

El Financiero calculated that that money could have paid 5.8 million minimum wage salaries per year or could have built 3.7 million housing units to shelter 20 million Mexicans. The \$10 billion Mexico paid annually for interest could have built 9,000 average factories.

Today's "modernization," the direct seizure of oil, minerals, and agriculture, requires a cheap, disposable, labor force. Hence, there is no room for unions.

One of the masterminds of Mexican union-busting is Lorenzo Meyer, one of a nest of New Age "scholars" formed at the College of Mexico by its president, Victor Urquidi. Urquidi is one of two Third World members of the Club of Rome, an institution committed to reducing the world's population, by any means necessary.

In *Excelsior*, Jan. 13, Meyer called for dismantling Mexico's trade unions, and reducing the labor force to the minimum level compatible with maintaining heartbeat and gonads—nothing less than a Nazi concentration camp operation.

Meyer began by saying that Salinas has grown strong at the expense of the drastic weakening of the oil workers union. "Ideally, to successfully compete in international markets, the new Mexican economy will require a labor organization like that which prevails in the majority of the *maquila* industry [the dirt-cheap labor in the runaway shops along the U.S. border] of the north of the country: that is, a non-unionized labor force, paid the most minimal of wages compatible with the needs for its survival and reproduction. Ideally, and following the suppositions of the economic model, Mexico's international competitiveness will increase if labor can be treated (by employers) as one more input, such as electricity, whose use can be increased or decreased at will, according to the company's daily needs. Since it is very difficult to eliminate from above a labor organization such as the Mexican one, the government's energy in this area appears to be directed toward restructuring it.

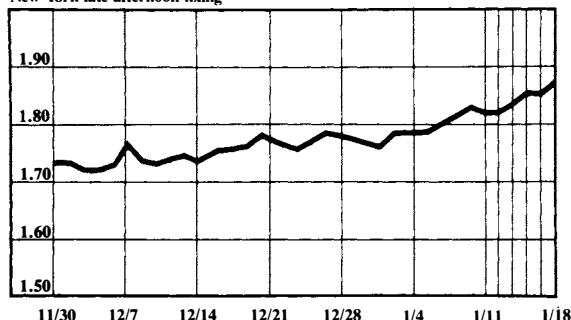
"So, the coup against La Quina and associates is the strongest hammer blow, but not the first, nor the last, that the presidential arm has delivered so far, given in the process of forging a new workers movement, compatible with the design of a Mexico that exports to the countries of the center, products that are relatively intensive in use of energy, raw materials and labor power, and use little capital and technology. . . .

"The new unionism must be politically and economically weak, so it cannot oppose personnel relocations or layoffs. It must not demand benefits beyond the minimum compatible with social peace. In the new scheme, the so-called 'aristocracy of labor' (of which the oil workers are the maximum expression) will have to suffer a destiny similar to that of the middle class: the radical reduction of its consumption and pretensions of improving their standard of living. This is an ineluctable demand for successfully joining economies such as the Mexican, into the present world system."

Currency Rates

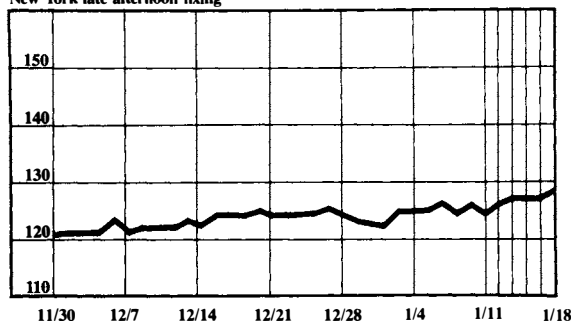
The dollar in deutschemarks

New York late afternoon fixing



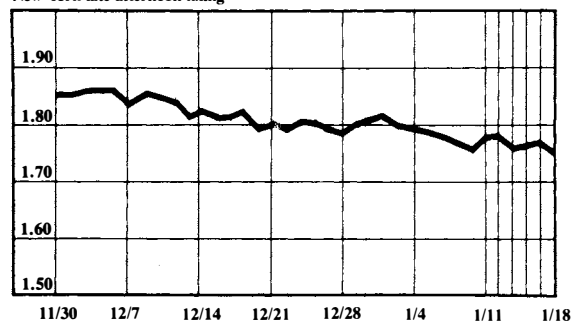
The dollar in yen

New York late afternoon fixing



The British pound in dollars

New York late afternoon fixing



The dollar in Swiss francs

New York late afternoon fixing

