

Is the President to be declared insane?

by Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr.

It began as a whisper, and became waves of murmuring, now building up to an insistent drone.

There is a pattern of news media leaks implying, more and more boldly, that President Reagan's strange compulsion to appease the Soviet dictators, may be the result of his wife's increasing reign over his waning mental powers. Former White House aide Michael Deaver and other sources insist, that President Ronald Reagan never existed, except as a deck of behavioral-modification cue cards from an Alice-in-Wonderland sort of political fantasy featuring Mrs. Nancy Davis Reagan as the Red Queen.

The whole business has the ominous smell of a legal coup d'état in the making. One remembers how Britain's King George III was declared a booby by his heir-apparent, and thinks of the manner in which legal psychiatry is so often malpracticed on behalf of political causes, as well as pure greed of loving heirs, today. If one follows the news media closely, one smells a pending April Fool's Day prank of that sort in the offing now.

It might not happen; many things which probably will happen never do, but only because something equally dramatic intervenes to take their place. The pattern of build-up of this theme around the news media, is leading to something very dramatic in the aftermath of Super Tuesday's primary. As you turn the page of the calendar to the month of April, an ominous chill will settle across this nation, a sea-change before the onset of the coming storm.

Meanwhile, another celebrated synthetic political personality, Moscow's Quasimodo, Mikhail Gorbachov, may be in the last act of his brief career. The KGB-orchestrated troubles in Soviet Azerbaijan and Armenia are serving as a cover for an ominous build-up of Soviet troops on Iran's border; this and correlated crisis-developments have a short

time-fuse attached to them. It might not happen, but it probably will happen soon. Something which will be no less dramatic than a sudden official ouster of General Secretary Gorbachov will occur in Moscow, not much later than April Fool's Day.

Meanwhile, other events are marching toward an early month of global destiny. April is an ominous month for the international financial markets, too. All of these and other global developments, not merely coincide, but are tightly intermeshed. Let us examine the Soviet connection first, and then summarize the mental condition of the Reagan administration as a whole.

Moscow's trade with Germany

On the surface, Nancy Reagan's appointment of Bonn Ambassador Richard Burt, and President Reagan's Reykjavik and Washington INF meetings have delivered West Germany to Moscow more shamelessly than Britain's Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain handed Adolf Hitler Czechoslovakia.

The industrial power of Western Europe is greater than that of the United States. If West Germany were to be "Finlandized," as this is occurring rapidly at this moment, all of Western Europe becomes rapidly strategically indefensible. Under the combination of U.S. Gramm-Rudman-driven decoupling from Western Europe, and this Soviet threat, the industrial might of Western Europe is put at the disposal of the Soviet economy, through trade-deals financed with Western European credits. In that state of affairs, Moscow has immediate and total world domination.

It seems that, due to the Red Queen's control over the President, Moscow has been handed the world on a platter. That tends to be the truth of the matter, but there are interest-

ing complications adding up to the worst crisis in postwar Soviet internal affairs.

To secure the potential victory which the White House's Red Queen has handed it, Moscow has taken a range of very hazardous actions, among which three are the cause of Mikhail Gorbachov's replacement by a temporary troika during the October 1987 plenary sessions, and the presently imminent threat of his abrupt disappearance.

First, Moscow has accelerated its military build-up beyond all precedent, intending to achieve the degree of overwhelming superiority needed for victory in any general war it chooses to launch from about 1991-92 onward. This massive build-up is financed partly through trade-credits from the United States and Western Europe, but also by an intensity of looting of captive Eastern Europe which has driven those nations to the brink of internal economic collapse.

Second, Moscow's efforts to increase the volumes of technology supplied by West Germany and others demand that Moscow create a margin of increased trade-earnings from Western Europe. The manner in which this is intended to work, is to foster the present forced collapse of agricultural production in Western Europe, to create a dependency upon agricultural goods supplied by Bulgaria, Romania, Hungary, Poland, and East Germany. This food must come out of the mouths of the populations of Eastern European captive nations. This is the motive for the savage austerity which Moscow has suddenly imposed upon these nations.

