

THE ETHANOL HOAX

Al Gore Is Selling, But Ibero-America's Not Buying

by Dennis Small

Hollywood heavyweight Al Gore and his quack ethanol project are in serious trouble in Ibero-America, in no small measure due to the aggressive campaign of the LaRouche Youth Movement (LYM) in the region to expose and ridicule him.

Typical was what the Mexico LYM did on the occasion of the April 24 visit to Mexico of Argentine First Lady and Senator, Cristina Fernández de Kirchner, where they welcomed her as she arrived at the Mexican Congress with a 2×4 foot banner, which read: "Congressmen, Stop Being Ethanol Drunkards and Learn from Argentina How to Use Nuclear Energy." Later that day, a feisty LYM squad attended an event at the Argentine embassy in Mexico City, where they sang to Mrs. Kirchner and many others:

Bravo, Kirchner, for kicking the ass
Of the financiers with the Bank of the South.
That's why they fear you;
Don't be intimidated.
Mrs. Penguin,¹ tell our spurious President
That the new politics is not financial,
But the New Bretton Woods of LaRouche.

Mrs. Kirchner laughed in great amusement at the intervention.

Five days earlier, the Colombian LYM had similarly greeted Chilean President Michelle Bachelet at an event where she and Colombian President Alvaro Uribe spoke before 500 members of the country's diplomatic and political elite. Four LYM members provided an unexpected interlude

1. "Penguin" is Argentine President Néstor Kirchner's nickname.

between the two Presidents' speeches, consisting of songs and banners, which included the following message: "LaRouche Says: Stop the Fraud of Global Warming. Al Gore Is a Fascist. Promoting Ethanol Is Genocide. Al Gore is Going to Chile to Revive the Fascism of Pinochet. Bachelet and Uribe: 'Yes' to the Bank of the South, 'No' to the IMF."

Gore is currently scheduled to go to both Chile and Argentina on May 11, to speak at conferences on global warming in each of those countries. But there are reports that he will be forced to cancel his appearances there, as he did at a similar conference in Miami in mid-April—arguing, implausibly, that he felt uncomfortable about being in the presence of another scheduled speaker, Colombian President Uribe.

There is already a huge controversy swirling around the May 11 Chilean event, in particular, because of its sponsorship by the notorious Barrick Gold company, of African genocide fame (see *EIR*, April 20, 2007). Gore's well-earned reputation as a dyed-in-the-wool racist was not helped by hopping into bed with Barrick. Under the pressure of exposés, including by the LaRouche PAC website, Barrick withdrew its sponsorship of the Chilean event, and Gore lamely tried to put some daylight between himself and the company.

But the other sponsors of Gore's trip are hard-core elements of the old Nazi Pinochet apparatus in Chile—from which Gore has made no effort to distance himself. Thus, the LYM's warning to Chilean President Bachelet.

Sour Margarita

Gore's boat really ran aground in the Venezuelan resort town of Margarita, where a South American Energy Summit of the region's heads of state was held on April 16-17. Al-



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The Mexico LYM greeted Argentine First Lady Cristina Kirchner, as she arrived at the Mexican Congress, with a 2 × 4 foot banner, which read: “Congressmen, Stop Being Ethanol Drunkards and Learn from Argentina How to Use Nuclear Energy.” Here, the LYM is organizing against the ethanol fraud, in Bogotá, Colombia.

though Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva—fresh from his March 31 summit with George Bush, where the two agreed to jointly promote the ethanol hoax across the Americas—worked hard to get his South American colleagues on board with what he himself describes as his “obsession” with ethanol, he ran into stiff opposition.

The final communiqué of the 12 Presidents focussed on energy integration to combat poverty and promote economic and social development and technological progress. It emphasized their commitment to ensure “universal access to energy as the right of every citizen,” while underscoring that “energy integration . . . is an important tool to promote economic and social development and poverty eradication.”

The furthest the Presidents were willing to go on ethanol was to carefully express their “recognition of the potential of biofuels to diversify the South American energy matrix.”

Lula was politely pummeled for proposing to use food to produce ethanol, rather than to feed people. For example, Ecuador’s President Rafael Correa pointedly referenced the “danger . . . that suddenly in regions where there is no more cultivatable land, that used to produce food might be used for ethanol and biofuels. That would certainly be risky.”

