

Prosperous Colombians Live Under Strict Dictatorship

Editor's Note—An AP reporter who investigated the situation in Colombia flew to Havana to write his story free of censorship.

By PHIL MANGELSDOFF

HAVANA, Cuba (AP)—Colombia is becoming a country of fear. President Gustavo Rojas Pinilla ticks off the familiar milestones of the dictator's road, and the 12 million Colombians more and more withdraw behind the barriers of silence.

Prominent businessmen, opposition politicians and others are eager to present their criticism to the outside world but hesitate to state publicly what they will say privately. They fear government retaliation.

Government officials, acutely sensitive to foreign criticism, either avoid newsmen or are evasive when questioned.

The government of Lt. Gen. Rojas last month suspended indefinitely one of the country's most influential newspapers, El Tiempo of Bogota. The suspension set off a series of decrees aimed at silencing complaints. There is a strict censorship. A national publications board has been formed to control imports of newspaper and to establish a government daily newspaper.

Radio stations are prohibited from presenting opposition views on either politics or economics.

Leading Liberals shake their heads pessimistically when asked whether the situation might change for the better. "There's no hope," they are inclined to say.

This is the picture they outline: Economically Colombia is fairly well off and, in fact, stands on

the threshold of an industrial and agricultural boom. Wages are increasing. Jobs are plentiful. Few men care to risk their improved standard of living for government displeasure.

Also, political opposition is unorganized. No one antigovernment figure stands out as a rallying point. The army is in control and is loyal to its handsome, greying 55-year-old leader.

The army probably numbers about 40,000—representing a three-fold increase during the past 10 years. It is supported by a strong police force. Much of the national budget—how much the government will not say—is devoted to purchasing the most modern planes and weapons.

The government denies censorship exists. Its attitude is that it must protect order and the President's dignity.

Rojas took over the government in a bloodless coup in June 1953. His army suppressed guerrilla war fare that had raged for five years. He and his army became heroes. Even El Tiempo and the Liberals supported the Conservative President.

Since then his popularity has declined steadily. Originally appointed by an impressed and bipartisan National Assembly to serve as president until Aug. 4, 1954, he later packed the Assembly and put through a constitutional change which extended his term four more years.

Then came control of the radio stations, which must devote to government propaganda as much time as the government desires. Rojas established an official television station. Under construction are 14 repeater stations to carry its message all over the nation.

Life on the surface appears normal. Much new construction can be seen. Colombia's coffee sales have been good.

Below the surface there are whispered anti-Rojas jokes, secret distribution of antigovernment pamphlets and the ever watchful eye for the police. New guerrilla warfare has broken out in the mountain areas of the Sumapaz region south of Bogota. Mention of this in newspapers is forbidden.

The government claims, and many Colombians agree, that the guerrilla activities are directed by Communists. For this reason, if for no other, the guerrillas receive little or no support from even Rojas oppositionists.

Arab Accord Expected Soon

CAIRO (AP)—U.S. special representative Eric Johnston said Friday he expects agreement within a week with Arab governments on all technical details of the American-backed plan for development of the Jordan River.

Johnston said only a few "minor points" remain and he expects to iron them out in talks with Arab experts next week.

President Eisenhower's envoy emphasized he was referring only to agreement on technical and economic matters, not to political aspects of the program which calls for participation by both the Arab states and Israel.

Many Arabs oppose the plan because they say it involves "cooperation with Israel." Extremists charge it is a "trick" to resettle Arab refugees from Palestine to make them forget the homes they left inside Israel.

Judge Virgil Langtry said he would hear legal arguments on the matter in about 10 days.

Humble, who now operates a store in Ridgecrest, Calif., said he would carry the case to the Supreme Court if necessary.

State Juvenile Council Opens

BEND (AP)—Delegates from all over the state attended the opening session Thursday of the Oregon Juvenile Council's fall conference.

Joseph F. Santolana Jr., chief FBI agent at Portland, spoke at a luncheon. There was a panel discussion in the afternoon.

More than 150 persons were expected to be registered Friday when Rep. Walter Norblad, Stayton, was to be one of the scheduled speakers.

Representing Gov. Paul L. Patterson at the meeting, which ends Friday, is Col. William C. Ryan, state supervisor of institutions.

