

Try and Stop Me

By BENNETT CERF

IN BUDAPEST, a producer once sent the late Ferenc Molnar (author of *The Swan*) a pair of free first-row seats to a new play. It was terrible, and at the end of the first act, Molnar declared, "I'm leaving." "You can't do that," protested his wife. "The producer gave you those seats because he's your friend. He'd be insulted if you left now." At the end of the second act, Molnar went to the box office and bought two tickets. "Now that I've bought my own seats," he told his wife, "I hope you'll let me end this torture and go home to my bed."



Sammy Davis reports that Samuel Goldwyn was so good to him during the shooting of the film version of "Porgy and Bess," that he gave S.G. a wrist watch, suitably inscribed. A week later Sammy ran through a dance routine he hoped to do in the picture. When he concluded, he asked, "How was it?" Mr. Goldwyn looked at his new watch. "Too long," he said.

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Washington Report

By William S. White

CASTRO AND POLITICS

Washington — Both parties are grappling, quietly but fiercely, in what has thus far been largely an underground struggle, over what both now know may become an important "sleeper" in the presidential campaign — Castro's Cuba. The openly pro-Soviet regime which Fidel Castro has raised up in Cuba is undoubtedly already becoming an issue of consequence. The only question now left—and now being discussed in anxious privacy by both sets of partisans—is just how much of an issue it will have become by election day and which candidate will be helped or hurt.

And Castro's decision to come to New York personally to head his delegation to the United Nations general assembly late this month has served further to complicate and compound an already extremely delicate political question.

INDEED, the politicians are beginning to suggest that this unwelcome visit by Nikita Khrushchev's dreary little stooge of the Caribbean may set up domestic political currents and cross-currents quite as nasty and tricky as those to be loosed by the Soviet dictator himself.

The absolutely basic, "gut" campaign problem the Democrats had from the start was this: How could the Kennedy-Johnson ticket effectively compete with the Republican ticket of Nixon and Lodge on the one grand and absolutely "gut" issue of them all—the leadership of this country in the cold war?

The top Republican, Richard M. Nixon, was able to say—and has most insistently been repeating—that his eight years as vice president in the Eisenhower administration gave him an inner knowledge and insight which added up to "experience."

THERE was, moreover—and there remains—the fact that his running mate, Henry Cabot Lodge, had eight years of such experience as our ambassador to the U.N.

The Democratic presidential contender, Sen. John F. Kennedy, for his part set off in the campaign with wide and generalized and mainly intellectual criticisms of Republican handling of foreign policy. These, whatever their intrinsic merit or lack of it, did not seem to be cutting too deeply into public consciousness.

But, a little while ago, Kennedy's tough and able running mate as the Democratic vice presidential candidate, Sen. Lyndon Johnson, began to go beyond the generalities and to hammer at what has happened in Cuba. The response from audiences at first rather surprised and then delighted the Democratic managers. Now, Kennedy himself is picking up the theme and, at the moment, this is about where the position stands:

The Democrats believe they have got hold of something—the charge that a Republican administration permitted a pro-Communist bridgehead to rise within 90 miles of the American coastline — which well might hit the Republicans with violent impact in November.

THE Republicans reject the theory that the thing could at the very worst have all that horsepower. All the same, they are worried. The Democrats are overstating; but to some degree they have undoubtedly "got hold of something." The Republicans are understating their true concern, which though by no means one of terror is also no trifling fear.

In the end, however, Castro himself may well determine which party gains and which loses. If he goes to New York impertinently and hysterically attacking President Eisenhower and the United States generally, whatever rightful blame the Republicans may bear for the Cuban "mess" will be smothered under a general public indignation at a bearded Cuban boor.

Otherwise, the Republicans will almost certainly have to do more and more explaining about Cuba before election day.

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Today & Tomorrow

By Walter Lippmann

THE ONCOMING MR. K.

Waiting for Mr. K. to make his slow but relentless passage to this continent is rather like waiting on the New England coast for the arrival of Hurricane Donna. There was no telling in advance what to look for except that there would be a very big wind which would not do anybody much good. You put up the shutters and prepare to have all the lights go out.

