

LaRouche Youth Movement: The Fight For Nuclear Power in Ibero-America

Here we publish the speeches by Argentine LaRouche Youth Movement (LYM) leader Emiliano Andino, and Argentine Congressional advisor and energy expert Ricardo De Dicco, to the June 15, 2006 international videoconference on “The Role of Oil in the Transition to Nuclear Energy,” organized by the LaRouche Youth Movement and EIR. The speeches have been translated from Spanish. Lyndon LaRouche’s keynote, entitled “The Future Is Now: The LaRouche Plan for a Transition to a New World Economic Order with Advanced Technology,” was published in EIR June 23. The Question and Answer period with LaRouche was published in EIR June 30, as was a presentation by EIR economics editor Paul Gallagher, entitled “How U.S. Machine-Tool Sector Was Destroyed.” The conference was transmitted simultaneously to Mexico City and Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Emiliano Andino

Mosconi’s Legacy Is Key for Argentina

I’ve chosen to speak about an aspect of Argentina’s history, in this case the creation of the state oil company YPF (Yacimientos Petrolíferos Fiscales), because this is an example of exactly what we need. Today, we see this crisis in energy and in the world economic system, and the constant refrain is that it is difficult to do anything about it. And so, it is very useful to take a look at those historic figures who did not allow themselves to be defeated by the difficulties of their time, and who truly left us—through their actions, their decisions, and their studies—a world with a more advanced infrastructure, such that one could say that they made possible improvement of many people’s lives, as well as the quality of life which we all enjoy today.



Emiliano Andino

This is in fact the story of Enrique Mosconi, an Argentine general who was born in 1877, approximately 100 years before many of today’s youth were born. As an adolescent, he joined the Army, where he not only pursued his military career, but also became a civil engineer. Being a soldier who is also a civil engineer, is a very interesting combination. Mosconi received his engineering degree by presenting a thesis, neither on combat strategy nor on a plan to attack anyone. Rather, it was a plan for damming up Lake Nahuel Huapí, in Patagonia, in southern Argentina, while at the same time constructing a series of locks between the Limay and Río Negro rivers, which empty into the Argentine sea. His plan was to make an entire Argentine region navigable, which to this present day has still not been made navigable. But back then, at the beginning of the 19th Century, he was already thinking about how to develop the necessary infrastructure to get the job done.

Later, after becoming civil engineer in the Army, he went to Germany and worked for the German Army, as part of its corps of engineers. Remember that the German Army at that time was tremendously influenced, both economically and scientifically, by the ideas of Friedrich List, who had lived 100 years earlier and was an important collaborator of the American Revolution. Thus Engineer (and General) Enrique Mosconi absorbed all these Listian principles of national economy, that is, an economy measured in the sense of a complete nation, where infrastructure plays a fundamental and basic role.

When Mosconi returned to Argentina, he began to apply these ideas directly to his country’s Army. He became director of the Army Air Corps, and it is here that a very critical situation developed which forced him to act in defense of the nation itself. Just as the Army Air Corps was to conduct special nationwide exercises, the manager of the West Indian Oil Company (WICO) refused to provide fuel for all of the airplanes which were going to participate in this nationwide mobilization. This made it impossible to carry out the exercises, which were part of the annual army celebration.

And so, as both director of the Army Air Corps and as a civil engineer in the Army who had assimilated the legacy of the American System from currents in the German Army which had been educated by Frederick List, Mosconi personally committed himself—and it is key to understand that this was a *personal* commitment—to confront this trap, dealing with it as if it were an actual military threat to the nation, and