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Key legal issue on Friday: who will be the perito? According to Pablo, 22 people could be it. Judge eliminated 15 from both sides; that leaves 7. Eliminate the first 5 of the seven (the corrupt freaks), and that leaves Echeverria and Richard. Richard served in the last inspection, and he was found by Fernando Reyes, who has turned out to be a good friend of the case. Richard showed some surprising independence, telling the judge quietly that Texaco's sampling was bullshit. The question is, do we push for Reyes himself or Richard? At first, I thought the idea Reyes would not be the perito was a case killer. I simply am loathe to spend much more money on the case not knowing if we can get a damage claim before the court, which essentially would prevent us from winning the case before a decision can even be made. I trust Reyes; I don't know Richard, even though he looks promising. So I met Richard with Reyes on Sat afternoon in the Hotel Quito, one of my endless series of meetings. He was a humble man, not very sophisticated, but he seemed smart and under-stated – maybe the perfect foil for Chevron, but there is no way to know for sure so there is risk. Reyes things we should go with Richard, and he can help him. The problem is that Wray made some dumb-fuck agreement with Callejas at the first inspection where they agreed the perito for the GP would come from somebody who had actuado en the trial.

