

Economic Outlook in Western World Bleak; Soviet Penetration Expected

By FRANCIS L. McARTHUR

New York — (UPI) — The economic experts say that increased Soviet penetration of the western hemisphere is in the cards for the immediate future.

The reason is a simple one. The present economic outlook for the Americas, especially the southern hemisphere, is bleak.

Export earnings have been in a long decline. A decline

in the United States economy would have a further depressing effect.

At the same time, political unrest in many areas of Latin America, particularly the Caribbean, are frightening U. S. private investment.

Private Capital Falls
The record shows that U. S. capital for private direct investment in Latin America fell to \$8 million in the first quarter of 1960. This was only

10 per cent of the amount available in the first quarter of 1959 and even less than was available in the corresponding period of 1958.

U. S. private investments in Latin America in 1959 were estimated at \$383 millions, down sharply from the \$1.5 billion in 1957.

The Pan American Union points out that Latin American economies have barely kept pace with population growth in the past 18 months. The union describes the short-term outlook, the next 18 months, as equally gloomy. Thus, dwindling U. S. investment funds and increasing Latin American needs for capital tend to make the American continent even more open to Soviet economic penetration in the immediate future.

Analysis Easy
The economic problems of Latin America are easy to analyze.

The principal items the continent exports are unfortunately the principal commodities glutting world markets today.

Latin America's total in-

come from exports runs \$8 billion a year. More than three-fourths of this total comes from 10 commodities.

Almost all of these are in world surplus. The principal Latin American commodities most affected are oil, coffee and sugar. The others are cotton, copper, meats, wool, bananas, wheat and cocoa.

The world market glut in almost all of these products is further complicated by lower market prices and new trade barriers.

Colombia's President Alberto Lleras Camargo put it in a nutshell at Bogota when he told the recent Inter-American Economic Congress that the markets for Latin American exports "are uncertain or declining."

Population Growth
Another factor which increases Latin American vulnerability to Soviet penetration is the rapid population growth.

The national economies of the 21 American republics provide for 200 millions of people today. But at the present rate of population growth, these 200 millions will be 600 millions by the end of the century.

The new United States "little Marshall plan" for the western hemisphere comes at a good time.

The Eisenhower administration has already set aside \$500 millions to give the new aid plan its boost into actuality. But the value of this aid is blunted to a degree by the downward trend in U. S. private investments in Latin America.

The National Foreign Aid Council points out that this means the first aid funds will serve only to enable the Latin American republics to "break even."

More Funds Assured

However, this contingency appears to have been taken into account by the administration in view of Assistant Secretary of State Douglas Dillon's assurance that the congress will provide additional aid funds "as required." Indeed, Dillon told the congress in an appearance that the new program — aimed at bettering the lot of the common man north of the border — may run to as much as \$10 billion in the next few years.

Family Council

Editor's Note: The Family Council consists of a Judge, a psychiatrist, three clergymen, a newspaper editor, a women's editor and two writers. Each article is a summary of an actual case history. The Council reports on problems that have been dealt with by responsible

Mrs. F. S.—Brenda says I don't treat her friends right. Brenda S.—They all laugh at her behind our backs.

Mrs. F. S.—My husband and I have been married 15 years and have one daughter, Brenda, who is 14.

Because she is an only child I have always done my utmost to encourage Brenda's friendships with youngsters of her own age. I have held what might be considered open house for the neighborhood ever since she was of nursery school age.

In spite of this, Brenda has no really close friends. She is quite unhappy about it. But I never suspected she blamed me until the other night when she broke down and cried. She said it was all my fault for not treating her friends right. This is absolutely crazy since I put myself out for her friends as no other mother has.

Brenda S.—My mother acts so crazy I often feel ashamed of her in front of my friends. I just know they talk and laugh about her behind our backs.

Mother keeps thinking up weird ideas for parties and party games. Most of the time these are old-fashioned or they're for kids. A few months ago she tried organizing a treasure hunt. Well, what kind of 14-year-old kids want to go on a treasure hunt?

When I bring a friend over after school Mother starts gabbling to her and running around fixing sandwiches and things. She acts so silly. The other mothers just tell you to take some milk from the refrigerator and then they leave you alone.

The Council: A child's eyes can be very cruel and we suspect that in this case, at least they are also fairly accurate.

The image Brenda has drawn of her mother is that of a woman tormented by a sense of inadequacy, driven by a need to press her favors on others — lest they bypass her.

The fact that Brenda feels ashamed by her mother points to some deep-seated feelings of inferiority on her own part. Self-confident children always find some reasons to take pride in their parents.

Mrs. F. S.'s statement suggests that she has a strong sense of guilt about not having given Brenda sisters or brothers. Perhaps this is one reason for her feeling of inadequacy. She apparently sees Brenda as a deprived child and has succeeded in transmitting this image to her daughter.

Mrs. F. S. should recognize that her guilt feelings are unworthy and unrealistically based. Many only children consider themselves highly privileged. They have no trouble making friends because they have not been made uneasy by the hovering of a fearful mother.

Mrs. F. S. should try to withdraw herself from Brenda's social world and confine her hospitality to a welcoming smile and a few words. She should let Brenda do the honors of the house for her own friends.

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