



ippines, South Korea

ng
 what happened
 in South Ko-
 The question is

recent protests in
 thousands of Kore-
 on's constitution
 tions.

Hwan has main-
 tained after
 his successor is
 sent constitution.
 Party proposes that
 be achieved this
 l election be held
 ution.

als might suggest
 these formulas is
 timing. The real
 lamental.

on in late 1987 or
 ducted under the
 as the opposition
 winning.

ent constitution is
 ving the purposes
 nts the president
 of the executive,

sition would be
 nstitution lies in
 t election system
 that of the Unit-
 a population of 40
 rprises 5,277 elec-
 cal college is made
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overnment in Ko-
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 us it is almost
 party to secure a
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n easily carry out
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vote for a specific
 oreans vote for an
 . Under this indi-
 y finds it very dif-
 lar votes for one
 e votes are likely
 United States, any
 ely campaign all

over the country. However, this kind of nation-
 wide campaign is prohibited in Korea.

Despite these obvious differences, Chun's gov-
 ernment is clinging to a sophistic argument, ask-
 ing why the Korean system isn't democratic while
 the American indirect electoral system is consid-
 ered democratic. This attitude is nothing but a
 "cry wine and sell vinegar" trick.

On top of the anti-democratic character of the
 constitution, there are other obstacles to democra-
 cy and fair elections in Korea. Freedom of the
 press is absent. Even though weeklies and month-
 lies support the opposition party, all the main
 news media have been forced to degenerate into
 mouthpieces of the government, due to incessant
 government harassment. Since Chun came to
 power in 1980, more than 700 journalists have
 been ousted from the media.

Even in the Philippines under President Ferdi-
 nand Marcos, there were newspapers and televi-
 sion stations supporting the opposition forces.
 Regional autonomy was in force. There was free-
 dom of demonstration and assembly. The presi-
 dent was elected through direct elections.

When we were tempted to envy the dictator-
 ship of Marcos, we felt a sense of deep despair
 that is beyond description. If we hold the next
 presidential elections under these conditions,
 they will be a sham.

This is why the New Korea Democratic Party
 and the Council for Promotion of Democracy in
 Korea declared in a joint press conference on
 March 6 their intention to boycott the next presi-
 dential election, if the government holds it under
 the present constitution.

I have been impressed deeply by President
 Ronald Reagan's recent declaration that the Uni-
 ted States opposes all dictatorships, whether of the
 right or the left.

I believe that the Reagan administration, to
 help clear up the Korean people's misunderstand-
 ings toward the United States, should declare
 openly that the United States stands for demo-
 cratic ideals and principles.

Since the U.S. commander, through the U.S.-
 Korean joint command, exercises command au-
 thority over the South Korean army, he should, to
 maintain peace and security in the Korean penin-
 sula, make sure that the army refrains from med-
 dling in internal politics.

In Korea, our strength is comparable to the
 Philippine opposition to Marcos. Like Filipinos,
 we Koreans have been struggling for democracy
 in an intelligent and consistent manner. We will
 win a victory in the near future. Korea will be-
 come another Philippines.

*Kim Dae Jung, a South Korean opposition
 leader, is banned from political activity.*

Let Free Market Bring Cable To Queens & Kings

By Thomas Doyle

AFTER 20 YEARS of development in
 the cable industry — with over 6,500
 cable systems nationwide — the over-
 whelming majority of the 5½ million people
 in New York City's outer boroughs still lack
 any cable service. And there's only one rea-
 son for this: the political process of awarding
 and regulating franchises. If New York offi-
 cials want to hasten the installation of cable
 in Queens, Brooklyn, the Bronx and Staten
 Island, they should jettison the franchising
 process and allow the competitive forces of an
 unregulated market to provide this service.

The Bureau of Franchises' latest estimate
 is that it will take seven years to complete
 the cable networks in those boroughs. Like
 most government estimates of project com-
 pletion dates, this is undoubtedly optimistic.

After many years of haggling, eight fran-
 chises to service the outer boroughs were
 awarded in July, 1982. Almost four years lat-
 er, the extent of cable service in the outer
 boroughs remains negligible.

The problem with monopoly franchising
 is that it is a lengthy process that delays the
 delivery of service and encourages the devel-
 opment of special interest politics as cable
 companies try to outbid each other for lucra-
 tive monopoly franchises. The bids made in
 this "auction" do not benefit consumers, but to
 reward entrenched political constituencies
 and well-connected City Hall operatives.
 Moreover, monopolies limit consumer choice.

Municipal regulation of cable has been
 justified on the ground that cable transmis-
 sion is a "natural monopoly." That is, it is
 more efficient for one company to provide the
 service than two or more. But recent re-
 search casts doubt on the "natural monopoly"
 status of the cable industry.

Economist Thomas Hazlett of the Univer-
 sity of California has studied cable television
 in cities that award monopoly franchises and
 in those with competition. He concluded that
 where there is competition, as in Phoenix,
 Ariz., and Allentown, Pa., there have gener-
 ally been lower rates and more rapidly com-

*Where there is
 competition, there have
 generally been lower
 rates and systems that
 are more rapidly
 completed.*

pleted systems. Where there are monopoly
 franchises, as in Los Angeles and New York,
 large areas remained without cable.

As New York City residents wait for cable,
 there are daily revelations about fees paid to
 city politicians from the cable companies
 that were granted monopoly franchises back
 in 1983. While there have been no allega-
 tions of criminality, the disclosures do sug-
 gest how the franchising system works. It is
 a highly politicized process and the winners
 aren't those companies that give the public
 what it wants, but those that give the politi-
 cians what they want.

The 5½ million New Yorkers who still
 can't get cable are testimony to the patent
 failure of the franchising process. Competi-
 tion has worked well elsewhere to hasten ca-
 ble installation and lower rates. Now is the
 time for New York to try it.

*Thomas Doyle is a research associate at
 the Manhattan Institute for Policy Re-
 search.*