

Editorial

'What are friends for?'

The gang of oligarchical thugs which has put the once-vibrant U.S. economy to rest, is having a big problem with the governments and nations of Ibero-America. Namely, those nations are refusing to roll over and die. The matter revolves around the debt question, of course. The affair is proceeding with a touch of high drama.

First, there was the \$250 billion Ibero-American debt owed to the loan sharks "uptown." The loan sharks had lent to the storekeepers "downtown" at 20 percent interest. They also had not a few of the storekeepers' helpers, from the soda jerk to the cashier, working for the mob, stealing the money from the cash register and sending it back "uptown." They called it "capital flight." Between "capital flight" and interest rates typical of loan sharks, the storekeepers had no money to meet the next payment to the loan sharks when it came due. So, the mob bosses "uptown" decided to make an offer: "We'll loan you more money if you reorganize all your stores, fire half your employees, cut the salaries of the rest in half, let us repossess your house, and forget that next baby you were planning, okay? . . . and one more thing—I want that soda jerk to be appointed to top management."

So, one of the storekeepers, José López Portillo of Mexico, got all his people together and said: "No go!" He kicked out the soda jerks, he nationalized Mexico's banks, and told the mob "uptown" that he will only consider paying them back if all the stolen money, the "flight capital," were returned to him. His actions stirred the entire continent. "Uptown," awash with rumors of an impending "debtors' cartel," was thrown into hysterics. The kapos assembled their enforcer teams ready to send them "downtown." Meanwhile, "downtown," millions of people were out in the streets, in support for López Portillo and in rage at the mob.

A *consiglio* of the families was held that night. The heads of all the families were there. The Cabots, and the Lodges, and the Lowells, and the Rockefellers, the Mellons, the Moores, the Biddle Dukes, the Harrimans, the Hannas, the Morgans, the Peabodies. And others. Also, the really classy families: the Windsors, the Spencers, the Barings, the Cecils, the Marlboroughs. From Europe, you had the Wittelsbachs, Witt-

gensteins, Orleans, Saxe-Coburgs, Hapsburgs, Hohenzollern, Thurn und Taxis, de Benedettis, Savoys, Pallavicinis, Colonnas, and many others. Reversing mob etiquette, they all wore black suits and white shirts. The *consiglieri* were there: Kissinger, Lord Carrington, George Shultz, Sol Linowitz, and others. In an atmosphere of doom, the most senior of them, the Godfather, said quietly: "This is serious. Call off those crazy hot-heads of yours and make sure they're not seen by the crowds. We are going to pick them off one by one. Don't let the Latin Americans gang up. We got to pick them off one by one." The next morning, the *New York Times* announced: "The Latin American problem will be studied on a case-by-case basis."

Then, the elderly Godfather continued: "And by the way, David, it will be a good idea to start up some, you know, dialogue, consultation, until the crowd breaks up and the people go home. We got to pick them off one by one. This guy Linowitz, the Windsors' *consiglieri*. He can set up that sort of thing. You put up the money." "Yes, boss," said David Rockefeller.

On Oct. 7, 1982, Sol Linowitz held a press conference in Washington and announced the formation of the Inter-American Dialogue. The purpose of the project is to reaffirm the traditional friendship between "uptown" and "downtown." Linowitz praised the United States' great friends in Latin America. From "uptown" the list included Robert McNamara, who in past public statements said he wanted half of Mexico's population dead. This qualified him as a friend of the remaining 30 million Mexicans. There was also Edmund Muskie, the Secretary of State who issued the *Global 2000 Report* calling for the killing of 2 billion human beings in the world. Chalk up Muskie as a friend of those who are not immediately killed.

So, Ibero-America is now given a remarkable choice: the murder of its leaders, or "friendship" for those who might survive the mob's slaughter. calling for the elimination of the top two dozen leaders of Mexico.

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