

Is Mexico a Nation, or A Private Looting Field?

by Nancy Spannaus

In the wake of the unprecedented blockage of outgoing Mexican President Vicente Fox's scheduled delivery of the Sept. 1 State of the Union speech, and the formal decision by the Federal Electoral Commission to confirm the fraudulent election of Felipe Calderón as President, the Mexican institutional crisis is taking shape around the crucial issue of economic policy. None other than Fox's State of the Union speech itself spilled the beans, by revealing in its statistical appendix that, over the six years of his Presidency, the amount of public funds pouring into the ongoing bailout of the country's foreign-controlled private banking sector was nearly *three times* that which was invested into the oil industry, upon which the bulk of the revenue of the nation depends.

Fox's admission was hidden in a mass of figures, but what it reveals is crucial for understanding the stakes in the unfolding dual power situation in the U.S.'s southern neighbor. The official documents that Fox's government supplied, expose a deliberate, year-by-year underfinancing of the state oil company Pemex, as part of a scheme to bankrupt it preparatory to its privatization. It is this scheme which the synarchist international bankers behind PAN candidate Calderón, are determined to implement, in their desperate attempt to "solve" the global financial breakdown crisis through looting uninhibited by sovereign national governments.

For this reason, the international bankers who are calling the shots have been adamant that they cannot allow the rightful winner of the Mexican Presidential elections, Andrés Manuel López Obrador of the Revolutionary Democratic Party (PRD), to be acknowledged as the victor. The LaRouche Youth Movement (LYM) in Mexico put it sharply in their Sept. 1 leaflet, which cited Lyndon LaRouche's evaluation: "These international bankers are determined to rip off the

entire hemisphere, and they want to make a horrible example of Mexico in order to succeed in doing it to the countries south of the Mexican border. That's the strategic motive."

As López Obrador has consistently emphasized, and did again in the official statement which we excerpt here, his commitment is to a government which provides for the general welfare. The fact that López Obrador has determined to continue to fight to fulfill that commitment, holds out the potential that the current injustice will be overturned.

Thinking Outside the Box

But how can the tide be turned? asked members of the LYM who have been organizing nonstop in López Obrador's encampments around Mexico City over the past month, in a question they addressed to LaRouche during his Sept. 6 webcast.

The key to the solution, LaRouche replied (see full answer on p. 35), lies in what happens with economic policy, particularly in the United States. If there is not development in Mexico, and if the United States goes through an economic crisis which would also be a social crisis, then the conditions of people on both sides of the border will create an uncontrollable internal security risk on both sides of the border. This is paradigmatic of the global situation as well.

So, LaRouche asked, "what can we do about this? Well, I say we have to get both Cheney and Bush out now. . . . We have to do it! You see, the times have come when you cannot bargain and solve a problem within the terms that are given. You sometimes have to step outside the definition of the problem, and change the problem, rather than trying to solve the problem.

"In this case, if we can't solve the problem, and we're not willing to solve the problem, we can't mobilize it, we may

have an absolutely hopeless situation! Civilizations have gone to hell before, and this one can go to hell too. We're on the edge of it. We're on the edge of it if we don't do something about it. We've got to get Bush and Cheney out of there now. They should be impeached immediately. If any Democrat or Republican won't do that, they're an idiot."

Stalemate

Meanwhile, within Mexico, the political balance of power remains totally unresolved.

The most stunning exemplar of the fact that the new illegitimate government will not be able to govern without suicidal acts of repression, came on the night of the State of the Union, Sept. 1. The government authorities, who had already militarized the Congress, had anticipated that López Obrador would lead tens of thousands, if not more, of his supporters to the Congress to protest, or otherwise try to stop, the delivery of Fox's speech. Instead, López Obrador declared in the early evening, that the crowd would not march.

Calling his opponents fascists, he declared: "We have to take care of ourselves, and not fall for any provocation. We are the ones who have to decide when we are going to make decisions; they are not going to impose their conditions on us. We are not going to fall into any trap."

