

Venezuela, With Political Gout, Presents Problems for President

By JOSEPH A. TAYLOR
Caracas, Venezuela — (UPI) — A country with a severe case of political gout.

This is Venezuela, whose per capita income is twice that of any other Latin American republic but whose eyes are bigger than its stomach — a country which lives beyond its means.

Like many another Latin American president, Venezuela's Romulo Betancourt has a two-edged sword dangling over his head — economic and political.

Head of a reform-minded, moderately socialist government, Betancourt must keep the national economy on an even keel while at the same time holding a tight check-rein on the political situation.

He has an answer to the first problem, diversifying the economy. The cure for the second is not as simple.

Venezuela's national income is large, thanks to its petroleum resources, but it has the hemisphere's highest cost of living index.

Big Money Spender

It has had a rapid income growth since World War II, but it has spent money even faster.

Betancourt has faced up to depleted cash reserves and a deficit budget with pump-priming measures such as a \$200 million loan from the United States government, a \$100 million credit from the International Monetary Fund.

He is readying the nation for a four-year plan of economic recovery based on austerity and aimed at a long-range sound economy.

In the political field, Betancourt is the people's choice.

But as a renegade leftist he is a prime target for numerically small but vocally strong opposition elements, principally Communists and other left-wing extremists.

The government Betancourt presides over represents a coalition of Venezuela's four principal parties. As a result, the top government jobs have been distributed proportionately to the strength of each of these parties.

Opposed At Every Turn

Political appetites have been whetted but Betancourt's inability to satisfy them fully have left him only the shell of a coalition government after 16 months in office.

Two vaguely defined camps have emerged — the pro-Betancourt and the anti-Betancourt.

The resulting uncertainty has left Betancourt in the unenviable position of a man with his feet planted firmly in the air.

The opposition bucks Betancourt at every turn of the political road. While he emphasizes continued close ties with the United States his political opponents insist they should be reduced to a minimum; while he has sought to prepare Venezuela for the future he has been criticized for not doing more for the present.

The case of the Fidel Castro government of Cuba is a point. Betancourt has carefully avoided any open declaration of hostility to the bearded Cuban premier and his revolutionary government. But he has made it plain that he is not in agreement with the path it has taken. He is represented as feeling that Castro's political excesses are harmful to hemisphere political progress.

Such intellectual variances — there are a dozen others — have contributed to a widening breach in the ranks of a government sorely in need of political unity.

Local political problems which give Betancourt the most trouble are unemployment, lack of housing, widespread illiteracy, shortages of medical services, slow progress in agrarian reform and general trouble — making in Caracas by Communist-led groups. He must solve these or hand his opponents the issues on which the fate of his government may well rest.

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Protector of Revolution

But the opposition to Betancourt from within the government insists on Venezuela's role as a "protector" of the Cuban revolution.

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REVISE CAMPAIGN LYRICS

Los Angeles — (UPI) — Lyrics of the 1960 Democratic campaign song — "Walking Down to Washington" — have been revised to include the names of the Democratic nominees for President and Vice President. It originally read: "I'm walking down to Washington to shake hands with any good Democrat," but now is sung "To shake hands with Kennedy and Johnson."



ENGAGED TO BEAUTY—Boy Oliver, director of operations for the Miss Universe pageant, has announced his engagement to Miss Maria Teresa del Rio, Miss Spain in this year's pageant. Oliver and the 21-year-old beauty who placed fourth in the contest are shown at Miami Beach, Fla. (UPI Telephoto)

In the Day's News

By FRANK JENKINS

TV may have its shoddy spots, but they don't show up when it comes to reporting big news events.

Convention coverage is a good example. We don't need anybody this morning to tell us what happened. WE SAW IT HAPPEN. About all that remains is to figure out what it meant.

At political party conventions, there are two big events:

1. The platform.
2. The candidate.

Let's put the situation in military terms. The platform is the HIGHER STRATEGY—that is to say, the plan of the campaign. The candidate is the leader, whose job is to carry out the campaign and WIN THE BATTLE.

In Los Angeles Tuesday night, the Democrats adopted their battle plan. Wednesday they chose the leader to carry it out.

THE platform, as adopted, has two high spots.

1. The civil rights plank.
2. The pie in the sky planks.

THE big battle was over the civil rights plank. As written, it was a tough one. The Northern wing of the party supported it as written — for two reasons. The first reason is that it is RIGHT. If this is to remain the United States of America, civil rights must be guaranteed for all of us . . . not just a few of us.

The second reason is a little less admirable. The Northern wing of the Democratic party proposes to use the civil rights issue to get votes in the big, congested Northern cities, where racial feeling can be capitalized into votes.

THE Southerners fought the strong civil rights plank to the last ditch, but stopped short of seceding from the party. They stopped short of that because they realize they are fighting something that is too big for them. They are on the sundown side of a changing way of life, and realize they must learn to live

with things as they are—not things as they were.

AS to the platform's high spot No. 2, the sky in Los Angeles was full of pie. There was no battle on that. Everybody was for it.

IT is the long accepted rule that political parties in our country first adopt their platforms and then pick their candidates.

One would like to say that they pick the candidates to carry out the platforms. Unfortunately, it isn't quite that way. Speaking with brutal realism, platforms are fly-paper to catch unwary flies. Once adopted, they are soon forgotten.

It shouldn't be that way, but it is.

Washington — (UPI) — The World War II veterans home loan program has been extended for two more years beyond its scheduled July 25 expiration date.

President Eisenhower Thursday signed legislation continuing guaranteed home loans for World War II vets and direct federal home loans for veterans of that conflict and the Korean War.

Another veterans bill signed Thursday by Eisenhower increased from \$225 to \$265 the monthly compensation for disabled ex-servicemen designated as "permanently house bound."

The \$7.2 million a year measure will help veterans who are not bedridden but cannot leave their homes. Permanently bedridden veterans receive \$309 a month.

The Cathedral of Ely in Cambridgeshire, England, stands on the site of a monastery founded in 678 A.D.

Quotes From the News

By UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL
Los Angeles — Mrs. Lyndon B. Johnson, asked how she felt about the nomination of her husband for vice president: "A little bit staggered."

Los Angeles — Adlai E. Stevenson, aiming his barbed wit at Vice President Richard M. Nixon: "He's (Nixon) changed so many times he doesn't know whether he's coming or going. But we do — he's going."

San Francisco — Former Republican President Hoover, declining to comment on the Democrats' choosing Sen. John F. Kennedy as their presidential candidate: "They have had their say and we'll have ours in Chicago."

London — Britain's Prince Philip, noticing a hat worn by UPI Reporter China Altman at Queen Elizabeth's garden party: "How in the world do you keep it in place?"

U2 Plane Seventh Lost in 5 Years

Washington — (UPI) — The U2 airplane which crashed in Texas Thursday was the seventh of the type lost out of approximately 40 which have been built during the past five years.

A Strategic Air Command version was involved in today's accident. The SACU2's carry different equipment and have a much different mission from the U2's which used to fly over Russia.

The Air Force says that none of its U2's ever has been out of the Western Hemisphere. They are used for infra-red radiation studies at high altitudes and also to measure radiation in the atmosphere.

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration originally had 10 U2's and it was some of those which were involved in reconnaissance flights over Russia until the missions were cancelled after the downing of a U2 deep in Soviet territory on May 1.

The other U2's are Air Force planes.

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