

# ‘Forget the Chair: The Heads Are Empty!’

by Gretchen Small

To hear the media chatter, the biggest issue of the first debate between Mexico’s Presidential candidates on April 26, was “the empty chair.” Andrés Manuel López Obrador, the candidate of the Revolutionary Democratic Party (PRD), who has led the polls for months, refused to participate in this one, agreeing to debate his four opponents only once before the July 2 election.

The LaRouche Youth Movement (LYM) of Mexico responded by telling Mexicans: Don’t worry about the empty chair, it’s the five empty heads that are the problem!

The first debate epitomized the vacuousness of the Presidential campaign thus far. None of the four participants addressed any issue of importance; not one word was mentioned about the international financial storm threatening to finish off Mexico.

Responding to this silly show, the LYM declared that they are calling upon the youth of the country to hold a real debate, among themselves, over how to secure a future for Mexico worthy of humanity’s dignity. Since none of the candidates nor their parties have shown they are up to the task of governing at this historic moment of upheaval, it falls to us, the youth, irrespective of parties, to bring reality back into national politics, the LYM announced.

## **A Blow Against International Fascism**

When the LYM speaks in Mexico, people listen up. This was demonstrated, once again, when at least seven national newspapers, various national wire services, the national television channel, Televisa, and regional papers from Sonora’s *Imparcial* to Guadalajara’s *El Occidente*, reported on April 23 and 24, that the LYM had disrupted the big youth rally of National Action Party candidate Felipe Calderón in Mexico City on April 23, unfurling banners identifying the PAN candidate as the representative of international fascism in Mexico.

The rally had been planned as Calderón’s big hurrah on the eve of the April 25 national debate. Instead, the candidate of the ruling party found the only news story put out on his rally was that he could not fill the gym he had chosen for the rally, and then the *LaRouchistas* ruined his Hollywood show by telling the truth on his fascist project!

Knowing the press’s propensity for distorting the news,

the LYM issued a press release explaining why they chose to intervene:

“The LYM is leading a campaign in favor of the technological development of nations using the creation of 100% national credit for infrastructure projects, for which reason we cannot allow the neoconservative faction of Bush/Cheney and Felix Rohatyn (U.S.), José María Aznar (Spain), and the PAN’s Felipe Calderón (Mexico) to carry out the destruction of our sovereign nation-state with impunity, as Maximilian of Hapsburg wished to do [from 1863-1867], returning us to colonial status during the Juárez era.

“In the same way that the oh-so-devout founder of the PAN, Manuel Gómez Morín, supported the [1939-40] candidate of the Nazis in Mexico, Juan Andrew Almazán, in order to return our oil to the multinationals, so today little Felipe ‘the pious’ Calderón asks us to abandon ‘our complexes,’ and hand our energy sector, the product of a republican tradition based on the general welfare, back to those same multinationals, such as Halliburton, the multinational which most benefited by the invasion of Iraq.

“The program of so-called structural reforms that the PAN promotes with such obsessiveness, is the same program implemented by the Synarchist International of George Shultz and Henry A. Kissinger in Chile, by means of the bestial dictatorship of Augusto Pinochet. That is why the LYM is demanding from the devout Calderón that he confess to enjoying Pinochet’s ‘Chile.’” (*Chile* is Mexican slang for “pecker.”)

“The LYM is fighting today to get more countries, like Kirchner’s Argentina, to embrace the economic policy that Lyndon LaRouche proposed this past March 30 at the Technological Institute of Monterrey, based on absolutely sovereign nation-states committed to the general welfare of their population, and mutual collaboration among nations, together with a new international financial architecture based on Franklin Delano Roosevelt’s Bretton Woods, but improved, in which each country establishes National Banks committed to the physical development of its territory (infrastructure), and no longer continues the usurious system which today represses and impoverishes nations,” the LYM concluded.

## Hullabaloo!

No press bothered to report the LYM statement, but their intervention sure caught the national attention. While several media attempted to scandalize the disruption, some truth broke through. Televisa’s lead news program showed a clip of a LYM member charging that Calderón’s “project, the reforms, aim to destroy the nation-state.” *Excelsior* identified LaRouche as “an economist known for his fight for a ‘new just world economic order.’” The major national leftist daily, *La Jornada*, summed up how the LYM had ruined Calderón’s party:

“What appeared to be a self-styled event for the PAN Presidential candidate Felipe Calderón Hinojosa, meeting

with the youth of his party, became complicated. A dozen *LaRouchistas* came up to the bleachers of the Olympic-sized Juan de la Barrera gymnasium, carrying posters that questioned his economic policy and called him ‘fascist. . .’ Calderón had just a few brief minutes with the microphone in his hand . . . when the *LaRouchistas* hoisted two megabanners over their heads, which carried their messages: ‘Under the PAN, Mexico will bend over’; ‘Juárez said it: Listen well, Calderón: Traitors to the country will be sent before the firing squad!’ . . . and ‘Bread and circuses are the same’ [*pan* is the Spanish word for ‘bread’—ed.]. . .”

## Setting the Agenda

Not satisfied with the media’s simplification and distortion of their intervention, the LYM issued a second press release on April 25, clarifying who Lyndon LaRouche is, and the intention of their movement to educate Mexicans as to the real issues before the nation, over which they intend now to force a debate amongst the youth:

“1. Lyndon LaRouche is an American economist who has been fighting from the U.S. for decades, against the idea that human beings are animals. This is the idea which today places us in a situation internationally similar to that of Hitler’s Germany during the 1930s; the economic austerity programs reflect the mental and moral state of the politicians. That is the central issue which LaRouche seeks to change; that it be understood that the human being is not a beast, but is a creative being who must develop. If a nation lacks technological, cultural, and intellectual resources, the population is reduced to a bestial condition.

“2. We are a movement of young adults, which denounces worldwide all attempts to destroy the idea of the sovereign nation-state. We are organizing the population around the idea of returning to what the founding fathers did for their nations, giving ourselves the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. As young citizens of Mexico and of the world, we oppose any effort that goes against the idea of the general welfare and development.

“3. That is why we are also proposing to change political and economic direction internationally; to build great infrastructure projects, such as dams, highways, nuclear plants, hospitals, schools, etc., as a means of guaranteeing employment and the future of coming generations. We are opposed to privatization and the projects proposed by members of the PAN.

“4. The way to guarantee the above, is to return to the policy promoted by José López Portillo: investment through national banks and credit issued by the state.

“5. But it must be understood that without a change of the world financial system, no local policy will go beyond good intentions. That is why LaRouche’s battle to revive certain aspects of what was the Bretton Woods system is of such importance, as well as his battle against the fascist policies of the Dick Cheney and George W. Bush government.”