

# We Need Leaders Who Will Mobilize The People for a National Mission

*Lyndon LaRouche was interviewed by telephone on Dec. 20, 2000 by Jorge Lerdo de Tejada and Benjamin Castro, for Radio Acir of Monterrey, Mexico. The full transcript of the exchange follows.*

**Q:** Mr. LaRouche, welcome to our program, thanks for the interview, and greetings from Monterrey, Mexico.

**LaRouche:** Good to be there, even in this form.

**Q:** We'd like opening remarks from you, Mr. LaRouche, in response to a two-part question. First of all, what has happened in the United States? With the election of Bush, you have a new President. What's coming next? This is of some importance in Mexico, because we remember very well the [former U.S. President George] Bush-[former Mexican President Carlos] Salinas team-up.

Second, you have a major role and influence within the Democratic Party in the United States. We'd like to know what the relationship of that is to the current situation, especially in light of what's happening economically in the United States. A lot of people here are talking about an economic slowdown, and people are using this to scare people in Mexico, to say that this is the cause of the crisis in Mexico. Can you lay out the situation for us?

**LaRouche:** Well, first of all, I think that sixty days from now, if you look back at what people think they were going to do, in the U.S. government in particular, and what they are actually doing, will be two different things. During the past two to three days in particular, there's been, not a slowdown in the United States, but a process of ongoing serious financial and economic collapse. It is not impossible that there might be a temporary reversal in this present days' rate of collapse, but if you look at the fundamentals of the present policy in the United States and elsewhere, there is no chance of stopping the collapse. And also, there are big changes going on in the world as a whole. So, to the extent that, in Mexico, you rely upon what you get as the general news from the U.S. and so forth, you will have a very poor indication of what is about to happen.

What is clear, is that this is already the worst crisis in more than a century. The crisis of 1929-1931 is a minor crisis compared to what is happening right now. I could, if I were President, stop this crisis. But there is no one in a position of

power in the United States, who is going to do that at this time. Therefore, the crisis is going to come on fast, and nothing that the future Bush Administration is saying right now, would indicate they have any sense of what to do about it. Therefore, we could say, in general, that it's going to be the shock of the financial crisis, which will shake things up and force people to consider a fundamental change from any policies they think they have now.

While one should not exaggerate the fact, in terms of the Democratic Party, my influence is actually growing tremendously. I wouldn't exaggerate it, but it is really a very significant development. What that's going to mean, is that forces in the Democratic Party either align with me, or take into account my role. Since neither of the major political parties actually control the overall national situation, national policy-making, then, obviously, what I have to say within the Democratic Party will have some significant influence, which will define to a large degree what the possibilities are facing a Bush administration.

