

Editorial

Something Done About Enron!—in Mexico

The April 25 vote by the Senate of Mexico to kill the Fox government's proposed electricity deregulation scheme, is the first sane step by a national legislature against deregulation, since the terrible fiasco known as the "California effect" began to take shape in the United States during the Summer of 2000. Lyndon LaRouche's leadership, and associates of his movement, played a catalytic role—a role which LaRouche's leadership must have worldwide, if nations are to survive the ongoing economic collapse.

Sen. Manuel Bartlett of the opposition PRI party, a key leader of this battle, declared the vote "a victory for Mexico." PRI Senators and Congressmen may next attempt to undo the electricity and gas "privatization" mistakes of their own party, under previous Presidents Carlos Salinas and Ernesto Zedillo.

The lesson of California and Enron—which, in fact, California's leaders themselves have not yet learned sufficiently to dare to *re-regulate* electricity—was clearly crucial to the Mexican Senate's decision. What made that lesson effective, was the repeated interventions into Mexico, by collaborators of Lyndon LaRouche in the last two years' battle against the insane deregulation drive in the United States. One the eve of the vote, PRI Congressman Benjamin Ayala had organized important seminars in the Chamber of Deputies, with the input of LaRouche U.S. spokesman Harley Schlanger, and Nevada State Sen. Joseph Neal, who himself had stopped electricity deregulation in his own state during 2001, almost singlehandedly, using *EIR*'s intelligence as ammunition. We had declared war on deregulation in a hard-hitting *Feature* of Aug. 18, 2000, in which the crucial importance of Franklin Roosevelt's 1930s regulatory legislation, to the functioning or recovery of any industrial economy, was made clear.

Senator Neal has made four trips to Mexico since the Fall of 2000, to urge that country to fight Enron and the other U.S. energy pirates on their northern flank, defeat them, and stop energy deregulation. On April 16, he was accompanied by Schlanger, and was backed up by a personal address by LaRouche, via satellite, to a Mexico City seminar. These seminars and meetings in

the capital, and LaRouche's address on "Energy Policy and the Strategic Crisis," were reported in full in *EIR* last week.

By April 18, the six major daily newspapers of Mexico's capital had featured the intervention of Neal, Schlanger, and Marivilia Carrasco, leader of LaRouche's movement in that country. Headlines read, "Enron, Example of Neo-Liberal Failure;" and "There Are More Bankruptcies Forming: Joseph Neal"; and, most telling, "In California, the Bailout Cost \$47 Billion." One of *Excelsior*'s editorials that day proclaimed, "We Should Not Take the U.S. as a Model." *La Prensa*'s headline straightforwardly announced, "Looting of Electricity in U.S., Reason Not To Privatize in Mexico."

The defeat of deregulation is important for Mexico's defense of its own economy from the exploding global financial bubble; it is important for North and South America more broadly because the energy pirate companies—including bankrupt Enron—are still looters out to destroy economic wealth from Canada to Chile and beyond.

Still more important is the example Mexico's representatives have set, of acting on the *real* Enron fiasco, not the imaginary one about which American Congressman unceasingly prattle and posture. The crimes of Enron and fellow looters do not consist in what the pirate company did to its stockholders, or to its long-suffering, highly paid employees; but in what it did to loot the economy of the United States, and in particular California, which it left with a \$20 billion budget deficit and a \$70 billion annual electric bill.

Why don't we see headlines in the United States, like the sensible ones in Mexico City's press? Because of the criminal agreement of the U.S. media magnates not to cover anything LaRouche does. Why doesn't the U.S. Congress—or the legislature of victimized California—take a step to re-regulate energy, to regulate financial derivatives, to stop the new Enrons? Because they lack the courage to take LaRouche's leadership. Whom the gods would bankrupt, over and over again. . . . Americans were better represented this month, by the Congress of Mexico.