

Turn On the Lights! Here Come the Thieves!

This statement on “the privatization of the national power industry” of Mexico, was issued June 18, 2001 by Marivilia Carrasco, president of the Ibero-American Solidarity Movement (MSIA) in Mexico.

In September, Mexican President Vicente Fox will send a bill to Congress, asking for a constitutional reform that will allow for the deregulation and privatization of the power industry and of gas production in the country. It is obvious to everyone that this is a foot in the door to also handing over the national oil industry.

The bill is a long-standing demand of the global financial oligarchy, which should and can be stopped in its tracks, by a patriotic mobilization in favor of Mexico taking back sovereign control over the development of its own economy. . . .

The unstoppable disintegration of the international financial system, as forecast since 1994 by U.S. economist and 2004 Presidential pre-candidate Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr., is behind the urgency with which the oligarchy is seeking to impose constitutional reforms that will permit the seizure of energy wealth—oil, gas, and electricity—and put these into the hands of the rogues and gamblers who control world speculation, at a moment when everything is going downhill fast. The deregulation of the energy sector is the cornerstone of the Free Trade Agreement of the Americas (FTAA), whose objective is the impossible task of keeping the Wall Street/City of London financial bubble afloat, thus preserving the economic disaster of the past years, while simultaneously doing away with the very concept of the sovereign nation-state and its responsibility to the general welfare of the population.

Nonetheless, with all the blackmail and aura of power that they deploy, the government of George W. Bush, the International Monetary Fund, and the World Bank are all acting with a desperation that cannot hide their terrible vulnerability.

Even before Fox presented the Congress with his constitutional reform proposal to deregulate the energy sector, the World Bank and the Bush government had already dictated what Mexican policy should be, making it clear that they not only want the electricity, but also the oil and natural gas. . . . In a sort of confession, President Fox repeated that the World Bank’s recommendations “are very much in line with what we are considering,” and that these are strategic guidelines “which the country must follow, to truly enter into a process of sustainable development.” On the proposal to open up the electricity sector to private investment, President Fox said: “That is the path. Everything having to do with energy genera-

tion [should go to] private investment.” . . .

The truth is that the plans under discussion in the government have nothing to do with the development of Mexico. Rather, they are identical to the policies being applied in California, only in Mexico they would be on a nationwide scale. They want to carve up the Federal Electricity Commission (CFE) and make the Central Light and Power Company disappear altogether, to be able to hand over piecemeal, first, control of electricity, and later, of Pemex and oil, to the globalization pirates. . . .

In Mexico, hospitals and schools are shutting down for “lack of resources.” Necessary billion-dollar investments in urgently needed projects of power and water infrastructure, or in health and education, which would give jobs to millions of Mexicans, are being challenged, while the fact is hidden that in a mere three years, from 1998 to 2000, the country has been looted of nearly \$100 billion through the servicing of public and private debt. . . .

What is at issue, is the concept of the general welfare of the people, as the touchstone of the existence of the sovereign nation-state. Energy resources for Mexico, as for any other nation, represent not only quantifiable assets, but the very essence of the nation-state. These resources need to be developed to meet the needs of the country, and for trading for technology, capital goods, and intermediate goods for industrial production, etc. Oil can be exchanged, for example, for investments in nuclear energy plants, which not only generate electricity, but which create the bridges toward other necessary levels of science and technology. This would enable the country to leave behind the abject conditions of life created by the practices of Wall Street and the City of London.

Our abundant energy resources are our national patrimony, and will be properly exploited only when Mexico recaptures sovereign control over its money and credit, to direct the development of the great infrastructure projects the country needs. Great infrastructure projects, and corridors of economic growth from north to south and east to west throughout the Republic, should be guided by the principle that electricity, water, education, health, and so forth, are a general necessity of the economy, are the right of the population, and constitute the obligations of the state. They are not merchandise subject to speculative ventures. The state cannot abdicate such obligations, because this would spell its own extinction as well as genocide against the population. . . .

Therefore, the most urgent task, in the face of the disintegration of the financial system, and of the economic depression in the United States, of which Mexico is today a mere assembly-line appendage, is Mexico’s participation in international efforts for a New Bretton Woods system, as has been proposed by Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr., and as has begun to come into being under the coordination of Russia, China, and various Eurasian countries in the recent period. This defines a new era of possibilities, under which nations can rid themselves, once and for all, of the usury pirates.