Argentine senatorial sources have also informed *EIR* that nuclear energy—the only actually viable energy option for the Americas, and the world—was actively discussed in Margarita. Argentina’s Kirchner was the main proponent of the idea, and Venezuelan President Chávez reportedly expressed great interest in the subject.

Another topic discussed in the Margarita corridors was

the Argentine-Venezuelan-Ecuadorean proposal to establish a Bank of the South, which would pool the central bank reserves of the region’s countries—which total over \$200 billion and are now deposited abroad—and use them for regional infrastructure integration and other development projects. The Brazilian government has been dragging its feet on this proposal, because of deep factional differences within the Lula administration over how to address the global financial crisis.

LaRouche, and Mexico’s Cardenista Peasant Organization

The only other government in Ibero-America which has strongly endorsed the Gore-Bush ethanol insanity, is that of Felipe Calderón in Mexico. In fact, the Mexican government has announced plans to build the world’s second-largest ethanol plant in the northern state of Sonora, sheer lunacy given Sonora’s historic role as one of Mexico’s breadbaskets, whose agricultural production would now be channeled to corn and other inputs for ethanol.

The idea is highly controversial in Sonora, and the anti-ethanol forces were strengthened by the early April visit to the state by Nobel laureate and Green Revolution architect Normal Borlaug, who is revered in the country for his work there over the decades. The 93-year old Borlaug told his hosts that growers had to fight to incorporate technology into food production, if they are going to meet the needs of coming generations, and he rejected the ethanol biofoolery.

The central battle in Mexico is whether or not large chunks of the country’s already diminishing corn production—which is used to make tortillas, the staple of most Mexicans’ diet—will now be channeled for producing ethanol for export. There is a raging battle in the Mexican Congress over this issue, where the delegation of the PRI party has changed its official position on the matter various times.

Just how hot an issue this is in Mexico was demonstrated at a recent national gathering of the Cardenista Peasant Organization (Central Campesina Cardenista, or CCC), one of the country’s largest peasant organizations, with close to 200,000 affiliates. The organizers of that event invited LaRouche representative Dennis Small to deliver the keynote address at that meeting on March 12, to discuss the issue of the corn/ethanol crisis facing Mexico, in the context of the international financial maelstrom (see below).

The CCC’s members are strongly opposed to the NAFTA free trade policies which are destroying agriculture in Mexico, and they are highly skeptical about the Gore propaganda on global warming—as they made clear in the discussion period with Small, and in the questions they addressed to other speak-

ers, including the government's Sub-Secretary of Agriculture, Francisco López Tostado.

We've heard government promises for years, different CCC members challenged the official, but what are you going to do concretely to protect our sector? Will there be subsidies for diesel? Will we have access to credits? Will there be price supports? López Tostado could only answer that he would be glad to solve any problems that arise, if people would call him at the following toll-free number. "I personally answer all calls that come in to that number," he said, to guffaws from the peasants.

LaRouche's programmatic alternative to the crisis was presented by Small and by the Mexican LaRouche Youth Movement, who were present in force at the event, and were introduced to the audience. The LYM then rose to sing three songs to the meeting: "On Tortillas" (as a canon to the music of *Funiculi Funicula*); Beethoven's *Freundschaft* (in German); and lastly, a canon, "The Biofools," written by LYM member Laura Flores on global warming and Al Gore. Two LYM organizers then briefly addressed the conference, including the following remarks by Ingrid Torres:

"This singing is part of our political activity. Singing is a political weapon of the LYM internationally. It is a project to revive classical art with J.S. Bach and canons such as these. We are also working in the area of physical science with the discoveries of individuals such as Johannes Kepler.

"This is something we communicate to people in the streets. Every day, we go to universities to organize the youth and professors with these ideas. And let me invite you: Every Thursday, we go to the Juárez Monument, and we organize the population there from 11 in the morning until about 5 p.m. We invite all of you to go there: We sing, we do scientific experiments, and, obviously, we talk about the collapse of the economy and LaRouche's proposal for a new financial system."