

Editorial

Carlos Cota Meza (1953-2002)

EIR is grieved by the death of our great Mexican friend and colleague, Carlos Cota Meza, "Cali," who passed away early in the morning of March 21, in Mexico City, after a long and painful illness. Cali dedicated his entire adult life to fighting for humanity, and even in the final, most difficult weeks he maintained a lively interest in the state of that humanity. Cali, with his wife Cruz del Carmen and their two children, Carlos (18) and Fernando (11), waged a tenacious battle against the disease which ultimately felled him. He did so with a determination and dignity well known to those of us who worked with him for nearly three decades in the international movement of Lyndon LaRouche.

At the time of his death, Cali served on the Executive Committee of the Ibero-American Labor Committee, and of the Ibero-American Solidarity Movement (MSIA) of Mexico. In his 28 years in the LaRouche movement, he organized not only in Mexico, but also in Colombia, Venezuela, the United States, Guatemala, the Dominican Republic, and Panama. Everywhere, he is remembered for his contagious smile and laugh, and his aggressive organizing style.

In Panama, he was one of the key organizers of the 1988 Second Amphictyonic Congress, of the republics of Ibero-America. A fellow organizer there recalls that Cali "was a student of the history of all the countries of Ibero-America, to the degree that, whatever your nationality, you always considered him one of your own—a true example of what it means to be a LaRouchist."

Carlos Cota Meza authored numerous economic studies which were published in the pages of *EIR* and the Spanish-language *Resumen Ejecutivo de EIR*. He did ground-breaking research on the population of Mex-

ico at the time of arrival of the Spaniards, in the 16th Century. By applying LaRouche's universal metric of potential relative population density, he proved that it was not the case, as claimed by indigenist and other ideologues, that the Spaniards exterminated the vast majority of the indigenous population of Mexico. The original population was, he proved, far smaller than most authors argue; far fewer died at the hands of the Spaniards than the sensationalists claim. Cali demonstrated that the native population of the Americas thrived with the arrival of European Renaissance culture.

He also wrote prolifically on today's Mexican economy, including such his prophetic April 1993 piece, "The 'Mexican Economic Model,' Wall Street's New Potemkin Village," which accurately forecast the Mexican debt-bomb explosion of late 1994.

One of Cali's favorite authors was the German philosopher G.W. Leibniz, who wrote in his 1690 *Memoir for Enlightened Persons*: "One is obligated in conscience to act in such a way that one can give an accounting to God of the time and power he has lent us." Cali is

now giving such an accounting; and for anyone who knew him, the outcome is beyond all doubt.

There are those who take loans—the divine one Leibniz evoked, or commonplace economic ones—and waste them, or mis-invest them in unproductive activities. Cali was not one of those. He could be called a "Hamiltonian" in every sense of the word: he invested that which was lent him in such fashion that it bore fruit, for the benefit of all mankind.

Cali returned more, far more, than what he was lent. For that we honor him, and give thanks.

