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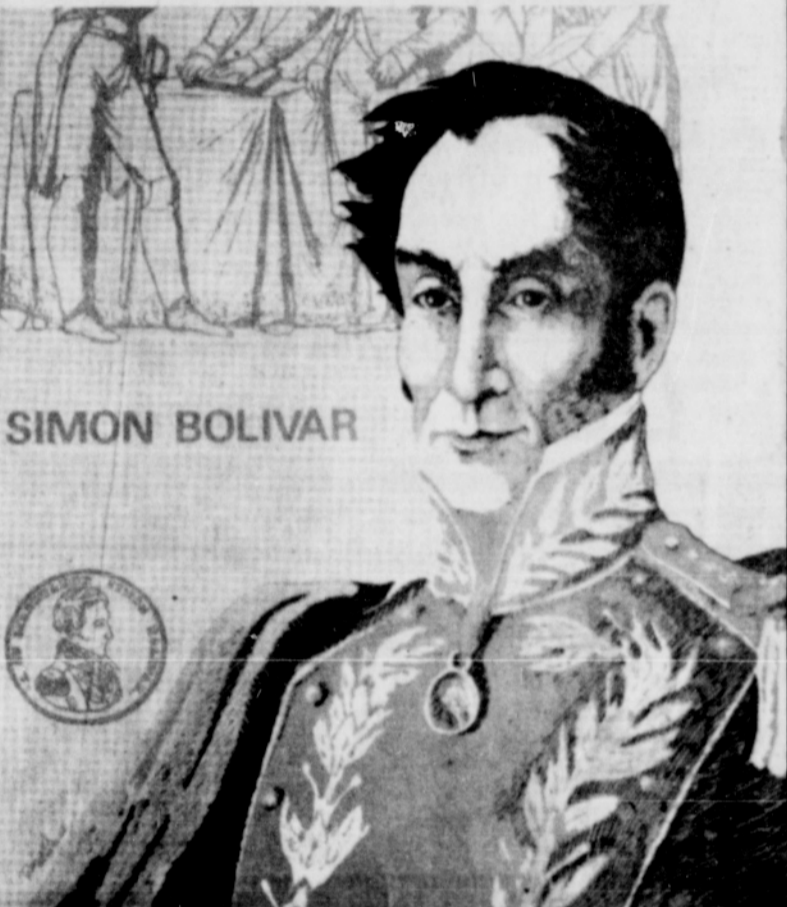
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Hispanic Week



SIMON BOLIVAR

The Liberator

July 24th marked the bicentennial of the birth of Simon Bolivar, who liberated six South American countries — Venezuela, Colombia, Panama, Ecuador, Peru and Bolivia — from the yoke of Spanish colonialism and foresaw the need for a unified Latin America.

Bolivar — "The Liberator" — was born in Caracas, Venezuela on July 24, 1783 to a rich aristocratic Spanish family. He was involved in the wars of liberation of the Spanish colonies from the beginning (1810-1826). After several setbacks, he achieved victory in Venezuela and New Grenada (Colombia). He was elected president of the Republic of Great Colombia (Venezuela, Colombia and later Ecuador).

Bolivar and his army went on to defeat the Spanish troops in Peru in 1824. Both Peru and Upper Peru (renamed Bolivia) declared their independence and made Bolivar their leader.

The Liberator led a new kind of army, a popular revolutionary army. Many high positions were filled by common people, representing all races and nationalities. As the leader of this popular army, Bolivar identified more and more with the people and gained an important understanding of their needs.

In spite of his aristocratic background, Bolivar believed that a harmonious society could be achieved if individual aspirations were subordinated to the common good. He hated the idea of extreme individualism, recognizing that the prosperity of one individual at the cost of the rest produced poverty and social inequality.

Bolivar initiated a wide array of social reforms and at the same time tried to build a strong centralized state that could legislate reform. He recognized that political independence from Spain was only one step to achieving equality, so he advocated the abolition of slavery. The resistance of the slave holders negated nearly all his emancipation legislation.

Bolivar proclaimed equality of the Indians, liberating them from slavery and guaranteeing them political rights. He issued a law returning land to the Indians but the aristocracy refused to obey it. He also

projected a law on redistribution of national riches, a kind of agrarian reform that would give land to the soldiers of the liberation army, but Congress so amended the law that it was ineffective and speculators were able to obtain the land.

The aristocracy and the growing commercial class fought every reform and built alliances with England and the United States. To protect the national resources, he promoted the development of agriculture and increased import taxes and prohibited importation of articles that were produced in the country. But the resistance of the rich oligarchies and their British and U.S. supporters was too strong and when Bolivar died in 1830, at the age of 47, many of his ideals were not realized.

Bolivar envisioned consolidating the New World into a single, united nation — a confederation of States — but he gradually became convinced of the United States' true motives regarding Hispanic America.