Third, the Gorbachov regime included under the rubrics of *glasnost* and *perestroika*, certain adjustments modeled upon the Lenin period's New Economic Policy concessions to Western financial interests. This worsens the dislocations in the always inherently unstable structure of the Soviet economy, and feeds the recruitment-drives of the already powerful, savagely anti-Western and overtly fascist Pamyat movement.

These conditions are hitting hardest not only the captive nations of Eastern Europe, but also the Turkic and other minorities within the Soviet empire's interior. The Jacobin egalitarianism of Moscow's Raskolniki follows faithfully the Orwellian social-democratic principle, that "some pigs are more equal than others," especially in the sharing of austerity.

If Moscow continues to use austerity against Eastern European economies as the mechanism for integrating West Germany's output into the Soviet war-preparations, there will be a crisis of a nature which is beyond the means of police-state control over dissidence. The economies of Poland and Romania are already at the threshold of breakdown, and Bulgaria is approaching such a point if present trends are continued.

There is a curiously important aspect to the way the Soviet KGB has responded thus far to the potential social crisis caused by this extreme austerity.

The Soviet police-state has two options available to it in calculating its response to the potential social crisis being

built up through effects of savage austerity. Ordinarily, it would simply crush the potential protest in the customary, bestial manner. To a degree, as in the case of Poland's increasing, systematic incidence of "disappeared" persons, that is occurring. Presently, the KGB has some other fish to fry; it plays the social eruptions, even organizes them, in order to produce two kinds of effects.

One of the KGB's most successful disinformation operations conducted in the West, was the use of Soviet agents inside the Western intelligence establishments to spread the myth of "the crumbling Soviet empire." In a sense, the Soviet empire contains the seeds of its own destruction, but this is not occurring in anything like the way Soviet agents in the West have caused the "crumbling empire" theme to be popularized. This Soviet-directed disinformation campaign has contributed an important part to Western governments' willingness to disarm. It also sets up traps to catch Western agents assigned to probe potential pockets of resistance within the Soviet empire.

On this account, a limited demonstration of social upheavals inside the Soviet interior serves to aid Moscow in lulling foolish Western leaders into further measures of disarmament.

These events also coincide with Moscow's Gorbachov problem, in the course of a fierce factional struggle which erupted over the period between June and October, 1987, the skids were slipped under Gorbachov's career. The controlling functions of the General Secretary were assumed by the new troika, leaving Gorbachov with the title, but with an authority which tended to be limited to that of special sales representative. Since then, all his visible state functions excepting those bearing on his attractiveness to the associates of the White House's Red Queen, have been of a token, perfunctory nature.

Gorbachov is not yet certifiably dead politically; his political resurrection is not entirely out of the question. Nonetheless, the intent is to dump him once Moscow has gained as much mileage out of President Reagan as it might. That will probably happen during 1988, perhaps before the summer.

Normally, a period of up to a year is needed to dump a Soviet General Secretary. The thing which makes the Soviet succession as laborious as it is, is not the difficulty of dumping an incumbent General Secretary, but reaching majority agreement on his replacement. The only way Gorbachov might survive, is to throw his backing to one of the major factions which might possibly develop among his opponents. So, the early dumping of Gorbachov will probably happen, if some other equally dramatic alternative does not intervene.

So, the KGB has played the potential for bloody riots in Azerbaijan, and also played other such opportunities, as a part of orchestrating the factional process now ongoing inside the Soviet ruling oligarchy. In a police-state, that approach is one of the two principal options available to the secret police: Set an insurgency into motion, in order to bring to the

surface and crush bloodily all potential forces of insurgency, making the affected region thereafter as placidly submissive an environment as a graveyard. Lure the opposition into the open, and then move in with crushing force, as was done in 1968 Czechoslovakia, and was Soviet KGB policy in the Solidarność events. This sort of option is also useful as a way of orchestrating political coups inside a nation's government.

The gods first make mad

"Communism, Schmommunism!" The government of the Soviet empire is a hybrid oligarchical dynasty, with a variety of "communism" modeled upon that decreed by the Roman Emperor Diocletian, and with elements of the old Byzantine oligarchical dynasty, Mongol empire, and Venetian Council of Ten stirred into a common stew.

