

Main Topics

- *PAN sets date for party election; Espino will not seek re-election*
- *SCT announces new telecoms auctions*
- *Fox loses his cool during TV interview*
- *Chamber of Deputies approves 2008 Revenue Law*
- *Lázaro Cárdenas rules out running for PRD presidency*
- *Calderón government carries out 79th extradition to the U.S.*

Key Dates

11/11/07: *Michoacán gubernatorial election; Tamaulipas, Tlaxcala and Puebla local elections*

11/15/07: *Budget approval deadline*

12/8-9/07: *PAN elects new party leadership*

03/08: *PRD elects party president*

The **PAN** set the date for the **election of a new party president** and central committee (CEN) as December 8-9, 2007. Current party leader Manuel Espino, who has frequently clashed with President Calderón, said in an interview that he had decided not to seek re-election. Candidates will be able to register until Nov. 23rd. The new president and CEN will take office immediately for a term that will last until 2010. The election is carried out by the 300+ members of the party's National Council. (Universal 10/16, Reforma 10/22)

The Ministry of Communications and Transportation (SCT) announced **auctions of new telecommunications frequencies**—the first since a bungled auction in 2005. New 1.9 GHz frequency spectrum, used for PCS mobile telephony, will be auctioned within 90 days, and there will be an auction of 3.4-3.7 GHz frequencies used for WiMax within 180 days. Within 270 days, 1.7-2.1GHz frequencies used for mobile broadband and third generation mobile services and of 70–80 GHz spectrum that is usable for high volume, short distance data transmission will be auctioned. The SCT said that it expected the mobile broadband auction, in particular, to lead to the entry of at least one new service provider in the market. Undersecretary Rafael del Villar said the auctions should be designed to maximize investment, not revenue to the government. The auctions will be carried out by Cofetel, the telecommunications regulator. (La Jornada 10/18, Dow Jones 10/18, www.sct.gob.mx)

In an incident that was widely covered, **former President Fox** blew up during an interview with Telemundo in Los Angeles. Fox cursed interviewer Rubén Luengas on air and stormed off the set after he was asked about the ownership of his ranch in Guanajuato. Separately, it was disclosed that the Hummer used by the former President had been loaned as an accommodation through the Presidential Guard. President Calderón ordered that all such vehicle accommodation agreements be cancelled. (Reforma 10/17, Universal 10/18)

The Chamber of Deputies approved the **2008 Revenue Law** by a vote of 281-31. Expected revenue will reach a record Ps. 2.6 trillion in 2008, compared to the Ps. 2.3 trillion authorized by Congress for 2007. The Chamber incorporated the expected revenues from the fiscal reform and increased the oil price assumption for the Mexican mix to US\$49/barrel, compared US\$46.60 in the Ministry of Finance request. The votes against came from some members of the PRD, protesting the new gasoline tax. (Reforma 10/19, www.shcp.gob.mx)

Michoacán governor Lázaro Cárdenas Batel denied any interest in running for the **presidency of the PRD**, and said he had great respect for Ricardo Monreal and the other candidates for the position. Cárdenas said he had not decided what to do once his mandate ends on February 8, 2007. The Michoacán gubernatorial elections are scheduled for November 11. (La Jornada 10/19)

Mexican authorities **extradited** imprisoned **drug trafficker** Manuel Campas to the United States. Campas was one of the principal operators of the Juárez Cartel until his arrest in 2003. He is the 79th Mexican prisoner extradited to the U.S. during the Calderón government; in addition four persons have been extradited to other countries. (Universal 10/20)

Opinion Polls

A new Mitofsky poll showed PRD candidate Leonel Godoy building an 8-point lead in the **race for governor of Michoacán**, with 39% of voter preferences, compared to 31% for Salvador López Orduña of the PAN. The PRI candidate Jesús Reyna trails with 23%. A Parametría poll shows similar results. (www.parametria.com.mx, www.consulta.com)

