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Mexico's new president sworn in, pledge peace, prosperity as thousands protest

forms, make peace with Indian rebels and curtail his own nearly absolute powers.

Even as the 42-year-old economist was taking his oath of office, more than 10,000 people shouted slogans against him at a rally protesting his Institutional Revolutionary Party's 65year rule.

"Out with Zedillo!" shouted the protesters who jammed the plaza surrounding the Monument of the Revolution that commemorates Mexico's bloody 1910-20 revolution. They raised banners calling for a civil insurgency

Outgoing President Carlos Salinas de Gortari handed over the red, white and green sash of office in a midday ceremony at the Chamber of Deputies. The 1,500 guests included Vice President Al Gore and Cuba's President Fidel Castro.

Ernesto Zedillo was sworn in as president Thursday, vowing to spread prosperity to Mexicans untouched by free-merican

He promised better lives for millions of Mexicans who haven't seen any benefit from the economic changes wrought by Salinas, vowing to use NAF-TA "to help generate the jobs

we need and raise living standards. The dignitaries were then taken in a caravan of gleaming black limousines to the National Palace, trailing Zedillo's auto as it was showered by confetti thrown from balconies "Zedillo! Zedillo!" people

shouted. "We think he will be a good president!" said housewife Car-men Valencia, 60, a ruling party

supporter. "He came from below and understands poverty." Things were different at the Monument of the Revolution. "Zedillo No! Zedillo No!" shouted the protesters, hun-drads of them supports of the

ished southern state of (pas. The crowd grew by the but police made no move

tervene. Some protesters, mostly ers in straw hats, had clubs machetes.

Many protesters were sy thizers of Mexico's leftist D ratic Revolution Party biggest opponent to PRI rul Salinas' economic policies.

Opposition leader Cu moc Cardenas, who can third in the election Zedillo, told the crowd they had to strengthen his base while challenging con versial elections.

Many Cardenas supp believe he was cheated presidency in 1988, the Salinas was elected, beca ruling-party vote fraud. Mexico's ruling party

has had to defend itself a fraud charges in election southern Chiapas, Veracru

Tabasco states. "A triumph there would triumph for democracy throughout the republic,

9:30

dreds of them supporters of the Zapatista National Liberation 'Our most important challenge is to provide dignified liv-Army, a guerrilla force that reing conditions for every Mexican belled on Jan. 1 in the impover-Cardenas. THE AGGIE PLAYERS ASSOCIATION PRESENTS teaturing Friday, Dec. 2 The Forum in Rudder A&M's only source of improvisational comed Admission: \$3 per person, \$5 per couple \$2 per person for groups of 10 or more Doors open at 9:00, so get there early.

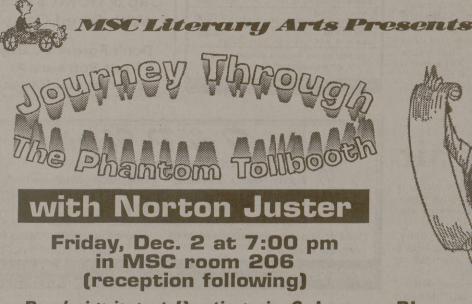
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