

Argentina's La Prensa Resumes Free Status After Five Years Under Peron

FRANK H. BARTHOLOMEW United Press Correspondent Buenos Aires, Argentina—(U.P.)—A thousand men and women entered the portals of two buildings 14 blocks apart in Buenos Aires today eager for the task of bringing back to life La Prensa, one of the world's great newspapers.

Through the high portals and past the vast opened iron doors of the main building on Avenida De Mayo came executive directors, reporters and the people of the business office. Into the composing room and printing plant on Chile and Azopardo streets streamed the compositors and pressmen.

The silent press room, immaculately clean, awaited the time a few hours hence when Dr. Alberto Gainza Paz will press the button and a free La Prensa will become part of a free Argentina.

In a corner of the press room, dwarfed by the gigantic presses required for the La Prensa of tomorrow, is a tiny press which will have no part in things to

come. Its work has been done—and well. It is the hand-operated press upon which Dr. Gainza's grandfather printed the first copy of La Prensa 87 years ago.

Held by Force
La Prensa has been in the founding family four generations, including Dr. Gainza's sons, excepting five years when dictator Juan Domingo Peron seized the newspaper and began publishing it as his own Nov. 19, 1951. Peron held La Prensa by force and drove its famed editor into exile in the United States, but never succeeded in benefiting from its prestige and dignity.

A large picture of Peron was erected on one side of the entrance and his Evita on the other, both outlined in electric lights. The news columns of La Prensa were filled with his personal propaganda, its social columns with pictures of his wife.

But Argentina was not deluded by the synthetic La Prensa, and despite the peak of the Peron popularity its circulation sank from over a half-million

to less than one hundred thousand.

Of the thousand people who entered the portals of La Prensa today more than 620 are veterans of the days of the newspaper under the Paz family. Most of them steadfastly refused to take part in the production of the stolen newspaper under Peron. Only five editorial employees went over to the dictator's banner and only two of them were key men.

Sixty-three-year-old Juan Farina walked proudly through the main portal of the handsome building on Avenida de Mayo today, typifying the extraordinary loyalty of the La Prensa organization. Juan's was a humble job and it will be again as office attendant and doorman for Dr. Gainza.

Instructed to Return
When Peron seized the newspaper and Dr. Gainza escaped, first to Montevideo and later to New York, Juan left La Prensa, too, instructed by Peron's lieutenants to return to his post, he said stoutly: "No, I work for Dr. Gainza Paz and none else."

Regularly during the days of mail censorship and terror, when one employee of the old La Prensa was murdered and 14 others injured, Juan Farina wrote faithful reports to Dr. Gainza.

His simple letters condemned Peron and all his works and prayed for the return of the Paz family and the dictator's downfall.

The envelopes, opened by the censors regularly, carried his name and return address. He even added his telephone number.

"Weren't you afraid?" he was asked.

"Afraid?" the old man replied. "Senor, I am a Spaniard."

Juan Farina is back at work today, after five long years, in the dignified old building on the pleasant Avenida de Mayo where the green leaves and trees wave in the pleasant summer breeze. Only the subway entrance seems anachronism.

On the other side of the avenue Argentines sit at coffee tables outside fragrant little cafes and watch the intensifying activity in the newspaper building as Dr. Gainza, Farina and the thousand others prepare to bring the newspaper back to life.

Stevenson Warns Of Overconfidence During Campaign

San Francisco—(U.P.)—Adlai E. Stevenson, warning Democrats against overconfidence during the forthcoming election campaign, took his own advice to heart today.

Stevenson, now touring California in an attempt to win the state's 68 Democratic convention votes in the June 5 primary, made the most of every chance to meet local party leaders and the public.

Today, for example, he scheduled a press conference planned to attend a reception by 200 members of a San Francisco Welcoming Committee, and meet this afternoon with key Northern California campaign supporters, and later with 250 labor representatives.

Tonight he will speak at a box supper at Bay Meadows race track in San Mateo.

He's Available

The former governor of Illinois carried out a similar schedule in Oakland yesterday and last night. In a speech at Oakland Auditorium he told an audience of 3,600 an open secret:

"I seek the presidency of the United States.

"I do not say I am qualified. Anyone who says he is, lacks the first qualification: Humility.

