

JUÁREZ'S CHALLENGE

'The People That Wishes To Be Free, Shall Be So'

by Gretchen Small

As the tumultuous Mexican election battle escalated, the LaRouche Youth Movement (LYM) introduced a new flank on Aug. 10: a message of support for Andrés Manuel López Obrador's civil resistance movement to secure a full recount of the July 2 Presidential election, sent by that heroine of Dr. Martin Luther King's civil rights struggle in the United States, Amelia Boynton Robinson. Recalling the trials endured by Dr. King's movement before justice was finally won, Mrs. Robinson urged Mexicans to take heart from the long battle waged by President Benito Juárez, to drive foreign invaders out, and restore Mexican sovereignty.

"If Benito Juárez in the 1860s could rescue Mexico from the claws and jaws of France, England, and Spain, Synarchists, France's Emperor, and other enemies within and without, certainly in this modern time, you can do likewise," she wrote. "As citizens of Mexico, fighting for a just cause, please don't let your great hero Benito Juárez down." (See accompanying article.)

The news that a fighter from Dr. King's movement who today continues her fight for justice alongside U.S. political leader Lyndon LaRouche, not only supports their cause, but honors Juárez, is provoking startled interest within the civil resistance movement of Mexico.

López Obrador has repeatedly invoked the spirit of Mahatma Gandhi and Dr. King, and it is to Juárez whom he most often turns as the referent for the quality of leadership he, and those with him, require in their difficult effort to wrest Mexico's sovereignty out of the claws of the synarchist foreign financiers today.

López Obrador put this most beautifully on Aug. 5 in concluding his daily address to tens of thousands in Mexico City's central plaza, the Zócalo: The powerful interests who

are determined to maintain the status quo "may have the money, the power; but we have what's most important: the backing of the people. There is a phrase with which I want to end my remarks, a phrase of the President of Mexico whom I most admire, *who still governs through his example*, President Benito Juárez. He said: 'The people that wishes to be free, shall be so' (emphasis added).

Door-to-Door Organizing

On Aug. 5, Mexico's Federal electoral court rejected López Obrador's demand for a vote-by-vote recount of the ballots of every polling station, ordering instead a recount of only 11,839 of the almost 13,500 polling stations, a piddling 9% of the polls. The court thus attempted to uphold the validity of the general election, even as it reprimanded the Federal Electoral Institute (IFE) which ran the election count, for failing to order recounts of those 11,000-plus polls itself, where the discrepancies between vote tallies, total ballots issued, and voters registered were egregious. Mexican law requires IFE officials to recount ballot boxes on the spot when there are "obvious errors," and these were obvious indeed.

The reprimand put the lie to the Fox government and its PAN party's labelling of the recount demand as "anti-democratic," because it dares question the infallibility of that "institution above suspicion," the IFE. Yet, the court refused to permit a general recount, willfully ignoring the fact that similar egregious "errors" had been documented at 61,000-plus other polls, in an election decided by only 243,000 votes.

López Obrador denounced the decision as "legally flimsy," and reiterated that Mexicans would not be satisfied with a "tenth of democracy." Upping the ante, López Obrador took up again the fundamental issue which lies behind the



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LaRouche Youth Movement organizers give an impromptu pedagogical on geometry, showing people how to double the square, at the encampment in Mexico City on Aug. 5.



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LYM organizers read Cervantes' novel Don Quixote for the enjoyment of passersby.



Andrés Manuel López Obrador's website

A rally on Aug. 7 in support of López Obrador's campaign to recount the Presidential vote.



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LYM organizers distribute the LaRouche movement's literature on the fight against the synarchist fascists, the imminent threat of global financial-economic collapse, and what must be done to reverse the crisis.



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The LaRouche contingent (with banner) joins other marchers en route to Mexico's central plaza, the Zócalo, on July 30.

crisis: an economic policy which benefits only a few, and leaves millions to starve.

