

# Bankers fear Lyndon LaRouche's influence in Ibero-America

by Robyn Quijano

On Sept. 14, Peruvian Sen. Jasmell Muñoz and Deputy Manuel Benza Pflucker, joined Luis Vásquez, secretary general of the Peruvian Labor Party, at a well-attended press conference in the office of the secretary general of the Senate to demand the freedom of U.S. political prisoner Lyndon H. LaRouche.

"We, as Peruvians, must defend the only voice in the United States who defends the Third World and defends the poor of the earth," congressman Benza told the press. He continued, "Mr. LaRouche also has stood out for protesting the procedures employed by the international banks for collecting foreign debts, and has called them 'usurers.' "

The call from the Peruvian Senate took place less than two weeks after Helga Zepp-LaRouche, the wife of the political prisoner, addressed the Brazilian Nationalist Parliamentary Front of Senators and Deputies in Brasilia. Mrs. LaRouche spoke about the political persecution of her husband, after having been invited by many parliamentarians who had signed an appeal for the freedom of LaRouche last April. Her visit was put into the official record of the Chamber of Deputies, along with the congressmen's call for LaRouche to be given a fair trial, and "for the immediate end to the forced labor regimen and systematic aggression Mr. LaRouche is being subjected to."

While Mrs. LaRouche was on her week-long three-city visit to Brazil, the usurers put out the alarm. The *Wall Street Journal* ran a commentary by Sergio Sarmiento on Sept. 1 entitled "Lyndon LaRouche's Latin American Connection," which is a declaration of hysteria over the fact that the influence of LaRouche's ideas is even greater now in Latin America than before he became a political prisoner. "LaRouche oftens seems to find the right connection with powerful people at the right time. . . . His August 1982 interview with José López Portillo, then Mexico's President—a meeting in which he is supposed to have presented a plan for the government's takeover of the nation's banking system ('Operation Juárez') just before Mr. López Portillo actually carried it out—is another example," laments Sarmiento.

The jailing and character assassination of LaRouche was to have erased the power of his economic program, Operation Juárez, which details the way the developing sector can save itself from being victims of usurers. The LaRouche program was crucial in 1982 when he met with then President López

Portillo. Now, in the context of the coming financial collapse, it is even more important for the survival of the nations of Central and South America. Thus the mobilization of Ibero-American notables to demand the freedom of LaRouche before his Oct. 6 appeal, has underlined to the very unhappy bankers that, when their house of cards comes tumbling down, possibly this October, LaRouche's economic program could make policymakers on the continent into a powerful adversary to the bank's looting policies.

Days before the event in the Peruvian Senate, the Peruvian magazine *Oiga* published a wild slander against LaRouche in its Sept. 11 edition. The article, entitled "A Strange Friendship," carries a photo of President Alan García with the caption, "He Salutes LaRouche as 'the next President of the United States.' " The four page slander begins by stating, "Oct. 6 will be a crucial day for Lyndon LaRouche, the eccentric U.S. politician who enjoys the sympathies in Peru of many members of APRA," the ruling party.

Openly lamenting that his jailing has not lessened the power of LaRouche's ideas, *Oiga* states: "But this isn't to say that LaRouchism is gone. On the contrary, it continues to operate and penetrate national life, without anyone concerning themselves with seriously analyzing the significance of the presence of this strange person and his racist, dangerously Messianic message, with money ready to be distributed to open hands. Although imprisoned, LaRouche's tentacles continue to spread. Proof of this is that 25 APRA congressmen . . . appear among 100 signators of a notice published not long ago in the *New York Times* and the *Washington Post*, calling for freedom for LaRouche, 'known for his defense of the sovereignty of Latin America's nations.' "

Senator Muñoz, a leader in the APRA party, declared to the press at his Senate offices that Lyndon LaRouche's struggle against usury and narcotics traffic "cost him his freedom." "I have had the honor to know him personally, and I know exactly what abuses and violations have been committed against him in his trial."

Muñoz indicated that such inhumane treatment is not given in the United States even to drug traffickers, who have the right to bail, which LaRouche does not.

Congressman Benza noted LaRouche has named the names of those U.S. figures who have built "enormous for-

tunes” by laundering drug dollars. Those people are “hunting down” LaRouche as if he were an animal, only for the crime of having an independent view, he charged. Benza reported on the physical mistreatment of LaRouche in jail, and contended that if a U.S. politician like Mr. LaRouche, who recommended debt moratorium to Mexican President José López Portillo and recommends the same for all Latin America, or a rescheduling of payments, is treated that way, “we have to really worry about what is happening to such a politician in the United States.”