He was the first to warn against the Monroe Doctrine, proclaimed by U.S. President Monroe in 1823, which declared that the U.S. has the right to defend any Latin American country against foreign intervention, seeing it as a potential danger to U.S. "peace and safety."

Bolivar's original project for an all-American Congress in Panama in 1826 excluded the U.S. "I will never be of the opinion that we invite (the U.S.) to meddle in our American affairs," he wrote. Much of his correspondence prior to and after the Congress discussed U.S. interventionism and expansionism, its purchase of Louisiana and Florida, and its opposition to the liberation of Cuba and Puerto Rico.

On August 5, 1859, Bolivar wrote, "The U.S. seems to be destined by Providence to plague America with miseries in the name of Liberty."

The Mexican daily *El Dia* said recently that if he were alive today, "Bolivar would be found in the jungles and mountains in the hot borders, or on the slopes of volcanoes at the front of barefoot insurgents, armed with guns and machetes, armed with truth."

Reagan expands Lebanon role

President Ronald Reagan has expanded the U.S. role in Lebanon from that of a "peace-keeping force" to a military force to support the Gemayel government. He authorized the Marines stationed in Lebanon to call on U.S. naval and air power not only to defend themselves but to aid other Western forces — British, French and Italian — and to aid the Lebanese army.

The Lebanese army of Amin Gemayel — leader of the ultra-right Falangists — is involved in a civil war with the Lebanese National Movement, a coalition of progressive Moslem groups. Currently the army and the Druse militia led by Walid Joumblatt, president of the

LNM, are fighting over territory south and east of Beirut being vacated by Israeli occupation forces.

The U.S. Marines are located around the International Airport south of Beirut; their mission, to guard the airport and form a buffer between Israeli and Lebanese troops. They are also training contingents of the army of Lebanon.

In recent weeks the Marines have been reinforced by several U.S. warships carrying a contingent of 2,200 Marines who could be quickly deployed. The amphibious assault ship *Tarawa*, which carries helicopters and Harriers, arrived Monday with two other naval vessels. The aircraft carrier *Eisenhower*, carrying 90 jets,

is further offshore.

The 1,370 Marines, who have been in Lebanon for a year, have always had the authority to return fire, but this is the first time they have been empowered to assist the Lebanese army.

Lebanese officials insist this is not a civil war but is a Syrian-backed "foreign invasion," a view that is increasingly being supported by the U.S. press.

For the Reagan administration, the beachhead in Lebanon is not merely for "peace-keeping" but to insure the survival of the Falangist control of the Lebanese government. Lebanon is crucial to the U.S. strategic position in the Middle

East.

Reagan has avoided use of the War Powers Act of 1973 which requires the president to tell Congress when troops overseas are in danger of "imminent hostilities." He must withdraw the troops in 90 days unless Congress approves the deployment.

Foreign Minister Farouk al-Shari of Syria, which keeps troops in eastern Lebanon under a United Arab League mandate, said the Reagan administration attempt to pursue a military solution on Lebanon is "fought with danger" and could lead to an expanded war in the Middle East.

(Related article on Page 4.)

Special session seeks tax relief plan

Governor Victor Atiyeh is not happy about the Legislature's failure to adopt a tax plan during the regular session which lasted from January into July. He told the legislators meeting in a special session called to deal with taxes and property tax relief, "Never have so many labored so long on a matter of such importance to Oregonians and come up with so little."

During the regular session the Democrat controlled House handily rejected the Governor's tax plan, which included a gross receipts tax. The remainder of the session was spent in attempting to put a sales tax on the ballot — successful in the House but blocked in the Senate by Senate President Ed Fadeley.

Atiyeh has submitted a new plan, originally accepted by the House

and Senate leadership, but now considered dead. Atiyeh's compromise plan calls for a property tax freeze, a limit on growth of assessed valuation and spending limits on local government. It would allow local governments to submit statewide tax measures to the voters.

Most Democrats are committed to offering voters a "menu" that would include a sales tax and a spending limitation. House Speaker Grattan Kerans, who says he opposes a sales tax, has led — along with Revenue Committee Chairman Tom Throop — the drive to put the sales tax on the ballot. Representative Barbara Roberts and Senator James Gardner, candidates for the Democratic Party nomination for Secretary of State, both adhere to

the "no other option available" theory. Joining them is Rep. Ed Leek of District 18, who voted against the sales tax during the regular session.

The opposition to the sales tax will be led by Fadeley, who has sworn to oppose the sales tax and its supporters. He will be assisted by Senator Jan Wyers, who places principals above politics. The most vocal opponent on the House side is Rep. Wally Priestley of District 17.

Waiting in the wings is the State Democratic Party which, unable to control Democratic legislators, will go to the people with an initiative petition banning the sales tax and seeking tax relief through a homestead exemption.

