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Venezuela's Progress

Of all the oil rich nations of the world, Venezuela under its president Perez Jimenez seems to have made, and is now making, by far the most progress culturally, industrially and educationally of any country, perhaps including Texas. It has stable, progressive government and the cooperation of the big oil companies in development and welfare programs.

Probably foreign developers of oil regions of the midwest pay as much or more revenue to their Arab chieftains as they pay to Venezuela, but the money is largely squandered and public welfare neglected, as it always is by feudal dictators.

The United Nations recently published an economic survey of Venezuela for the year 1955. It shows not only the increase in oil production but that the industrial production index has been higher than any other Latin American country since 1951. The indices of industrial production have increased from 119 in 1951 to 187 in 1955. Argentina's 1955 index in the latter year 119, Brazil 139, Colombia 142, Ecuador 134, Guatemala 105, Mexico 134, Latin America 128. The survey adds:

"Venezuela was the country with the highest rate of growth for industrial production during 1955. The intensive process of industrialization which began in 1950 did not slacken during 1955; the expansion of plants already installed and the creation of new industries continued unabated. The most spectacular industrial increase in Venezuela occurred in foodstuffs and beverages, tobacco products, textiles, cement, and rubber manufactures."

In Venezuela's admirable conservation policy the oil companies have fully cooperated on the conviction of the government that only in this way can a healthy oil industry flourish.

The Venezuela government claims that the first 22 of more than 1000 new housing projects, each 15 stories high, have been opened in Caracas and other cities, adding 2688 apartments to the 30,000 already built to clear slum areas at low rentals, with schools, playgrounds, church, and theater and even gas stations. Other new housing projects have been completed in various states.

Agricultural colleges are instructing the farmers in new farm and livestock production methods, a vast highway program is being built and, in brief, Venezuela has a point-four program of its own.

Venezuela has modern 14-story skyscraper hotels with all conveniences completed in five cities and is planning many more all under government management, to attract world tourists to its picturesque scenic wonders, some on high mountains, and others on the cattle plains.

Brazil and Argentina have twice the area for development, probably each as rich in oil or metals, but neither country wants development by foreigners and hasn't the know-how or capacity to do it themselves.—G.P.

An Important Month

This month is outstanding in the history of the Western Hemisphere. There are those who say it may be one of the most important dates in that history.

The reason is that this week the 21 American republics are observing the 67th anniversary of the founding of the Pan-American movement, while, also this month, their presidential representatives are holding the final session to chart the future course of a cooperative program in the Western Hemisphere. Their decisions, it is said, are almost certain to affect the lives of 340,000 Americans for a long period of time.

While the Pan-American Union, out of which has come the Organization of American States, seems to have been effective in outlawing war in the Americas through its peace machinery, it has not been able to prevent occasional internal uprisings and attempts at communist infiltration. It is, however, aimed against those evils.

High on the agenda for action by the committee of presidential representatives in Washington is the peaceful use of atomic energy to speed the development of member countries. Out of it also should come directives to promote international trade, eradication of disease, reduction of illiteracy, stimulation of agriculture and industry, better housing among the people, and completion of the Inter-American highway system.

The actual anniversary date of the Pan-American Union is April 14. The international organization is controlled by a governing board composed of the Secretary of State of the United States and the diplomatic representatives in Washington of the 20 other American nations, administered by a director general and assistant chosen by the board. Its newly-elected director general is Dr. Jose A. Mora of Uruguay.

For Happier Children

A fine social and humanitarian purpose would be served by two bills pending in the Oregon Legislature since February 4, but they are yet to be acted on by both houses, and, if passed, must of course go to the Governor for his approval or rejection. If they pass House and Senate there is little or no doubt that Governor Holmes will approve them.

The measures are House Bills 378 and 379, which would give the State Public Welfare Commission the same authority to accept and place children for adoption as now held only by licensed private child-caring agencies. A public hearing was held on the bills last week, but they are still with the judiciary committee where they have been since the early days of the session.

The bills result from a study made during the last two years by the Public Welfare Interim Committee of the 1955 Legislature, which recommends them. They are endorsed by official welfare workers and by the Joint Council for Social Welfare Legislation.

In its recommendation the interim committee says: "The committee found that there

was universal approval of the proposal to permit the Public Welfare Department to enter into the adoption field. There is a real need for such services by the commission to make adoption a resource for many children who need permanent care."

The committee found that many children are placed in foster homes by the welfare commission where they may receive the best of care and grow to college age, but never be adopted because of lack of legal provision. This provision is one of the good things passage of the two bills would accomplish.