"But I am available."

In an earlier address to 150 labor leaders at the AFL-CIO Labor Temple, Stevenson issued his warning about overconfidence:

"Our situation in the party is not as easy as it might seem," he said. "From what I have observed so far on my current trip, possibly there is too much confidence in the party. I'm afraid it is not justified."

'Very Tough Fight'

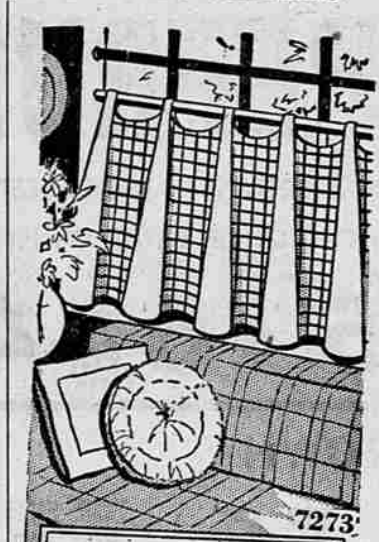
He said the Democrats have a "very tough fight" ahead of them in the forthcoming election.

"When you have to buck big money, big business and big press, you have a pretty formidable job in front of you," he said.

Supporters of Sen. Estes Kefauver (D-Tenn.) meanwhile announced they will continue to charge Stevenson is the "candidate of the bosses" even though Stevenson said on his arrival in California on Tuesday that such charges were "unworthy and unfair."

Stevenson and Kefauver are vying for California's convention votes. Both men will appear before the convention of the California Democratic Council in Fresno Saturday. Although the council will not endorse either man, the impression each leaves will be considered crucial to his chances of winning support among party leaders in the state.

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Local Firm Disburses \$6,252,516 Total Loans

Real estate loans totaling \$6,252,516 were disbursed in Oregon by The Prudential Insurance Co. of America to finance residential, commercial and farm projects during the year 1955, it was announced yesterday by T. M. Garhart, Medford mortgage loan supervisor for the company.

The 1955 total represents \$4,544,697 in residential loans, \$487,819 in commercial and industrial projects and \$1,220,000 in farm loans.

Police Report 445 Offenses in January

A total of 445 offenses was reported to the city police department during January, compared with 477 a year ago. Sixty-five were major offenses and 380 were miscellaneous, according to the monthly department record.

Major offenses included 12 burglaries, 13 larceny-theft, 37 larceny-theft under \$50, two auto theft and one rape.

Other offenses included 147 traffic and motor vehicle laws, 122 violation of road and driving laws, three drunk driving, 38 drunkenness, 16 embezzlement, four disorderly conduct, 13 vagrancy, one buying, receiving or possessing stolen property, one narcotic drug laws, and 31 other offenses.

Of the total offenses, 86 per cent were cleared by officers.

The department reported 669 miscellaneous services rendered and 41 public reports made, bringing the total of all reports to 1,155.

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Federal Mediators Attempt To Break Electric Strike

Washington—(U.P.)—Federal mediators tried again today to break the deadlock in the 110-day old Westinghouse Electric Corp. strike.

Company and union negotiators met with Federal Mediation Director Joseph F. Finnegan to continue talks that were transferred from Pittsburgh Wednesday after meeting separately with each side for more than five hours Wednesday that "some contract language had been discussed. But he refused to say whether any progress had been made.

Indications were that the language discussed did not concern the main obstacle to ending the strike. It was understood that still trying to move the dispute off what one informant called "dead center."

Consider Meeting

Finnegan said he would decide today whether to try to bring both sides into a joint meeting. He said, "we'll see which way we can make the most money"—a reference to progress, rather than wages.

Finnegan said he did not know how long he would continue the Washington talks.

"When and if we feel there is a sufficient basis established for continuing negotiations between both parties," he said, the peace talks will move back to Pittsburgh or Philadelphia.

The main issues in the dispute are the company's demand for a five-year contract, its wage offer and its plans for a time study at its plants. The striking AFL-CIO electrical workers union is holding out for a settlement on wages under its present contract, which expires in a

year. The union also claims that an agreement on ground rules for the time study. Experts estimate that more than 50,000,000 cottonball rations are shot each season in the United States.

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