

# Latin America Issues Highlighted

## Decisions Topic Stresses Crisis In Countries

(Editor's note: This is the fifth in a series of topics for discussion under the Great Decisions program. Today's topic is on a better neighbor policy for Latin America.)

Along with President Eisenhower's visit to Mexico, two other recent events relating to Latin America—the overthrow of the Batista dictatorship in Cuba and the January visit of President Arturo Frondizi of Argentina to the United States—highlight two long-standing problems of our neighbors to the South.

One is the economic crisis afflicting most of Latin America. The other is the unstable politics of the area, despite the fact that the number of Latin American dictators is dwindling.

Both these problems have been given greater attention in Washington in the past half year than has been true at any time since the pre-war days when the United States adopted its "good neighbor" policy.

### Policy Dilemmas

Both issues also pose for the United States some of the same policy dilemmas Washington faces in other underdeveloped areas of the world, where economic disorder and political instability are rife.

Mutual security is not perhaps as pressing a problem in Latin America as it is in the Middle East, for example. The inter-American military commitments of the Rio pact of 1947 are taken for granted by all 21 American republics.

Latin Americans generally, however, have become increasingly concerned since the war about Washington's attitudes on trade and aid, and alleged U.S. support for dictatorships. Arms aid from this country, they point out, went to Batista in Cuba up to the very end of the successful revolution by Fidel Castro.

### No Marshall Plan

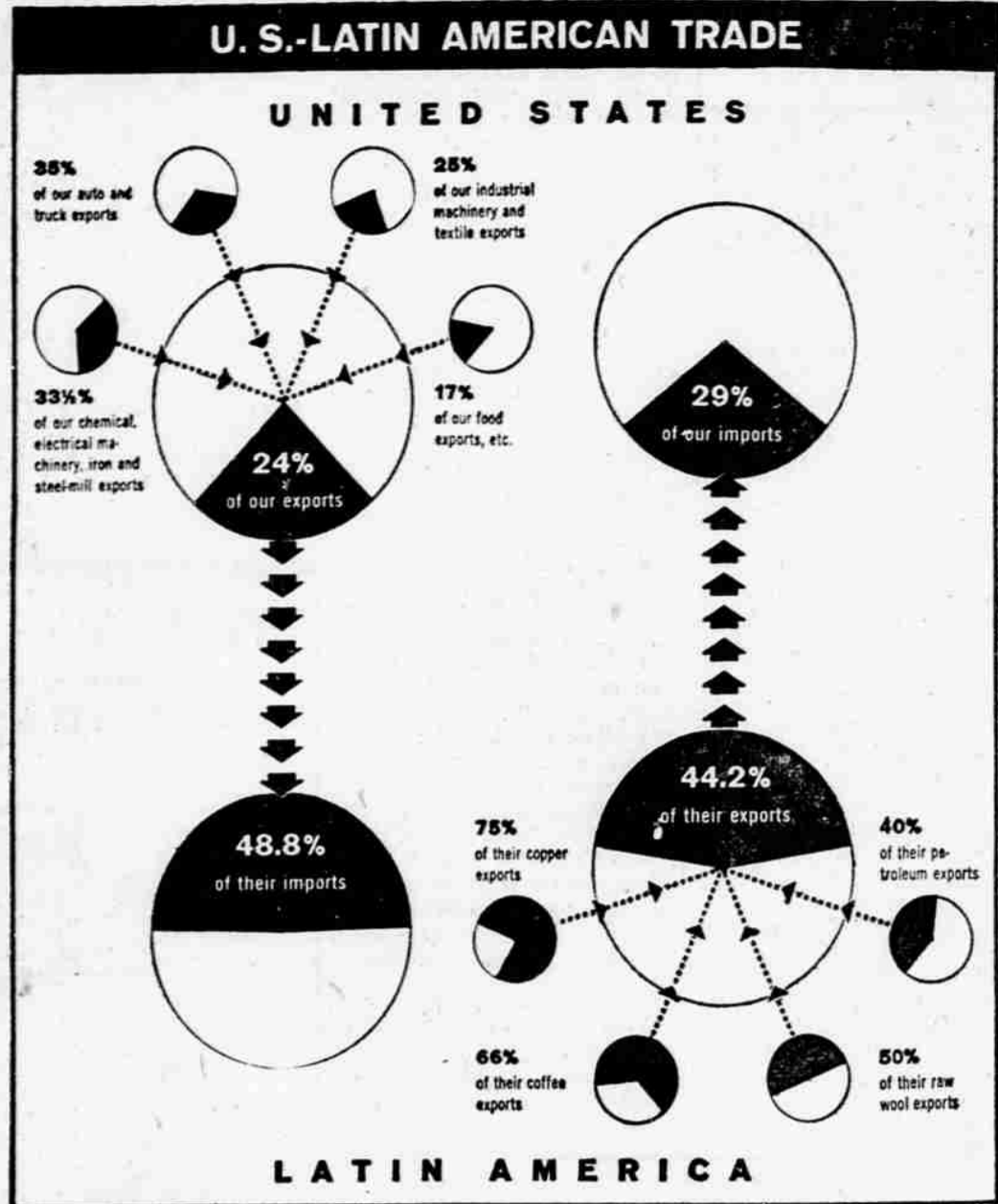
It has likewise appeared to most Latin Americans that the United States has been far more concerned with Europe and the Far East since the war than with its closest neighbors. They complain that no Marshall Plan was ever offered for the economic development of the Americas.