By lack of this legislation Oregon is behind the times, for it is one of only eight states in which state and county welfare departments do not have the authority of adoption, yet when a recent survey was made 1581 children in Oregon were found receiving foster care from county public welfare departments. Of these 339 were available for adoption, but adoption was not available to them.

Some children placed in foster homes by the welfare commissions may be adopted by their foster parents by first committing them to a private agency. But this is an unwieldy and unnecessary provision of law. It would be much easier and more satisfactory for all concerned for the adoptions to be handled by the welfare commission. Anyway, the private agencies have lots of babies on their own hands in whose care they are interested.

There is no fight between the State Welfare Commission and the private agencies. The agencies are doing an excellent work. The two bills would expand the adoption program. They are solely in the interest of children of adoption age, that they may develop into useful, happy adults.

RAY TUCKER

Limit May Be Put On Federal Taxes

WASHINGTON—A sensationally upsetting factor has been injected into the controversy over cutting the budget and taxes.

The required number of states—32—has now ratified a resolution calling upon Congress to order a convention for fixing a ceiling on the amount of money that Uncle Sam may collect in taxes from individuals. Under Article V of the Constitution, this convention may propose amendments that shall become effective when ratified by three-fourths of the states. This method and machinery of amending the Constitution has never been used.

The sponsors of this movement, who include influential lawyers, economists, industrialists and lobbying organizations, propose that the Government shall not be permitted to take more than 25 to 35 per cent of an individual's income in peacetime. It would become inoperative in war or a national emergency.

Idea Opposed by President
The favorable response by 32 states, in addition to other evidence of a taxpayers' revolt, encourages the economy-minded promoters to believe that they can force Congress to fix a maximum on the Federal Revenue derived from personal income taxes. But they face many obstacles, largely because this field for revision has never been explored.

President Eisenhower and Treasury Secretary Humphrey oppose the idea on the ground that it would cut the Government's receipts by about \$15 billion annually. Organized labor is bitterly antagonistic. It brands the scheme as a "rich man's amendment." Their spokesmen insist that the only beneficiaries would be people earning \$25,000 a year and up, for lower bracketed does not have to fork over 25 to 35 per cent of income. They fear that the lost revenue would have to come from small wage earners.

Congressional Group's Proposition
A small group in Congress, led by Representative Paul A. Fino of New York City, propose to make up for the drop in revenue with a legalized, national lottery. They estimate that it would net at least \$10 billion, as against the annual \$30 billion take of gangsters in the numbers racket. But the so-called "bluenosers" shudder at this suggestion.

The unusual amendment formula may mean that the Supreme Court, not Congress, will decide how much Uncle Sam may extract from the taxpayers' pocket. For if Congress does not set in motion the machinery provided in Article V, now that the required number of states have acted favorably, the promoters will take their case to the courts.

But the sponsors of a mandatory maximum, in view of their success so far, intend to force a showdown at this session. They want to strike while the iron—and the voters—are "hot."

A Smile or Two

A pastor returning late one night from a sick call noticed one of his parishioners staggering down the street.

"Let me help you to the door," said the minister, guiding the inebriated member of his flock gently home.

At the door the besotted man pleaded with his pastor to come into the house with him. But the man of the cloth demurred on the grounds that it was too late.

"Please, Rev'n," the man beseeched him. "Just for a minute. I want the wife to see who I been out with tonight."—Automotive Service Digest.

JAMES MARLOW

What Was Accomplished At Bermuda?

WASHINGTON (AP)—Within less than a week after the Bermuda conference — between President Eisenhower and British Prime Minister Macmillan — Americans and British are disagreeing on what they agreed to.

If this keeps up, the Bermuda meeting will look like a farce which may have done more damage than it was intended to repair.

To the Repub. — JAMES MARLOW lics two of the dirtiest words in the language are "secret agreements." They made as much political hay as they could out of denouncing President Roosevelt's 1914 agreements with Stalin. The last thing they want wrapped around their necks is a charge that Eisenhower and Macmillan reached secret agreements.

When Eisenhower flew home Sunday, Macmillan and his party remained in Bermuda.

Denied Secret Agreements
On Monday and again yesterday American correspondents who also remained at Bermuda have written stories—based on information given them by the British—that Eisenhower and Macmillan reached secret agreements described variously as directives, agreements and protocols, more than 25 of them in writing.

Four times now in those two days the Eisenhower administration has denied there were any secret agreements.

The primary purpose of the Bermuda meeting was to mend the split — due to a loss of confidence — between the United States and Britain. The split occurred last fall when Britain, joining France and Israel, attacked Egypt.

British Wanted Action
The British did so without consulting this country, in its handling of Egyptian President Nasser. It had lost confidence. The British were for direct action. The Eisenhower administration wanted to go easy.

