

## Project Economic Justice News

- The White House has informed us that the "kick-off" for the report of the Presidential Task Force on Project Economic Justice (PEJ) and the official presentation to the President has been scheduled for Thurs., July 16th.
- During his plane trip to the May 1987 American Leadership Conference in Miami, CESJ President Norman Kurland spoke with Alfonso Robelo, a businessman and former member of the Sandanista Council and now a chief director of the United Nicaraguan Opposition. Norm gave him a copy of the task force report, *High Road to Economic Justice*, as well as its companion document *Every Worker an Owner*. Norm introduced the concept of expanded capital ownership as a tool for bringing economic empowerment and justice to the working people and poor of Central America, and as a unifying vision for overcoming Marxist-Leninism. Robelo was particularly interested in the aspects of social justice in the PEJ strategy.
- Thanks to the efforts of CESJ member Jorge Salaverry, Norm Kurland was also able to meet with Pedro Chamorro, a leader in the Nicaraguan Opposition and the son of the assassinated publisher-owner of the now-banned *La Prensa*, one of Latin America's most respected newspapers. Chamorro, who was also given a copy of the task force report, expressed strong interest in the practical approaches for building economic and social justice in Central America.
- CESJ board member Joseph Recinos attended the Central American Economic Conference on Trade, Investment & Development, in Tegucigalpa, Honduras where he handed copies of the PEJ report to Honduran President Azcona and Vice President Jaime Rosenthal, Costa Rican Vice President Jorge Manuel Dengo, and the Guatemalan Minister of Finance, Dr. Rodolfo Paiz.

- During the official visit to Guatemala by the President of Mexico and his cabinet, Joe delivered copies of the PEJ report to President Miguel de la Madrid and the Mexican Minister of Mining and State Owned Industries, Alfredo del Mazo. Joe reports that in March, copies of the report were given to President Vinicio Cerezo of Guatemala and the Guatemalan Minister of Labor, Catalina Soberanis.
- In a meeting in May with Ambassador Lewis of Trinidad and Tobago and three officials of the Jamaican government, Norm Kurland presented the recommendations of the task force. Ambassador Lewis, an economist from the London School of Economics, was particularly interested in the use of ESOPs for privatizing state-owned industries in his country. The Jamaican officials were also impressed with the concepts in the report and plan to present it to Prime Minister Seaga.
- CESJ member and USAID official Frances Brigham Johnson recently discussed the task force recommendations with representatives of the governments of Gambia and Senegal. She reports that they will be seeking possible situations for introducing employee stock ownership in their countries.
- A special thanks to David Binns, Exec. Director of the ESOP Association for making a booth available to CESJ at the Association's May 1987 Convention in Washington. CESJ members Rowland Brohawn, Dawn Kurland, Marilyn Hatfield, Mac McGrath, and Kris Ludwiniak were present to answer questions and sell copies of the PEJ report and other CESJ materials. Norm Kurland, a panelist at the conference, discussed Project Economic Justice as a new foreign policy thrust and the Industrial Homestead Act as a comprehensive domestic policy strategy.

## News from La Perla

- Current production figures are now in from La Perla, the 40% employee-owned coffee and cardamom plantation in Northern Guatemala. As of March 1987, La Perla's worker-owners had harvested over 800,000 lbs. of coffee, nearly a 300% increase over the 1984 harvest (the last one prior to employee ownership). Since Feb. 1985, the worker-owners have sheltered over 1500 refugees from guerilla attacks, including 80 former Communist guerillas and their families.

## June Meeting of CESJ

Workshop #2 on Economic Justice

When: Sat., June 20, 1:00 p.m.

Where: National Graduate University

1101 N. Highland, Arlington, Va.

(across from the Clarendon Metro station).

Information: Call Dawn Kurland at (703) 243-5155

Part 2 of the CESJ Workshop Series on the Principles of Economic Justice will examine the Principle of Distribution. Participants will engage in an in-depth reading and discussion of this second of three basic principles of economic justice. A \$2.50 donation will cover the cost of refreshments. Please bring your copy of *Toward Economic and Social Justice* (copies may be purchased for \$2.50).

(Brainstorming Session: Sat., 9:30 a.m., NGU. Board Meeting: Sun., June 21, 9:30 a.m. at the Kurlands.)

## \* \* \* Closing Thoughts \* \* \*



Private property was the original source of freedom. It still is its main bulwark.

Walter Lippman  
*The Good Society*