

## Dateline Mexico by Josefina Menéndez

### The PAN in flight forward

*Foggy Bottom's PAN pals are again routed by LaRouche's charges, in a hilarious showdown in Mexico's Congress.*

On May 28, Congressman Jesús González Schmall, chief of the parliamentary group of the National Action Party (PAN), got up in the middle of the meeting of the Permanent Commission of the Mexican Congress to "denounce" a senator from the ruling PRI party for being "also a fervent devoté of the candidacy of Mrs. Debra Freeman to the U.S. Senate for the city of Maryland in the state of Virginia [sic—he does not know geography]."

Almost breathless and in an agitated tone, the PAN congressman went on: "Thus, in the visit here by the aforementioned U.S. candidate of the party of Lyndon LaRouche, probably sponsored by the same senator, together with the Mexican Labor Party and the organ it distributes, *Executive Intelligence Review*. . . . She says that the National Action Party supplied a briefcase full of information upon which the charges of Jesse Helms were based. . . . and concluded that a plan exists to destabilize the government and open the way to the PAN." And he indicated that the cited senator, Gonzalo Martínez Corbala, of the PRI, immediately endorsed the charges, stating that if they were proven, the PAN's party status should be withdrawn.

The hullabaloo broke out after Senator Helms staged hearings on May 13 which were a blatant intervention into Mexican internal affairs, to promote the insurgent PAN party against the government.

The PAN congressman then gave the background of charges against his party by LaRouche associates: "The

LaRouche group has run up and down the country's northern border and without the slightest reserve, one of its envoys, Señor Gandhi, even used city hall in Mexicali [Baja California Norte] to give conferences and make critical analyses of Mexican politics. . . ."

His voice went up another tone as the PAN legislator stated that "since September 1983, after Mr. LaRouche had visited Mexico and had held a meeting, according to press reports, with the President of the Republic, the PAN presented a protest before the foreign secretary to complain about the alleged slanders which, with the same content, had been made by Señor William Wertz, of the same LaRouche group as Señora Freeman, in Los Angeles, California, on Sept. 6, 1983." González continued: "The cited person stated that according to reports in various national papers, the U.S. government has promoted various forms of aid, including monetary, to the electoral campaigns of the National Action Party; that the aim of this support is for the PAN to win electoral victories in the frontier entities, to thus favor U.S. interests and meanwhile destabilize the government of President Miguel de la Madrid; that official U.S. aid is supplied through the State Department and the Justice Department, the latter by means of the FBI. . . ."

After reading three years' worth of press accounts, the PAN spokesman ended by asking the foreign secretary to investigate Sen. Martínez Corbala's ties to LaRouche and clarify what he deems slanders.

The ensuing discussion led to the majority of congressmen present defending the PRI senator and supporting all the statements of the LaRouche spokesmen, which, as the PRI senator himself said, "even ignoring that there were so many U.S. officials denouncing the same thing," "where there is smoke there is fire" (referring to PAN treason).

This amazing discussion in the middle of the Mexican Congress was reported at length in all the national press. The PAN members, not content with being clobbered in Congress, on May 31 took out half-page ads in five national papers to defend themselves against the alleged charges of Mrs. Freeman of the National Democratic Policy Committee. "The American, Debra Freeman, is also lying, when with the pretext of promoting the *Executive Intelligence Review*, of another American, Lyndon LaRouche, she states that we give out information abroad on corruption, drug trafficking, and election frauds. This foreign woman is part of an international agitation group, protected in Mexico by some government officials, in flagrant violation of our laws."

The next day, a *La Prensa* columnist noted that "it is worth observing that the attitude of Pablo Emilio Madero, Bernardo Batiz, González Schmall, and their partners [in signing the ad] is quite curious. On the one hand they applaud Sen. Jesse Helms's attacks, because they say that they are truths against the Mexican government. But when . . . LaRouche, says things against them, they insist he is a liar. . . . The Mexican government has taken no measures and neither has Congress. Tolerance is part of conciliation."

The setback to the PAN and the State Department, which is playing footsie with the PAN, has left their game exposed.