

Dateline Mexico by Josefina Menendez

Is Hank the most popular candidate?

A new poll on the 1982 presidential race has put the country on edge.

Although several months remain before the classic *destape*, in which the governing PRI party's presidential candidate is unveiled, political jockeying, patronage-seeking, and opportunism are already the order of the day here in Mexico.

This week a major controversy erupted around the publication of a poll taken by the Mexican Public Opinion Institute, a branch of the Acción Comunitaria (Acomac) political group which listed Labor Minister Pedro Ojeda Paullada as the leading presidential candidate. Second place went to Planning Minister Miguel de la Madrid, and third went to Interior Minister Prof. Enrique Olivares Santana.

But the most outrageous thing about the poll was its naming Carlos Hank González as the "most popular" candidate. Hank, the appointed mayor of Mexico City, is first of all barred from consideration for the presidency by the Mexican constitutional provision blocking sons of immigrants. Second, Hank is widely known to be one of Mexico's less popular politicians.

Why did Acomac go out on a limb?

Less than 24 hours after the poll was published, Fidel Velázquez, the powerful chieftain of the Mexican Labor Confederation (CTM), declared that this poll was nothing more than a poor imitation of the tactics used in the United States. Mexico's labor boss added that the *destape* schedule would *not* be sped

up by such political pressures. "Nobody speeds us up; the PRI decides when and where," asserted Velázquez, who runs the PRI's labor base.

He was undoubtedly particularly peeved at the way the poll put Ojeda Paullada as the front runner, exposing him as the prime target of everyone else in the race. Velázquez is thought to favor Ojeda Paullada.

Despite Velázquez's warning, all of Mexico's media jumped into the fray. Some press analysts made fun of the fact that the poll said that Miguel de la Madrid (who enjoys business backing) was also the preferred candidate of the Communist Party. Leon García Soler of *Excelsior* preferred to query whether the pollsters had even read the constitution before including the ineligible Hank, let alone making him the "most popular." "José López Portillo does know it" (the Constitution), Soler warned.

Standing out among all the columnists was the well known ex-Jesuit priest who now works with the *Uno mas Uno* paper and *Siempre* weekly, Miguel Angel Granados Chapa. Granados went out of his way to resuscitate Commerce Minister Jorge de la Vega Domínguez, the former governor of Chiapas, who came in sixth in the poll. "De la Vega has the most complete record of all the cabinet members thought to be in the presidential race. It is comparable to that of the interior minister, although he [Prof. Oli-

vares] has weaker links to the academic sector than De la Vega."

Another political column in the daily *El Sol* (which often has served the cause of Zionism in Mexico) is also promoting De la Vega. *El Sol* describes his latest speech as "putting him back at the front of the race, ahead of the pack. He has now stood up and is willing to return the blows he has been systematically resisting."

Amidst this avalanche of "futurology," as it is called in Mexico, one rightly wonders who runs Acomac anyway.

From information in the public domain, plus exclusive intelligence gathered by *EIR*, we know that Acomac is a group which emerged from a section of the business community headed by businessman Roberto Guajardo Suárez.

Guajardo is part of the Christian Democratic apparatus in Mexico, and has extensive contacts and strong sympathies for the Jesuits. His activities have run from "right" to "left" over the years.

As for Acomac itself, one of its major theses is that the Mexican state has "sold out" to multinational companies, and that the Global Development Plan is nothing but fairy tales.

Many recalled Acomac's 1978 polls, in which it forecast that the Mexican Communist Party (PCM) would get 20 percent of the vote in a fair election. In fact, one of the cofounders of Acomac, Mr. Luis Sánchez Aguilar, is today working closely with a new leftist magazine called *Di*, which is run by a former top leader of the PCM.

Not surprisingly, *Di* ran the Acomac poll in its entirety, and maintains an editorial line of strong support for Hank González.