

Mexican Right Readies Its Own Funeral

by Rubén Cota Meza

President Vicente Fox's crude, even childish, attempt to eliminate Mexico City Mayor Andrés Manuel López Obrador—the current front-runner in all the polls—as a contender for the 2006 Presidential elections, through an absurd legal technicality, has triggered a political upheaval not seen in Mexico for years. What seemed to be a heady victory for Fox, when a majority of the Mexican Chamber of Deputies (360 to 126) voted on April 7 to strip López Obrador of his immunity from prosecution as an elected official, and to dismiss him from his post, proved to be a political disaster for Fox by April 24, when between 750,000 and 1.2 million Mexicans joined a “silent march” to Mexico City's central plaza, to protest the attack on López Obrador.

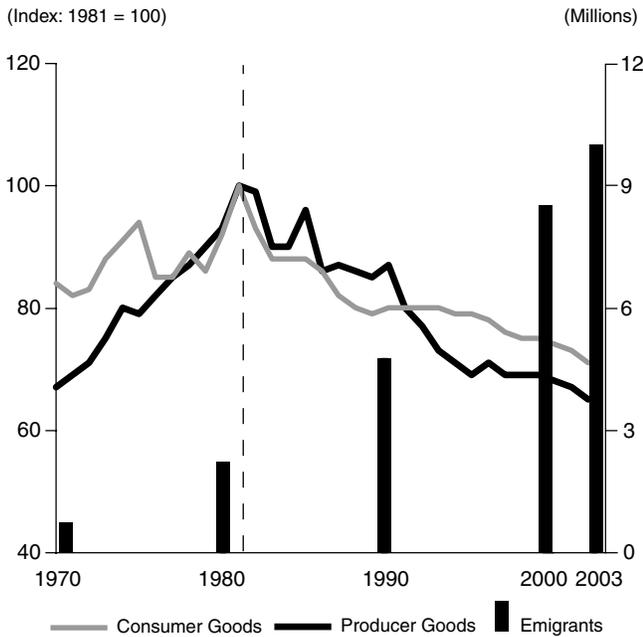
The stripping of the Mayor's immunity by Congress, was the first step in the effort to charge the mayor of Mexico's capital city with contempt of court, for the ridiculous reason that a city construction crew had supposedly refused to heed a judge's order suspending construction of an access road to a private hospital.

Ironically, the successful maneuvers of Mexican President Vicente Fox, and of his right-wing National Action Party (PAN), in complicity with a majority of the opposition PRI party, to strip López Obrador of his privileges, reflect not any political strength of these right-wing forces, but rather their desperation at the political collapse of the second George W. Bush Presidency, the rebellion of other Ibero-American governments against the tyrannical dictates of the International Monetary Fund, and so-called “globalization.” It also reflects the pathetic illusion of these same forces that Mexico still holds some sort of privileged position as neighbor *Número Uno* of the United States—an illusion which Fox has held out to the rest of Ibero-America as the road to follow, over “the bridge” of NAFTA, the “bridge to prosperity.” Today, the leading countries of Ibero-America are fleeing the path that Mexico has pursued toward its own self-destruction, while the Mexican right wing and the opportunists inside the PRI are clinging to it.

In any case, the loser is Vicente Fox. López Obrador has insisted that he will not seek an injunction nor seek release from jail by posting bail, but would instead go to jail and, from there, run his bid for the Presidential candidacy of the PRD (Party of the Democratic Revolution).

Mexico's Physical-Economic Collapse Drives Emigration to the United States

(Index: 1981 = 100)



Sources: INEGI (Mexico); EIR.

The PAN Put Up the Bail Money!

If the judge finds the charges against López Obrador to be unfounded, the Mexico City mayor is strengthened. If he goes to jail, it will increase the perception within the population that he is being tried for political motives, and will improve his standing as a political force—precisely the opposite of what Fox and his gang are hoping to achieve. However, the circus has reached such proportions that immediately after formally filing a federal court order against López Obrador, the Attorney General's office announced that the Mayor could appear before the judge without having to go to jail. The reason is that he "already has been released" because "two citizens" had put up bail for him, based on Article 416 of the Federal Code.

It turned out that the two who preemptively paid López Obrador's bail were local officials of Fox's PAN party, state Congressmen Gabriela Cuevas and Jorge Lara!

What this persecution and harassment of the Mexico City mayor reflects, is the desperation of the Mexican right to preserve a failed economic model. The North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), which was presented to the world as "the model to emulate" in 1990 when the PRI government of Carlos Salinas de Gortari negotiated it with George Bush, Sr., has since fallen on its face, with the December 1994 monetary crisis in Mexico, and the subsequent collapse of the Mexican economy in 1995. After the assassination of PRI

Presidential candidate Luis Donaldo Colosio in March of 1994, the way was cleared for Ernesto Zedillo to capture the Presidency. Zedillo immediately moved to bail out the private banking system, by assuming as public debt the enormous financial losses that had resulted from the banking system's own failed policies.

Zedillo privatized the pension system in 1997, as a means of injecting liquidity into those same bankrupt banks, at the cost of the forced "savings" of Mexico's workers, and ended up leading his own political party to defeat in the 2000 elections. This delivered power into the hands of the PAN, whose origins stem from the Synarchist Franco-Austrian assault against Mexico known as the "empire" of Maximilian Hapsburg.

Now, as the administration of the Synarchist Vicente Fox draws to a close, the Mexican economy finds itself in a worse paralysis than that of 1995-97, because of the exhaustion of the population after more than 20 years of merciless looting. And the financial and monetary situation of the country is on the verge of a new blowout, similar to that of 1994.

Even the supposed "miracle" of the *maquiladoras* has ceased to function, and that sector is undergoing a major contraction.

As the economic crisis looms closer, President Fox is revealing himself as increasingly disconnected from reality, issuing wild and grandiloquent statements. For example, he is insisting that the country "has made a quantum leap" in education, even as more and more children and youth are abandoning the classrooms in search of making some sort of income under conditions of virtual slavery. Nor is he concerned about the serious evaluations and criticisms of international organizations, which issue near-daily warnings of the precarious conditions of Mexican health, employment, education, and other demographic characteristics. "Without the poor," Fox says, "this country wouldn't have the energy it has."

In the midst of this situation, and in the face of the political decline of the second George W. Bush government, the Mexican right-wing does not have the Presidential succession sewn up in the traditional Mexican way, and has therefore opted to eliminate one of the contenders. At the same time, they are perhaps hoping to manipulate radical sectors of the "left" into unleashing the kind of violent backlash that produced the "fear vote" that put Ernesto Zedillo into the Presidency, after the "armed insurgency" of the EZLN and the political assassinations of 1994.

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