Before Eisenhower and Macmillan parted Sunday they issued a public statement on what they discussed and agreed to. It was full of trite opinions and showed the two men hadn't agreed on much of specific import.

After Eisenhower left, Macmillan held a press conference where he said he and Eisenhower had agreed on the policies the United States and Britain must take to obtain interim and long-term settlements in the Middle East.

Not on Middle East
The public statement had said no such thing. Yesterday at his news conference Secretary of State Dulles said there had been no agreements on the Middle East. Dulles also said there had been no written understandings nor made public, except one.

He said there was a "preliminary" understanding for "revisiting the intelligence arrangements which we have concerning alerts."

On Monday at his White House conference with congressional leaders — to tell them what had happened at Bermuda — Eisenhower reportedly said there had been no secret agreements.

His White House press secretary, James Hagerty, repeated that statement later Monday. Yesterday again Hagerty said Eisenhower and Macmillan had made no secret agreements.

BEN MAXWELL

History in The Making

April 10, 1939
Salem merchants and business houses were being threatened with a boycott by residents of the Silverton area who were hostile because the state highway department decided to improve the Salem end of the Silverton road rather than their own.

At Nye, mail clerk at the capital, had retired a few years ago. He had more than 31 years in state service.

When Mr. and Mrs. Clarence R. Richard were married April 8, 1939, it was allowed that the contagion of scarlet fever would soon be determined. The bridegroom already had the affliction and the wedding was hurried lest he become worse. The Rev. Oswald Taylor stood 15 feet from the pair in performing the ceremony and their marriage license had been signed in red ink since none other was available. Following the Portland ceremony the pair hastened to Brooks to spend their honeymoon in quarantine at the home of Richard's parents.

Social security board had reported total wages of 237,147 Oregon workers and determined that the annual wage for each averaged \$794.

Cecil Edwards, governor's secretary and parole board member, had announced that convicts at the penitentiary would no longer be paroled unless they had jobs awaiting them. "Every convict," said Edwards, "has about a dozen persons interested in him and most of the time they obtain work for him."

Book of the Month



DAVID LAWRENCE

Poor Dave Beck: Had He Been a Communist, He'd Probably Have Plenty of Supporters

WASHINGTON — Poor Dave Beck! He's being maligned from one end of the country to the other, and his defenders are scarce.

If, indeed, there be any. Yet he has only had some faint communist connection in his record, he would today have many eloquent apologists.

The defenders would have been D. LAWRENCE legion who would have denounced anyone for even suggesting that taking the fifth amendment under those circumstances implies guilt.

From the pens of the editorial writers of at least three leading newspapers in the east, there would have flowed indignant words—that a man was being "pilloried without being tried in a court of law."

The cry would have been raised that here is a Senate investigating committee which is trying to do what the courts are supposed to do. There would have been pointed complaint that this was "assassination by insinuation," that the charges had not been proved in a court of law and hence no judgment should be made thereon—at least not on the word merely of a Senate investigating committee whose "innuendoes" were not a substitute for "due process of law."

Mistake in Handling Funds
Dave Beck made the mistake of handling his union's funds in ways that have brought condemnation—but they seemed to him to be right and, if they weren't, well, he intended to pay back any sums borrowed or appropriated. He says there are undisclosed details.

This is a serious matter, of course, but if Beck had only once been a member of a Communist cell, he would be defended today as just someone who was asked a "youthful indiscretion" or a mistake of the emotions due to "economic conditions," and so forth.

Wrong Kind of Mistake
Poor Dave Beck! He made the wrong kind of mistake. If he had helped the enemies of his country by preaching their side of the case, he would have been able to take the first amendment as well as the fifth. A mere matter of "treason" isn't so serious, it would appear, and, after all, "free speech" is not to be inhibited by any form of "thought control" sought to be imposed by "McCarthyism"—whatever that is.

Millions of words have been poured out in a spirited defense of persons who were asked by congressional committees or security boards to explain their curious presence at "Communist front" meetings or their continuance of financial contributions to such causes even after the Soviet Union joined Hitler in the early stages of the last war. Judging by the tenor of "liberal" doctrine in recent years, Americans who have been criticized for being on the Communist side have been "unjustly treated" by congressional committees.

Might Have Been Different
But Dave Beck is unfortunate. Had he been even a lukewarm advocate of Communist causes, he would have had on his side today a senator or two demanding that the investigating committee itself be investigated.