In the U.S., power is concentrated in the hands of the Anglo-American oligarchy of wealthy rentier families and their talented, feudal-like court officials. Throughout Western Europe, the form of arrangements is broadly the same. Constitutional government in these cases is a veneer; important policy-shaping, as well as important elections and appointments, is managed by the dominant consortia of rentier-family, oligarchical war-lord groups.

The essential difference between Western nations and the Soviet oligarchical system is twofold. First, under conditions of severe crisis, the power might be shifted back to the constitutional institutions of government, with the oligarchy downgraded to the power-status of a powerful one among numerous constituencies. This is not possible in Moscow. Second, underneath the surface of oligarchical domination of the political processes, the intrinsic culture of the Western nations is the Augustinian cultural matrix, based on the Western Christian notion of individuality keyed to the *Filioque* of the Latin Creed.

On the condition that these crucial differences are noted, the present mechanisms of policy-shaping of both the Western and Moscow governments are of an oligarchic character. In each case, the oligarchy itself has the characteristics of the mythical gods of Olympus, like the anti-Christ figure of the Emperor Tiberius, imposing their *Capricious* whims upon nations and persons.

Since they believe they have the power to impose their will upon subject nations and peoples, they imagine that no power exists within the part of the world over which they rule, which might efficiently resist their policy-decisions. In that state of mind, they ridicule even the Creator, and defy natural law at their pleasure. So, they are destroyed by their own hands, and so, that they might be destroyed in the fashion of Biblical Sodom and Gomorrah, they are first made as mad as the Biblical Nebuchadnezzar.

Such is the state of the Soviet oligarchical mind. Such madness is the increasingly manifest characteristic of the Reagan-Bush administration and the National Endowment for Democracy's social-democratic leadership of the Con-

gress. This observation brings us back to the matter of the sanity of the Red Queen's husband.

The man and the regime

Somewhere, buried under the kaleidoscopic flashing of brainwasher's cue cards, there exists an imprisoned real Ronald Reagan, the old Hollywood liberal and FBI snitch whom a leftish Nancy Davis saw and conquered during Screen Actors' Guild days. Obviously, turning any man's mind into a stack of cue cards, as was done to turn a Hollywood liberal into a putatively conservative political candidate, does his mental health no good. Any television producer could explain how control of an actor by constant flashing of cue cards turns the mind of the popular face on the screen into a mass of brainwashed mush (the cue card says: "Remember to Smile Now, Ronnie"). However, it is not the real Ronald Reagan, but the visible, synthetic personality of the President, which should be foremost in our attention.

Whatever, and wherever a real-life Ronald Reagan is, the synthetic persona of President Reagan is not an individual personality. President Ronald Reagan the actor is the face worn by a collection of script-writers and directors. The polite name for this collection is "White House palace guard," with former Sen. Howard Baker filling the post customarily assigned to the chief eunuch of an Oriental harem, and Nancy Davis emulating the role of ill-fated Czar Nicholas II's Rasputin-ridden czarina.

The design of the script used to control the President is based upon two popular models copied from the mass-entertainment media: spectator sports and TV soap-opera. The Washington, D.C. code-word for the sports-image is "power curve." The TV soap-opera themes are managed through manipulation of Nancy Davis Reagan's deeply embedded image of herself as a Hollywood princess. The motives of the synthetic Ronald Reagan are thus, to "stay in the game to the end, and be the star," and to maintain his media-ratings in the soap-opera. The more this synthetic personality plays the role of President, the more and more he is desensitized to the existence of a real world outside the fictional role he is playing. Relative to the real world, he is a man acting decisively in a dream-world someone else is manufacturing for him.

It may be fair, but not useful to describe President Reagan as a "lame duck." The U.S. government today is not centered around the personality of the nominal President; it is centered around a script called "the transition." Speaking in generalities, the functions of the Executive Branch of government are not presently centered around the President, but rather the conception of the predetermined process of transition from one President to the next. This defines the character of the government as a whole as a collective insanity.