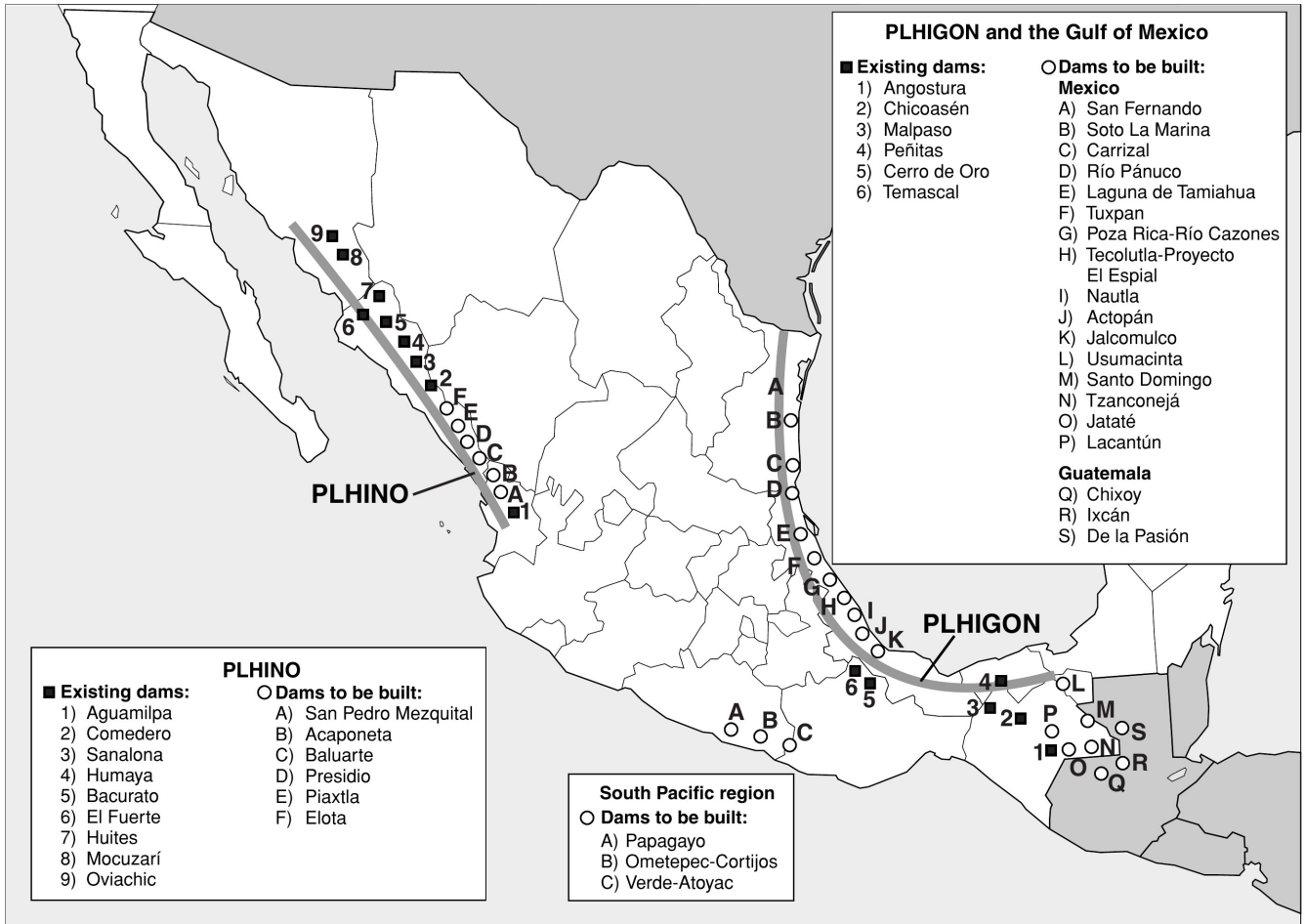
That doesn't mean that Bush will accept my proposals. That does mean that he's going to have to consider them, and that if he doesn't, he's going to have a lot of trouble. Not because I'm threatening him, but simply because if he doesn't want to accept some of my proposals, he's got no chance of running his own government. And as some Chinese philosopher would say, that makes the situation presently "very interesting." No one can say exactly what will happen, but we know it's going to be "very interesting."

**Q:** Mr. LaRouche, I was very taken by a phrase that you used in one of your recent articles or interviews, where you said that if bamboo is not flexible, it breaks. How should ordinary citizens, and governments as well, think, in Mexico, and in all of Ibero-America, in terms of the onrushing crisis?

**LaRouche:** The problem is—and this is probably a shift in Mexican thinking from, say, 1982—with all the problems Mexico had formerly, you had a strong group of citizens and constituencies, who thought they could make national policy. But, today, you have a different situation than you had 20 years ago. If you look at the populations of, say, Western Europe, or, especially, the United States and countries of the Americas, the people have been reduced largely to a political condition like human cattle. People are just trying to survive.

FIGURE 1

**Mexico: the PLHINO and the PLHIGON**



*“We need internationally now—in the entire hemisphere from the Arctic Ocean to the Antarctic—we need infrastructure building now, as the primary front for dealing with the global financial-economic crisis,” says Lyndon LaRouche. Figures 1 and 2 show some of the infrastructure projects proposed for Mexico.*

Even to the degree they were 20 years ago, they are not trying to shape national policy. And we’ve come to a situation where the upper income brackets of populations, are mostly incompetent politically, terribly incompetent, because they are dominated politically and economically by financial-monetary thinking, not in terms of production, real economic thinking. And therefore, you have a dominant portion of the population, which is more politically active, which is actually incompetent to even think about the nature of the present crisis. At the same time, the great mass of the population is either totally disoriented, or feels impotent to try to deal with the situation themselves.

