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1. NEW MAYOR OF GUADALAJARA REVEALED

On October 8 the PRI formally announced its candidate for mayor of Guadalajara, Lic. Efraim URZUA Macias, who is presently Sub-Secretario General de Gobierno in the administration of Governor Francisco MEDINA Ascencio. His selection was a surprise to all concerned; he was never mentioned as being among the front-runners, though he had been mentioned casually as a possible compromise candidate. He is thought to have been backed by Governor Medina Ascencio. He is an achromatic, intelligent, and competent public servant who has no particular following or power in his own right. However, it is rumored that he was the least controversial of the contenders and a "team player". He is 46 years old, a lawyer, graduate of the University of Guadalajara, and generally known to be friendly to the United States.

While the PAN has not decided as yet whether or not it will oppose the PRI candidate in the Mayor's race, Urzua's election is a certainty.

2. SELECTION OF PRI CANDIDATES FOR STATE DEPUTIES (JALISCO)

On October 20, the Executive State Committee of the PRI made public its final list of candidates for the State Legislature, which will take office on February 1, 1967. Since the opposition parties do not plan to contest these elections, nomination by the PRI is tantamount to election. The manner in which the candidates were selected gives an illuminating insight into the modus operandi of the PRI at the state level.

Jalisco is divided into 18 electoral districts and certain of these districts have traditionally been spheres of influence or "Cacicazgos" of various politicians who have, through money, time, friendships, dispensation of favors, and in some cases, use of force, created fiefdoms in which they select mayors, city councilmen, state, and sometimes federal deputies.

Typical of this type of political entity is Guadalajara's principal suburb, Tlaquepaque. For more than fifteen years now Tlaquepaque has been the unquestioned domain of Francisco SILVA Romero, president of the CROC (Confederación Regional de Obreros y Campesinos). A labor leader-politician all of his adult life, this 54 year old Cacique completely controls the political life of Tlaquepaque and has used his power to get himself appointed Diputado Federal (1961-67) and now Diputado Local, both times for the same district, Tlaquepaque.

The head of the CTM in Jalisco, Heliodoro HERNANDEZ Loza, erstwhile Diputado Federal, likewise was selected for one of the state deputy seats. The CTM and the CROC are traditionally conceded state deputy seats in exchange for their loyalty to the PRI.

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A somewhat more classic example of how the curules are distributed is to be found in the continuing influence exercised by Don Margarito RAMIREZ, former Governor of Jalisco and Campeche, who has as his center of influence the area around Atotonilco el Alto, a municipality of approximately 18,000 inhabitants but which is the political headquarters of an area of approximately 65,000 persons. Don Margarito exercises his influence through his son, Lic. Carlos RAMIREZ Ladewig, erstwhile ~~ex~~-Federal Deputy and would-be mayor of Guadalajara. (See our August Political/Economic Report.)

As pointed out in that report, his position on the extreme left of the political spectrum ruled out any possibility of his being elected mayor of Guadalajara. However, through his control of the Guadalajara Student's Federation (FEG) he still wields considerable influence in state politics and accordingly handpicked Dr. Adalberto GOMEZ Rodriguez, a personal friend who, as a matter of interest, has no ties whatever to the district which he has been selected to represent other than a business and personal association with Lic. Ramirez Ladewig, as the next state deputy from the Ramirez Cacicazgo.

The Sector Femenil was given one candidate, Ana Isabel DUEÑAS, a school teacher, excellent orator, and an old friend and confidant of Governor Medina Ascencio.

The present Secretary of Defense, General Marcelino GARCIA Barragan, who still controls politically the area around Autlan de la Granja, selected his friend and confidant, Leopoldo GODOY Cisneros, to represent that area in the legislature.

The Gallista faction (see our September Report) selected ex-mayor of Guadalajara, Dr. Juan MENCHACA, to represent ex-Governor Jesus GONZALEZ Gallo's district, Yahualica.

The present mayor of Guadalajara, Lic. Eduardo AVIÑA Batiz, was nominated for the La Barca-Ocotlan area. Interestingly enough, Lic. Aviña Batiz, before becoming mayor, was state deputy from the Ciudad Guzman district.

On balance, it appears that the selections for state deputies follow the pattern of the PRI nationally. Every effort is made to parcel out placebos to those factions whose support is felt to be essential to the continued good health of the Party. This is apparently done without regard to the wishes of the people whose interests are theoretically furthered and defended by their elected representatives. Consequently, candidates are selected to represent regions of which they are not residents, of which they have no specialized knowledge, and in which

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they have, in many cases, no particular interest except furthering their personal political careers. The only apparent criterion is that they "play ball" with the Governor and be acceptable to the PRI State Executive Committee.

It is also interesting to observe how influential politicians manage to move between Federal, State, and Local positions with no apparent regard to the loss or gain of influence or status involved. No less than four of the candidates for State Deputy seats have just completed terms as Federal Deputies; three are ex-mayors, and one has been both a mayor and Federal Deputy.

After the candidates for diputados were officially designated, nominating conventions were held in each of the headquarters cities of the electoral districts. In these conventions, the various sectors affirmed their allegiance to the State Executive Committee and dedicated themselves to the election of the party's choices. These meetings were characterized by "spontaneous" demonstrations of enthusiasm for the candidates and ubiquitous placards proclaiming the candidates' suitability, dedication to the Revolution, honesty, and so forth, though the vast majority of those present had no voice whatsoever in the selection of their standard bearers. The representatives from the various constituent municipalities delivered impassioned speeches extolling the virtues of the diputados-to-be, often approaching the dithyrambic.