It works thus.

The mechanisms of policy-shaping in Washington are based on two features of a living-theater variety of script. On the one side, there is a set of teams engaged in match-play.

The teams are identified by the term "institutions," and the ordering of match-play is identified by the term "channels." On the other side, there are the rules of the game governing the relationships among institutions and channels. These rules of the game are termed "policy, methods, systems, and procedures."

All of us should recognize this arrangement from childhood. The Swiss psychologist Jean Piaget's famous study of rules of the game in children's play is a relevant comparison.

Children do not play in the real world, but in an imaginary world, a fantasy-world from which are excluded the kinds of risks prevailing in adult life's real world. The typification of children's games is competitive sports. What we have in Washington's policy-shaping today, is a collection of people who have not grown out of such childishness. The crucial clinical proof of this fact, in the instance of each circle or individual who might be examined, is the way in which the terms "power" and "constituencies" are used in such circles. This infantile trait results in a collective mental state, which must be fairly described as paranoid relative to the real world on which those so afflicted imagine themselves to be acting.

The kernel of the psychopathological problem is habituated blind faith in the existence of institutions and constituencies as defined in terms of rules of the game. "Institutions" and "channels" are employed as substitutes for reality outside the establishment-directed government; interaction according to rules of the game is employed as a substitute for cause and effect relations in the real world.

The simplest example is the case of the economy.

A previous synthetic personality placed in the White House, Jimmy Carter, was used as a front for the implementation of a package of programs, called *Project 1980s*, developed during the 1975-76 period by a team-project of the New York Council on Foreign Relations (CFR). One of the principal features of this package was a stipulated commitment to eradicate the influence of "neo-mercantilist" (e.g., Hamiltonian) economics from the world, and to employ instead what was described in those books as "controlled disintegration of the economy."

After a chaotic wrecking of the U.S. economy, over the period preceding October 1979, Carter installed Paul A. Volcker as chairman of the Federal Reserve System. Volcker was selected on the basis of his public avowal of a commitment to "controlled disintegration of the economy." Volcker lived up to that promise. In place of the haphazard wrecking of the economy during the first three years of the Carter administration, Volcker made the wrecking process coherent and systematic.

Since the beginning of the Carter administration, there was never an actual economic recovery. There has been a persisting net shrinkage and erosion of infrastructure, agriculture, and industry over the entire span of the past eleven years. During the so-called five recovery years of 1983-87, there was a persistent collapse at a rate of between 2% and

5% per year.

The myth of the recovery was created thus. In October 1982, Reagan accepted a proposal by Henry A. Kissinger and certain New York banks. This was a scheme intended to paper over the international debt-crisis of 1982 by such included measures as the launching of a system of "off-balance-sheet liabilities" by Citibank's Walter Wriston, an inflationary arrangement which presently threatens to blow out the U.S. banking system as a whole. The looting of Central and South America by IMF "conditionalities," and an orgy of "creative financing" measures, papered over the debt-crisis for about five years, at the price of creating the largest international John Law-style financial bubble in history.

The apparent growth in GNP during this period was the result of two factors. First, because of the idiotic way in which Gross National Product is computed, the massive growth of purely financial income was counted as real economic growth, ignoring the fact that the source of this income was a spiraling increase of unpayable indebtedness. Second, the Reagan administration and Federal Reserve simply faked the economic statistics reported, to cover up the rest of the problem.

The result was October 1987's "Black Monday," with new and bigger financial crises soon to come, possibly as

Study says Reagan's intellect has slipped

President Reagan's intellectual abilities have diminished markedly over the span of his two terms, according to a study conducted by psychiatrist Dr. Louis Gottschalk of the University of California-Irvine, to be published in the March issue of *Public Administration Review*.

As reported in a Gannett wire story appearing in the *Fairfax Journal* on March 2, "The study of Reagan's performance during the 1980 and 1984 debates reveals his mental functioning was impaired enough to recommend further tests of intellectual performance be conducted." Dr. Gottschalk commented, "I don't know how we're going to sort out this can of worms, but somehow, somehow we'll have to have some measure. And, perhaps, then a vice president will have more use."

