Early yesterday morning (day after the election) the PRI was claiming huge majorities throughout the state in the election for governor. One pro-PRI newspaper conceded a slight lead to PAN in the city of Mérida. The PRI candidate declared himself victor by 50 percent. The DIARIO DEL SURESTE, a PRI organ, proclaimed in banner headlines Loret de Mola governor for the next six years. The PAN claims almost a 5 to 3 lead for its candidate in Mérida and gives him a majority of 60 percent statewide on the basis of the returns from those precincts whose tallies it accepts as legally certified. Unofficially, the Electoral Commission has stated that the PRI won in Mérida but no breakdown by voting precinct was disclosed. The Commission indicated that it will not have the final tally for the state for submission to the State legislature until Thursday (November 27).

Meanwhile, the violence which accompanied the voting seems to have subsided.

Although a number of injuries were reported as the result of the violence, including a police agent and a child wounded by gunfire, no fatalities have been confirmed. Several automobiles were overturned and burned in the streets of Mérida (one belonging to the president of one of the casillas) and several residences used as casillas were vandalized. Schools were closed on Monday but reopened today. A reported 100 were jailed Sunday night and Monday morning. Early in the evening of election day the governor, Luis Torres Menias, came on television to announce that he had requested the commander of the 32nd military zone to take over control of
The PRI is already celebrating its victory but the final outcome will depend on decisions in Mexico City - whether the PAN will be accorded a just hearing on the appeals it will surely take if the Electoral Commission accepts the contested counts. The PAN organization for checking each polling place has worked efficiently. Each allegation of fraud, irregularity and outright theft seems well documented. Among these (all probably true) are: in 50 out of 176 polling places in Merida and many more in the interior of the state, the duly designated PAN representatives to the watch committees were denied entry to the casillas leaving them completely controlled by PRI representatives; ballot boxes were simply carried away before the count including several by soldiers; ballot boxes were stuffed before the voting began; voters were allowed to vote for members of their families; polling places were opened late and a number closed before the legal hour of closing with voters still in line; in one precinct in Merida voters were turned away for alleged lack of ballots. According to one report, Graciela Aceves de Romero, one of a group of panista deputies who came to Yucatan to observe the election, was pushed down the stairs in the municipal palace in Citilicun when she was pursuing someone running off with the ballot box.

The PRI charge that the violent incidents were started by panistas is probably true (a secretary of Correa Rachó admitted as much to the reporting officer). The non-violence called for by the PRI throughout the campaign up to the last minute clearly meant, as events have shown, "he docile while we steal the election". The PAN charge that there was wholesale fraud is also beyond doubt. According to all reports, the military guardians of peace behaved less than impartially.

It has been a sordid spectacle.

O'Connell

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