However, the often stormy reception Vice President Richard Nixon met on his trip to South America last year set off several official efforts to review and improve United States-Latin American ties.

Milton S. Eisenhower, in a Jan. 3 report on his fact-finding trip to South America last July, recommends that the United States hereafter adopt only the most formal relations with dictatorships. Following the September, 1958, meeting of the inter-American economic conference, the United States also announced its intention of significantly stepping up economic aid to Latin American countries.

### Forestry Bankruptcy

In December the United States, the International Mon-



etary Fund and private banks joined forces in loans totaling \$329,000,000 to Argentina to help forestall national bankruptcy. In recent months negotiations have also gone forward to establish an inter-American development bank.

In April members of the inter-American economic conference will reconvene in Washington to study a common Latin American market and to discuss what can be done about commodities like coffee—that are in surplus in world markets.

The new U.S. aid program for Argentina—the largest granted to any Latin American country—is but a prototype of the kind of assistance needed throughout Latin America, most experts feel.

### Not Wholly Typical

The Argentine economic plight is not wholly typical of the trade and development problems faced by the other Latin American countries. Argentina is plagued, however, by the heritage of the 12-year dictatorship of Juan Peron. Although it has one of the highest living standards of any Latin American state, Argentina has also been saddled with an onerous foreign exchange deficit and rampant inflation.

As President Frondizi explained during his visit to the United States his government hopes to meet such problems through assistance from the United States but not through U.S. government "hand outs."

Mainly he hopes this assistance will come from private U.S. investment in Argentina. To facilitate this, he pledged on his trip a favorable political and economic climate for such investment. In part as a result of the new financial loan, his government has, in addition, adopted a program of austerity and simultaneous economic diversification.

At present internal trade among Latin American nations is of minor importance to most of the separate, national economies of the region. But foreign trade outside Latin America is of the utmost importance. Nearly 50 per cent of Latin America's imports come from the United States, and about 45 per

cent of all their exports come to this country.

This trade is in one or two commodities from each country for the most part. Thus Brazilian coffee, Venezuelan oil and Bolivian tin represent from about 60 per cent to 95 per cent of all the exports of these countries. Such economies, over-dependent on one or two commodities, are in turn subject to the price fluctuations of the world market where coffee, tin and the like are often in over supply.

In most cases Latin American economic problems are tied both to trade and to the United States, with which the area's trade is greatest. For this reason Latin American experts are encouraged by the recent shift in U.S. policy. It now appears that inter-American consultations will take account of the need to diversify industries in Latin America, promote trade within the region and attempt to stabilize prices of commodities on which it is so dependent.

