
Energy Debate

Nuclear power advocates spurred by proposal for expanded investment

by Timothy Rush

The small antinuclear forces in Mexico have tried to let Mexico's oil wealth do their work for them. While targeting some youth and leftists for an antinuclear movement, the "greenie" strategists have nurtured the line among those less prone to environmentalist scare stories that "Mexico can afford to wait on nuclear because it has so much oil."

Lyndon LaRouche's formulation during his visit that Mexico "must trade a 20th-century resource—oil—for 21st-century technologies" caught the imagination of the substantial pronuclear sentiment waiting to begin a counteroffensive. The Mexican daily *Novedades* editorialized March 16 that "even the countries with oil, like ours, must necessarily move toward new sources of energy. In the case of nuclear energy, there are, in addition, immense possibilities for applications outside the energy

area, such as in food and in medicine.

"In order to move on to the technology that nuclear energy permits us to use," continued the editorial, "we must carry out a great national effort to prepare technicians and professionals in this area. In the next few years the plant at Laguna Verde, Veracruz, and the reactor center at Pátzcuaro, Michoacán, will come on stream. To run these important installations and those which follow them, we will need more than 50,000 nuclear technicians. This requires a rapid and efficient training program for these people. If we don't undertake such a program immediately, we run the risk of losing the enviable advantage which we have been able to gain in the energy field, thanks to the richness of our subsoil in hydrocarbons and uranium." Mexico's twin nuclear plants at Laguna Verde (650 MWe each) are now due to begin

Union leader: nuclear shutdown means murder

Excerpted below is an exchange on the pages of Uno más Uno in mid-March between Mauricio Schoijet, an Argentine sympathizer with the Socialist International who is currently operating an antinuclear crusade out of Mexico, and Nuclear Workers Union (SUTIN) spokesman Arturo Ponce.

Schoijet: The workers are the first victims of radioactive contamination. . . . Worker toleration of the dangers of radiation is encouraged by collaborationist labor leaders. . . .

A worker at the Seabrook plant suggested that workers are unable to select the projects they would like to work on and gave as an example the German workers who built the cremation ovens during the Hitler period. . . . What do workers expect from the system which gives them jobs, although they are dangerous and unhealthy? What do they think of their

political influence in terms of their ability to promote the kinds of projects they want to work on, which is identical with that of the German workers during the Hitler period when the German working class had no rights at all?

Ponce: In the ecstasy of his anti-nuclear delirium, Schoijet, after accusing nuclear energy workers of being class collaborators, implies that if Hitler-type cremation ovens were being built, the nuclear workers would build them. . . .

Schoijet cites [U.S. social-democratic labor leader] William Winpisinger, "Historically, industry replaces labor with energy, thereby reducing the number of workers needed for production." This means that ideal society would be one in which only human energy is used. That's a really romantic idea. But we are 4.5 billion people living on this planet. If we want primitive means of production, wouldn't many people be in excess? . . . Such a pre-industrial society (feudal, primitive, patriarchal, or what?) May seem attractive to some people, but it won't provide for the population!