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Director of AFL-CIO, Cathy Feingold (Left) and Ambassador Jorge Argüello (Right).

CONVERGENCES ON LABOR ISSUES BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND ARGENTINA

Last week, Ambassador Argüello received at the Argentine Embassy Cathy Feingold, Director of the International Department of the American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO).

AFL-CIO is a federation of 57 national and international unions representing a combined 12.5 million workers. Because of its clout and because of the U.S. government's

approach to labor standards, the AFL-CIO is a cornerstone organization of the worker-centered trade policy of President Biden's administration.

Recognized for her outstanding record of advocacy for workers' rights, both in the United States and around the world, Cathy Feingold was elected in 2018 Vice President of the International Trade Union Confederation, an



Once again, I share with you the latest edition of our Embassy Newsletter. This edition includes an article about the meeting with Cathy Feingold, director of the International Department of the American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations.

In this edition we also include an article on the bill for the promotion of biotechnology and nanotechnology that already has the approval of the Lower House.

Finally, an article on Argentine fantastic literature in the month of the birth of three of the greatest representatives of this genre: Jorge L. Borges, Julio Cortázar and Adolfo Bioy Casares.

Jorge Argüello
Ambassador to the United States

THE ARGENTINE ECONOMY
STARTED 2022 WITH A MARKED
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THE FIRST MONTHS OF 2022.

organization representing 200 million unionized workers worldwide.

It is also interesting to note that in 2020 U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi appointed Feingold to the Independent Labor Expert Board of the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement to monitor and evaluate labor reforms and compliance with workers' rights.

With her more than 20 years of experience in trade and global economic policy, workers', human and women's rights issues and her commitment to strengthening the voice of workers in global policy debates, Cathy Feingold is an extremely important interlocutor to exchange views on the bilateral labor relationship as well as on all the convergences on which Argentina and the United States can work together.

This is particularly relevant because President Fernandez's administration also places workers in a central role as the engine of the economy. In this regard, it is important to note that the Argentine economy started 2022 with a marked recovery of formal employment in the private sector, underpinned by the intense productive reactivation of 2021 and the first months of 2022. In the six-month period between August 2021 and February 2022, 119,000 people became registered wage earners in the private

sector, equivalent to an average of almost 20,000 new registered private jobs per month. Formal employment had not recovered at this speed since 2011, which gained such magnitude thanks to upturns in activities such as industry, construction, oil, mining, software and more recently, tourism and gastronomy, among other branches.

During the meeting, Cathy Feingold and Ambassador Argüello discussed the treatment of labor issues within the framework of the G20, the challenges of migration, globalization and trade issues, as well as the importance of trade unions. As a result of the meeting, it was agreed to maintain an active bilateral work agenda, both with the federation and with the relevant U.S. government agencies. ■

THE LAW FOR THE PROMOTION OF BIO AND NANOTECHNOLOGY MOVES FORWARD IN THE ARGENTINE CONGRESS

A plenary session of the Senate Science and Technology and Budget and Finance Committees issued a favorable opinion on the bill for the promotion of biotechnology and nanotechnology, which has already been approved by the Lower Chamber.

The Secretary of Industry and Productive Development, José Ignacio de Mendiguren, accompanied the Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation, Daniel Filmus, in the presentation of the bill in the Senate, which grants tax benefits to companies that invest in innovative projects in these key sectors for science and technology.

The Law for the Promotion of Bio and Nanotechnology extends and broadens the Law 26.270 -which expired

on July 25- until 2034. The former one was intended to promote only biotechnology while the new one adds the promotion of nanotechnology. "It extends the validity of Law 26.270 until 2034, so that companies in the sector can invest while they get benefits for a period of twelve more years, in addition to extending tax benefits to the field of nanotechnology", said Minister Filmus.

The regulations contemplate that those who access the promotion regime will be able to obtain benefits of accelerated amortization of the Income Tax in one installment, early return of VAT, and the granting of a tax credit bonus of 50% of the expenses allocated to contracting services. of research and development (R&D) with institutions of the National Public System of Science,

Biotechnology and nanotechnology.



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complementary and clarifying regulations were generated to include Nanotechnology in the Regime for the Promotion of the Knowledge Economy. The Undersecretariat of Knowledge Economy, now transformed into a Secretariat, was in charge of the operational execution of the regime, in another sign of the importance of knowledge for our country. ■

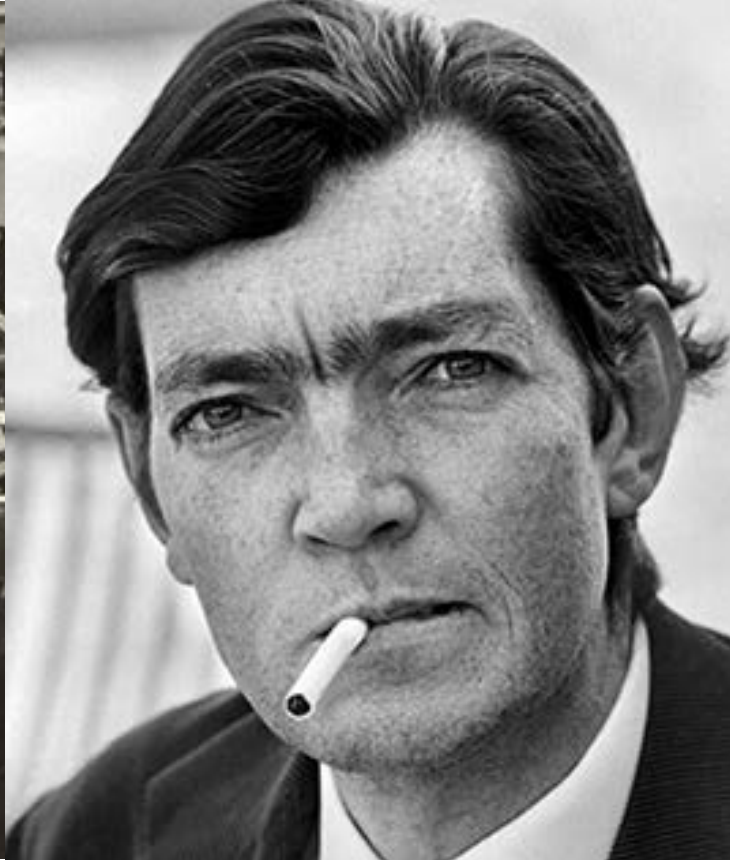
Technology and Innovation.