Muñoz was asked about the Peruvian government’s position toward the Bush drug plan, and if the LaRouche case showed the U.S. government was in collusion with drug trafficking. He responded that U.S. aid “is not real aid,” since the first thing must be to substitute other crops for coca. “This is a crucial moment for the U.S. government in respect to the anti-drug fight, and we could say that it loses credibility and moral authority if it does not free the great fighter against drugs: Lyndon LaRouche.

“Therefore we demand the United States show us its sincerity in this struggle against drug trafficking, first by stopping persecuting LaRouche, and second by giving all necessary aid against narcotics traffic.”

During the same two-week period, the LaRouche case was covered with great sympathy on the radio and in newspapers and magazines throughout Mexico. Most of the coverage has focused on the hideous jail conditions suffered by the 67-year-old former presidential candidate known for his sympathy to the developing sector’s cause. The Monterrey daily *La Razón* headlined an article in its Aug. 30 edition, “They Have Assigned LaRouche to Hard Labor.” The Sonora-based *Tribuno del Yaqui* headlined a Sept. 6 article: “They Threaten the Health of Political Prisoner LaRouche.”

## Some of the media reports

**El Jalicense**, Guadalajara, Sept. 10, and **Diario del Yaqui**, Ciudad Obregón, Sept. 11, “They will Fight to Obtain LaRouche’s Freedom Oct. 6,” article by Mexican domestic wire service Notimex:

“MEXICO CITY, Sept. 9 (Notimex)—The International Commission for the Defense of Human Rights announced here today that it will fight to obtain the unconditional release of American political prisoner Lyndon LaRouche. . . .

“With that in mind, they added, they are carrying out a world-wide mobilization that, among other activities, includes flooding the White House with telegrams demanding a pardon for LaRouche, who was sentenced last January to 15 years in prison. . . .

“ ‘The war on drugs will be won by freeing LaRouche,’ said the banners, referring to the program presented by that figure during past administrations, and which is considered more far-reaching and more effective than that of George Bush government. . . .

“Lyndon LaRouche is considered to be a dangerous per-

son by American oligarchical groups, said [human rights spokesman] Carrasco, because of his tremendous political acumen and because of his ideas in defense of the sovereignty of the nations of the Third World. Having turned 67 this Friday, he is the victim of physical and psychological tortures. . . .

“His lawyer, former U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark, believes that his imprisonment violates U.S. constitutional precepts, and thus he expects that on Oct. 6, when his last legal appeal is heard, he will obtain his freedom.”

**Wall Street Journal**, Sept. 1, “Lyndon LaRouche’s Latin American Connection,” by Sergio Sarmiento:

“It may be easy to dismiss LaRouche and his people—perhaps with a joke as I did in Lima—as mere innocuous lunatics. . . . His plans to establish a human colony on Mars, or his claims that Henry Kissinger is the leading member of a conspiracy to control the world, do little to enhance his position as a serious thinker or politician.

“Now that LaRouche is in jail, some prominent Latin politicians have risen up to his defense, claiming that he is the victim of persecution. More than 100 Latin American congressmen signed a statement, published in the *Washington Post* on April 28, 1989, demanding his release. Not surprisingly, the signatories included a number of members of Mr. García’s party, the Popular Revolutionary Alliance of the Americas (APRA), and the Authentic Party of the Mexican Revolution (PARM), a group often linked to former Mexican President Luis Echeverría and that supported leftist candidate Cuauhtémoc Cárdenas in the 1988 Mexican presidential election. Moreover, the influential leftist Mexican newsweekly *Proceso* ran, in its May 29, 1989, issue, a heated defense of LaRouche.”

**Oiga** magazine, Lima, Peru, Sept. 11, “LaRouche in Peru”:

“As of 1985, when APRA took power, LaRouche began to operate in Peru. His appearance on the scene was through an advertisement in *El Nacional* of Aug. 6, 1985, in which a so-called Labor Party—LaRouche’s front organization in various Latin American countries, including Peru today—announced: “Neither Kissinger nor Castro. At this historic moment, we support Alan García.” The advertisement in question urged support for President García’s thesis of paying only 10% of the foreign debt.

“The support was not limited to this. In 1986, for example, the Labor Party and Schiller Institute began to openly involve themselves in Peruvian politics, with ferocious attacks on Ricardo Vega Lloná, Manuel Ulloa, Luis Bedoya Reyes and others, and calling for the construction of an electric train, the APRA’s electoral hobbyhorse for the municipal elections of that year. At the end of 1986, a book began to circulate in Lima entitled *Latin American Integration*, with a prologue by Lyndon LaRouche and dedicated to Juan Domingo Perón and Alan García, ‘two illustrious Ibero-American patriots and world citizens.’ ”