

Herald and News
Editorial Page

Brazil's Moment Of Truth

To Americans, accustomed to generations of constitutional stability, the question hovering over the troubled land of Brazil may appear simple and obvious:

Will these people obey their constitution, which was instituted democratically and should be binding on all groups, or will they toss it aside as a scrap of paper in a moment of political passion?

The problem, however, goes beyond whether Vice President Joao Goulart will be allowed to assume the presidency, as the constitution specifies, following the resignation of President Janos Quadros. It goes beyond the immediate events in Brazil. It concerns the whole hemispheric fight to keep communism out of South America.

Brazil is in serious economic straits, despite the progress of recent years. Overproduction of coffee has led to mounting price supports. Deficit spending and runaway inflation have resulted in price rises of as much as 53 per cent in one year.

Behind the national facade of the spectacular new capital in Brasilia, millions still grind out their lives in poverty.

All of this is classic grist for the Communist mill.

Although the political parallel is strained, Americans may gain some insight into the Brazilian situation by wondering what would have happened in 1934 if President Thomas Jefferson had resigned, leaving Vice President Andrew Johnson as next in line.

President Quadros was viewed as essentially a conservative with moderate leftist leanings. His praise of Fidel Castro was disturbing but not frightening to many. Goulart, on the other hand (of a different party), is feared to be completely on the left side of the political spectrum and is vigorously opposed by strong minority forces.

Quadros was surely not so naive that he could not have foreseen the consequences of his act. His sudden abdication, at a time when Goulart was in Red China—praising Mao Tse-tung for his "heroic struggle"—has elements of the sinister about it. Certainly, it has so far resulted in no good for his people.

It would be a tragedy, with or without civil war, if a dictatorship of the right were established in Brazil to meet the very real threat of communism.

But it could also be a tragedy if Goulart accedes legitimately to the presidency and proves to be, wittingly or unwittingly, the herald of a massive inroad of communism, which is quite prepared to profit from the country's economic difficulties by legal, illegal or extralegal means.

The future of all South America hinges on the same basic question: In the midst of economic crisis, poverty, mounting need for reform—in the midst of the remnants of colonial caste and privilege and the tradition of the military coup—in the midst of Communist agitation and exploitation—can democracy meet the social problems of the continent?

Reds Make Another Beachhead

The election victory of Castro-loving Cerezo Jagan in British Guiana has established a virtual Communist beachhead on the north shore of South America. Added to Cuba, this makes two Western Hemisphere nations dangling from puppet strings that lead to Moscow.

Jagan, an East Indian dentist, is noted for his Marxist views. His wife, the former Janet Rosenberg of Chicago and Detroit, reportedly was a member of the Young Communist League of America. She is said to be the domineering thinker of the husband-wife team.

By giving possibly 21 of the 35 seats in the legislature to Jagan's Red-hued People's Progressive Party, British Guiana has unwittingly aligned itself to atheistic communism.

We say unwittingly because the election was not decided on party lines. It was a matter of race. Jagan, who becomes the nation's first premier in name as well as fact, was elected largely by his fellow East Indians who were imported to till the rice and sugar fields. They now make up almost half the 560,000 population.

His opponents were Forbes Burnham, head of the Negro-dominated People's National Congress, and Peter Daguilar, leader of the conservative, anti-Communist United Force. Mr. Daguilar is a wealthy, white Catholic businessman.

Jagan is no newcomer on the British Guiana political scene. The British tossed him out of office in 1953. He then was minister of industry, a post equal to premier under the British governor, Sir Ralph Grey. Britain charged at the time that Jagan was planning to establish a Communist beachhead along a coast not too far distant from the Panama Canal.

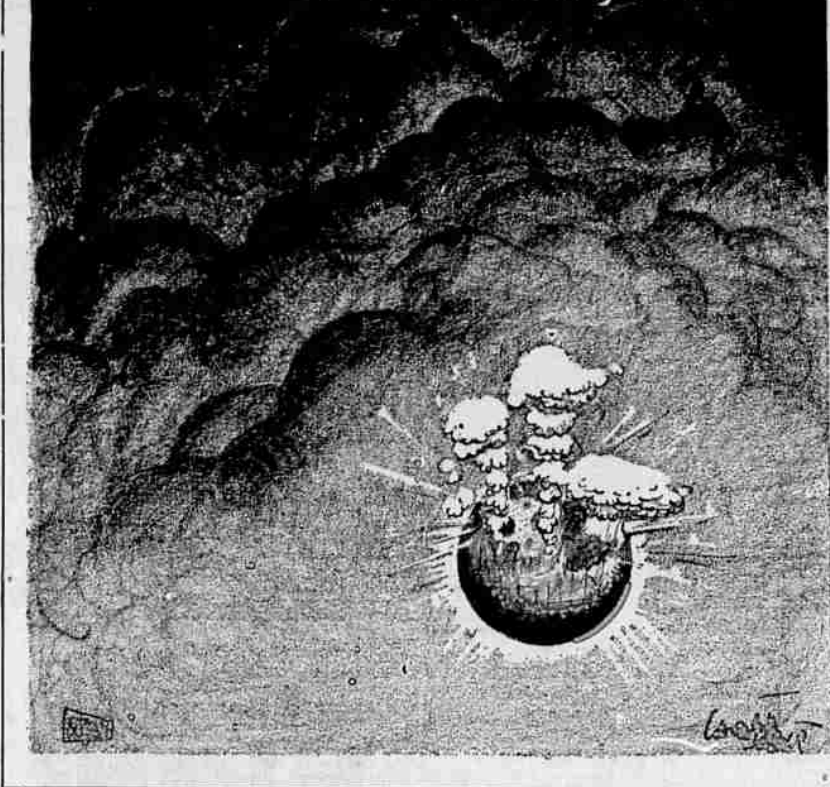
Britain has promised full independence to its colony within two years. Jagan undoubtedly will demand severing of all ties with Britain in the immediate future, the better to secure his nation's alliances with Castro and the Kremlin.