Instead, ten minutes before the President was due to deliver the speech in the Congress, the PRD delegation in Congress and its allies from other smaller parties moved with dignity to the podium, and announced that they would not leave until the military were removed from the inside and outside the Congress. They sang the national anthem, shouted slogans, and stayed put.

President Fox, who was already en route when informed of what had happened, arrived to find himself end-played. In a hallway outside the congressional assembly room, he simply handed his written speech over to a small group of Congressmen and Senators from his party, the National Action Party (PAN), and went home. In Mexico City's central square, the Zócalo, where López Obrador's supporters have been camped out, wild cheers erupted from the crowd watching the proceedings on giant screens.

If Fox cannot address the Congress, can Calderón, who was declared the winner on Sept. 5, actually govern? That will be determined by events outside Mexico, as well as in that nation's capital.

The National Democratic Convention

As this article is written, the tension is building toward the next inflection point in this battle, the convening of a National Democratic Convention in the Zócalo on Sept. 16. López Obrador has called this assembly for the purpose of deliberating on, and forming, an alternate government which, unlike that of Calderón, will be devoted to protecting the general welfare. It is widely anticipated that over a million Mexicans will gather in response to this call.

In fact, López Obrador's proposal that an alternate legitimate Presidency be established, is not unprecedented in Mexican history. As Mexico City PRD President Martí Batres reminded people in the Zócalo on Aug. 29, Mexico has had "a usurper in the palace and a legitimate President in the street" before, specifically during the period when traitorous Mexican monarchists recognized Maximilian, imposed by French troops in 1863, as the emperor of Mexico. "The Presidency was wherever Benito Juárez was," Martí Batres said. "The Presidency traveled the country with Benito Juárez, while the usurpers occupied the offices, occupied the Palace." Juárez refused an amnesty offered by Maximilian.

Ultimately, after a period of years, Juárez regained his rightful position as President in a sovereign nation, in a process that was not unrelated to the success of the Republican Party of Abraham Lincoln in restoring the sovereignty of the United States of America.

This historical alliance between the United States and Mexico, itself echoed in the alliance between Lyndon LaRouche and Mexican President José López Portillo in 1982, has been a major point of emphasis by the small, but highly influential LYM during this Mexican crisis. The LYM has found an exceptional responsiveness to the universal principles of history, science, and Classical culture, such as is often encountered in a mass strike period, when the fate of a nation hangs in the balance. But Mexican patriots cannot win this war alone. For victory, patriotic forces, especially in the United States, will have to move to destroy the looting plans of the synarchist bankers, once and for all.

Documentation

The following are excerpts from a Sept. 5 speech presented by Mexican Presidential contender Andrés Manuel López Obrador, to his supporters in the Mexico City Zócalo Plaza.

Friends: On this fateful day, so difficult for democracy in Mexico but which opens the way for launching a new era, I want to . . . tell you that I am never going to abandon the fight for my ideas and for my convictions.

I am never going to abandon the fight for a new economy, for a new way of making policy, and for a new, more just and more humanitarian social coexistence.

I tell you, I pledge to you, that I will never accept traditional politics, where the only thing that counts are interests, except for the interests of the people.

I tell you that I am never going to compromise with the political mafia nor with white-collar criminals.

I am never going to submit to the class-conscious, to the racists, to the fascists who hypocritically pretend to be people of good will.

I am never going to stop helping and protecting Mexico's humble, dispossessed, and poor.

And never, never, will I betray the people of Mexico.

We are going to continue in this struggle with much dignity and with our principles before us. That is my response to the Court's ruling today.

The judges of the Electoral Court of the Federal Judiciary yielded; they lacked the daring, the dignity, the pride, the bravery to act as free men. They opted to rubber-stamp the electoral fraud. In this way, the people's will was violated and the constitutional order fractured.