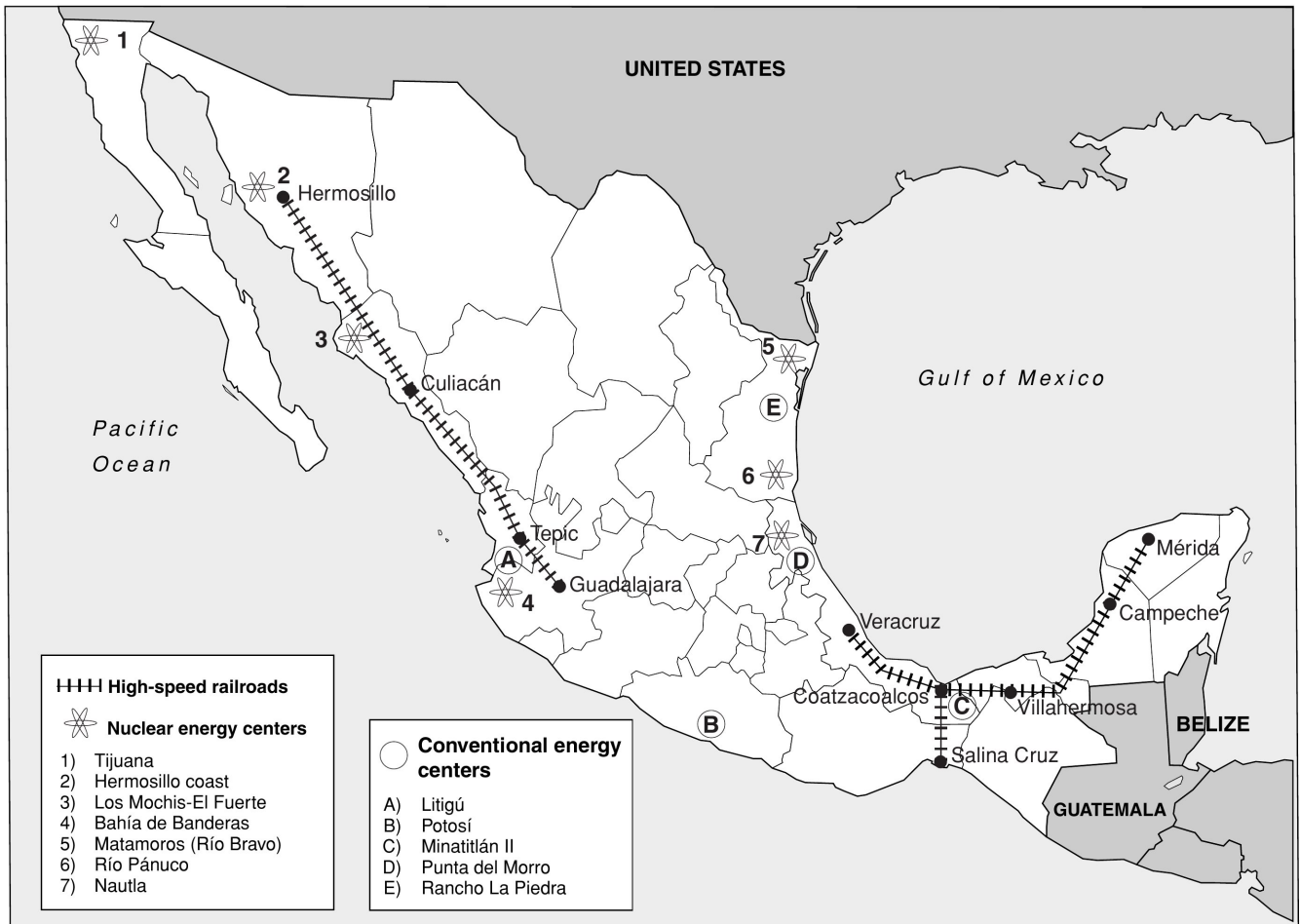
In a period of crisis like this, the way you save civilization is by mobilizing the people, the poorer people, into playing a more conscious political role, in terms of what they understand to be their objective national and personal interests.

What we need is political and related leaders who can bring the mass of the people onto the political stage, as an active force. And that kind of change in the character of politics, will give us the possibility of doing something about this situation.

I know the people fairly well in most countries, including, of course, the United States, and there are a lot of good people out there who will think rationally, but they don’t see themselves in the kind of influential political role that they must be, to do that kind of thinking. That’s what we need. We need leaders at all levels, who will bring the people back onto the stage of politics. Not a Jacobin mob, but just ordinary rational people, who will say: “Here’s the problem, explain the problem to us, what do we do about the problem?” Everything is going to depend upon the degree to which we can bring people, in that way, back onto the political stage.

FIGURE 2

**Mexico: Energy Centers and High-Speed Railroads**



**Q:** On this issue of the population as a whole taking responsibility for national policy, one of the matters that has been very much in the fore in Mexico, is the issue of corruption. For example, the [Mexican President Vicente] Fox campaign has asserted that they're going to get rid of the corruption that reigned under the PRI [Institutional Revolutionary Party] and under other groups, and that everything after that is going to be fine. That this will solve all problems. I would like you to discuss why this is in fact not the case, and how we should address it.