The analysis was done using a test called the Gottschalk-Gleser Cognitive Impairment Scale, which measures verbal acts such as incomplete sentences, sudden halts in the train of thought, and repetitious words and phrases.

early as the upcoming second quarter of this year. Yet, although we are now in a crisis worse than that of the Hoover years, and making exactly the same mistakes as Hoover did then, the administration insists that “prosperity is just around the corner,” and that the recovery was never actually interrupted even by the October events.

The establishment has reacted to the situation now, exactly as it did before “Black Monday.” As long as the day of reckoning is postponed, the mere fact that the next crisis is postponed is defined as proof of “prosperity.” This is the key to the prevailing collective insanity in Washington today. As long as it remains possible to play by the established “rules of the game” for even another hour, the power of the establishment is perceived to be secured, the power to continue to play by, and enforce the existing rules of the game.

One is reminded of the man who had fallen from an upper story of a skyscraper, who says, moment by moment on the way down, “So far, so good.”

Reality is overtaking them, but they refuse to admit that fact until the next phase of the impending catastrophe has actually struck. That crucial aspect of reality, which lies outside the realm defined by the rules of the game, is simply denied to exist.

This state of the establishment’s collective mind, is classical paranoia. The reality which threatens to destroy them is the consequence of their own policymaking. By acting in defiance of the laws of the universe—in this case, the laws of physical economy, the collapse of physical economy so effected brings about the condition of their impending destruction. Thus does nature rid itself of a species of establishment become no longer fit to survive; thus, are all destroyed who set themselves up as established would-be gods of Olympus.

The same analysis is required for the case of wide support for the treasonous INF agreements signed by President Reagan. Even those who would have denounced such a treaty as treasonous a few years earlier, and rightly so, announced themselves obliged to defend it on grounds stated publicly by Henry A. Kissinger. They defended the ratification of the treaty on grounds of “institutions” and “policy.” It was argued that it was in the power of the relevant institution, the President, to declare such an act policy, and that to oppose the treaty’s ratification would damage the institution of the presidency!

From the standpoint of the real world, that argument is insane: classical paranoia as a collective phenomenon.

Soviet insanity

The Soviet oligarchy is committed to early establishment of Holy Moscow as the eternal capital of a third, this time worldwide, Roman Empire. All Soviet policy is based upon this commitment; a Soviet Union with peaceful intentions is a contradiction in terms.

To show how this bears on the economic crisis of the

Warsaw Pact, we must review first a few directly relevant background considerations.

Despite the Soviets’ Dostoevskian fascination with military uses of advanced scientific work, Soviet culture itself is otherwise hostile to fostering of scientific and technological progress. Ideologically, the Soviet oligarchy is for military uses of science; their entire space program is purely military in its purposes. However, they are also Dostoevskian Raskolniki, who hate technological progress as a part of daily life. They hate the West which they complain forces them, militarily, to oppress their people with technological progress. Both vectors are Dostoevskian, in the sense of that author’s writings on the subject of the Third Rome plan, and in the sense of characters from a Dostoevsky novel.

The Soviet mind is inherently paranoid from the outset; it is a characteristic of Great Russian culture over the centuries to date. It is able to assimilate the two indicated, mutually contradictory ideological commitments on the subject of technological progress in the way that a paranoid mind is able to live with such dichotomies, and act as if there were no inconsistency among what the sane mind would perceive as mutually exclusive premises of judgment.

Most Western experts make a mess of the issues, notably in commentaries on the causes of the indisputable poor performance of the Soviet economy. Among Western ideologues, one is considered a member of the club if one says, as if while reading from a cue card, that the failures of the Soviet economy are proof of the superiority of Adam Smith’s free trade dogma over communism.

The fact is, that the cause of the failures of the Soviet economy is that it employs Russians as operatives and managers. As we see among U.S. immigrants from Russia, this defect is not a racial trait; it is a trait intrinsic to Russian culture. Put an immigrant from Russia in a healthy culture, and his or her potentials as a human being are brought forth. A second-generation Russian of Western parentage, would think and behave like a Russian. The defect is a cultural one.