In addition, Filmus stated in his presentation that “in all areas related to science and technology, Argentina needs a sustained development over time”, and highlighted in this sense that “Congress has taken a very important step and this allows us to foresee national and regional priorities”.

Thus, this bill is one more sign of the importance of Science and Technology as an industrial engine for Argentina and of the commitment of various sectors so that this path can be followed. Central to this articulation is the role of the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation as an instance for thinking about and designing the national scientific and technological policy, as well as for defining the place we want science, technology and innovation to occupy in a development project. sovereign of our country.

As an example, the three calls for the Modern Biotechnology Promotion Regime (2019-2020-2021) granted benefits of \$590 million to registered companies. Globally, Argentina is among the top 20 countries in the world.

This Law is also in line with two other laws: the Knowledge Economy Law and the Science and Technology Financing Law. As a background for the case of Nanotechnology,



Adolfo Bioy Casares (Left) with Jorge Luis Borges (Ctr.). Julio Cortázar (Right). Photo Credit: Sara Facion. Photos: Cultura.gov.ar.

CELEBRATING THE PIONEERS OF FANTASTIC LITERATURE

Almost like a coincidence or a fantastic turn of fate, in less than a month a new anniversary of the births of three pioneering writers of fantastic literature in Argentina is celebrated: Jorge Luis Borges, Julio Cortázar and Adolfo Bioy Casares. The difference is on the dates. The first one was on August 24, 1899. When the First World War had already begun Cortázar was born, on August 26, 1914 and in September 15 of that same year, so did Bioy Casares.

The fantastic tale, which for many emerged thanks to the influence of authors such as the Americans Edgar Allan Poe and Henry James -British by adoption-; or the Europeans like E.T.A. Hoffmann, Franz Kafka, Mary Shelley and Gilbert K. Chesterton, and also the French Jules Verne, among others, stands out above the rest of the different literary

currents that emerged in the Río de La Plata, without a doubt, for having made history.

"The fantastic and the mysterious are not only the great imaginations of cinema, literature, stories and novels -Cortázar argued in one of his lectures-. It is present in ourselves, in that which is our psyche and that neither science nor philosophy can explain more than in a primary and rudimentary way."

This genre, which opens a door to imagination, thematic variety and freedom, has its roots in the 19th century, but in Argentina took off during the 20th century with authors such as Leopoldo Lugones, Cortázar, Bioy Casares, Silvina Ocampo and Borges and their representatives have

BORGES AND CORTÁZAR ARE PART OF THE WORD ARCHIVE OF THE HISPANIC READING ROOM OF THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS, WHICH BRINGS TOGETHER MORE THAN 70 RECORDINGS AND VIDEOS OF CONTEMPORARY ARGENTINE WRITERS.

multiplied to this day.

Among them we find the Argentine Samanta Schweblin, author of the novels "Little eyes" and "Fever dream" which, directed by Claudia Llosa, premiered on Netflix in 2021. She adopted a personal style, and supports her literature in her own aspects of postmodernity. A precise, stripped-down, almost minimalist language, as if it were reminiscent of the advice that Borges gave his students: linguistic precision, fairness in the adjective, expressive clarity.

In a virtual talk organized in 2021 by the Embassy of Argentina the writer, referring to these greatest figures of our literature, said: "They are not so much my parents' but my grandparents' [writers]. The older generation endured them. Grandparents are kinder and don't demand as much, especially because one does not need to fight with one's grandparents but with the parents".

Another of the current representatives of this genre is the Argentine, Liliana Bodoc, with "Saga de los Confines", composed of three books: "The days of the Deer", "The days of the Shadow" and "The days of the Fire". A trilogy of

magical, fantastic and collective events. Likewise, in the last two years, in Latin America, there has been an explosion of fantastic literature publications such as "Mugre Rosa", by Fernanda Trías (Uruguay), from Random House; "From a strange world", by Solange Rodríguez Pappe (Ecuador), from InLimbo publishing house, or "Perfect parasites", by Luis Carlos Barragán (Colombia) from Ediciones Vestigio, among many others.

Today, these great creators of the fantastic genre also leave their mark on several of the Hispanic literature divisions at various universities in the United States and around the world. Borges and Cortázar, are also part of the Word Archive of the Hispanic Reading Room of the Library of Congress, which brings together more than 70 recordings and videos of contemporary Argentine writers. Many of these are available online.

"In what lies the charm of fantastic tales?" Borges asked himself in a conference he gave in 1967. "It lies in the fact that they are not arbitrary inventions -he continued-, because if they were arbitrary inventions their number would be infinite; It resides in the fact that, being fantastic, they are symbols of us, of our life, of the universe, of the unstable and mysterious nature of our lives, and all this takes us from literature to philosophy".

Do not miss the opportunity to celebrate this month of anniversaries by revisiting these authors and discovering the new generation of writers. ■