

LYM Offers Leadership To Mexican Ferment

Over 100,000 Mexican citizens marched in the Zócalo plaza of Mexico City on Jan. 31 to protest the soaring price of basic foods like tortillas, the lack of jobs and living wages, and to demand an end to the anti-social policies of privatization and deregulation of the new Calderón regime. The response was immediate. Hours before the rally, Central Bank governor Guillermo Ortiz rejected the possibility of raising the minimum wage as “counterproductive to workers,” and a day later, President Felipe Calderón’s press office issued a statement reiterating the Administration’s embrace of free-market “solutions.”

The march was called by 150 organizations, representing a wide range of trade union, farmer, political, and civic interests, and was supported by the Broad Progressive Front (FAP), which backs Calderón’s leading political opponent, Andrés Manuel López Obrador, who was the actual winner of the 2006 Presidential elections, in which fraud was used to proclaim Calderón the winner. López Obrador himself spoke to supporters at the mass rally, outlining his program for addressing the immediate crisis, including an emergency wage increase, parity prices for food producers, “no” to the NAFTA clause allowing free import of corn and beans (scheduled to be implemented on Jan. 1, 2008), and subsidized tortilla prices. Necessary as all of these measures are, López Obrador nonetheless failed to address the international financial crisis in which Mexico’s problems are rooted, nor did he offer any programmatic solutions for the country’s urgently needed long-term reconstruction.

And while the final “Zócalo Declaration” issued by the protest organizers decried Calderón’s neo-liberal recipes as “a model which, after a quarter of a century, has demonstrated its inefficiency and inequality,” it too lacked any programmatic solutions.

A contingent of the LaRouche Youth Movement (LYM) in Mexico mobilized to fill that void, with thousands of copies of a leaflet provocatively titled “Only Nuclear Energy Will Save Your Tortillas!” which we reproduce here, as well as thousands of pamphlets containing a proposal for a preamble to the Mexican Constitution, outlining the general welfare principle upon which the “new Mexico” needs to be built.

Using megaphones throughout the march, the LaRouche Youth were able to brief thousands of marchers on the international biofuels fraud and speculative frenzy that has driven up the price of corn, and thus tortillas, as well as chicken,

eggs, and a host of other food staples. They introduced a much-needed element of humor and joy into the march as well, with a song mocking the ethanol addicts of the Calderón Administration. With the words to the song writ large for all to read on a giant placard, the LYM had hundreds of marchers singing along with them.

Also making an appearance at the march was an animated nuclear cooling tower, a pedagogical device the Mexican LYM has used on street and campus deployments, to provoke discussion over the necessary high-technology, pro-development solutions available to the escalating crises in energy, jobs, food, water, and so forth.

Many of the marchers were inspired by the LaRouche organizers to think about more profound answers to the crisis in Mexico. As one woman told a LYM organizer: “We not only need youth, but youth who can think and be creative like you guys!”

LYM Statement

Only Nuclear Energy Can Save Your Tortillas!

This statement was issued by the LaRouche Youth Movement in Mexico at the end of January.

The situation of the increased price of our esteemed tortillas has begun to be discussed among many political and social sectors in our country, and although the analysis is varied, no one has addressed the real problem—the international financial crisis—which has alone been addressed by Lyndon LaRouche, the U.S. statesman and economist, and leader of the campaign to impeach Cheney and Bush in that country.

The increase in price not only of tortillas, but also of pork, chicken, and more—is caused by international financial speculation, using as a pretext an increase in the demand for corn on the international market, which has been inflated to fictitious levels by the need for corn to create the bio-fuel known as ethanol. The Calderón government alleges that the crazy international boom in ethanol is the cause of the increase in corn (and tortilla) prices, and he argues that Mexicans dying of hunger simply have to be more competitive and grow more corn for bio-fuel. The government announced that it would “protect” Mexican consumers, by opening up the doors to cheap corn imports. This, however, is going to wipe out independent corn production in Mexico, and will have no effect on the cartels. And so, in fact, the ethanol fraud is being used as a pretext for implementing the next phase of NAFTA, prematurely.

