

Sabotaging the PLHINO Is a Crime

by Alberto Vizcarra Osuna

The director of Mexico's National Water Commission (CONAGUA), José Luis Luege Tamargo, one of the most fanatical synarchists inside the National Action Party-controlled Calderón government, testified at hearings of the Budget and Public Accounts Committee of the Mexican Congress Aug. 8. One of the reasons he was asked to appear was to explain what had happened to funds allocated for feasibility studies for one of the most important water infrastructure projects in the country, the Northwest Water Plan (PLHINO). The PLHINO, once completed, will facilitate an expansion of the country's northwest agricultural frontier by 1.3 million hectares, which would enable the nation to deal with the disastrous consequences of the ongoing world food crisis.

The demand to build this vast water project, which was first conceived in the late 1970s, and which has been a key element in the program for economic reconstruction put forward by U.S. economist Lyndon LaRouche's collaborators in Mexico, has recently seen a dramatic rebirth, involving leading institutions of the republic and producer sectors of the country's northwest.

Like the would-be emperor of Mexico Maximilian Hapsburg, Luege Tamargo represents international forces who seek to destroy the country. During the Vicente Fox government, Luege Tamargo held a position with the Federal Agency of Environmental Protection (PROFEPA), and later became the number one official at the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (SEMARNAT). In both posts, he unconditionally linked up with the environmental fascism of the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) of Britain's Prince Philip and of the Nazi Prince Bernard of the Netherlands, as

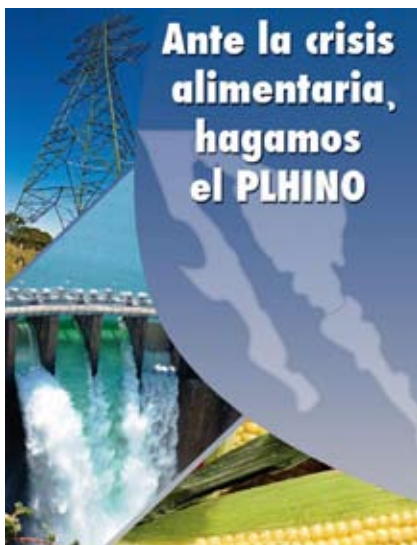
well as with the heads of the World Bank's World Commission on Dams.

These ties explain why Luege Tamargo's language is completely in sync with the terminology of these supranational bodies, which use ecological fallacies both to favor those corporations that control the world food market, and to prevent nations dependent on food imports from developing their own sovereign ability to produce food.

Luege's congressional appearance also corresponds to the fact that CONAGUA, like the majority of the federal government's departments and agencies, deliberately under-spends allocated funds, on the assumption that spending less than the budgeted amount signifies administrative efficiency, no matter what economic and social damage may result. Ever since the Mexican economy was intentionally bankrupted from abroad in 1982, the idea of showing a balanced budget or, better still, a budget surplus, has been considered as a magic formula for economic success by the series of governments which dogmatically accepted this neoliberal prescription.

This became evident during the CONAGUA director's Aug. 8 appearance, where the majority of congressmen at the hearing demanded to know the destiny of those funds approved and allocated to water projects in a number of Mexican states, especially since CONAGUA has publicly accounted for a mere 24% of its 2008 budget, at the same time that the Congress is about to define its 2009 budget!

In the face of Luege Tamargo's constant refrain that every project had to be submitted to a rigorous "cost-benefit" study before it could be executed, the congressmen courageously challenged him, as exemplified by the comments of one legislator, who reminded everyone of the human and economic losses wrought by natural disasters because of the lack of water infrastructure. "According to your cost-benefit schemes, what is the cost of a single human life?" he demanded of Luege Tamargo. The legislator continued, "Or perhaps you prefer to wait for another natural disaster before releasing the funds?" The cornered Luege Tamargo put on a display of rhetorical cynicism in order to evade the



LaRouche Youth Movement pamphlet: "Before the food crisis, let's build the PLHINO."

questions with stupid arguments about “administrative norms.”

