

Editorial

The Littleton omen

In concluding his early July article on the phenomenon of the new terrorism which erupted dramatically on the American scene with the massacre at Columbine High School in Littleton, Colorado, Lyndon LaRouche put it this way: “Look at the Littleton horror as an omen, as the hands of the clock of history, pointing to the time in which we are living at this moment.

“You must change this nation, and perhaps yourself, too, before this nation, soon otherwise dies. Take Littleton as that kind of warning. It is past time that you acted to change the set of definitions, axioms, and postulates which have been controlling your opinions and other behavior during recent decades.”

The omen has proved all too true in the recent six weeks. Mass shootings in Chicago, Illinois, Atlanta, Georgia, and Pelham, Alabama have resulted in the death or wounding of more than 18 more people, in most cases including the gunmen themselves. The nation’s attention has been rivetted on these tragedies, and with good reason. Many people are shaken up sufficiently to dig deeper than usual into why this is happening.

So far, the political response by our leaders has been worse than useless. Most prominent have been the demands for gun control. Gun control is tighter in the United States today than during any time in our history, and yet the incidence of such ugly, often irrational violence is on the rise. No, the cause lies elsewhere than the availability of guns.

Nor is the call for “hate crimes” legislation an appropriate response to this breakdown. Love of one’s fellow man, as Friedrich Schiller pointed out long ago, cannot be legislated, and the implementation of “hate crimes” legislation is one giant step toward police-state measures against political dissidents. As this magazine has documented, where the upsurge of violence is related to organized groups—as in the case of the shooting by white-supremacist Benjamin Nathaniel Smith—those groups are usually traceable to the efforts of covert intelligence agents, who allegedly were out to “protect” society!

What is required is what LaRouche pointed out in

his “Star Wars and Littleton” article: facing the moral degeneration which has overtaken our culture since the middle 1960s. A deadly intellectual virus has been let loose, the virus of the radical-positivist cult of “information theory” which reduces man to a beast. Thus reduced, particularly the younger section of our population becomes increasingly vulnerable to irrationalism, and often unable to distinguish fantasy from reality.

Look at the killings in Littleton and Atlanta from this standpoint. Both killers were steeped in the virtual reality of the computer—the teenagers with violent video games, the day trader with the rapid-fire financial fluctuations of the markets on the screen. Both lived in a world of lunacy, to the point where killing a dozen other human beings became as acceptable to them as pushing a key on the computer.

Nor should the “racist” killings be seen as divorced from the others. Rage at the dehumanization of society undoubtedly played a role in both these cases, by creating a fertile field for their recruitment by nasty intelligence fronts, or cults. The question that must be asked, is why it is so easy for such white supremacist (or other racist) groups to recruit these days?

But, as LaRouche stressed, the coming wave of terror foreshadowed by Littleton does not have to be directly deployed by puppetmasters, although it may be in some cases. The whole cultural shift of the 1960s, which was set into motion early in the century by British oligarchical circles, has driven us to the point of societal breakdown of the same sort that was seen in the movement of 14th-century Flagellants, and other kinds of mass psychosis.

The intellectual virus—now encouraged by popular culture, education, and political authorities—must be identified for what it is, and destroyed. That will mean a return to policies based once more on the idea that man is defined by his sovereign powers of mind, a sacred quality which gives him by definition his inalienable rights. The truth must be faced, before the bloodshed drowns human civilization for centuries to come.