

Costa Rican President Ready To Battle For His Country, Keep Reds Out

Don Pepe's Note — At 77, former President Tiburcio Carías Andino, still holds tight reins of the country. But his former President Jan Manuel, has pushed a reform program in the least developed of all Central American republics too far for the old strong man's liking. The story of the split and what it portends for the future.

By PAUL SANDERS
JOSE, Costa Rica (AP)—President Jose Figueres, a bantamweight with a deceptive mild-looking face, is Latin-America's newest center of controversy. Standing only 5 feet 3, Don Pepe, as he is usually called, has been president of tiny Costa Rica for a few weeks. His country, half the size of Pennsylvania, has only 800,000 inhabitants. Its armed force consists of about 1,000 police and 200 in an elite group called Military Police. Figueres already has taken

on the giant United Fruit Co. in negotiations to revise the firm's concession in Costa Rica. Don Pepe wants a 50-50 split in the Costa Rican profits. But, he says, talks are being handled in a way to demonstrate his country's "sense of responsibility" to the West.

"We don't want to give the Russians any propaganda weapons," Don Pepe said in an interview. He declined to discuss expropriation of United Fruit Co. land by the Communist-dominated government of Guatemala, but made clear he didn't believe expropriation was any way to settle problems.

Leader of a revolution in 1948 which kicked organized communism out of Costa Rica, Figueres has been blasted by the Reds from one side, and Latin-American conservatives from the other.

The reason for the dislike from both sides is that he has repeatedly said Latin-American nations must give the United States their fullest support in the cold war. And he has declared many times that "militarism, fascism and corruption" are even bigger threats to Latin-American well-being than communism.

Depending on where you sit, Figueres is a New Deal reformer, or an impractical Socialist. Ask him just what he is politically, and he replies, "I'm a democrat." He says he has studied socialism a good deal, but "I don't believe in socialization."

Figueres has bid for U.S. support in bringing what he calls "social justice" on an international scale to the southern republics. He doesn't think that foreign capital, permanently settled, is good for underdeveloped nations. Often it is a drain on a small nation, he believes.

Aid can come by loans and temporary investments, he contends, but the loans should be repaid, and temporary investments liquidated on equitable terms, and the "permanent" type of investments repatriated under agreements satisfactory to both sides.

"Our peoples," he says, "should not be forced by the weight of the larger economies to sell their work and their natural resources relatively cheap while they buy the products of industrial countries relatively dear. They should not be exposed to the opening and closing of markets, to controlled prices in time of war and scarcity, and free prices in times of peace and plenty."

He believes technical assistance should be continued and expanded because Latin-America can make the most of her resources only through technical knowledge.

Costa Rica itself has no grave political problems. Figueres estimates the per capita income of his people is from 150 to 200 dollars a year. That looks good in some areas of Latin-America, but to Figueres the national income is appallingly low.

"Costa Rican democracy suffered from social injustice; too many poor and too few rich," says Figueres, "too many people working inefficiently; too few savings and too little accumulation of capital equipment; too few engineers and too many politicians."

The program of U. S. —educated Figueres—he attended Massachusetts Institute of Technology—has a wide appeal in Costa Rica, which elected him to the presidency by a big majority and gave him the biggest margin in Congress any chief executive has had in this country.

But his opponents, and some of his friends, fear his big majority in Congress may cause him to push reforms too fast.

Men Cross Picket Line For Bingo

WANTON, Ohio (AP)—Members of the International Union of Marine, Radio and Machine Workers, crossed a picket line in front of their own headquarters yesterday.

While pickets slashed through the new protesting the firing of two part-time bartenders at the recreation hall, fellow union members filed into the hall for their weekly bingo game.

Pickets complained the bartenders were fired so the new local administration could hire personal friends for the jobs. Eugene Johnson, president of the local, said the men can appeal their firing.

Sanders, Zsa Zsa Battle On Divorce

SANTA MONICA, Calif. (AP)—Actor George Sanders beat Zsa Zsa Szaigor to the punch when he sued her for divorce Nov. 2, but the Hungarian actress may have the last word, at that.

Zsa Zsa filed a cross-complaint for divorce yesterday. She denied Sanders' charge of mental cruelty and in her complaint alleged that she caused her grievous mental distress and anguish.

The actress' complaint said a property agreement had been agreed upon and would be executed before the divorce hearing. The couple separated last Oct. 20.

French Canadian Has Large Family

LOS ANGELES (AP)—French Canadians like big families and "we'll take what God sends us," says Mrs. Yvette Breault, 41, in announcing the birth of her 17th child.

The newest, born yesterday, is Eugene, 8 pounds 9 1/2 ounces. The others, 10 daughters and 6 sons, range up to Eugenie, 24.

The father, Louis, a 55-year-old millwright, formerly of Montreal, said:

"Each one is the last."
 Mrs. Breault has 14 brothers and sisters. Breault has 15.

LONG MEMORY

BANNING, Calif. (AP)—Seventeen years ago Basil Teague was given traffic citation for driving through Banning without rear lights on his automobile.

The officer who gave him the ticket and the judge who issued the complaint are dead.

But the law caught up with Teague when he applied for a new driver's license. He paid a \$20 fine yesterday.

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We will give you \$1 for your old shirt that is too small, too big, wrong style, wrong color, etc., on any new Van Heusen colored dress or sport shirt. Example: Van Heusen colored dress shirts are reg. \$3.95 and \$4.95. With your old shirt this price becomes \$2.95 and \$3.95. Sport shirts priced accordingly. Open those closets, bureau drawers, and storage bins and let's trade shirts! SPECIAL TABLE — Slightly soiled, mused dress and sport shirts. Reduced drastically, and your old shirt is worth a dollar on these too. Ex: Reg. \$3.95 — reduced to \$2.95 . . . with your old shirt \$1.95

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