If Soviet communism coincides with the employment of Russians as managers and operatives, this is because it is Russian culture that has produced both. It happens that Karl Marx had adopted an explicitly satanist sort of secular gnosticism which had much in common with Eastern cultures such as the Raskolniki, and was an explicitly anti-Western ideology with more similarities to Dostoevsky than Marx himself would have wished to acknowledge. The idea that Soviet communism is an alien, Marxist intrusion into the continuity of Russian culture, is the pivot of the absurdity of much U.S. intelligence product on relevant topics.

Similarly, Soviet society is a police-state, not because it is under Marx’s influence, but because it is Russian society, reflecting the vestiges of Rurikid *qua* Raskolnik culture from the bowels of Muscovy’s past.

Although both the Soviet empire and Western nations are governed by oligarchical establishments, there is a very cru-

cial difference between the two, a difference which bears upon the peculiarities of Soviet collective insanity. In the Western case, despite the erosive effects of imported nineteenth-century British liberalism, the oligarchical forms are superimposed upon a deeply embedded Augustinian cultural matrix. In Soviet society, the oligarchy is based upon a population steeped in an Oriental form of oligarchical culture.

In other words, Western Augustinian culture is intrinsically rational. Nothing exists which is not susceptible of intelligible representation in the same sense we assign to mathematical physics the mission of intelligible representation of universal physical laws. Russian culture is intrinsically mystical, irrationalist. Hence, the stresses which exist between reality and the rules of the game in Western culture do not exist to anything like a comparable degree in the Russian case.

From a rational standpoint, the Soviet occupation of Eastern European states would have emphasized making East Germany an economic show-place. The purpose of this would not have been propagandistic. Rather, the object would have been to increase the rate of increase of productivity of the bloc as a whole. It is true that East Germany has been subsidizing crucial technological requirements of the Soviet economy, but had the Soviets not looted East Germany, and other Eastern European economies so savagely, the average output per capita of the Soviet bloc as a whole would have become significantly higher than today.

Great Russian racialism was the origin of this blunder in Soviet policy. The same is true of the abuse of Turkic and other minorities of the interior of the Soviet empire.

The point to be stressed respecting the convergence of several near-term crises in both the West and the Soviet sector, is that Great Russian racist ideology has impelled the Soviet oligarchy to insist upon the looting of subject populations to such a degree as to lower the per capita level of output in the Soviet empire as a whole, and the interior of that empire in particular. So, Moscow has defied the laws of physical economy, and is being pushed now into a deadly crisis as a consequence of the effects of such defiance of natural law.

Thus, Soviet policymaking has all of the pathological features seen in the behavior of the U.S. establishment, except on one point: The Soviets are governed by commitment to an adopted mission, whereas the Western oligarchies are a jaded lot opposed to any sense of historical mission of any kind. Granted, the Soviet mission is a pathological one, virtually satanic, but the Soviet oligarchy is a mission-oriented one. On all other counts, the Soviet paranoia is far more vicious, more extreme than that of official Washington, D.C.

The Soviet imperial mission supplies Soviet strategic policy-shaping with one element of sanity lacking on the U.S. side for about 20 years. They measure the strategic effects of nearly everything; this supplies them with a responsiveness



"Typical paranoids include the American 'jock' and the Hispanic 'macho.' The relevant factor of jock rage is associated with competitive sports." Shown here: Washington, D.C. parade honors the Redskins.

to elementary features of reality lacking in the U.S. government for more than 15 years. In other words, the Soviets have a yardstick of performance, whereas the U.S. government has no standard for measuring performance but the continuation of the oligarchical game itself.

If our government is more paranoid, more disassociated from reality than the Soviets, on this count, they are utterly insane in other respects.

The factor of rage in Soviet paranoia

The active factor in paranoia is rage.

Granted a person incapable of appropriate momentary rage is axiomatically an insane person. Rage is useful as a feral quality of emotion under appropriate circumstances, unless the person is controlled by that rage. The healthy personality reacts to the experience of rage by a kind of emotional shifting of gears, away from the rage, to creative problem-solving. Such healthy personalities therefore tend to function at their intellectual best under conditions of stress. Here lies the key to the relevant distinctions.

