

Can You See José?

by Dennis Small

Not lately.

José Piñera, the hatchetman for Chilean dictator Gen. Augusto Pinochet's 1981 pension privatization, and the guru of the Bush Administration's plan to do the same, was supposed to be on a non-stop speaking tour across the United States beginning mid-February, to help ram the idea down the throat of the United States. As co-chair of the Cato Institute's misnamed "Project on Social Security Choice," over recent years Piñera has been an ever-present face in Washington and capitals around the world, promoting his plans (and himself) at every opportunity.

Republicans on Capitol Hill had been boasting that they would soon be pulling out their heavy guns—meaning Piñera—to mop the floor with the Democrats. Chile's privatization has been such a smashing success, they lied, that the opposition will simply wither before the might of Piñera's arguments. He's coming to Capitol Hill, he's coming to the Cato Institute, he's coming to speak before Hispanic organizations . . .

But then LaRouche PAC's pamphlet, "Bush's Social Security Privatization: Foot In the Door For Fascism," hit the streets in early January, exposing Piñera's role as pimp for Pinochet's pension looting. Two months and 1 million pamphlets later (including 50,000 in Spanish), Piñera has been nowhere to be found, not even at the Cato Institute's big show at the end of February, its "Social Security University" on Capitol Hill.

Piñera also refused to be interviewed by the *New York Times* for their Jan. 27 front-page feature, which exposed the lies about the Chilean model of pension privatization—"taking a page from Lyndon LaRouche," as ABC on-line reported at the time.

But José did make himself available for his friends at the *Wall Street Journal*, who interviewed him—down in Chile!—for a March 4 PBS program on social security, "The Journal Editorial Report." The show strung together the standard lies about Social Security ("Fewer and fewer workers are paying into the system," "demography is destiny," etc.), with brazen calls from Cato Institute President Ed Crane for the U.S. Treasury to default on the \$1.6 trillion in Treasury bonds that are held by the Social Security Trust Fund: "Some people . . . count the 1.6 trillion in the trust fund as real assets, which it's not," Crane decreed. "There are no assets in the trust fund. . . . The fact is that we have no right to the money we pay into Social Security."

The high point of the Wall Street promotional came when



José Piñera, the guru of the Bush Administration's plan to privatize Social Security, finally surfaced, after a lengthy disappearance, for a Wall Street TV promotional for his murderous program.

moderator Paul Gigot turned to make the sales pitch for the Chilean model:

Paul Gigot: "Most people point to the system now being used in Chile, as the model for what the United States should have."

President Bush: "Frankly, the Chilean model serves as a good example."

José Piñera: "I believe passionately—because I have seen it working—that a system of personal retirement accounts is morally, economically, financially and politically superior."

Ed Crane: "Chile's got the strongest economy in Latin America now. . . . It's been a huge success. José Piñera is a colleague of mine. . . . [Privatization] has been an unequivocal success in Chile."

It's just such mumbo-jumbo—lying to justify Wall Street's plan to steal trillions of dollars to prop up their global speculative bubble—that Piñera and his handlers have been too scared to bring in person to the American people at this time.

But it's not just in the United States. Word went out in Mexico City in late February that Piñera was coming to town to push pension privatization—which has been partially implemented in that country. The LaRouche Youth Movement there was all set to give the fascist ideologue a proper reception, but Piñera was again a "no show"—with no explanation offered for his absence.