

Editorial

The defeat of feminist politics

Even before the election day defeat of Mary Sue Terry in the Virginia gubernatorial race, a number of commentators were pointing to the demise of Canada's Kim Campbell and the predicted defeat of Terry as a repudiation of the "feminine mystique." Margaret Thatcher must be included in this picture as well.

The Thatcher phenomenon is the clearest case. Despite her efforts in her recently released memoirs to present herself as a rational being, Thatcher's special role in international politics has been the use of irrational vituperation and hysterical outbursts to rule out any process of reasoned deliberation. Her behavior was intended to drive home the message that the Anglo-American establishment intended to establish its will by whatever means necessary.

In the case of Mary Sue Terry, her scope was more limited but equally vicious, as witness her attacks against the pension rights of the elderly, as well as her vindictive and corrupt campaign to impose what are in effect life sentences upon associates of Lyndon H. LaRouche, for crimes of which they are innocent, and which are in any case white collar offenses, usually incurring only fines.

Feminism is not really a woman's problem. It is an attack against reason which is marketed under the false label of women's rights, as if being hysterical and irrational were somehow inherent to women, and therefore something which women should defend. Indeed, a classic example of feminism was the Carter administration, which produced a reactive mood in the United States in 1979-80 (especially after Federal Reserve Board Chairman Volcker raised interest rates in October 1979); after that a mood of "anybody but Carter" prevailed.

The Carter administration represented a radical left turn in U.S. policy which was, in the eyes of the American voters who elected President Reagan by a landslide, irrational, unpredictable, and unstable. This virtual insanity was repudiated by the American voters in 1980—by men and women alike.

The modern movement for so-called women's rights was closely associated with the rise of the count-

erculture of the 1960s, although in fact it had its beginnings in the late 1950s. The movement was an attack against the authority of reason. The false assertion was made that men and women think in different ways, with women's strength lying in emotional responsiveness rather than cognition. Reason was thus counterposed to associative thinking. It is in this sense that Carter is a feminist.

In 1980, the American people had a nostalgic yearning for the better times such as the 1950s and also the Franklin Roosevelt period, and they chose Reagan. Reagan was easily accepted because he fit the image, at least, of a return to sanity. Unfortunately, by 1986, the Reagan administration had lost its grip. As Thatcher began to wield control over the Reagan camp, feminism again took hold in American politics. Feminism was the characteristic of a completely prejudiced and irrational American President—George Bush—who took a public stand on the issue of broccoli!

"Yuppies," whose formative period was in the late 1960s, tend to be feminists in their orientation. Their rising predominance is a weakness of the Clinton administration. It is also the weakness of an American economy which is being destroyed by speculative markets (derivatives and junk bonds), free-market ideology, and the bizarre idea that it is unnecessary for a sovereign nation to produce its own means of subsistence.

What else is the myth of the post-industrial society, a society dedicated to service industries, but the epitome of feminism run rampant? How else explain the spiritual abuse of children now being perpetrated in public schools which are increasingly devoted to mind-control rather than education?

Bearing all of this in mind, we should be hopeful that Mary Sue Terry's defeat at the polls is indicative of a shift in the cultural paradigm toward a return to cognitive thinking. More and more Americans fear for their jobs, fear for their families, and they are no longer willing to tolerate the lunatic fringe who would destroy everything worthy in our civilization.