On the pathological side, the case of the individual controlled by his rage, there are two principal degrees to be considered. In the lesser degree, the victim is simply controlled by the rage. In the greater degree, the victim embraces the rage as an orgasmic sort of pleasurable feeling, and seeks to defend and nourish that rage for its own sake. In the latter state, the character of his rage shifts from being prompted by external stress, to seeking persons and objects to hate for the sake of nourishing the rage itself.

It is the second degree of rage which marks all significant distinctions between paranoid behaviorisms and clear-cut paranoia. The U.S. establishment is paranoid, whereas the Soviet establishment is collectively clinically paranoiac.

Typical paranoids include the American "jock," and the Hispanic "macho." The relevant factor of jock rage is associated with competitive sports. The jock enjoys rage within the confines of the rules of the game. Generally speaking, therefore, all jocks are paranoid. The jock's paranoid tendencies are tolerated by our society, or even approved, on condition that the jock limits his taking pleasure from rage to the confines of approved games played according to approved rules of the game. If he breaks those barriers, he had better confess meekly, "I was drinking a bit too much, I guess," or incur risk of social ostracism.

There used to be an apocryphal psychologist's lecture-room anecdote, which ran as follows. In a bombing mission over Germany during World War II, following the dropping of the bombs, one member of the crew threw a monkey-wrench through the open bomb-bay doors, cursing homicidal personal threats against the German population in general. For this action, the other members of the crew ostracized the fellow who had thrown the wrench. The incident may have been simply fabricated by the psychologist who started the story, but the point illustrated is on the mark.

Thus does society legalize insanity, on condition that one's insanity is confined in expression to designated aspects of behavior, and expressed according to approved rules of the game.

The jock's paranoid rage is prompted by fear, the fear of leaving childhood, the fear of coping with a real adult world in real terms, rather than safe terms of a child's game and rules of the game. He is a Peter Pan.

The same paranoid syndrome is characteristic of the fans. Here lies the attraction of bodily contact spectator sports. The spectator wishes to enjoy the pleasure of experiencing rage. The spectacle of a brutal adversary relationship in competitive sports affords him a socially approved outlet for enjoying even virtually homicidal qualities of rage without guilt. If one of those spectators walked away from a football game, to kill an innocent citizen off the playing field, the barriers to homicidal paranoia would thus be demonstrated to have been broken.

The mechanisms of approved paranoid competitiveness are the model for the organization of Washington's policy-

shaping processes. This is displayed in those circumstances, as in other cases, by the hostile utterance of "Be practical!" as a means for rejecting demands for creative concentration-span in problem-solving. The emotion of creative concentration-span is the direct opposite of rage, and is thus a threat to the pleasurable enjoyment of controlled forms of rage.

It is to be observed that the psychological mechanisms which control the players in the Washington policy-shaping game are emotional. The player is controlled not by calculation of self-interest, but by gut-reaction "instinct." He may offer a rationalization to explain his gut-reaction, but the gut-

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reaction comes automatically, emotionally, without intervening calculation. The player senses, emotionally, that he is faced with the threat of playing outside the game, without the protection of the rules of the game. He is frightened by this with the same sort of emotional immediacy as being suddenly confronted, unarmed, by a nasty cobra about to strike him.

The Russian cultural type is pure paranoiac killer. In the typical U.S. case, it is a matter of controlled paranoid pleasure-taking; in the Russian case, it is channeled paranoia. Russians nearly always lie to foreigners, even when they have no explicable interest in so doing. Their lying in diplomatic

negotiations is motivated by the pleasure of rage against the adopted choice of hated adversary. It is not necessary that they perceive a practical advantage in lying; they refuse to deny themselves the pleasure of lying. They will always violate solemn treaties in the extreme, even when they have no practical motive to do so but the compulsion to cheat all adversaries.