What did Britain and the United States do to prevent this further Communist encroachment on the Americas? Little, if anything. Britain's propaganda effort in the pre-election days was nil. The United States Information Agency, through the Voice of America and other outlets, operated under severe restraint. The reason: Congress has not seen fit to allocate sufficient funds that would make possible substantial expansion of our propaganda efforts against communism.

The Red net is being tightened in our own bailiwick—the Americas, dangerously close to the Panama Canal. Our effort to spell out the meaning of freedom through every medium must be increased. Otherwise, we will be surrounded by neighbors lulled into the deep sleep of communism.

Father, Forgive Them

...they know not what they do



United States Moves Closer To Russian Way Of Thinking

By FELIX NOBLE

Waiting for Nothing's Design. An oath acquires validity from belief in a Supreme Being on the part of the person who takes it. To swear by Almighty God is meaningless, if one denies the existence of God, almighty or otherwise.

In early days, for this reason, testimony in disputes was taken under oaths administered by the priesthood, on the assumption that the belief of the priest in God is firmer and better grounded than that of the laity. And in Christian countries, until comparatively recent times, it was the rule that all officials must be believers, or the perhaps groundless theory that this would tend to harmonize governmental policies with God's will.

The drift away from this practice, in Eighteenth Century England, was at the time sharply criticized by Dean Swift, in his famous Gulliver's Travels, too often regarded as a tale for children rather than as the keen political satire that it really is. For instance, of custom, in his imaginary Lilliput, Swift wrote:

"The disbelief of a Divine Providence renders a man incapable of holding any public station. For, since kings avow themselves to be the deputies of Providence, the Lilliputians think nothing can be more absurd than for a prince to employ such men as disown the authority under which he acts."

As one calls this background the significance of a recent Supreme Court opinion, in *Torcaso v. Watkins*, becomes more noteworthy. In this case, with no dissenters, the court overruled a provision of the Maryland Constitution which seems to make "a declaration of belief in the existence of God" mandatory for holding "any office of profit or trust in this state." The court declared that "neither a state nor the federal government can constitutionally force a person to profess a belief or disbelief in any religion." This is a considerable statement, however, did not confront the basic issue.

The facts involved were essentially simple: The appellant, Roy R. Torcaso, was an avowed atheist who applied for and was appointed to the office of notary public. He was refused his commission for this office by the clerk of the circuit court, because he would not subscribe to an oath involving a declaration of belief "in the existence of God." Torcaso then brought action to compel issuance of the commission and was overruled by the circuit court. He then carried his case to the Maryland Court of Appeals, where it was again rejected, in a closely reasoned opinion containing the observation that "religious toleration, in which this state has taken pride, was never thought to encompass the ungodly."

On further appeal, however, the Supreme Court has decided otherwise. It has ruled that no state can constitutionally "impose requirements which aid all religions as against non-believers." It further adds that neither federal nor state governments "can aid these religions based on a belief in the existence of God as against those religions founded on different beliefs."

The Supreme Court curiously did not discuss the fact that every juror, and every witness, in a Maryland trial must continue to take an oath closely resembling that to which Torcaso successfully

objected. That is a secondary confusion, as is Dean Swift's point about the absurdity of having an official administer to others oaths in the sanctity of which he does not himself believe. The greater, and staggering, significance of the *Torcaso* case is that it in effect classifies atheism as a religion as worthy of respect in the United States as is Christianity, Judaism, Mohammedanism or any other that is based on a belief in God.

It is rather more than interesting to realize that the Constitution of Soviet Russia makes precisely the same provision, only more flatly.

The explanation for this extraordinary American imitation of communist thought is found in the grotesque interpretation which of recent years has been given to the laudable doctrine of separation of church and state. The purpose of this, of course, was to prevent the dominance in this country of any established or state-supported church. It is made effective by the provision, in the First Amendment, that "Congress shall make no law respecting the establishment of religion," which is the only reference to separation in the Constitution.