No court of law has yet pronounced Dave Beck guilty of any crime. For the last several years much stress has been laid on the fact that a man is "innocent until proved guilty" in a court of law. This is supposed to be American fair play. Often the rule is quoted — it's as old as any of the principles of Anglo-Saxon jurisprudence. But without wanting to give Mr. Beck his day in court, where wit-

DR. WILLIAM BRADY

Natural Childbirth Can Be Successful in Some Cases

An actress interviewed on a TV program told how she and her husband, upon learning they were to have a baby, not only studied together books about childbirth but together did the daily exercise described and illustrated in Helene Heardman's handbook 'A Way to Natural Childbirth.'

So far it sounded like an ideal preparation for the miracle.

But, darn it, an interruption occurred here, and next we heard the actress saying it was all a joyous experience except (1) that they strapped her on the delivery table and (2) right after the baby was born the doctor insisted on giving an anesthetic, for they had to put in some stitches.

Next Time at Home
The poor soul said, somewhat apologetically, that they have regulations in the hospital and you have to abide by them, but next time

she's going to have her baby at home.

Expectant parents may acquire some practical knowledge of prenatal care and maternity and childbirth by studying together the primer 'Preparing for Maternity' for which send me 50c and stamped, self-addressed envelope.

An excellent little book 'Childbirth' by Carl H. Davis, M.D., and Donita Ferguson, answers most of the questions expectant parents ask.

Anesthetic Always Ready
In natural childbirth an anesthetic is always ready and the patient may have it whenever she wishes. Usually she doesn't want it—but anyway there it is, in case she changes her mind at any stage of the game.

Let no smart Alice ask how many babies I have had. All I know about natural childbirth is what I read in books and current medical journals and what women who have borne children in the natural way tell me about it. I have never attended childbirth without anesthesia, except in the few instances where the patient declined to take it.

HAL BOYLE

One-Armed Navy Vet Has Just Finished Third Home

INDEPENDENCE, Kan. (AP)—When Dick Oliver has a job he wants to finish in a real hurry, the first thing he does is take off his left arm.

Although Dick is grateful to the government for buying him the arm, he explained:

"I can work faster without it."

He can, too. The one-armed, 38-year-old Navy veteran has just completed building his third home single-handed.

Can Do With One
"Anything a man can do with two hands I can do with one," he said stoutly.

The story of Dick Oliver is the story of a man who refused to be handicapped by a handicap. In 1929, while on leave from the naval base at Pearl Harbor, he was playfully jostling with some buddies on a railway platform at Topeka. He slipped, fell, and a passing train cut off his left arm above the elbow.

"It was on my 21st birthday — and some present," he recalled. "At first I felt lost and useless to myself. But after the first shock wore off I realized I was no different from anyone else. I still had a living to make."

Felt Odd Compulsion
Dick went back and finished high school, perfected his skill at typing with only one hand. But he felt an odd compulsion to prove that, despite the accident, he could do anything he turned his mind to.

He went to the Pacific Northwest and became a lumberman, felling the big trees. He worked in the farm equipment field, with an auto supply firm, even did a turn at radio announcing.

"Oh, I've done just about everything," he said. "Once I find I can do a thing well I get restless. I want to move on and try something new."

Studies Civil Engineering
"Right now I'm studying civil engineering, and I think I'll stay with it. Engineering is something that has a changing problem every day."

Dick, happily settled in his new home with his pretty wife, Lo-

rene, is now teaching his 10-year-old son, Gregg, how to be a baseball catcher.

"That is a little hard to do with only one hand," he admitted. "Here is how he feels about 'handicaps' in life:

"It isn't a joke to lose an arm or leg, but if anyone who does will get over his sensitivity, and learn to treat it as a joke, he'll get along better.

Doesn't Need Sympathy
"People should soft-pedal sympathy and never offer help to a handicapped person except when he actually needs it.

"I don't know of anything a fellow can't do—if he really wants to."

"The main thing is for an employer to give a man a little time to work out his own technique of handling a job. Then it will work out all right.

"But it is the employer—the man who gives the handicapped fellow a chance to show what he can do—who deserves all the credit."

Dick, who built his \$22,000, three-bedroom, two-bathroom home in about a year, figures he saved about \$8,000 in labor costs by doing his own work.

In one way he feels having only one arm speeded up the job.

"I never had to worry about smashing a finger driving nails," he said, grinning.

CONVINCING EVIDENCE
OMAHA, Neb. (AP)—A motorist charged with driving while his license was suspended and leaving the scene of a property-damage accident brought a 10 pound alibi to traffic court and won dismissal of his case.

He pleaded he was rushing his wife to a hospital when his car struck another. Offered as an exhibit to substantiate the alibi was a new daughter, born a few hours after the accident.

Judge James O'Brien cleared the motorist of the charges, saying the dismissal was a gift to the mother.

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