Nevertheless, Mr. K. is, fortunately, not a hurricane. It is not necessary, or really becoming, just to batten down and let him blow past. He is coming with a political purpose, and in general terms the purpose is reasonably evident. He is coming to demonstrate the great increase in the power of the Soviet Union inside the United Nations, and to make some use of that increase.

The increase is due, on the one hand, to the admission to membership of so many new governments formed on the territories of the former British, French, Dutch, and Belgian empires. These new Asian and African nations have a strong bias against Europeans and North Americans and a very considerable attraction towards the Soviet Union.

The increase of the Soviet power is due also to what is happening in Cuba and in the Congo. In Cuba the Soviet Union has extended its political influence into this hemisphere and close up to the United States. In the Congo, the Soviet Union is engaged in a very serious and dangerous operation, which appears designed to push the United Nations aside or to control it and to open up the Congo to direct Soviet intervention.

IT IS significant surely that while Mr. K. is at sea proceeding to the United Nations in New York, Mr. Zorin has made a frontal attack not so much on the United States, an experience which we are used to, but on the Secretary General, Mr. Hammarskjold, and on the conduct of the U.N. mission in the Congo. Does this attack mean that Mr. K.'s purpose is to exercise his new power to nullify what the U.N. is now trying to do in the Congo, and to gain control of the U.N. operation?

It certainly looks that way. For while the Soviet government approved the original mandate under which Mr. Hammarskjold is acting, more recently, and particularly since Mr. K.'s announcement that he was coming to New York, the Soviet government has become an increasingly severe critic of the U.N. operation. Increasingly it has encouraged Lumumba to be irreconcilable and increasingly, therefore, it has made much more difficult any kind of peaceable settlement among the Congolese themselves.

IF ALL this is as bad as it looks, it will mean that Mr. K. is not in favor of neutralizing the Congo and its neighbors from the cold war, supporting the U.N. as the natural mediator between the new African states and the rest of the world.

If this is his purpose, he may well be over-reaching himself. For the new African and Asian states the only sensible and workable policy is to make no entangling alliances with either side in the cold war, and to get help from both sides. The U.N. itself, and the related international institutions such as the World Bank, are the only existing organizations which can make work for the new states

a policy of neutrality in the cold war and of economic and technical cooperation with all the powers.

There is here firm ground on which we can stand in appealing to the enlightened self-interest of the new African and Asian states. For them the alternative is not only an entangling and strangling dependence on one side in the cold war, but also the closing of the door to the resources of the Western world.

TO MR. KHRUSHCHEV we say: "The immediate question is not disarmament which, as everyone knows, cannot really begin until there is a political detente. The immediate question is whether we can agree to support the U.N. in keeping the Congo and its neighbors out of the cold war."

To the new states we can say: "We can live without the U.N. But you cannot live without the U.N. So unite to preserve it as the safeguard of your independence and your neutrality, and as the agent through which you can draw upon the economic and technical resources of the whole world."

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In the Days News

By FRANK JENKINS

Space age stuff: Another capsule launched from an American Discoverer satellite has been recovered. It came down in the Pacific Ocean about 1,000 miles from where it was expected to land and so couldn't be caught in the air by waiting planes.

It dropped into the sea near Christmas Island. Its winking beacon light was spotted by a couple of scout planes that radioed word of its landing and then circled over it to keep it in view while a Coast Guard amphibian plane sped from Hawaii to pick it up.

MEANWHILE—A rumor sweeps the world that Russia has been successful in PUTTING A MAN INTO SPACE.

The rumor hit Wall Street. Apparently it hit with an impact like that of Hurricane Donna the other day. A financial wire dispatch reports that stock prices went tumbling on a broad front, with steels, some chemicals, the autos, coppers and some specialties thrown for losses ranging to two points or more.

THE financial dispatch goes on to say: "However, there was a simultaneous PICK-UP in some of the defense-oriented shares and other issues which would benefit from a STEP-UP in this nation's astronaut and space programs. The stock of one of the makers of rocket fuels rose well over a point on the rumor."

Hmmmmmm. The chasers of the quick buck are a strange tribe, aren't they?

AND—Let's add here—It's a weird world we're living in. Wouldn't it be wonderful to get back to a SANE world again?



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