### New Political Directions

Democratic leaders in Latin America welcomed particularly Milton S. Eisenhower's recommendation that the United States make a clear distinction between dictators and democratic regimes. The President's brother favors recognition of such regimes only in order to keep lines of communications open to the people under dictatorial rule.

Such a shift in policy may be easier to make in Latin America than in other underdeveloped areas of the world since the hemisphere's security agreements appear so solidly based. In the Middle East, for example, military and economic aid for dictatorial or even feudal regimes may be necessary in the anti-Communist struggle, some experts insist.

Few observers believe the Communist movement poses serious immediate danger in Latin America, although the Soviet bloc's trade offensive has met with unexpected success in recent years. By the end of 1958 it is estimated that Soviet bloc trade with Latin America was five times what it was in 1953, though admittedly starting from low levels.

Illegal Activities  
Communist activities are illegal in most Latin American countries. They have posed problems for the governments of Chile, Venezuela and Argentina, where the Communist party is legal, and where Communists have dominated sections of the labor movement. Only in Guatemala have the Communists temporarily achieved political power. Elsewhere Communist influence, at times on the increase immediately after the war, has waned in recent years.

What concerns the student of Latin American politics most are the very great problems democratic regimes must grapple with in the years ahead. Latin America shows the fastest population growth of any area in the world. Social problems of growing urbanization have greatly intensified since the war. Without a better economic and social base, democratic government may be difficult to sustain in many Latin American countries.

## New Kinds of Industry in State Rated Top by Decisions Group

Corvallis—New kinds of industries for Oregon, plus expansion of present type industries, are rated as top needs for the state by Great Decisions state groups voting recently on "What Frontiers in Oregon's Future?"

Discussion groups in 20 Oregon counties cast individual opinion ballots in an attempt to list "most important needs calling for public or private action." Voting followed group study of Oregon's historical growth and potential for future economic growth.

Ballots from adults and high school students, meeting in discussion groups or voting through newspaper ballots, were tabulated last week by Oregon State college extension service.

### New Industries

Development of new kinds of industries rated first among 15 alternatives such as foreign trade, tourism, city planning, and development of atomic power. Second-rated alternative was expansion of traditional industries based on Oregon farm and forest products.

Forest conservation and further development of irrigation and hydroelectric power were ranked third and fourth, respectively. With water power giving Oregon the cheapest electricity in the nation, many planning experts see expansion of light industry as the answer to job-needs for

the state's growing population.

Water conservation rated fifth priority and sixth place went to improvement of public educational facilities. Next in order of "needs" were more foreign trade and conservation of Oregon's natural beauty.

### Other Alternatives

Other alternatives ranking lower in priority were expansion of domestic commerce and trade, promotion of tourism, development of atomic power, and improvement of highway and transport facilities.

Problems or needs that ranked lowest on the ballots were revision of county and state tax base to finance expanded public works and development projects; better city planning and development; and, in last place, limitations on further expansion of Oregon industry.

The discussion ballot also gave the voter a choice of 11 steps that might contribute to desirable economic growth for Oregon.

### Expanding Industries

Top vote went to further study by state agencies and institutions on possibilities for expanding Oregon forest, farm, and manufacturing industries. Second preference was for joint study and planning with other Northwest states on water and power development for the region.

U.S. Army engineers estimate that the Northwest will reach the limit of its potential for hydroelectric power

in less than 20 years, posing a possible alternative in atomic power. Opinion ballots showed preference for such atomic power development by private industry or joint state-federal resources rather than by the federal government alone.

