

Editorial

Caesar, beware!

Think of William Shakespeare's "Julius Caesar." How did that play begin? Did it begin with Julius Caesar and his entourage passing along a Roman street, and meeting a soothsayer, who said, "Caesar, beware the Ides of March." Most people think so.

But, it didn't begin there; it began a little earlier. The reason most people forget the opening scene of that play, is that somehow, they missed its relevance to the subsequent action. "Julius Caesar" actually begins with the Roman rabble, the Roman proletariat, running riot in the streets, across the stage.

Why? What does it mean? It means that the force that ultimately determined the outcome of Rome's civil wars, was not Caesar, Brutus, or the other leaders, but the ever-more corrupt and degenerate Roman mob. If that mob could not be weaned from their brainless minute-to-minute pursuit of handouts, and of disgusting sorts of "pleasure," weaned from what today we call "entertainment values," then no decent leadership or policy would ever triumph in Rome. And none did; Shakespeare's "Julius Caesar," and his "Antony and Cleopatra," simply lay bare the actual cause of the real-life tragedy, which was the decline and decay of Mediterranean-based civilization, into a thousand-year Dark Age of brutish misery.

Now, instead of watching television or spectator sports, put yourself up on the stage—on today's version of the stage of Shakespeare's "Julius Caesar."

Since February, all sorts of leading European institutions have been repeating almost-daily dire warnings, directed especially at Washington and the United States, that the present financial bubble is unsustainable in the short-term, and is on the point of rupturing, to unleash the worst global financial crisis of recent centuries. The Europeans go further, to point out that the collapse will shut down the workings of the banking system.

This a polite way of saying, as Lyndon LaRouche has said less politely, that the financial system will vaporize. Your bank will stop answering its telephone. When you go into your supermarket to buy food, your credit card will not be accepted, *if* you still have it. Your check will not be accepted, *if* you still have one. If you still have any cash, most probably, your cash will not be accepted either, just as was the case in Weimar Ger-

many in the summer of 1923.

The first fruits of Germany's all-destructive hyperinflation of 1923 are already with us today, in the recent tripling of oil prices. And oil is not the only commodity whose price is skyrocketing—there are others. The same tendency is visible in some real-estate and other titles. Only fools look for "market factors" and "production shortfalls" as explanations of these sudden price leaps. This has nothing to do with markets or production. This is the Weimar, 1923, effect.

But meanwhile, where have you been, while all these European friends have been trying to warn you? After all, it is your job, your home, and your savings which will be wiped out—not those of any bigwig bankers.

Now, the fact is that the Constitutional power of the U.S. Presidency, is fully capable of solving such a crisis. But this will only happen if we have a President who is willing, prepared, and able to do it, as Franklin Roosevelt was in 1932-33. Not the evil utopian fanatic Al Gore, nor the rage-filled puppet George W. Bush. Of all potential candidates, only Lyndon LaRouche has these qualifications. But even LaRouche, as a leader, can become President, and save this nation, only on the condition that the American people themselves understand this as necessary.

That brings us back to the rising chorus of European warnings, and to Shakespeare's "Julius Caesar." Have you been listening to these warnings? If not, why not? As LaRouche said recently, "Today's typical Americans, especially those between the ages of thirty-five and fifty-five, have achieved the reputation of having the smoothest brains in all of globally extended European civilization." If you insist on ignoring these warnings, then see yourself for a moment, as the arrogant, brainless, but muscular rabble, which these Europeans and others see when they look at you, even if they don't say it out loud. The suburbanite Baby Boomer with his video-games and his Internet pornography, is nothing but today's version of the Roman proletariat cheering the slaughter of the Christians in the Colosseum.

The leadership exists which could save you. But the acquired moral character of the population, delimits what even the best leadership can do. Beware, indeed!