“Behind each vote, there is a citizen, a human being hopeful that justice reign in our country,” López Obrador stated on Aug. 7. “We are going to maintain this civil resistance as long as it takes, and now it is not only going to be a demand for the recount of votes. . . . We are going for the transformation of our country, and this is going to happen one way or the other. We are going to change that reality of injustice and oppression which has done such harm to our country.”

The next day, he released an open letter to the people of Mexico, explaining the reasons for the campaign of civil resistance. He called upon people to leaflet the letter across the country, and take it “house by house” in Mexico City, to cut through the media lies that the movement is violent and merely directed to putting one man in office, rather than bring justice to Mexico.

“In the last election, we in fact faced a very powerful group of privileged people, who are the ones who actually rule in Mexico,” his letter explains. “To them, our alternative concept of the Nation is unacceptable. They don’t want, in any way, for there to be a change in current economic policy, and much less that the general welfare of the majority of Mexicans be assured. . . . To allow them to impose their will means accepting. . . . that a few are going to continue to decide, in accordance with their own interests, the fate of the majority of Mexicans. . . . They want us to silently accept inequality, poverty, unemployment, migration, starvation wages, unavailability of space for youth in public universities, approval of a value-added tax on food and medicines, privatization of social security, of electricity and of the oil industry, and to allow them to deal a final blow to millions of producers, with the free import of corn and beans from abroad. In sum, if they impose their will, there will be no remedy for the ills of many Mexicans.”

‘We Shall Overcome’

Despite rain, the number of people camped out in the streets of Mexico with López Obrador is growing. The camps are better organized, and intellectual ferment is spreading. Despite their small numbers, the LaRouche Youth Movement is gaining fame within this situation, as “the people with something different to say.” Their banners at the Zócalo rallies introduce an international, and an unexpected intellectual dimension. One called upon López Obrador to “Be Brave like [Argentine President Néstor] Kirchner, and Wise Like LaRouche;” another, declaring that “LaRouchists Fight Against Fascism and Globalization. Forge an Alliance Among Nations,” cited the poet Friedrich Schiller’s maxim: “Raise the Common Man to the Moral Ideal.”

With Amelia Robinson’s message in hand, the LYM chorus has been teaching Mexicans the anthem of the U.S. civil rights movement, “We Shall Overcome,” with new Spanish lyrics.

Amelia Boynton Robinson: Honor Legacy of Juárez

At the request of the LaRouche Youth Movement in Mexico, Amelia Boynton Robinson taped the following message of greeting to Mexicans on Aug. 8.

Hello, our neighbor country:

Mr. Lyndon LaRouche’s Schiller Institute, its youth movement, and I bring you greetings, with more than intense interest in your struggle for justice. As a member of the Schiller Institute and one of its international vice-chairpersons, I have followed your struggle with great interest, and anticipate that you will win the political war in which you are engaged. Speaking from experience, I know you can win all of your rights, as we won much of what we asked for in 1965, but it was not easy. Yes, and there were sanctions, reprisals, blood, sweat, and many tears shed, and in some cases deaths of some who paid the supreme price.

Through it all, victory was won and the shackles of mental slavery, economic reprisal, forced discrimination and humiliation, and segregation that plagued blacks for hundreds of years, like blinders, fell from the mental eyes of the oppressed. Business people found that their business increased, because they had more customers, professional people had more clients, and politicians got more votes. All of these things began to show the benefits of realizing that all men are created equal, and are entitled to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

Let me relate a few incidents that happened. My husband and I worked for the United States Department of Agriculture. Our job was to teach the sharecroppers—for them, life was just a cut above slavery—scientific methods in farming, thus getting more and better produce from the farm. There was no such thing as making a salary. We decided, if these farmers could make big crops for the landlord and receive no salary, then they and their family would be better off making a small crop for themselves. We began to teach them to buy property of their own, and this of course irritated the landlord. And we were targeted.