**LaRouche:** If you look at the recent election campaign in the United States, especially the Presidential campaign, the leading campaigns of both candidates were the most corrupt campaigns we've ever seen. The machines that are dominant in both parties, are those machines. They dominate the Congress. So far, they dominate the Executive Branch of the government. Now, how does anyone expect that anybody, say, from the leadership in the United States, under the present situation, is going to help anybody to clean up the corruption

in any other part of the world?

Any campaign against corruption in history, generally in itself turns out to be a worse corruption, than the corruption it pretends to clean up. As a matter of fact, you have this operation from Britain, from Prince Philip, the consort of the Queen of England, who runs Transparency International. It's one of the most corrupt organizations in the world! The corruption campaign it ran in Italy, for example, from 1992 on to the present day, is one of the most corrupt operations you ever saw.

I think that we should get rid of the word corruption, and use some other words instead, because this one is much mis-used.

What is needed, really, is a population, and a political process, which responds to the reality of the needs of the nation and its people. The way you get that in history, in modern history in particular, is by adopting a mission, by defining a mission which actually benefits the general welfare of all of the people. You'll get a result which may have some

elements of corruption in it, and it will be corrupt because the people themselves are corrupt. If you want to totally eliminate corruption, you have to eliminate the people, and that's not a good idea. At this stage of society, some societies are very corrupt and the people are corrupt too.

You have to apply the equivalent of warfare. You adopt a mission for the national interest, you set policies which are in the interest of the general welfare of nations, and you reach those goals. Then, nobody will have any reason to complain about corruption. You need a sewer system, a sanitary system,

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*Any national economy depends upon long-term goals in terms of investment. The leadership for this comes from long-term investments and improvements in infrastructure.*

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and corruption is a sanitary problem. But you need an economy, a nation that functions, first of all.

Look at Mexico, first of all. Looking across the border from the United States into Mexico, there are a lot of problems. And there's a threat of bigger problems, which need to be resolved. There are also practical solutions for these kinds of problems. Some coming from inside Mexico, and some coming from its friends on the outside. What we need to define are missions, are projects, are goals of solving some of these acute problems, and not get trapped into the side-show of promising to clean up corruption.

All the most corrupt people in the world, come into Mexico, come to the governments of countries like Mexico, and say: "You've got to clean up corruption!" So naturally, any new President of Mexico is going to say, "Well, I'm going to clean up the corruption," because the foreign powers demand that he say it, and he has to deal with that. But what will essentially decide whether he succeeds or not, will be whether he's able to fulfill some national mission, in which the people say, "Ah, we are making progress." And that is the best thing we can do.

**Q:** We have a mission in Mexico, one important one at least, which is to save our economy, to save the republic. And one of the crucial issues in that regard, is the issue of cheap energy. Here, in this area, gas is now selling for over \$9. If this continues, it's going to destroy industry. So, this is one mission we have to carry out. We'd like to know what your recommendations are in this regard?

**LaRouche:** We have a crisis in the United States beyond belief. I call this the Carter disaster. If you kiss Carter in the 1970s, you die of pneumonia in the year 2000. What Carter did was introduce deregulation and breakdown of the development of infrastructure. Now, if you go back to the 1970s

and early 1980s, Mexico did have an energy policy. It was a policy based largely on petroleum, plus nuclear. And the Mexican state had all kinds of plans, which were perfectly good plans. The crisis of 1982 destroyed the effort in that direction. But in the meantime, the United States' energy situation internally has become a catastrophe. And what's happening in Mexico with the energy crisis, is largely a spillover of the crisis inside the United States, especially in northern Mexico leading directly to Monterrey, naturally.

But the thing to do in Mexico is look at what's happening in California, for example, in this energy crisis. Then you look at the rising price of petroleum internationally. Some people, including the major oil-exporting countries, have intervened to try to ameliorate that problem, but you're now in a situation where you have a deflationary economic situation, but an inflationary energy situation.

What we're going to have to do, if any sensible solution is to be found, is re-regulate in categories such as energy. And we're going to have to, at the same time, increase the investment in production of energy. The infrastructure for doing that kind of rebuilding exists. It's an emergency, but with cooperation, say, between the United States and Mexico—take specifically, the area of the west and southwest of the United States and the north of Mexico—if we can get regulation restored and have some cross-border cooperation on the flow of energy, together with some energy production projects, we can manage this problem. But we have to recognize the nature of the problem, and then determine what kind of immediate practical steps we can take to ameliorate the problem. It's a matter of political will.

**Q:** Another area of real emergency, besides this energy regulation, is unemployment in Mexico, where the actual level—not the official level—is about 50%. Fox has proposed to address this problem by bringing more *maquiladoras* into Mexico, and to generally strengthen NAFTA [the North American Free Trade Agreement], and the Free Trade Agreement of the Americas. Many people believe that this will provide a solution. What other options are there? How do you actually address this problem of terrible poverty and unemployment?

