

## Dateline Mexico by Josefina Menéndez

### Fracturing inside the PAN

*A new "authentic PAN" is circulating leaflets in various states of Mexico blasting the present leadership.*

Ever since U.S. State Department relations with the National Action Party (PAN) came out in the open and the subsequent moves to strip its legal party status, the PAN has entered a phase of internal splits that could shed a good deal of light on the PAN's true fascist intentions.

Efraín González Morfín, the PAN's ex-president and 1970 presidential candidate, publicly attacked the PAN's present head Pablo Emilio Madero for his ties to U.S. Ambassador John Gavin. He charged that the leadership has deviated far from party's principles, and noted that he had never made alliances like those now being made to the U.S. ambassador.

The PAN has been hit by a series of ballot defeats which are making some of its leaders think about "deals" to keep the party in business. It lost all the recent mayoral elections in Mexico State.

In the southern state of Yucatán, the PAN only won a minor mayoralty. The Dec. 2 Coahuila elections were another washout: Major cities thought "safe" for the PAN, such as Monclova, were lost. Despite the scenario of violence which the radical Panistas tried to launch in the state by hiring thugs and even booing their national president Pablo Emilio Madero in the middle of the national convention when he called for not "having recourse to violence and defending the vote," the PAN got nothing. During the convention, the radical PAN members who booed Madero clapped loudly for José Conchello, whose Nazi sympathies are on record.

And then there was the substantial economic loss which various sources say hit the PAN in the multibillion dollar dope bust in the state of Chihuahua on Nov. 9.

In states like Nuevo León, Sinaloa, and Sonora, the PAN is not thinking about any "deals" but preparing for battle, since those northern border states are key to its antipatriotic policies.

On Nov. 24, the well-known tycoon Fernando Canales Clariond announced for the governorship of Nuevo León. Clariond is the "political" son of the strongman José Luís Coindreau, a leader in the 1975-76 Chipinque conspiracy in which businessmen from Nuevo León and other states plotted to overthrow then President Luís Echeverría. Coindreau is also a graduate of Georgetown University, where Henry Kissinger is kept; an ex-leader of the Chamber of Commerce of Monterrey; and ex-leader of the national big-business association, Coparmex.

It is no secret to anyone that Coindreau resigned his directorship at the Center of Social Studies of the Private Sector (CESSP), a branch of the Entrepreneurial Coordination Center, to dedicate himself full time to PAN militancy and backing the candidacy of Canales Clariond, leaving Andres Marcelo Sada in his post at the CESSP.

Coindreau and Marcelo Sada, together with Clouthier, the Goicocheas of Sinaloa, and the Vallinas of Chihuahua, were the creators of the subversive meetings of businessmen cynically named "Mexico in Liberty," that

rose up against the nationalization of the banks in 1982, mainly in the north.

An example of what Clariond's campaign will be was seen in the violent clash at his first campaign event on Nov. 26, where bludgeons, sticks, and stones flew between members of the PAN and the ruling PRI party, resulting in several wounded and a press scandal. These are the same forces that support Adalberto Rosas for governor in Sonora and the drug pusher Manuel Clouthier in Sinaloa, whose campaigns are threatening the same violent tactics.

But precisely in these states, a factional offshoot has sprung up called the Authentic National Action Party (PANA), which is said to be of the traditionalist wing. It first cropped up in Sonora, where it opposed the "violent tactics" of the PAN candidate Rosas, the fellow the *New York Times* backs against the candidate of the ruling PRI party.

A leaflet appeared in Monterrey protesting the nomination of Canales Clariond as the PAN gubernatorial candidate in the state of Nuevo León, because it would "be a disaster for National Action." It blasted the candidacy as a "base anti-democratic maneuver of the millionaires which have taken over the PAN bit by bit" and said that "these millionaires sent José Luís Coindreau to take over the state leadership of the PAN and nominate Canales Clariond as the candidate." The leaflet concludes: "With a perfumed millionaire as candidate, the people would repudiate it . . . think it over comrade, let's not carry National Action to disaster."

This leaflet seems to be seriously affecting certain interests, because it was immediately reproduced in the Jesuit "opposition" paper *El Porvenir* and the clearly pro-PAN paper, *El Norte*.