

Mexican Elections Hand Setback to Wall Street

by Rubén Cota Meza

A whopping 59% of the Mexican electorate failed to vote in the July 6 elections for the Chamber of Deputies, in what was widely viewed as a rejection of President Vicente Fox's government, as well as for the political parties as a whole. Moreover, of those who did vote, 70% cast ballots against President Fox's ruling National Action Party (PAN). The population of Mexico thus declared itself against the policies of Wall Street and the International Monetary Fund, which have plunged the economy of this nation into the lowest depths of social misery it has endured since the dictatorship of Porfirio Díaz, at the beginning of the 20th Century.

Also of great significance was the stunning defeat handed to the PAN and its international Synarchist handlers, in the crucial northern state of Nuevo León, whose capital is Monterrey. The state had become a stronghold of the PAN, but they lost the gubernatorial race by a wide margin. A major element in that race was the campaign of Benjamín Castro, a longtime associate of Lyndon LaRouche, running on the Social Alliance Party (PAS) slate. Castro succeeded in putting LaRouche's policies at the center of the campaign, and thereby drew out the Synarchists into making a hysterical attack against him. Only six days before the election—but after LaRouche had attacked the same Synarchist forces behind U.S. Vice President Dick Cheney's war party, in a tricity teleconference that included Monterrey—Castro found the locks changed on his campaign office and the power and phone cut altogether (see *EIR*, July 11).

Three years ago, on July 2, 2000, Vicente Fox was put into the Presidency by Project Democracy and its Wall Street patrons, as the beginning of a "democracy" which, by eradicating "old Mexico"—that is, the Mexico of the Mexican Revolution which stubbornly defends the sovereign right to development—would make possible a return to the days before the adoption of the 1917 Mexican Constitution. In those days, under the dictatorship of Porfirio Díaz, those same foreign interests enjoyed the privilege of looting and robbing the country's natural resources and the labor of Mexicans themselves.

A devolution, back to that period of foreign domination, was initiated by the consecutive governments of Miguel de la Madrid Hurtado (1982-88), Carlos Salinas de Gortari (1988-94), and the lackey government of Ernesto Zedillo Ponce de León (1994-2000).

The international financial oligarchy and their multina-

tional corporations sponsored the rise of the PAN and Vicente Fox to the Presidency as the "final phase of Salinism," which would conclude by delivering what the three previous Presidents from the Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) were unable to deliver: a reform of the Constitution to facilitate seizing control of the nationalized oil and electricity sectors, and a new labor law to impose a new phase of looting of the population.

After three years of rule, Fox and the PAN, too, failed in their mission. And now, in the wake of Mexicans' unequivocal rejection of these policies, they have been left with no mandate.

Fox Becomes a 'Lame Duck'

In the new Chamber of Deputies, the PAN, which had previously had 205 federal deputies, was left with 155, a loss of 24%. The PRI won 233 deputies, 16 more than in the previous legislature, while the PRD (Democratic Revolutionary Party) gained 44 seats, in addition to the 52 it already had. The three minor political parties combined won 26 federal deputies.

Expressing their disillusionment, the City of London's mouthpiece, the *Financial Times*, declared July 7: "If the election is viewed as a referendum on the first three years of the Fox Administration, the results appeared an almost total defeat." The *New York Times*, a mouthpiece for the Wall Street oligarchy, acknowledged more honestly that the results have turned "Mr. Fox, the leading man of Latin American democracy, into a lame duck."

Today, given the manifest failure of Fox and the PAN to satisfy the ambition of the international oligarchy, they are betting on a new tactic, and the "birth of a new star."

Already, these circles are looking forward to Mexico's 2005 Presidential elections, wherein they hope to finish off the "old Mexico." One of their major assets is Jorge Castañeda, formerly Fox's Foreign Minister, who has announced his intentions to run for President on precisely that program. (Mexico's Presidency is a single six-year term.)

Castañeda is a thoroughgoing chicken-hawk: He backed the Iraq War and complained bitterly that President Fox didn't back the U.S. imperial adventure. Castañeda has also just been named to the Americas board of George Soros's favorite non-governmental organization, Human Rights Watch. Castañeda, not surprisingly, shares Soros's commitment to legalizing drugs.

An important political ally of Castañeda's in the destruction of "old Mexico" is PRI Congresswoman Elba Esther Gordillo. A few days before the July 6 elections, the New York brokerage firm Merrill Lynch gave her high marks, saying that if she becomes the leader of the PRI's Congressional delegation, "There is cause for optimism," because under her guidance, "there is a 60% chance that a reduced version of the proposals for electricity or labor reform will be approved this year."