As everyone knows, as is common knowledge, both the candidate of the right as well as the Electoral Court refused a vote by vote, poll by poll recount. They refused to make the election transparent. All of this is easily explained . . . because the candidate of the right did not win the Presidential election. . . .

In light of all this, I state my decision to reject the ruling of the Electoral Court of the Federal Judiciary, and refuse to recognize anyone who seeks to present himself as the Executive power, without having a legitimate and democratic representation.

At the same time, I believe that given this attack on constitutional legality and democratic life, we Mexicans must resume exercising the people's sovereignty, and abolish once and for all the corrupt and privileged regime that rules our country. We take up this decision today . . . with the conviction that by recovering the exercise of our sovereignty, the people will feel free to give themselves the institutions and policies which will allow them to uphold their basic rights.

We, the Mexican people, remember. We knew how to defend our sovereign rights at crucial moments of our history, because, as was said in 1814 with the constitutional decree for the freedom of Mexican America, the people have the incontestable right to establish the government that best meets their needs, and to change, modify, or abolish it altogether when their happiness so demands it, and that is what we are going to do.

For all these reasons, I repeat my proposal to constitute a new government, through the National Democratic Convention, a government that will have the necessary legitimacy to refound the Republic and reestablish the constitutional order. . . .

I know that many of you are surely asking yourselves, what comes next, what are we going to do? . . .

It doesn't require much thought to understand the script that our adversaries are going to follow. . . .

First, they are going to seek legitimacy abroad. All the acknowledgements from foreign governments are going to arrive . . . that same old policy of seeking abroad for the legitimacy they don't have at home. . . .

Second, jumping on the bandwagon. You are going to see how the corporations and other such are going to declare their support, popularly known as hand-kissing. . . .

Third, subordination of the media, by burning incense to the candidate of the right, to the illegitimate, spurious President, to the fool they want to impose. . . .

Four, spectacular deeds designed to confuse the people and trick them once again, by claiming that they are going to be different and that, now, things are really going to change.

It isn't going to work, because these are different times and, above all, our people are thinking differently. . . and that is the most important, because when the people's thinking changes, everything changes.

Point five. They are going to start handing out crumbs, to try to win over the humble people, the poor, by trafficking in the needs and poverty of the people.

[T]he people don't want crumbs. The people want justice. That is why they are fighting. . . .

And the last point in this script is going to be negotiating with us. They are going to try by any and all means to have what they call dialogue and negotiation.

I want to tell you all in this plaza that the leaders, the legislators, the governors-elect of the Coalition, and the many citizens in this movement, have all risen to the occasion.

We are in unknown terrain, where things are not business as usual. It is not going to be easy, as they will try to coopt us, buy us through the guise of negotiation with leaders of the opposition. . . .

That is the strategy of our adversaries, but what is ours? What are we going to do? What comes next?

First of all is the revolution of conscience that we have begun, the mental revolution. All that we have been doing for the past month, this peaceful civil resistance, this process of teaching-learning. . . .

And I speak of a revolution of conscience because those in charge of the institutions simply have no respect for the people or for the constitutional mandate.

And thus, although my adversaries may not like it, to hell with their institutions!

We are never again going to allow our people to be humiliated. The people are waking up, and have said enough. . . . We are going for the transformation of the country, beginning with a revolution of conscience.

We are going to move forward toward the Democratic National Convention. We have the right to exercise our sovereignty, a right consecrated in the Constitution of Apatzingán, reaffirmed in the Constitution of 1857, and driven home with the 1917 Constitution, which is the current law of the land.

Article 39 of the Constitution . . . establishes that the people always have the right to change the form of their government, and that is what we are going to do. We are going to exercise our sovereignty in shaping our government.

Now things are very clear in our country. That is better than the pretense and hypocrisy. . . . We have nothing to be ashamed of. We are fighting for a new nation. We are fighting . . . for the rights of all Mexicans . . . with decisiveness, with determination, with courage, with patriotism. Viva Mexico!