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Merida A-49

the city and its police. It was later clarified that this did not mean martial law. It has been confirmed that some soldiers had been moved in from Chetumal in Quintana Roo.

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 Citilcum 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, "be 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.



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