

Elections highlight crisis of 'Buckwheat' Bush

by Webster G. Tarpley

On Nov. 7, one year after George Bush defeated Michael Dukakis for the presidency, Americans went to the polls for what is now billed as an off-off-year election. It was certainly no coincidence that in all three of the most important races of the day, Republican gubernatorial and mayoral candidates for whom Bush had personally campaigned were defeated. The next day, all the President could manage when asked for a reaction was a lame "wait till next year," and press spokesman Marlin Fitzwater skulked in his office and declined to appear to brief the press.

The negatives for Bush amount to far more than a few elections. The defeats merely crystallize the impotence and ineptitude of the "can't do" Bush administration. Bush's support, always a millimeter thick even when it seemed to be a mile wide, has now almost totally evaporated, whatever doctored polls may still purport to show. Two crises—the deflationary spiral inside this country, plus the breakdown agony of the Russian empire—have now combined with the catalyst of bungling to make a third: a political crisis of the Bush regime. Bush is now very far gone along the road that leads to Carterization, Hooverization, or even Nixonization.

Bush has shown a crippling inability to make important decisions of any kind; in this, he is prey to the chief occupational hazard of the bureaucrat, which is his self-conception. The Soviets have doubtless noticed this, and will get a chance to observe Bush up close at the Dec. 2-3 Malta summit. Malta on the model of the 1986 Reykjavik sellout is bad enough, but how about the spring 1961 meeting of Kennedy with Khrushchov in the Schönbrunn Palace in Vienna, when the Soviet dictator profiled the U.S. President by physically attacking him? The conclusion of Khrushchov and his pal Walter Ulbricht was that Kennedy was a coward, and this led directly to

the 1961 Berlin crisis and the 1962 Cuban missile crisis.

Bush is also subject to public tantrums when he does not get what he wants. Since his deserved humiliation on the CIA's botched Panama coup, the tantrums have been coming thick and fast. There was the one in Costa Rica, when tinhorn Danny Ortega announced that he intended to wage war on the remnants of the Contras. There was the tantrum provoked by a reporter's question concerning the refusal of the rightful leader of Lebanon, Gen. Michel Aoun, to accept the "settlement" turning Lebanon over to Syrian domination. There have been tantrums about the Democrats in Congress every time the question of Bush's insane cut in the capital gains tax has come up, with Bush accusing the Congress of blocking everything that he is trying to do. There was a tantrum on the afternoon that the Berlin Wall was opened, this time because Bush had been blind-sided once again by a great world event, and also because his Anglo-American outlook cannot come to terms with the irreversible dynamic toward German reunification. Bush has been repeatedly taken by surprise in his supposed *forte* of international affairs, but still refuses to fire the ineffective and inflammatory CIA director, William Webster. The word among the White House press corps is that Bush still thinks that he is vice president, and that he is trying to win an unprecedented fourth term in that office.

As reflected in his election-day press conference, Bush is supporting Gorbachov and East Germany's Egon Krenz, paying hard cash to Iran's Hashemi Rafsanjani, appeasing Syria's Hafez al-Assad, and courting Deng Xiaoping, while snubbing Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and threatening Aoun. (According to British press reports, Bush is also flirting with Muammar Qaddafi, through secret talks in Amsterdam and Brussels.)

Domestically, Bush is threatening to make devastating

Gramm-Rudman automatic sequestering permanent, cutting more than 220,000 active duty servicemen and a carrier battle group. As far as Bush is concerned, if the Pentagon can't live with that, they should tell it to the Congress.

Bush is denying reality at every turn. Thus, the administration, staffed by the most experienced and consummate group of professional bureaucrats in U.S. history, is paralyzed and adrift.

Policy by consensus

Bush now inhabits the free-fire zone of cartoonists and political satirists. Even more ominously, Henry Kissinger noted in a recent column that the Bush administration can have no policy on Eastern Europe because Washington is being run by a consensus. Naturally, Kissinger is bidding to fill the vacuum, as he has in the past. Bush stands for nothing but a deal with Moscow on the lowest common denominator of bureaucratic consensus.