The Ethanol Fraud

In recent years, the foolish idea of bio-fuels, essentially ethanol, has been spread among governments throughout the world as a supposed “alternative” to replace our dependence on oil; this, instead of investment in necessary advanced technologies. Most alarming of all is that governments, legislators, academics, and the population in general have begun to believe in this absurd idea, to put it kindly.

So let us review a little what is behind this so-called “energy technology.” The majority of “experts” who defend the idea, either work for or are sponsored by companies that are involved in food, and especially grain, production, companies which of course hold investments in crops designed for production of bio-fuels (such as ethanol and bio-diesel). These multinationals, “worried” about the environment, have conducted vigorous campaigns to present bio-fuels as “environmentally friendly” fuels that would help fight climate change, and would serve as substitutes for oil now used as transport fuel.

The fraud of being a supposed “energy alternative” is easily refuted, and in a variety of ways. Here is a simple example: “The production of alcohol consumes more units of fossil energy than that generated by burning it as fuel. Ethanol made from corn, switchgrass, and wood, respectively, consumes 29%, 45%, and 57% more units of fossil fuel energy than it yields as a fuel.”*

In fact, the only thing that financially sustains the production of ethanol are the subsidies given by governments that have fallen into the trap. It should come as no surprise, then, that the greatest beneficiaries of the subsidies of the U.S. government, which has been the strongest promoter of this foolish idea, are the grain cartels—Archer Daniels Midland and Cargill—and the speculative financial funds, which have recently begun to place their bets on ethanol.

Their objective is clear: to exploit the ignorance of legislators and of the population, to create new sources of business and looting, promoting and subsidizing the industrial production of crops for these purposes. And they are doing this all over the world.

This fraud was legalized in our country last year, when the Congress approved the “Law for the Promotion and Development of Bio-Fuels,” which supports the use of bio-fuels to generate energy.

The idea of promoting alternative technologies that are inefficient, instead of technological development, is neither new, nor original. In essence, it is the same imperial principle employed in the Anglo-Dutch looting of raw materials from the colonies, then selling the finished product and not allowing those colonies the industrial development that would represent their independence. Not allowing the development of advanced technologies is simply the imposition of backward-

ness, no different from the way a colony is treated, making us forget our true potential to develop other kinds of fuels, in this case.

They are still trying to trade us mirrors for gold.

This is what is happening today. So let us speak clearly. If we want to resolve the problem of the rise in tortilla prices, and at the same time resolve the energy problem, are we prepared to support an energy that, in addition to being clean, has a low environmental impact? Which is both powerful and has an increasingly greater density? Which would not only supply our energy, but would help us to resolve the problem of gas emissions and, if it is not too much to ask, which would help us resolve the problem of water supply, as well as the production of new synthetic fuels based on hydrogen, whose by-product is water? Do you like the idea?

Well, welcome to the nuclear project!

The new applications of the nuclear industry are truly spectacular, which the South African PBMR reactors prove. These reactors not only produce cheap, clean, and safe energy, but they use the heat of the reactor to desalinate sea water and to synthesize hydrogen as a fuel source. And this is just the beginning, because what we have had so far has been fission energy, but today we are entering into the fusion era. On Nov. 21 of last year, 20 nations signed an agreement in Paris to build the ITER, the first reactor of controlled thermonuclear fusion, the most natural energy technology, since it is the process by which the Sun and the stars can exist.

We have to stop investing in backward technologies—which only keep us dependent, and loot the well-being of the population—to invest instead in the most advanced science on our planet, to develop the highest industrial and scientific level of our country.

But if we leave it at that, it would be a naive solution, because the IMF, World Bank, or some other multinational organization would show up to do their work, that is, to stop this development. And so the key point is to change what is behind this and every other corruption. That is, the international financial system itself.

We have to reorganize the financial system in its entirety, into what Lyndon LaRouche—American physical economist and leading enemy of the George W. Bush government—calls a new economic order of high technology.

That is why we say: Stop thinking like the so-called “68 generation,” in the “here and now.” Nuclear energy could save not only your tortillas, but could give a real future to what is actually at stake: the coming generations.

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