

IMF's \$3 billion borrowing ceiling for Mexican development projects, which Lopez branded a "lock" on the country's progress in a June 30 press conference.

The Friedmanites in Mexico's rightwing and their international monetarist patrons know they face a singular problem in Mexico: a working class and peasantry capable of being mobilized around the principles of the Mexican Revolution. The "student scenario" is their only weapon powerful enough to sabotage this mass-based resistance to Chileanization.

The government has clearly and correctly perceived that the student scenario can be defeated only by injecting real politics onto the campus. With this in mind, the government of Lopez Portillo moved forthrightly in early April to launch a major program of "political reform." The government's proposals were designed to pull currently unregistered left parties into debate on national policy and create the basis for mass mobilization in defense of national development goals. In May the government, through the governing PRI party, explicitly proposed that all political parties be given free rein to organize in the universities, to break up the hot-house atmosphere of "campus politics" and integrate the university into national development tasks.

If the progressives in the governments are now to save the situation, they must move ruthlessly to enforce this perspective. They must jail the agents on the "left" and the right, and proceed immediately to take on the fight against the IMF with the same deadly seriousness as Monterrey and its agents have promoted their criminal "student" scenario.

El Nacional: To Know The Trap Is To Begin Taking It Apart

The government-linked daily El Nacional published the following front-page editorial July 1, expanding on President Lopez Portillo's June 30 attack on the International Monetary Fund.

The inflexibility of the financial policy of the developed countries is explained by the fact that they look to the recovery of their money more than to the role of their money in world development. Mexico has posed this problem in various international meetings, as one of the many problems which originate with the survival of the mental and administrative structures which do not correspond to the demands of our times. The logic of the situation dictates urgent modifications; it's an absurd thing — with dramatic consequences — that the countries which have to pay are deprived of the necessary elements to generate the wealth to meet their payments. But when the trap is known and one has studied how it works, the possibility of destroying it is at hand.

Portillo: Illegals An Economic, Not A Police Problem

The following are excerpts from an interview with Mexican President José López Portillo, published in the July 4 edition of U.S. News and World Report, in which the Mexican President strongly assails the Carter Administration's policy on Mexican illegals — a policy based on police rather than economic measures.

Q: Mr. President, why are so many Mexicans fleeing your country and illegally entering the United States?

A: They aren't fleeing; they are looking for jobs. They seek work outside of Mexico because they can't find decent jobs here.

Q: Is your government trying to slow this down?

A: We have told American officials that illegal migration is related directly to our country's economic situation. We have pointed out to them that illegal migration to the U.S. will end when we solve Mexico's economic problems, when we create enough jobs here at home...

Mexico suffers from a major negative balance of trade with the U.S. But if American would but more from us than it does now — and we do have a lot more to sell — that would create jobs in Mexico.

Then my people wouldn't have to cross the border to seek jobs in the United States.

Q: What about Mexico's Army and police? Are they trying to stop illegal emigration?

A: Forget about police measures. They do not help — and never will help. These people aren't criminals. They are ordinary people looking for jobs...

Q: Why don't you close the border?

A: I don't believe I can or should close it. That would be no solution...

Our two countries have a mutual economic relationship that requires people to move from one side of the border to the other. The fact that part of this movement is not properly documented does not mean that we should end the healthy relationship. Closing the border would only cause harm...

Q: Would punishing American employers who hire illegal workers discourage Mexicans from entering the U.S.?

A: Possibly, but we are dealing with an economic, not a police, problem. As long as there are jobs for workers in the U.S. people will be attracted there, and employers will accept the risk of hiring illegals...