They are quite insane. Insanity of this form is a culturally determined condition of Raskolniki. So, they vacillate between a sullen, laziness-ridden, alcoholic passivity and the fanatical homicidal impulses of a berserker. When conventions prohibit their exhibiting homicidal impulses, they are very saddened, depressed, withdrawn. When they find themselves outside the confines of such conventions, they turn berserk.

In Western culture, rationality is controlled by certain emotional states akin to "tears of joy," which guide the mind to move along pathways corresponding to reason. The paranoid mood is intrinsically irrational, since it rejects the quality of emotion which guides the mind along rational pathways. The paranoiac's irrationalism takes the form of deep mysticism, associated with behavior controlled by an associative, nominalist mode of symbolic philosophy, rather than rational examination of cause and effect connections.

So, the Soviet mind is dominated by symbolic obsessions. What passes for reasoning among them, is simply a set of rules of the game which defend these symbolic obsessions as axioms which must be defended at all costs. This is expressed in a general way by the Russian's gnostic belief in a "blood and soil" definition of "national soul." His paranoiac game-playing is based on the assumption that the axioms and rules of the game are self-evident instincts of his peculiar "national soul." Hence, Soviet Russia is a state of collective homicidal paranoia.

Like all paranoiacs, the Russian recognizes reason and reality only when these express themselves in the form of superior force. Force is the quality which rage views as superiority, as a winning quality. Hence, the only form of state Soviet Russia could tolerate is a military dictatorship, such as that which has existed from the beginning of the Soviet state. Killing is the natural pleasure-taking of the Soviet Russian institutions, and mass-killing is the greatest of pleasures. The military orders of the Magis' Mithra cult are the form of society most agreeable to Russian culture.

Hence, a peace-loving Soviet people is so much a contradiction in terms as to be a far-fetched absurdity.

Much more could be said of this, but what has been identified thus far indicates the general drift of the matter. We now return to the matter of the coincidence of major impending developments.

Converging crises

Under the domination of their respective oligarchies, the United States and the Soviet empire have unleashed policies

of practice in defiance of the laws of the universe. The most immediate and pervasive effects of this violation of natural law are in the domains of physical economy: the matter of generation and efficient assimilation of technological progress to the immediate purpose of increasing the physical productive powers of average labor.

The United States has done its part to this effect through both the adoption of a malthusian commitment to a "post-industrial" drift, and the replacement of industrial entrepreneurship by rentier usury. This has ruined the Western portion of the world, to the degree the world is now at a breaking-point like that of 1929-32, but much worse.

The Soviets have accomplished a kindred result in the manner indicated above.

These two economic conditions converge through the connections of world trade and credit-mechanisms, such that a monetary crisis in an economically declining West radiates chain-reactions into the internal processes of the Soviet empire. The interaction so catalyzed brings about a coincidence in timing of crises in every aspect of life touched by economic considerations.

This coincidence has been already nearly the cause for the personal doom of Mikhail Gorbachov. The crises on both sides of the divide thus reinforce one another, and bring world history to a point of convergence either as early as April of this year, or not many weeks later.

The *punctum saliens* of this global tragedy is, on the one side, the unwillingness of the U.S. establishment to recognize that the hitherto prevailing rules of the game are the cause of the crises, and must be abandoned for appropriate choices of new sets of rules and of changes in the definition of "institutions" and "channels." If the United States does not soon make that change, the United States, and civilization generally, are doomed to live out the final, fatal act of an unspeakable tragedy.

In the case of poor Ronald Reagan, everything for which he might imagine his synthetic persona to stand has turned out to be nothing better than the cause for the collapse of the U.S. economy rather soon. The paranoid composition of that idea of surrendering its economic and related ideology, even for the sake of saving the nation from doom. In effect, that synthetic personality would rather see the United States destroyed, than experience the loss of pleasure in competitive rage which U.S. rejection of the Reagan economic agenda would represent.

The predictable result is a deepening, paranoid depression in the synthetic persona of the President, and a deep cultural pessimism pervading the establishment.

As you turn the calendar's page to April, understand the reason for the awful sensation of a chill as from the tomb's crypt moving up around your spine. We are racing toward a time that will test men's nerves. In such a crisis, the temper of the leadership in Washington will determine whether civilization lives or dies.