

**Main Topics**

- Congress creates commission to investigate former President Fox
- Social security workers agree to 6% wage increase
- Mexico City clears street vendors from historic center
- Calderón calls on radio and TV companies to exercise freedom of expression 'with responsibility'
- 25 federal police officers arrested
- Statue of Fox thrown down, raised back up

The Chamber of Deputies voted to create a special commission to investigate **former President Fox's finances**. The five-person commission will be headed by a PRlista and includes two deputies from the PAN, one from the PRD, and one from the Green Party. The mandate of the commission expires on April 11, 2008. The commission will not have the power to compel Fox's testimony, but Fox said he will cooperate fully. Government Minister Ramírez Acuña said the government would assist the commission with any information requests. (Universal 10/12)

In one of the most watched **union contract negotiations**, the congress of the social security employees union SNTSS approved the government's proposed 6% wage settlement: a 4% increase in salaries plus 2% in additional perks. The agreement is slightly above other public sector settlements this year. With the agreement, the union called off a planned October 16 strike. The 350,000 member union also agreed to study proposals for modifying the pension plan for newly hired workers, while saying it would reject any change in the pension plan for current workers, which is much more generous than the social security payments they administer. (Universal 10/12, Reforma 10/12)

Mexico City mayor **Marcelo Ebrard** and his head of public security, Joel Ortega, cleared an estimated 15,000 street vendors, or *ambulantes*, from Mexico City's historic center. However, vendors complained that the alternative locations set up for them were inadequate or unsafe, and threatened to return if conditions do not improve. The operation has been peaceful so far, but some 1,200 police officers are standing by to enforce the measure. Columnist Sergio Sarmiento predicted that if he follows through, the cleanup will be remembered as Ebrard's greatest achievement. (Milenio, Universal, and Reforma 10/12)

President Calderón's address to the annual convention of the Radio and TV Chamber included a call for "responsibility" in exercising **freedom of speech**. "Freedom of expression must be intimately associated with respect for others, with responsibility for Mexico, as well as the right to information that today the three levels of government and the three powers must honor.... This is the equilibrium that Mexico requires: to guarantee our liberty – yes – but to do so in the framework of responsibility." (Reforma 10/10)

The Ministry of Public Safety **arrested** 25 members of the **Federal Preventive Police** in Tamaulipas who are accused of providing protection for members of the Gulf Cartel. The arrests stemmed from information provided by cartel bigwig Juan Carlos de la Cruz Reina who was captured in August. (Universal 10/13)

PRlistas, led by a Federal Deputy, tore down a bronze statue of **Vicente Fox** in Boca del Rio, Veracruz the day before it was to be inaugurated. The municipal PAN government raised the statue back up and went forward with the inauguration, despite the loss of the statue's right hand. In a statement, former president Fox blamed the PRI governor of the state for the incident. "Governor Fidel Herrera lies, the PRI reveals its intolerance, and everything seems to indicate that they want to return to return to the past," he said. (Reforma 10/13-15)

**Key Dates**

**11/11/07:** Michoacán gubernatorial election; Tamaulipas local elections

**11/15/07:** Budget approval deadline

**12/07:** PAN elects party president

**03/08:** PRD elects party president

**Election Results**

Voters in Sinaloa elected 18 mayors and 40 members of the state congress – 24 by district election, and 16 through proportional representation. The PRI continued its dominance of the state. The preliminary vote count showed the PRI capturing 18 district election seats to 6 for the PAN. It also won 16 town halls, including the capital of Culiacan and the resort town of Mazatlan, to 2 for the PAN. (www.cee-sinaloa.org)

