

Dateline Mexico by Josefina Menéndez

The first PAN-symp governor falls

Oscar Ornelas, stooge of ex-banker Vallina of Chihuahua, steps down months before a new governor is elected.

After Sonora and Nuevo León, the hottest arena of the Party of Treason, the National Action Party (PAN), is Chihuahua. The new candidate for governor, to take office next March, will be unveiled by the ruling PRI party in November.

As we have documented in this column, Chihuahua was the first state where the ex-bankers launched their revenge for the 1982 nationalization, by then-President José López Portillo, of the banks that were running capital flight out of Mexico. At that time, Eloy S. Vallina (boss of the Comermex Group and head of the Chihuahua Group), stated that the government had taken away their banks, but they were going to take away Chihuahua.

In fact, in the 1983 elections, the Chihuahua Group won four mayoralties, including that of the state capital and Ciudad Juárez, and various state deputies. They almost took the governorship. This was all possible thanks to the fact that the PRI governor, Oscar Ornelas Kuchle, was a Vallina stooge.

Now the federal government has forced the resignation of Gov. Oscar Ornelas, only days before the presidential *Informe* (annual address to the nation).

With only a few months to go to the municipal and state elections, Chihuahua has turned into a powderkeg, where the ex-bankers have concentrated their power on seizing the governorship through the PAN, since they lost their bid for power in the other

northern states. They have taken this state as a model for what they want to do throughout the north: set up runaway assembly plants as a substitute for developing national industry. The idea is to bring them in as part of a political project which will undermine the Mexican system and turn it into an imitation of Singapore and Taiwan.

At present, 21% of the assembly plants in the country are in Chihuahua, which has the highest rate of establishment of new shops. The situation has reached the extreme of transforming whole sections of the country into colonies or appendages of the U.S. economy, as in Ciudad Juárez, where the process of selling off the economic and social life to foreign interests has reached 75% and all economic life depends on the activity of the runaway assembly shops. In Chihuahua the situation is not just restricted to the border area of Ciudad Juárez, which borders Texas. In fact new assembly shops have been opened in the state capital, Chihuahua City, which already hosts large transnational companies.

The project, as we have indicated, is headed by the so-called Chihuahua Group, which represents Eloy S. Vallina, behind whom there is a cluster of Mexican and foreign political and economic interests. Among them is Anibal de Iturbide, the heir-apparent to the throne of the Mexican Empire set up early in the last century by Agustín de Iturbide.

This nexus is not just in the PAN—it extends to the PRI itself in the state.

The key figure is Oscar Flores Sánchez, former attorney and stockholder of the Comermex Bank, when it belonged to the Chihuahua Group. The Flores Sánchez group is thinking of putting up, as its candidate for the PRI's nominee for governor, Fernando Baeza, currently a deputy in the federal Congress. He made his political career under the protection of his boss Flores Sánchez, and played an obscure role in the attorney general's office when Flores Sánchez headed it.

Among the economic and political connections and backups which the Chihuahua Group can count on, is Antonio Ortiz Mena, a native of the state, who stands for the Kissinger-Rockefeller interests. Ortiz Mena's policy is that of his protectors: runaway assembly plants, tourism, and dope.

There are other top figures inside the federal Mexican government tightly linked to the Chihuahua group, such as Antonio Enríquez Savignac, the secretary of tourism. He also hails from Chihuahua, and has been a protégé of Ortiz Mena since he worked from the Inter-American Development Bank (IABD). This "mafia" recently called for the legalization of casinos in Mexico, as part of an effort to turn Mexico into a laundry of dirty money from the international drug traffic.

The powerful international interests to which Enríquez Savignac is linked by family ties are well documented. He is married to a scion of the Boston "Brahmin" Cabot Lodge family, linked to dirty-money laundering from drug dollars through the Bank of Boston.

One of the brothers of the tourism secretary, Manuel Enríquez Savignac, is the honorary lifelong consul of the Kingdom of Belgium in Chihuahua, and currently is carrying out a program to set up Belgian assembly shops on Chihuahuan soil.