

## SUMMARY

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### **On the Appropriateness of Electoral Systems**

by **Tuttu Tarkiainen**

To ensure an accurate registration of the voters' will efforts are made to develop simple electoral systems. Ballots rejected on account of errors committed by the voters do not constitute a large part of the total vote in Finland. In the latest elections the rejected ballots represented 0.35 per cent of the total vote. The unfamiliarity of the voter with the electoral system may nevertheless have played a decisive role in the non-election of the candidate in some cases.

The appropriateness of the elections as a means of registering the voters' will may also be endangered on account of errors that may be committed by the electoral authorities. In some countries, control calculations of the vote have been undertaken and errors revealed. A shift to the use of voting machines would eliminate such errors and save on the computational effort. In the United States, voting machines have already been used for some seven decades. In the Netherlands, a voting machine has been developed that is suitable for proportional elections. A bill concerning the introduction of this machine as an alternative means to electoral ballots has been prepared.

To conduct the elections and to determine the results a country is usually divided into electoral districts. Exception are provided, say, by such countries as the Netherlands and Israel. The electoral districts have the effect of confining the influence of a particular voter to a narrow geographical area. In Finland, where electoral districts are much larger than in England, say, the thinking in terms of electoral districts is clearly evident. Whenever reforms have been proposed to the effect of introducing voting and of calculating votes across the boundaries of electoral districts, the opposition has appealed to the established practice that the boundaries of electoral districts are not transgressed. This rule has nevertheless been broken in a way: one and the same person may appear as a candidate in several electoral districts. The committee on the revision of the electoral legislation has proposed that this practice be outlawed.

The clear-cut division of Finland into electoral districts in fact precludes speaking of a national elections result; only results by electoral districts can appropriately be distinguished. Proposals for the introduction of a supplementary mandate system after the Danish pattern have been defeated.

The question as to the appropriate yardstick of proportionality has most recently been dealt with in Finland by the committee on the revision

of the electoral legislation. The committee advanced the view that the share of the total national vote obtained by a party does not suffice to yield a just result, because it disregards the influence of the different conditions and number of persons in the different electoral districts. No objections have nevertheless been raised to the violation of the proportionality idea in the elections result on account of variations in the number and significance of persons failing to vote.

The electoral system occupies a pivotal position in the structure of political institutions, because the nature of the system bears directly upon the voters and the character of the parties and indirectly upon the representative assembly and the government. It has been claimed that the influence of electoral systems upon the character of parties assumes practically the inevitability of a sociological »law«. It in fact continues to hold true that a singlestage majority election tends to lead to two-party systems, whereas the other systems favor the existence of many parties. But there are many exceptions to this rule. England, for example, cannot be considered a country with a pure two-party system. Austria with a proportional electoral system, on the other hand, in fact comes close to a two-party system. There has been a tendency for the refinement of the proportionality principle to lead to fragmentation. Consequently, many countries have adopted a so-called closure figure.

Many valuable results concerning the voting behavior and customs have been obtained in studies undertaken in recent decades. Nevertheless it is not possible to prepare fully accurate predictions for situations characterized by a marked change in the system or by entirely new alternatives offered to the voter. The recent election of the Mayor of New York represents an interesting case in point.

## **On Morocco's Political Problems**

by Taimi Torvinen

The article surveys the current political and economic outlook in Morocco, in part through opinions expressed in Algeria. The principal sources of information are the discussions held by the writer with the Moroccan authorities, the representatives of labor unions and the press in October—November 1965.

The writer finds that both Morocco and Algeria are currently experiencing a deep crisis of confidence that renders difficult their economic recovery from the stagnation accompanying their way to independence. Associated with this in Morocco is a political crisis resulting from the King's declaration of a national emergency in June 1965. — Through this declaration the King suspended the activity of the Parliament and himself assumed all political power. Thereafter, the writer outlines the structure of Moroccan society and constitution and gives an account of the claims of the parties in the opposition and the leftist labor union. These claims include discontinuation of the

national emergency, revision of the constitution along more democratic lines and schemes for the composition of the government, each framed to suit the colour of the relevant party in opposition.

The writer finds that during the national emergency the King has predominantly devoted his attention to economic matters. The government measures undertaken also include a decision, taken in July 1965, to nationalize the export of some commodities. In consequence, some 60 per cent of the Moroccan foreign trade is now under direct government control. This measure has made the business sector increasingly fearful of further nationalization. In 1965, a three-year plan to promote economic growth was also framed. This plan is more realistic than the preceding five-year plan. Its principal emphasis is on the increasing of agricultural output, the promotion of tourism and the training of domestic manpower for various fields of activity. The article also gives an account of the efforts of the Maghreb countries to increase economic cooperation and to conclude treaties with the EEC. The measures concerning the land cultivated by the French Moroccans are also discussed.

Concerning Morocco's international relations the writer concludes that during autumn 1965 a considerable improvement has been in evidence particularly in the relations with Tunis, but to some extent also in those with the other North African states. Being an uncommitted country, Morocco maintains friendly relations with both the large power blocs. Yet it seems that in recent times her relations with the Western countries have been substantially closer than those with the East. This holds particularly for economic matters. However, the important relations with French have recently suffered from the Ben Barka affair. Yet the information available toward the end of 1965, when the article was written, was too scanty to allow anything but a brief reference to the other possible effects of this affair on Morocco's foreign policy.

According to the writer's view, stabilization of the political situation and economic recovery in Morocco are decisively dependent upon two factors: whether the autocrat wishes, and is in a position, to lead the nation toward greater constitutionality and democracy; and whether the government is capable of pursuing such a systematic and clearly defined economic policy as would gradually overcome the current crisis of confidence.

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