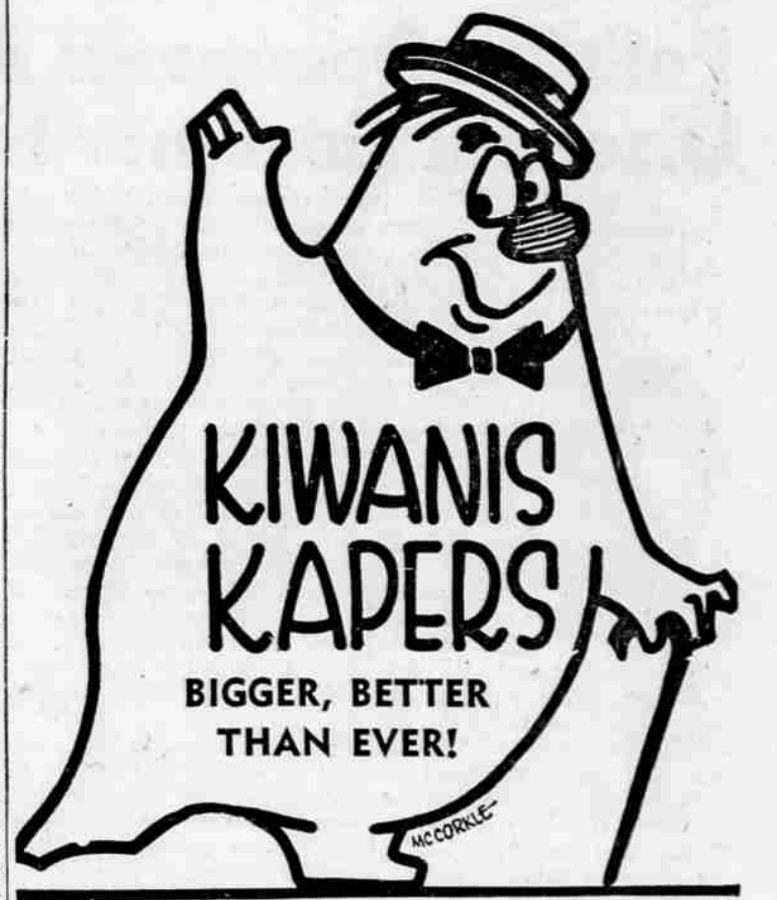
High priority was also given to promotion of Oregon products in other U.S. and foreign markets. Voters favored promotion by private interest over such promotion by state agencies.

### Lowering Tariffs

Continued lowering of U.S. tariffs, on a reciprocal basis with other nations, to encourage Oregon import-export trade was ranked fifth. Nearly \$360 million in exports were shipped from Oregon ports in 1957. Oregon's imports that year were only one-fifth her exports.

Sixth place among "needed steps" was elimination of any unnecessary restrictions of interstate commerce.

Keyed to the Oregon Centennial for its introductory sessions, the 1959 Great Decisions program will continue through March with discussions and balloting on foreign policy issues.



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## In the Day's News

By FRANK JENKINS

In Moscow Britain's prime minister, Mr. Macmillan, informs Russia's prime minister, Mr. Khrushchev (in blunt terms, the dispatches report) that "unilateral Russian action in Berlin can only lead to a dangerous situation."

Whereupon — Mr. Macmillan takes off ALONE on a tourist circuit of Kiev and Leningrad. Mr. Khrushchev, who was to have accompanied him, STAYED HOME. A spokesman explains that it wasn't a peeve with Macmillan that kept Mr. K at home.

It was a BAD TOOTH, the spokesman says.

WHAT'S wrong with his tooth? Let's hope he broke it biting off more than he will be able to chew.

SPEAKING seriously — The situation in Berlin is tense because the free enterprise Germans in West Berlin are happier and more prosperous than the communist-ruled Germans in East Berlin, and all of East Germany. So the East Germans tend to pour into happier West Berlin.

That's a bitter pill for the communists to swallow.

IN WASHINGTON the senate gets a bill proposing special federal aid to communities that are hard hit by competition from FOREIGN IMPORTS.

That suggests a question: Why are these communities hard hit by foreign competition?

THE ANSWER: We're beginning to price ourselves out of the market.

So — To fix that — We're proposing to LEVY MORE TAXES TO SPUR HOME INFLATION TO MAKE PRICES HIGHER STILL and thus price ourselves out of MORE markets.

DOES that make sense? It doesn't seem to. It sounds too much like trying to lift ourselves by our own boot straps.

NO CONFIDENCE Yamaguchi, Japan — (UPI) — Mayor Akiho Nagai ordered dissolved yesterday the city assembly which passed a vote of non-confidence against him. Nagai is being held in jail on charges of swindling the city of \$278,000.

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