

them from two directions. Number one, you ban them from doing it any more, and number two, you go back and punish them for what they've done so far. . . . Imagine if they refuse to set any regulation on their product when it comes to children, and then a child, under the influence of their alcohol has a traffic accident and kills somebody. This industry should be held accountable.

EIR: I agree. I thank you very much.

There is a whole other subject matter which has already poisoned the minds of millions of people around the world, and obviously one has to think what one can do to eventually undo the damage from that, because of what happens to society.

Grossman: The most important thing is the Stanford Study, the one thing that I had yet to tell you about. Stanford University demonstrated, that, in the end, the most powerful solution to this problem is education. . . . Simply by educating children about the health impact of violent video games and violent television, there was a 40% reduction in violence in this test score, because the majority of the children voluntarily turned it off. When their elementary school teachers tell them about this, the children believe it, they know it, and they take action.

EIR: I not only mean education about videos, but education in general. In Germany the education reforms, 30 years ago, have eliminated this basic education of the character. And if you don't have that, and you only go for facts and multiple-choice kind of learning, then you destroy the basis for the inner resistance of the child.

Grossman: And more than that, what happens is you've created a vacuum. If you don't fill their character, the media will. And if we neglect our responsibility to teach character to the children, then the television industry does. And what Hollywood teaches our children is not what we want. Hollywood teaches the children that violence is good, violence is needed. It takes away any restraints for discipline on the child, and the result is horror.

EIR: Yes, I fully agree. I'm very happy that I was able to talk to you.

Grossman: God bless you, and thank you for all.

To reach us on the Web:

www.larouche.com

France After Election Is Calm Before the Storm

by Christine Bierre

The landslide reelection of Jacques Chirac on May 5 has temporarily ended the deep crisis provoked by the defeat of the Socialist Party and the qualification of fascist Jean-Marie Le Pen to the second round of the Presidential elections. Temporarily, because all the issues that provoked the crisis are unsolved.

After negotiations which lasted nearly 48 hours, Jean Pierre Raffarin, the newly appointed Prime Minister, finally assembled a new government composed of 27 ministers, delegated ministers and secretaries of state. The Raffarin government is very Chiraquian—12 ministers are from his Rally for the Republic (RPR) party—very much to the center, and having as its main tasks the solution of “social” and “security” problems. Chirac had two choices: either constitute a right-wing government by a “right turn”—less taxes, less state involvement, more security—as many were advising him to do; or, take into account the fact that he was elected by an anti-Le Pen coalition, and constitute a government appealing to national unity.

The results of the first round were an outcry from the millions of unemployed or precariously employed; from those, young and old, who are totally excluded from the labor force; from those in the provinces who are fed up with the technocratic decisions taken by the out-of-touch Paris elites. What those voices had expressed was that France, a member of the Group of Seven so-called “industrial powers,” has become a poor country, with crime rates typical of nations where social and economic injustice are rampant.

Chirac decided, at least temporarily, to respond to those voices. Nicolas Sarkozy, the great favorite for leading the right-wing shift, was not chosen as Prime Minister. Instead Chirac named Jean Pierre Raffarin, a former member of former President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing's party. He is also president of the Poitou-Charente region, and his career has been entirely in the provinces. It was he who coined the slogan of “the France from below”—France of the provinces, which fights against the “France from above,” Paris.

Quite a few of the main ministers have a strong “social” profile: among them, François Fillon, Minister of Social Affairs and Labor; Luc Ferry, a philosopher named to the Ministry of Education, Youth and Research; Jean François Mattei to the Health Ministry, a man who recently headed

a right/left coalition against the “right” of severely handicapped children to sue the obstetricians “responsible” for their birth; Gilles de Robien, a close collaborator of Christian Democrat François Bayrou, to the Equipment and Transport Ministry.

But, the problems of crime and law and order will be central to this government as well. Nicolas Sarkozy was named to a new, grand ministry of internal security which will centralize the police and the gendarmerie, formerly under the Defense Ministry. He is, in the protocol, the number two man in the government after Raffarin.

