

Dateline Mexico by Héctor Apolinar

Hanky panky in the State of Mexico

Ex-governor Carlos Hank wants to resurrect his State of Mexico mafia to spring Bartlett into the presidency.

Taking advantage of the impending eclipse of the Miguel de la Madrid administration, former Mexico City mayor Carlos Hank González is mobilizing his immense political and economic resources to impose Mario Beteta as the nominee of the ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) for the governorship of the State of Mexico, the industrial belt surrounding Mexico's capital. Beteta is now the boss of Pemex, the state oil company. With this maneuver, Hank seeks to "control" the 1988 presidential succession.

He himself is ineligible to be President, and his attempts to amend Article 88 of the Constitution to permit sons of foreigners to be President have foundered.

In the unwritten traditions of fo-replay for the presidential succession, the winner of the State of Mexico nomination reflects which of the presidential hopefuls will receive the nod a few months later. Beteta's candidacy is seen by the Hank group as the way to reconquer political power in the State of Mexico, which was temporarily taken from them by Alfredo del Mazo, who was governor there from 1982 until early in 1986. At that point, del Mazo became Energy, Mines and State Sector Industry minister and a presidential contender. As governor, del Mazo tried to extirpate Hank's corrupt machine, which had made the State into a paradise of real estate speculation, public and private corruption, crime, and armed gangs which lay waste to the region.

Hank's back room launching of Beteta against the political base of presidential contender del Mazo is part of the kingmaker game. Hank's controller, Dr. Gustavo Baz, grand master of Mexico's Scottish Rite Freemasonry, is supporting Interior Minister Manuel Bartlett for President, and Hank's moves point in that direction.

Hank's support for Beteta is decisive, since he runs, some say, the country's biggest surviving economic empire. Hank's businesses revolve around the Hermes industrial group presided by his son, Carlos Hank Rhon. Since Hank was head of the state food-distribution agency, Conasupo, in the 1960s, he has dominated the import, transport, and processing of basic grains. He remains a "Mexican" junior partner of the Cargill and Purina grain cartels. The corn in a Mexican peasant's tortilla or the balanced feed his animals eat are likely to fatten Hank González's coffers. His political clout in the whole Mexico City region facilitates profitable speculations in real estate, housing developments, etc., as well as providing a noncompetitive market for the Mercedes-Benz busses he assembles. Hank bought most of his companies with money of questionable origin.

In 1985, Interior Minister Manuel Bartlett gave Hank's son, Jorge Hank Rhon, management rights to the Tijuana race track. Almost all the money played at the track is dollars, which makes it an ideal cover not only for currency speculation but for laundering revenues from cross-border nar-

cotics traffic. It is therefore not surprising that Hank's son brought in to advise him in race track management none other than Johnny Alessio, the legendary mobster of the Benjamin "Bugsy" Siegel and Al Capone mafias, which set up the track during the 1930s.

Hank is a political creation of Dr. Baz, who was twice governor of the State of Mexico, health minister, and other things. He founded a current of medical masons which fought for reducing population growth through coercive birth control methods. Baz has praised Maoist slave-labor methods and the Club of Rome's Malthusian theories. On Oct. 8, 1943, Baz—at the time Health and Welfare Minister—met with Nelson Rockefeller, then United States Coordinator of Inter-American Affairs. Baz signed a pact with Rockefeller to join the Rockefeller empire's policies in Latin America.

Hank González and Mario Ramón Beteta both are part of the Rockefeller Group. It is no secret that David Rockefeller has been a guest at Hank González's State of Mexico ranch. Carlos Hank is also a friend and partner of Antonio Ortiz Mena, the president of the Interamerican Development Bank. Ortiz Mena obtained that post thanks to backing from the Rockefeller Group in Ibero-America. He is also an friend of the Beteta family. For this reason, Beteta maintains Ortiz Mena's son-in-law, Alfredo Gutiérrez Kirschner, as Pemex's highly paid "ambassador" in Washington.

In the brief 1975 and 1976 period in which Mario Ramón Beteta was finance minister, he accomplished the financial destabilization of Mexico by permitting his friends to suck billions of dollars of flight capital out of the country. That led to Mexico's first devaluation, in which the peso dropped from 12.5 to 25 pesos to the dollar.