

Andean Report by Blanca Gastelum

Club of Life takes mayoralty in Peru

The new mayor is committed to setting up a program to generate new citizens by reviving classical science.

Club of Life founding member in Peru Cesareo Pérez Diaz, a mathematics and geometry teacher in the local high school, was elected mayor of the city of Paramonga on Nov. 13 on the APRA party ticket. Pérez, 45, represents the best of the new generation in the mass-based APRA party, for years run by the AFL-CIO apparatus as the populist opposition to the communists in the Peruvian labor movement.

Pérez was one of thousands of APRA candidates who swept local elections as the population rejected the pro-International Monetary Fund austerity policies of President Fernando Belaunde. The party is striving to evolve its own program for positive economic leadership in the face of the universal expectation that APRA leader Alan García will replace Belaunde as president in next year's elections.

Paramonga is a fairly poor coastal town of 33,000, three hours north of Lima. Until 1969 it was a company town totally owned by W. R. Grace and Company, which built papermaking and chemical complexes using cane residues. Since then the sugar operation has been a worker-owned cooperative. APRA has had complete political control of the sugar workers of the Paramonga area for the last 50 years.

After his election, Cesareo Pérez spoke at the Club of Life's fourth national conference in Peru, "Science in the Fight Against Genocide," on Dec. 2. He called the Club of Life, founded in October 1982 by Helga Zepp-LaRouche to lead an international fight

against genocide and cultural pessimism, "an institution which is building a strong defense for life. It is filled with enthusiasm in forging education for progress, and thus forging new patriots.

"Club of Life co-founder Lyndon LaRouche is promoting a revolution in culture which I support, since it permits 'thawing' today's knowledge," Pérez said, alluding to the work of Bernhard Riemann and Gottfried Leibniz, among the very greatest thinkers in Western science, whose methods are not taught even in universities.

"Society's life is being Aristotelianized, and the human mind's potential is being castrated through codification. But we are going to publicize the latest scientific advances in physics and mathematics.

"I was very surprised when I found out about the Club of Life, that there were institutions in political life which had such advanced scientific concepts. I found out . . . that politics and science are one and the same thing."

Pérez ran his low-budget campaign for mayor by mobilizing 6,000 enthusiastic students. He announced his plans for reforming education in Paramonga on local radio a week before the election.

"What I have in mind," he stated, "is a plan to organize a center to spread science and technology in favor of the youth. Right now I have information sent me by an international organization based inside the [LaRouche wing of the] Democratic Party of the United States. With this, we are going to transform our environment just as was

done in France with the Ecole Polytechnique and in Czarist Russia with the Academy in St. Petersburg. . . .

"We need men, not millions. I already have the commitment of university graduates and from the Latin American Labor Committees, [part of the international scientific organization founded by Lyndon LaRouche on the model of the Platonic Academy] whose members have experimented in Mexico with this program in which children begin learning mathematical physics by means of construction.

"We are going to get rid of the classical Aristotelian formalization which has been used in schools all over the world. We replace this method with a Neoplatonic one based on the contributions of the German mathematician Leibniz and physicist Riemann, to work especially with the slum children. That's where we are going to begin.

"I already have a team of physicists and mathematicians, and we are going to coordinate with professional organizations like those of engineers and doctors to request their historic support and collaboration to carry out this beautiful program; it will be wonderful when people begin to realize what it means:

"We are planning to exhibit the scientific museum prepared by the Latin American Labor Committees. Children will learn to play with conic sections, something that in our system you only get in the university. They will be taught about the golden section, something unknown in today's education.

"And with this 'Kameralist' curriculum, I, as an educator, will give all my life passion to force the creation of new citizens: a mentally powerful youth which then make into a reality democracy nourished by the Platonic aspirations of the republic."