Though we knew it was going to be tough, we began to tell farmers, that they must try to register to vote, for a voteless people is a hopeless people, and the ballot for voting is mightier than the bullet. By lamplight at night, in the churches, we would teach the adults how to complete the one-and-a-half-page application; but many of them could not read or write. That had to be taught first. Later, George Wallace, who was the governor of Alabama, caused applica-



EIRN/Stuart Lewis

Civil Rights movement heroine Amelia Boynton Robinson, 95, is famous internationally as a fighter for justice and the rights of man. Now, she reaches out to Mexicans struggling against election fraud, and for a better future.

tions to have over a hundred questions. The schools were only three months long, and most children had to walk miles, for there was no transportation. The more we tried to enlighten our people, the more pressures we endured. For 30 years, we were harassed and intimidated. However, others saw the fight that we were waging, and finally, joined the struggle for freedom.

There was a white man who said he would loan money for a downpayment to any farmer who could find land. Landlords, local businesses, and city officials increased their harassment of us, to the point that my husband had to retire. In fact, I resigned from the government long before he did, but he immediately opened a real estate and insurance agency in our old office across the street from City Hall. The harassment continued; from 7 o'clock in the evening until 7 o'clock in the morning, the phone rang every 10-15 minutes, and the caller would curse, and these are some of the words that he yelled: "Get out of town, you blankety blank blank, or your house is going to be bombed! You have no right in our country!" or "You'd better not be seen on the streets, you —!" This caused my husband to have at least three strokes. The last one was when a racist came into his office and attacked him. He went to the hospital, never to come out alive again.

Triumph Out of Tragedy

Even out of tragedy can come triumph. A local minister wanted to have a memorial for my husband. The deacons thought that this would not be the best thing, because they were fearful, and they feared the high sheriff, who had organized a posse. Through it all, the minister won, and many people of color came to the church, passing by the line of deputized sheriffs. This was on Friday night. On Monday morning, the churchgoers were told they were fired

from their jobs, for attending the memorial. Nonetheless, the mental chain of fear was broken, and the adults marched along with the children, until they could vote.

All Americans were affected, because the mushrooming of the several centuries of oppressing people of color was a chain that had to be broken. The whites lived in fear of losing their illegal oppressiveness. Of course, there were those of color who were killed, or brainwashed to the extent they knew that they had better not resist. Rosa Parks erased many fears when, in the face of grave danger, she sat on the bus so that we, as citizens, could stand up and be counted, nonviolently, thus fighting for justice with spiritual guidance, faith, determination, and the unity which can and did prevail. We won that battle.

We had enemies in our camp, but they were convinced, when the battle was over, that they had been used, and they were excused, for they were only tools. Some of those who were used, were converted to the right way of life, the reward of working together to end all of the oppression and attend to the Constitution, which includes the will to see justice and freedom for all.

Overcome Your Fear

You will have to overcome your fear, which is only a crutch. If Benito Juárez in the 1860s could rescue Mexico from the claws and jaws of France, England, and Spain, Synarchists, France's Emperor, and other enemies within and without, certainly in this modern time, you can do likewise. Juárez undoubtedly had dignity and pride for his country and its people. He temporarily lost some of the territory, but he regained it. His faith, courage, determination, and love for his people and country would not let him fail.

As citizens of Mexico, fighting for a just cause, please don't let your great hero Benito Juárez down. Imagine him, as a great star in the heavens, who is pleading with you to fight nonviolently against those who politically refuse to do justice in such little, but important things as counting, or recounting, the ballots by hand. If you accept that, without demanding a recount as it should be, the next election might be worse. So, you must fight against any political discrepancy. Don't make a deal with any faction. Stamp out fraud and fear, and feed the fire of courage, faith, and justice for every citizen. The enemy has always used the old weapon—divide and conquer. Watch it! It cuts as a two-edged sword. There may be some among you who are wolves in sheep's clothing.

I notice many Americans wearing T-shirts for their favorite team, and they wear them proudly. They are boosters who love their team. Let's love our political team with pride, and say, like the old Negro spiritual, "Oh walk together children, don't you get weary. Walk together children, don't you get weary. Walk together children, don't you get weary." Great things can happen to the working team.

Just follow your legacy, handed to you by one of the world's greatest leaders of all time, Benito Juárez.