Trapped by the LYM

At the conclusion of his testimony, reporters began to interview Luege Tamargo, when he ran smack into the LaRouche Youth Movement (LYM), as well as a member of the Pro-PLHINO Committee of the 21st Century. He was then forced by their questions to repeat his fascist economic doctrine and his opposition to the PLHINO. One of the LaRouche Youth directly confronted the synarchist: “Have you no conscience, to be blocking the PLHINO when it could give food to more than 8 million Mexicans and open up more than 800,000 hectares to crop cultivation?” That same youth told him that sabotaging the PLHINO, in the context of the current food crisis, would drive millions of Mexicans into starvation, and worse.

Confronted with these frank challenges from the youth, Luege Tamargo tried to hide his nervousness behind a frozen smile; he undoubtedly associated these questions with the full-page advertisement that the Pro-PLHINO Committee had published one week earlier in the leading Sonora daily. That ad, directed to President Felipe Calderón Hinojosa, during his visit to the state of Sonora in the company of Luege Tamargo, had accused the CONAGUA director of sabotaging the PLHINO by diverting funds allocated by Congress away from the project’s feasibility studies.

So stressed was Luege Tamargo during the confrontation, that he developed a nervous tic in his right eye, which he tried to stop by pressing his index finger against the lid. In attempting to respond, he displayed his monetarist radicalism and his undeniable relationship to fascist economic thinking, whose essence presupposes that money is the source of all wealth. Luege Tamargo argued that the PLHINO is a project which, while conceived more than 50 years ago, “was never evaluated in depth from a cost-benefit viewpoint.” He reiterated that his new water policy involved focussing on a “more efficient” management of existing water supplies. That is, not building new dams, or projects like the PLHINO, which encompass the interconnection of river basins, with investments that would shatter the cost-benefit accounting scheme.

This pantheist worshipper of the vital cycle of water, advocated that instead, we needed to work with SAGARPA (Department of Agriculture, Livestock, Fish, and Aquaculture Resources) to choose crops with

“greater value added.” In other words, growers should abandon corn in favor of high-priced crops with low water consumption.

Luege Tamargo’s dogmatism is typical of the blindness with which the Calderón government rules. In the midst of the world food crisis and hyperinflationary turbulence internationally, the government has left the governing of the nation on auto-pilot, under the hallucination that we are at the dawn of the North America Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). With astonishing stupidity, this government assumes that Mexico is experiencing a temporary and cyclical episode on a global scale, and that the nation will continue to derive the supposed “benefits of comparative advantages.” This is the typical lie that it is cheaper to import basic grains than to produce them at home.

Who Shaped Luege’s Criminal Mind?

Calling for a program to eradicate supposedly high water-consuming crops like corn, in the midst of a worldwide food crisis and hyperinflationary prices, when Mexico is one of the leading importers of grain and the United States—the world’s leading producer—is reducing its exports, should alert one to the immediate need of a straitjacket for Luege Tamargo! But, there are some things that even a madman wouldn’t do, which suggests that in the behavior of individuals like Luege, there is a malignant design, which is serving interests contrary to Mexico’s sovereign development.

In the beginning of the Vicente Fox government in 2000, international financial interests associated with the old British colonialist tradition organized a forum—in London, naturally—to release the so-called World Report on Dams, and to establish thereby the supranational guidelines to which nations were expected to adhere in the construction of their dams. The report’s prescription, which is nothing less than a dictat against the construction of dams, was prepared by the World Commission of Dams, created in 1998 by the World Bank and the environmentalist World Conservation Union, and backed by the WWF.

The report concludes that the majority of the world’s dams were constructed without consideration of their “cost-benefit,” and many of them have involved exorbitant budgets which have caused indebtedness, in addition to serious ecological damage, by interrupting the natural flow of the rivers and thereby disturbing the vital cycle of water.

Herein lies the explanation for José Luís Luege

Tamargo's dangerous madness. It also explains the origin of his opposition to, and sabotage of, the PLHINO. But, as the Pro-PLHINO Committee indicated in its full-page ad directed to President Calderón on July 31: "The time has come for your intervention. Mismanagement of these funds [allocated to the PLHINO studies] must not be permitted, because if that should happen, we will be dealing with more than a simple administrative failure. A crime will have been committed against the millions of Mexicans who already suffer food poverty, and whose hope to put food on their tables depends to a large extent on the country's expansion of its agricultural frontier. What is worse, it would also mean the sabotage of any possibility that the nation can avoid the social instability and chaos into which a crisis of food shortage would lead us."