Clarín*, Buenos Aires, Argentina, Jan. 4:

A “parliamentary coup d’état” appears to be directed against Bill Clinton, writes Uriarte. When the U.S. House voted for impeachment in December, it “ended up painting the figure of a parliamentary coup d’état, in which some Republicans, resentful of Clinton and his popularity, appeared prepared to do anything to get rid of him. Washington hasn’t seen days of such intense interparty friction since Watergate, but the level of confrontation, and tenor of the insults are today infinitely more savage.”

“The scandal of the scandal,” Uriarte writes, “was the conduct of the Republicans, prepared to play roulette with the power of the Presidency, when [the latter] may, at any moment, again confront the pressure of a world financial crisis which is far from having burned out.” Uriarte, however, concludes by giving credence to the line that Clinton lied and committed an obstruction of justice, and that this cannot be forgotten, even if the U.S. President enjoys high popularity ratings. The daily warns that if the impeachment crisis continues, “the possibility of Clinton’s resignation is ever more real.”