

## The stirrings of real revolution

**N**ow if it's a real Republican revolution you want, forget Newt Gingrich, Bob Dole and their Mexican bailout band in House and Senate. Listen instead to what a little-noticed press conference last week had to say about the most recent hornswoggle of American taxpayers for the benefit of a crooked and tottering foreign government south of what we still jokingly call our "border."

The conference, hosted by columnist Pat Buchanan, whose supporters are even now forming a "Buchanan for President" exploratory committee, featured a flying squadron of four House Republican freshmen (Reps. David Funderburk, Steve Stockman, Cliff Stearns and Zach Wamp) and veteran Rep. Duncan Hunter who announced their opposition to the \$40 billion bailout of Mexico onto which President Clinton, Speaker Gingrich and Majority Leader Dole



**Samuel Francis**

signed their souls two weeks ago. This, declared Mr. Wamp of Tennessee, is "not just a Republican movement. It's a populist movement, a people's movement."

What it is, in fact, is the first whiff of the grape from the New Nationalism, which nowadays is not so new but in the wake of the November Counter-Revolution is at last beginning to acquire some real political power. It's a coalition of conservative nationalists who oppose not only the bailout but also the anti-sovereignty globaloney of NAFTA and GATT and who may be planting the seeds of an opposition from the right to the Republican-Democratic establishment and its allies in Big Business and Big Government.

Yet even as the Republican revolutionaries were meeting the press, President Bill "Man of the People" Clinton was huddling at what The Washington Times called a "pep rally" for his real constituency, those very same allies in bigness. "The livelihood of thousands and thousands of our workers depend upon continued export growth to Mexico," Mr. Clinton whined. Mexico, he purports, is now the third-largest market

for U.S. exports, and therefore we have to eat the \$40 billion plus to salvage our own future.

Well, not really. Our workers don't depend on exports to Mexico, since most of what we "export" there comes back to the United States. But, even if Mr. Clinton's claim about our export dependence on Mexico were true, it would illustrate what's wrong with the whole concept of NAFTA and the export-based economy it was supposed to promote.

As I noted in a column three years ago soon after NAFTA was signed, to develop an economy dependent on exports "is to make American businesses and jobs hostages to the political and economic fluctuations of the foreign countries where the exports are sold. . . . Nations that depend on other nations' economies find control of their own future slippery."

Once you come to depend on what other countries buy from you, you also depend on whatever it is that affects their buying power, which means dependence on the vagaries of their governments and their economic policies. If the other countries' currencies crash, your exports crash along with them. So if you believe Mr. Clinton's fear-mongering about the threat to jobs because of the threat to exports down south, that's exactly what's happened.

But whoever you believe now, the Mexican crisis proves you should not have believed the NAFTA-crats of both parties who bullied and bribed the agreement through Congress. The whole assumption of NAFTA was that Mexico was a reforming, modernizing, economically and politically progressive country.

Now, more than a year after the agreement went into effect, we've witnessed a continuing armed insurgency in southern Mexico, two major political assassinations, continuation of the usual corruption in the government and escalation of the cross-border drug traffic into our cities and schoolyards. Illegal immigration proceeds apace, and the new crisis will increase it. If this is "progressive," it's a swell imitation of a banana republic.

And if the Gingrich-Dole bailout of the Clinton-Zedillo bailout is a revolution, it's a swell imitation of the old regime that brought us NAFTA and GATT. There can be no successful populist movement and no revolution against the Big Business-Big Government alliance until the politics of bailout ends and the elites that prosper at the expense of Main Street are ousted. When the Republicans, new or old, rebels or not, prove they understand that and are willing to act on it, then we can talk seriously about revolution. With the New Nationalists now in Congress, the revolution is beginning to look like more than just talk.

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