On Nov. 8, political prisoner Lyndon H. LaRouche, speaking from a prison cell in Minnesota, compared Bush to buckwheat, the grain whose stalks are often broken by strong winds because it refuses to bend. "This is the state of affairs of a government which will crack and be crushed by any crisis which divides the consensus, or by any crisis which forces the situation to the point that major forces left out of the consensus must come into play. Thus George Bush is like buckwheat, his administration ready to be crushed in the next political storm, and the storms are brewing. What is going to happen? Is George Bush going to be given the treatment which outshines even that given to Nixon after 1972? Because I see the vultures clacking their beaks. I see the hyenas lurking, the coyotes lurking. Is George Bush doomed unless he quickly changes his ways and comes to realize that ideas, clear thinking, and not consensus, are the basis upon which sound government is led?"

Which brings us back to the elections. Bush had planned a CIA knuckle-dragger presidency based on Lee Atwater's theory that a U.S. fascist police state should not be bipartisan (as some Democrats would contend), but rather must be Republican, because of that party's domination of the Executive branch, the seat of looming totalitarian control, and because of the need to extirpate any constituency politics still surviving in the House of Representatives and the big city machines, most of which are controlled by the Democrats. With the watering attacks on Jim Wright, Tony Coelho, and several Democratic senators, especially around alleged savings and loan irregularities, Atwater and company hoped to move toward a one-party state. This theme was expressed by this clique's man in the House, Newt Gingrich, with his insistence that the main line of attack must be that "Democrats are corrupt."

Accordingly, the first months of Bush were marked by an organized campaign by the intelligence community and its assets to put a lid on internal dissent, with stepped up

attacks on unionists, blacks, Hispanics, farmers, anti-abortion groups, defense and patriotic circles, television evangelists, and especially on anti-bolshevik resistance leader Lyndon LaRouche and his co-workers. Bush, like Prince Metternich before 1848, was holding down the lid of a boiling pot by sitting on it. Now the pot is boiling over, and Bush is about to take off with the lid. Factional ferment, for good or ill, is sure to increase.

Bushmen's bets are off

On election day, Democratic Rep. James Florio defeated his Republican colleague Jim Courter for governor of New Jersey by a lopsided margin in a race that chose the successor to the Republican blueblood Tom Kean, and in which the Democrats also captured the State Assembly. In New York City, it was moderate black Democrat David Dinkins for mayor over the would-be GOP avenger Giuliani, whose main campaign gambit was to attempt to nail his opponent for tax irregularities. In Virginia, black moderate Democrat Douglas Wilder eked out a paper-thin margin over union-busting right-wing ideologue J. Marshall Coleman, who demanded that tanks be sent to fight strikers at the state's coal mines. In Seattle, New Haven, Durham, Cleveland, Detroit, and other cities, black mayors were either elected or returned to office. Wilder is the first black elected governor in U.S. history, while Dinkins in New York and Norman Rice in Seattle are the first black mayors in the history of these cities.

Over the past years, a symbiosis between Bush and Jesse Jackson has been evident, with Bush relying on Jackson to scare moderate white voters away from the Democratic column. This strategy is also now in crisis. Wilder and Dinkins pointedly kept their distance from Jackson, and both were elected. Jackson is thus eclipsed, and must contend with two successful moderate black spokesmen on the national stage. The Bushmen are likely to respond by stepping up their campaign to watergate Washington, D.C. Mayor Marion Barry, with the intention of opening up an election that Jackson could win. Earlier this year, as labor ferment began to emerge across the United States, the Eastern Liberal Establishment instinctively reached for its principal counter-insurgency card, the provocation of race war, as reflected in racial incidents from New York City to Virginia Beach, Virginia. The success of so many black candidates now makes that card harder to play for the ruling elite.

Many commentaries on this vote have focused on changing public views on the issue of abortion. Here one thing seems certain: Bush is seeking a way to shift to a pro-abortion stance. In March 1980, Bush used the pages of *Rolling Stone* magazine to endorse the *Roe v. Wade* decision of 1973: "I happen to think it was right." This baggage was later jettisoned in order to board the Reaganite conveyance. It now looks as if Bush is getting ready to endorse abortion, and to raise taxes. Meanwhile, the storms are brewing, and the hyenas are lurking.