

Some people are trying, through movements, to combine "social dissatisfaction" with the delegitimization of established institutions and to build a political fortune outside demographic processes and universal suffrage.

Such maneuvers are frequent in the history of human societies, but it is necessary to pinpoint them and to denounce them to our countrymen who are courted by these "new prophets." The recent developments in the situation are, in part, due to these activists who would desire a political crisis in the present social context.

Also on the social scene, we now have the bulk of people who have migrated from the villages to the towns in a vain search for jobs. We have unemployed people from the schools and universities, as well as homeless children. These phenomena, which were experienced by preindustrial societies (in this same hall last October, I mentioned the case of England in the 18th Century), are possible factors of instability. This is why we have promised to devote the period immediately after the crisis to the employment of all who have been rejected by the labor world and by human dignity.

This is necessary because rejected people readily join activists who constitute a minority working to disrupt the social organs and various national consensuses, for its own benefit of course.

Apart from these activists, the silent majority which groups all the social categories, is concerned about its daily work and the protection which the state provides it. Despite this silent majority's being part of the established social order, it has remained passive. But it is keeping watch, and it can rise up en masse if pushed against the wall. If that happens, it can spring to the defense of the fatherland and safeguard the social gains, whose cost it appreciates.

The vast majority of Ivorians disapprove of violence, assault, destruction of property, and acts aimed at destabilizing the state and society.

If the expected changes mean tolerating such excesses, then we would be doubtful of the motive behind them for they would certainly ruin achievements that were patiently, courageously, and intelligently attained by the hardworking masses. Such excesses would bring about the death of our freedoms and of democracy.

Everyone would be in a mess, especially those who look forward to jobs in the economic recovery process. This mess would be shared by all, especially our children for whose future we toil.

The activists, who push to turn disaffection into disorder, are indifferent to the condition of the poor and all who suffer as a result of the crisis. What the jobless need are jobs, jobs that raise the dignity of man and ensure the social improvement of the individual. They have nothing concrete to gain from the destructive and suicidal manipulation to which they are being subjected.

Future generations should be taken into account when considering the present developments.

It is believed that a new generation emerges every 33 years. With the progress of man, it is possible for this figure to go down.

Thus, the present generation, over 60 percent of the total Ivorian population, was born since we acquired internal autonomy and international sovereignty. All it has known is this long period of growth and prosperity which has been broken by the current crisis. For this generation, this crisis looks like the end of the world in which it grew up. Its expectations and future dreams have become a matter of uncertainty.

Acting With Caution

For the vast majority of these youngsters, those under 25, there is no question of being deprived of anything or participating in financial adjustment sacrifices.

They are still in school or at the university. With their young and malleable minds, they are subjected to the passions of the day, and to manipulation of all kinds.

The labor market is virtually closed. These youths see nothing but an opaque horizon, a situation that weighs heavily on them and produces anxiety. To these youths, the family and the teacher could be of immense help, provided the family plays its role as mentor and the teacher plays his role as educator for life; life that is neither a pleasure nor a pain but rather an endless war between joy and sorrow, between success and failure, a war to be waged for one's own good and for the good of society.

The worst would happen if, instead of assuming these social rehabilitation responsibilities, we push these young people into despair by developing in them the feeling of revolt, to the point of making them commit acts of vandalism against society.

As everyone knows, youth is prone to adventure, all forms of adventure, until experience, "the pile of weapons that has wounded us," becomes the dominant mark of its conduct.

In the interest of our young people, adults should act cautiously and reasonably to leave their sense of judgment free and positive, and direct their interest toward activities of personal improvement and intangible values. These young people must not be forced to commit blunders so they spoil their chances.

New generations do not necessarily hold the same view of the world as those that preceded them. We witness the generation gap in our homes and see it in the life of the community. This explains why we must keep pace with the youth; if we are to be able to maintain the chain of understanding, solidarity, and brotherhood—the chain of intergenerational harmony!