UNWARY BURGLAR

OMAHA (AP)—It's questionable whether the burglar who entered a home through the back window and stole \$30 while a party went on in another part of the house would have done so if he had known who lived there. It was the home of the pro wrestler Ernie Dusek.



TED FELLION, assistant city engineer, has been named squadron commander of the public employees group of the United Fund-Red Cross campaign. Bob Beach, air wing commander, made the appointment. The funds drive this year is being organized in line with the jet age. Air terms and titles will be used to designate leaders.

Jews To Work Opening Year

NEW YORK (AP)—Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year (5716), starts today at sundown.

Throughout the world, Jews will celebrate the holiday with prayers, greetings and messages of hope—which will culminate on Yom Kippur, the fast day of atonement Sept. 26.

From his Denver headquarters last night, President Eisenhower extended greetings to all American Jews of Jewish faith, urging a renewal of "devotion to the cause of peace."

The National Jewish Welfare Board has made preparations so that American Jewish servicemen at home and abroad can celebrate the high holiday.

The Air Force will take four Jewish chaplains on a 10,000-mile tour of faraway bases, including remote arctic stations.

On the Mediterranean, a helicopter will carry a Jewish chaplain to the decks of various warships.

In Korea and Japan, servicemen will be airlifted to central places of worship.

Fire Destroys Plywood Firm

RICHMOND, Va. (AP)—A fire that spread with startling quickness destroyed a half-block-long warehouse in south Richmond early today.

The flames, feeding on stored plywood, engulfed the structure in 40 minutes.

After a battle of nearly two hours, firemen managed to control the flames that for a time had threatened the local general offices of the U.S. Plywood Co.

There was no immediate estimate of damage.

NO ESCAPE

HANOVER, Ont. (AP)—A cemetery stone near here bears the epitaph: "As you are now, so once I was. As I am now, so you will be, so prepare to follow me."

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WHAT'S IN A NAME

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—William A. Spare, an executive with the Provident Mutual Insurance Co., has just been promoted, and he should have no trouble remembering his new title. The company said Spare moved up from Actuary Assistant to Assistant Actuary.

Lakeview Branch Store Planned

LAKEVIEW (AP)—Marvin K. Lucas, owner of Lucas Furniture Store in Klamath Falls, announced he will open a branch store in Lakeview within the next 45 days. He has leased the Ousley building on E Street North in the downtown section.

Lucas is in Portland this week-end buying for the new store. He announced he will stock a full line of household furnishings and appliances.

Barbershop Quartets Pushed To Bolster Soldier Morale

By HARMAN W. NICHOLS

WASHINGTON (UP)—Here's a man with a novel idea for pepping up the morale of our servicemen in peacetime.

Edward R. Place, who can swing low in a sweet chariot as harmoniously as you please, thinks that barbershop quartet singing is what the GIs need to enliven dull nights in the barracks.

So, as a labor of love, Ed has volunteered to be chairman of an Armed Forces Collaboration Committee for the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barbershop Singing in America, Inc. The barbershop outfit has one of the longest histories so far as titles go of any organized group in the land.

Anyhow, Ed got together with an old singing pal, Dean Snyder, who works in the Department of Health, Education and Welfare and is a member of a government quartet called the "Singing Squires." And that's kind of how it started.

It doesn't matter much how the GIs sing, or where. It could be in the barracks, before lights out, or in the service club if the kids are good enough. The idea is to give them something to do, when time lags.

Ed and Dean don't expect to make alk purses out of sows' ears. But they take encouragement from the fact that one throw-together military quartet, the "Four Teens," became an international champs a few years back. These lads were from Eau Claire, Wis., if I recall, and were in the Air Force. They went around entertaining and while so doing they did a bunch of recruiting. It was an accident that they all wound up at Scott Air Force Base near Belleville, Ill.

Anyhow, the goal of the new committee would be to have one barber shop quartet at every installation at home and abroad. No matter what branch of the service, Ed and Dean figure there must be talent around every place.

According to Ed and Dean, the Army has the best organized singing groups. Largely because there is a man by the name of Dr. Harold W. (Bud) Arberg on the job

and the kind of folk songs that were born in the coal mines and in the fields of cotton.

Long-playing records were made of the winners, and those lads ought to be on television. I have the album, and I can testify it's mighty good listening.

A new needle was inserted a couple of years ago when the adjutant general's office promoted an all-Army soldier's singing concert. There was popular music, opera,

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