

What To Do In Front of the Party In Power?

By Héctor José Huyke

Case 1

Engineer Perez, hired by the mayor of Aibonito recommended to the mayor to sell the valuable construction materials that were left over after the demolition of a governmental structure instead of throwing them away. The money from such sales could then help the political campaign for next quarter. “Why not?”, asked the engineer. “No other mayor would have thought about taking advantage of such materials for a good cause”.

Questions:

1. Is there a problem in this scenario? What?
2. What would you say as the mayor? Why?

Case 2

As Mr. Méndez arrived at the ARPE offices to speak to the manager, Mr. Rodríguez, the secretary told him that all the people who came that week had made a \$100.00 pledge to the party's campaign for the last two months leading up to the elections. After which she said, “As you know, before Mr. Rodríguez took charge this office, permits were never issued so quickly”. Before Mr. Mendez could think of something to say, the secretary added that of course she knew Mr. Rodríguez very well and that he was not corrupt or anything and further pointed out that the donation was completely voluntary and that the projects originating in the office would be treated as usual, with complete professionalism and seriousness. She asked Mr. Méndez to please not tell this to the engineer Rodríguez when he stepped into his office, as Mr. Rodríguez was very sensitive and knew that he shouldn't mix government business with party politics. “Whatever it is,

like you said to me some weeks ago, this has been the best administration ARPE has had that you can remember. What Mr. Rodríguez did was to clean house and issue the permits faster or what should have been done long ago. There were a lot of people who did nothing”. The secretary smiled gently and kept on with her work. Before he went into Mr. Rodríguez's office, the secretary told Mr. Méndez that if he wanted to think about it, she would call his office during the week.

Questions:

1. Was the secretary right in asking for the donation? Why?
2. What do you think about this? Why?

Case 3

Roberto: Look Juan, I understand your worries a lot better than what you think, but if you don't want to collaborate with the party, you are not going to have any contract with the government. Even more, I agree with you. But, do you honestly think that the other party doesn't do the same when it is in power? Don't look the innocent. That's how we do things in this country, and in many other countries to. You have to live, and your family, and me too. What are we going to do? You decide.

Questions:

1. You are Juan. What do you think about it? Why?
2. What should Juan do? Why?