**LaRouche:** The problem is that you've got international pressures on Mexico, particularly through the NAFTA agreement, to proceed with globalization. Now, globalization means no protection for industry, and it means really no investment in infrastructure development. Now, this is not going to work, because—for example, let's take the *maquiladoras* issue. This involves a very large—what is it, 40% of Mexico's production for export is already involved in *maquiladora* exports to the United States? Something like that.

Now, while it's true that under a Bush Presidency, Bush will tend to try to follow the line of his father's relationship with President Salinas, in which there will be certain Texas-Mexico relations involving *maquiladoras*, which they will try to protect for the sake of their local Texas base. But, you're

having a situation now, in which the United States has been the importer of last resort for most of the world. Now, if you look at the figures in the United States for the third and fourth quarters so far, in retail sales, for example, and if you look at the recent 50% or greater collapse in the so-called New Economy area, there is going to be a collapse of the market inside the United States, for the *maquiladoras*' products. So, the hope of expanding the *maquiladoras*, will be wiped away by the actual reality of the financial and related collapse in the United States.

What that means, is that governments will be forced to turn back to infrastructure development, as the basic way of maintaining employment levels. And when the political forces in the United States take the pressure off Mexico on this issue, then I think that President Fox will find that he has some new options as possibilities. But we need internationally now, in the entire hemisphere from the Arctic Ocean to the Antarctic, we need infrastructure building now, as the primary front for dealing with the global financial-economic crisis. In the areas of transportation, mass transportation in particular, power generation and distribution, water management—which is a big project for Mexico. Most of the future of Mexico does involve large-scale water management projects.

We also have a terrible situation in public health. Internationally, we have pandemics and epidemics growing rapidly. We also have an educational problem in developing an adequate labor force, and on top of that, we have all these urban development improvements to make. What will be required, if we're going to have a recovery, throughout the hemisphere, is an emphasis on infrastructure projects of that type, as a stimulant for general economic growth, employment, and so forth. And then, add to that some type of national goals like [President Charles] de Gaulle did in France, when he set up the Fifth Republic.

An example: Any national economy depends upon long-term goals in terms of investment. The leadership for this comes from long-term investments and improvements in infrastructure. But then you also have the example from the Monterrey area itself, from the past, in how Monterrey in its happier days developed a very effective kind of economic program. That was because of the decision to provoke this kind of development. The same is true on the national level.

Nations must decide what is in their interest for the next 10, 15, 20, 25 years, and take these as goals for building up the national economy. These are things which are right, whether there's a crisis or not. The problem is, recently, the United States and other countries don't want Mexico and other countries to have that kind of policy. We've seen that since the late 1970s and the early 1980s. Now, the United States, the big power, is in a great crisis, perhaps the worst crisis of its existence. So, maybe the United States will change its mind, and allow Mexico and other countries to do what they should. I shall certainly do what I can to make that possible.

**Q:** One final question. Another issue is the need for an educational revolution. A lot of parents, a lot of teachers, listen to this radio station. Fox also has promised a revolution in education. But what kind of revolution is actually required to bring about the sort of society which you're describing?

**LaRouche:** What you need to have is a Classical humanist education program. What that means is—well, let's start, for example, with physical science, which is one aspect of education. What is science? Science is the young person re-living the experience of an original scientific discovery. What this

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also means, apart from science, is the kind of classroom in which you have a lot of Cervantes, in a country like Mexico, as an integral part of the general education policy, and other classics of European civilization. So that you develop an individual at the age of 20 or 25, who has personally experienced the discovery of many of the important ideas from history.

A graduate of such an experience, has a heightened degree of creative potential, and is, on the average, morally superior because of that education, to someone who has not had that kind of educational development. By moral, I mean that the individual is able to locate their identity in terms of their relationship to people from the past, and look ahead to the future in the same way, instead of the person who lives from moment to moment, with very little knowledge of the past and no prospect of the future.

In European experience generally, this kind of education is what built the strongest leadership of nations. The unrealized objective is to give that kind of education to every child in the world. The map is there. What a Classical humanist education is, is well documented. We simply have to be determined to revive it. Build strong people out of young people. All the other cheap kinds of "improvements," are not improvements. And I think everybody in the Monterrey area who has a decent education, knows exactly what I'm talking about, because I've talked to some of the young people there. They know what this is all about. I wish we had more of it, for more people.

**Q:** Mr. LaRouche, thank you so much for this interview. We certainly hope that your influence continues to grow around the world.

**LaRouche:** Thank you very much.