Editorial

Preserving the rule of law

With the emergence of the concept of the republic, especially in Renaissance times and at the birth of the United States, there was one key principle established: a republic represented the rule of law and reason, over the rule of men. That was another way of saying that the institutions of the republic were required to hold up the principles consistent with the well-being of the population, rather than be mere tools for the exercise of power by self-interested individuals, or groups.

To one degree or another, all the non-monarchies of the Western world, and many countries of the Third World, have adopted constitutions and governments consistent with these republican principles. And today, it is these institutions which are under assault by the feudalist forces of East and West.

The most striking recent example of the assault on republican institutions of law and government, occurred on Nov. 7 in Colombia, when M-19 narco-terrorists took over the Supreme Court building, in the hopes of dictating policy to the Betancur government. The government refused to capitulate, and successfully reasserted the power of the national government, against these lawless forces.

Had Betancur not had the courage to put the defense of the institutions, above individual human life, the situation could have devolved in the same way it did in Italy, during the Moro kidnapping. There, the Italian government was wracked by months of wrangling over whether to negotiate or not. The result was that not only was Moro assassinated, but the institutions of state were drained of the moral authority they once had.

While Colombia has been the most blatant example, however, it is by no means the only place where the drugpushers and terrorists are threatening to rip apart the rule of law. Having built up enormous economic and military power, the drug forces are threatening central governments throughout the continent. It is their hope that through force, or payoffs, they can subvert them into acting as their agents, or destroy them altogether.

That is the situation in Peru, Venezuela, and Mexico, as well as Colombia. The drug armies there alternately offer to buy off the central governments, or to defeat them militarily. In every case of capitulation by governments on a pragmatic basis, the action undermines the republican institutions themselves.

But it would be a serious mistake to identify the drugpushers' assault against republican institutions as only against Third World countries. The very same process is occurring in the nation-states of Western Europe, and in the world's first constitutional republic, the United States itself. Step by step, the drugpushers—who happen to be the same individuals as those who push Nazi euthanasia and usury without limit—are replacing the rule of law with the rule of men—the drugpushers.

Take the practice of the drug trade itself. Despite assaults by the dope lobby, pushing drugs in the United States is still illegal, and, when perpetrators are caught, they are punished. But, at the same time, the U.S. courts, the Justice Department, and the Treasury Department have systematically refused to prosecute those who profit from, and arrange, the drug trade and its money flows on the top levels. The drugpusher can be jailed, but drug-money laundering is still not a crime!

Even more outrageous, the legal system has become an increasingly obvious tool for the high-level members of the dope lobby, to use in prosecuting their political enemies. The most egregious example of such actions, is now occurring in Boston, Massachusetts, where a grand jury has been operating for more than a year against leading anti-drug politician Lyndon LaRouche and his associates. The judiciary in Boston has ripped up one protection of the U.S. Constitution after the other in this case, just in order to keep the prosecution going.

In reality, what is going on in Boston is just as violent as the assault on the Supreme Court building in Bogota. Either the rule of law is restored, or our republic will be finished.