Opposition to the present method of selecting candidates is increasing. After the first tentative list of candidates was published on October 8, four revisions had to be made before the final list was announced on October 20. Most of the changes resulted from protests arising from various factions who found, for one reason or another, that certain candidates were unacceptable. However, most of the complaints were based not on the candidates' basic qualifications to perform effectively as elected representatives but on their having offended at one time or another one of the important interest groups in a previous political in-fight. That is to say, that because state deputies have no power in their own right due to the all powerful position of the state executive, their political palatability continues to be more important than their ability or integrity. This situation is unlikely to change in the foreseeable future.

3. OPPOSITION TO ROBLES MARTINEZ DEVELOPS IN COLIMA

Ing. Jesus ROBLES Martinez, Director of the Banco Hipotecario Urbano y de Obras Públicas, has for a number of years been the dominant figure in Coliman politics, even in absentia. (See Guadalajara's A-67 of June 22, 1966). However, with the selection of the candidates for local deputies during the first week of October, a number of politically active Colimans have come out in opposition to his continued manipulation of the State Executive Committee of the PRI and the installation of his "titeres" (puppets) in local political offices. The latest

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example of Robles' "interference" in state politics was the selection of Hermenegildo GUTIERREZ as candidate for diputado local from Tecoman over the opposition of various sectors of the local PRI apparatus. Gutierrez, who is the foreman of one of Robles' many ranches in the vicinity of Tecoman, was approved by the State Executive Committee after, according to the dissidents, Robles personally intervened in his behalf.

Those who opposed Gutierrez on October 4, formed a Comite de Dignificación Ciudadano Colimense to express their disgust with the imposition of Robles' candidate and solicited the support, through several newspapers, of Dr. Lauro ORTEGA, President of the PRI. However, no support from Dr. Ortega or any other national figure of the PRI has been forthcoming.

Comment: Ing. Robles Martinez, who was elected Federal Senator from Colima in 1964, a position from which he resigned to accept the directorship of the Banco Hipotecario, is reputedly the wealthiest man in Colima and a ruthless power-seeker. It is said that he has spent millions of pesos to develop his influence in the state and is reluctant to relinquish it.

He is also said to be one of that semi-anonymous group of businessmen who actually run the PRI nationally. At any rate, he is feared and respected in Colima and efforts to diminish his influence have thus far been to no avail. It appears that only time or a violent manifestation of opposition to his power will alter the situation.

4. CENTER FOR ADVANCED STUDIES FOR AGUASCALIENTES

Governor Enrique OLIVARES Santana announced on October 3, plans for the creation of a Center for Higher Studies in the capital of Aguascalientes, to be co-sponsored by the Federal Government and the state. Conceived as a regional Unidad Cultural, the projected institution will be affiliated with the Instituto de Ciencias de Aguascalientes and will include a graduate school of Odontology and Obstetrics. President GDO has approved the basic plans for the Center which is scheduled to receive its first students in 1969. It is anticipated that the Center will attract students from the neighboring states of Zacatecas, Guanajuato, Jalisco, and San Luis Potosi, and will involve an initial investment of 12 million pesos.

5. VIOLENCE AT THE TECHNOLOGICAL INSTITUTE OF GUADALAJARA

On September 29, the Escuela Politecnica of the University of Guadalajara was the scene of a savage outburst of student violence connected with the never-ending struggle for control of the student organizations

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in Guadalajara. As reported in the September Political/Economic Report, a group of leftist students at the Politecnico, led by Jose FLORES Ramos, a known communist and professional student, has been attempting to gain control of the student organization which presently is controlled by the FEG (Federación de Estudiantes de Guadalajara). In this particular case, one female student was shot in the leg; various male students, Flores Ramos included, suffered injuries which included contusions, abrasions, cuts, and bruises. The melee lasted over thirty minutes and weapons included baseball bats, bricks, knives, brass knuckles, and pistols. Though only nineteen students reported injuries, estimates of the number actually injured run as high as fifty. In spite of the fracas' receiving extensive coverage in the local press, no arrests have been made.

Comment: Though isolated outbreaks of student-inspired violence occasionally take place in Guadalajara, they are no longer directed by the leadership of the FEG. Students in Guadalajara have long enjoyed a certain immunity from arrest and prosecution by the Police authorities due to the political and disruptive power of the FEG. However, the FEG leadership of late has come out against violent means of settling disputes. As the FEG becomes more moderate, opposition from leftist student groups grows, sometimes violently. As this incident proves, the tradition of resolving political disputes among students by non-pacific means dies slowly.

6. SITUATION STABILIZES IN LAKE CHAPALA AREA

With the apparent end of the rainy season in the Jalisco-Michoacan area, the critical situation caused by the imminent possibility of wide-spread flooding in the Cienega of Lake Chapala appears to have been abated. Though the Lake continues to be several centimeters above what is generally considered to be a "safe" level, there has been no rise in the lake in the past week and the only areas actually flooded are those which were reported last month. Losses in corn and bean crops are estimated to be approximately 10,000,000 pesos; practically all of these losses being registered in the Lake Chapala Cienega in the vicinity of Jamay-Maltaraña, Jalisco. Though crop losses in the immediate vicinity of Lake Chpala have been considerable, for the State of Jalisco as a whole the heavy precipitation during August and September had a salutary effect. Crop yields throughout the state promise to be higher than ever.

The local office of Recursos Hidraulicos believes that the crisis has passed and the the lake can be expected to recede slowly from its present dangerously high level to a more normal one during the next few weeks.

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