Obviously the nomination of such a government has much to do with the legislative elections coming up June 9 June 16. The Socialists were planning a big comeback with a strongly Socialist program. With the new government, many will be tempted to vote for Chirac in order to give him a majority in the National Assembly, thus avoiding another strained “co-habitation,” between his RPR and the Socialist Party (PS), such as just ended.

What International Economy?

Other than the fact that Chirac’s economic program is not so social—massive tax and social service cuts, creation of “French” pension funds as a complement to the present distribution system, raising the retirement age—the real problem of this government, is the unwavering fixation on domestic issues, and the absence of any debate on those issues which will define the future of France: the ongoing collapse of the world monetary system, and the militaristic flight-forward of the United States.

The economic programs of most of the parties running candidates in the Presidential race were based on the pipe-dream that the U.S. economy was once again “picking up” and that growth rates in Europe would be close to 3% this year. Growth rates are now already being revised downwards. In France, unemployment has increased steadily over the last ten months, and consumer confidence hit a low point in April, with most households fearing job loss and higher inflation rates. Bankruptcies have increased by 19% in the first quarter, and more than doubled among “well established” companies employing 200 or more.

Rapidly, the government will realize that it cannot reduce taxes, create jobs, and increase defense and security spending in the context of a generalized financial crisis. What then? Interesting in this respect is the nomination to the Economics, Finance, and Industry Ministry of Francis Mer, the president of the world’s number-one steel giant, Arcelor. A graduate of the Ecole Polytechnique, Mer is better known for restructuring Usinor, the French steel company which became Arcelor after the merger with the Luxembourg Arbed and the Spanish Aceralia. In the process, Mer had to fire 22,000 of the 88,000 workers. But he is known as a “social” entrepreneur, because, through negotiations, he was able either to relocate them or to organize for their early retirement. It is

rumored that Mer could use his particular competences to do a similar job with the state energy firm Electricité de France/Gaz de France.

Refusing to deal with the ongoing financial collapse, the RPR has refused to take a clear stance concerning George W. Bush’s war on the nonexistent “axis of evil.” In the months prior to the election, it appeared that Chirac, whose militaristic proclivities are as well known as his longstanding relationship to former President George H.W. Bush, was much more gung-ho to participate in the American war against terrorism, than then-Socialist Prime Minister Lionel Jospin. Chirac would pay the price, however, of going overtly against French national interests in Russia, China, and in particular in the Arab world. Dominique de Villepin, the new Foreign Affairs Minister, is expected therefore to maintain a relative continuity in terms of foreign policy—protesting in public, while submitting in private to some of the American dictates. Bush’s war against Iraq—a close ally of France to which Chirac has a personal attachment—will indicate to what extent Chirac is willing to betray his friends in order to go along with Bush’s empire.

More Trouble To Come

If the electorate remains as volatile, this entire scenario might still be reversed during the upcoming National Assembly elections. While Le Pen’s second-round vote was contained, by a massive propaganda campaign, to barely 50,000 votes more than the 9 million he won in the first round, his party will play the role of a spoiler in the legislative campaign. Any of his National Front candidates who get over 12.5% can go on to the second round of the elections, and the Front could come close to those rates in the 319 districts where it is running, of the total 577 districts. The presence of the National Front (NF) in the second round can force the leading contender—RPR or Socialists—into alliances with the extreme right wing in order to win.

The Socialist Party will also try to make a major comeback and win the legislative elections, riding on the anti-Le Pen wave of the second round. In order to do so, it has adopted a much more radical program, which, like that of the RPR, doesn’t deal at all with the crucial issue of the financial crisis, but promises many handouts—increases in minimum wages and social assistance payments—as well as a total halt to the deregulation process. Were the Socialist Party to actually win those elections, Chirac would have to choose between a new “co-habitation” with the Socialists, or resigning and calling yet another Presidential election. Were only ten FN deputies elected, the extreme-right party could become a real nuisance within the National Assembly.

Clearly, in the context of the onrushing generalized economic crisis, and in the absence of sufficient support for the real alternative proposed by the LaRouche forces of former Presidential candidate Jacques Cheminade, the extremes will flourish, threatening the French republic again.