(Related story on page 3)



VICTOR ATIYEH

Citizens Party considers joining Jackson

"Unless a progressive campaign comes together, the vacuum of issues between Reagan and the six declared Democratic candidates will be filled with empty PR," declared Barry Commoner in his address to the Citizens Party National Convention, held in San Francisco Sept. 2-5. Which way to mount that progressive campaign — through an independent Citizens Party effort, through supporting Jesse Jackson, or some combination — was hotly debated.

Commoner, the party's 1980 presidential candidate and best-known spokesperson, and West Coast delegations favor joining Jackson's "rainbow coalition" of progressive constituencies. The majority from the East and Midwest favor concentrating on a Citizens Party bid. Ramsay Clark, a peace activist and

former U.S. attorney general, would be the party's most likely candidate.

The Jackson campaign will be "Taking out left issues in a mass way, creating visibility for all of us. It will be possible to build an alliance of Black and white progressives," says Oregon party activist John Blank. Black political analyst Manning Marable, long skeptical of Jackson, told the convention he now believes Jackson's campaign will be the only way to pressure effectively Mondale, Glenn, and the rest of the "Somnax Six" in the Democratic primaries, and attack Reagan's "Friendly Fascism." Manning said he remains doubtful of Jackson's accountability, however.

Party National Committee member Ion Laskaris, a leading presiden-

tial race advocate, cited a Call for an independent campaign signed by feminist Sonia Johnson, peace activist Sidney Lens, and others. Eastern delegates felt a presidential bid will reenergize the party and give people a real choice in November, 1984.

Western delegates felt planning for goals, fundraising, and ballot access was not yet sufficient to endorse a presidential campaign. They favor concentrating on congressional campaigns. The convention voted to explore a presidential race but delay final decision until a March convention.

In keeping with the party's commitment to participatory democracy, the presidential debate was conducted in small groups, which gave everyone a chance to participate, as well as traditional floor debates.

The convention also heard

speeches from Black trade unionist Larry Serrault and Atlanta Black activist John Lewis. Serrault was national coordinator for a 1977 march against the Bakke decision, which would have limited affirmative action. He said, "You don't remember me, but you do remember the movement, which is the way it should be."

Sonia Johnson, who changed from Mormon housewife to women's rights advocate during the ERA campaign, spoke on feminist issues.

A forum on international peace issues featured speakers from the Citizens Party's international links, the German Green Party and Dutch Radical Democratic Party. They concentrated on opposition to U.S. deployment of new nuclear missiles in Europe this December, saying it will upset the present "balance of terror."

El Salvador: King Bible sure death warrant

by Robert Lothian

A Spanish language Bible owned by Jesuit priest Patrick Hurley contains a full-page photograph of Martin Luther King. The caption honors King for the non-violent movement he led on behalf of civil rights for the "hermanos negros" (negro brothers) of America.

According to Hurley, this Bible is the basic text for a "liberation theology" movement sweeping Latin America, a movement which he says is dedicated to the same values that Martin Luther King fought and died for. Thousands in the U.S. marched recently in honor of the dream of equality, dignity and justice for all people that King left as his heritage, yet in El Salvador, according to Hurley, his Spanish language Bible

with the picture of Martin Luther King is a "warrant of death."

Hurley, who works with a refugee support group in Seattle, visited El Salvador recently, and talked with Catholic relief workers and leaders of human rights organizations. Because of their work on behalf of the landless poor, he said, Jesuits and other Catholic activists in El Salvador are branded pro-guerrilla and persecuted by right-wing paramilitary groups.

"Be patriotic, kill a priest," say posters tacked up on San Salvador's main streets, according to Hurley. Statistics compiled by Salvadoran rights groups, he said, show that out of a total of 29 priests in that small country, 10 have been assassinated, 15 are in exile and 4 are with the guerrillas.

Also, the number of the "disappeared" has increased to 400 per month, and in three years of fighting there have been 40,000 assassinations and 750,000 Salvadorans forced into exile, he said.

"I thought the death squads were secret," said Hurley. But their notorious "Cherokee Chief" U.S. import station wagons filled with sinister looking, heavily armed thugs are visible in broad daylight on San Salvador's streets, where the squads operate with impunity, he said.

"The only difference between the army, the national police and the death squads is that the death squads are in the cities," said Hurley. "They're all part of the same system."

In army pacification programs, he said, hamlets are bombed and

strafed from the air before troops sweep through to clear large areas. Peasants considered free of rebel influence are relocated to these "pacified" zones, anti-guerrilla militias organized, and U.S. economic aid poured in.

In spite of the repression, he said, "very courageous, very dedicated" relief workers persevere at orphanages and refugee camps. The camps are "very well organized under the most difficult circumstances," though relief workers are "constantly intimidated and in jeopardy." Four workers he met on the trip were later arrested, said Hurley, and religious groups in El Salvador and the U.S. are negotiating their safe return.

As an example of the indomitable (Please turn to page 2 col. 1)