It is certainly tortured reasoning to stretch this simple prohibition into a conclusion that outright atheism is a religion, as valid as any other. With the exception of Tom Paine, now much exalted by the communists, no leader of the American Revolution would have endorsed this thesis. Indeed, when the Founding Fathers signed their names to the original Constitution, they did so directly under the line stating that it was "Done . . . in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and eighty-seven . . ." There is ample evidence to show that, at the outset, the Constitution was regarded as a positive affirmation of Christianity.

Half a century later, when Alexis de Tocqueville made his famous study of "Democracy in America," this brilliant French observer could still conclude that "religion is the first of their political institutions." Americans, he said, associate their form of government so closely with belief in God that faith in the two is interdependent. If one should weaken, so will the other.

To reflect on that prediction is to see with more clarity the magnitude of the Supreme Court opinion that there is no Constitutional distinction between religious faith and religious disbelief. This is an enormous change from the original American conception. It has nothing to do with the separation of church and state, but actually leans toward the opposite principle of subordination of church to state. It is close to being a tacit endorsement of the communist thesis that the sovereignty of God must be dissolved in order to make the sovereignty of the Welfare State complete.

Many factors have operated to bring this profound change in the character of American thinking. But the major point is that the change has come. It is signaled for all when the Supreme Court places a stamp of approval on religious disbelief, going so far, indeed, as to suggest that irreligion may properly be called religion.

The atheistic implications of this opinion, however, are fortunately forcing some serious consideration of what is involved, and bringing a consequent reac-

tion in favor of traditional beliefs. Only a few days after the Supreme Court's *Torcaso* ruling, one of directly opposite bearing was handed down by the Court of Appeals in Albany.

This was a case, of which there have been many recently, seeking to declare even non-sectarian prayer in the public schools unconstitutional. The highest court of New York State struck down this contention, saying bluntly that it would "stretch the so-called separation of church and state doctrine beyond reason."

It is, indeed, being stretched beyond reason. But that does not mean that the concerted effort to undermine religious discipline is at all unreasonable. There is much logic in Lenin's oft-quoted assertion that "religion is the opiate of the people." He merely meant that to establish communism it is necessary to eliminate all contradictory spiritual loyalties from the minds of men.

The Bolshevik technique, at first, was to close the churches, make Sunday a workday and starve the clergy into accepting state employment. But this arbitrary procedure, as always, aroused resentment. Therefore Khrushchev now follows a much more subtle policy. The churches are open; priests are tolerated; religious services proceed. But it is constantly emphasized that atheism is rational; that all communists are atheists; and that in consequence it is the atheists who get the plums. When Major Gagarin was asked whether he prayed before being launched into space, he roared with laughter. "A communist never prays to God," he said.

In Soviet Russia one must be an atheist to hold a government job. In the United States, since the *Torcaso* case, no atheist as such is barred from public office. There is still a difference. Because all communists must be atheists does not for a moment mean that all atheists are communists.

But the ideological gap, between U.S.A. and USSR, is narrower than it was.

Almanac

By United Press International

Today is Sunday, Sept. 10, the 233rd day of the year with 112 to follow in 1961.

The moon is approaching its first quarter.

The morning star is Venus.

The evening stars are Jupiter and Saturn.

On this day in history:

In 1846, Elias Howe of Spender, Mass., received a patent for the sewing machine.

In 1899, Empress Elizabeth of Austria-Hungary was assassinated in Geneva by an anarchist.

In 1944, guns of the U.S. First Army on the Western front fired the first American shells to reach German soil during World War II. The event occurred near Aachen, Germany.

A thought for today: English naturalist Charles Darwin said: "To lie to your enemy has rarely been thought a sin, as the history of modern diplomacy too plainly shows."



NOTHING SPECIAL

(W. B. S.)

The touching series of articles written by Dan Wyant of the Eugene Register-Guard and the accompanying moving photographs by Phil Wolcott of the R-G and published in the Herald and News ought to teach a few of us among the more selfish that it is possible for one man to relieve some of the world's misery—particularly as it affects children.

Harry Holt, the Creswell farmer, has used up his resources in his South Korean orphanage and in his "babylifts" to the United States. He and his family have surrendered their personal fortune to help Korean warfs that otherwise would not have had a chance for survival. I am told he is dead broke, but he persists in maintaining his orphanage in Korea. While he recently suffered another setback at the hands of Congress, insofar as bringing orphans to the United States, he is determined to continue his work in Korea.

Holt has about 500 orphans in his care now, and new ones arrive at his orphanage (which is privately financed) daily. Most are mere infants and require constant care. I would say that if any man deserved support in a project it is Harry Holt. And the Register-Guard management and staff are to be commended for underwriting the expense of a reporter-photographer team to bring the situation to the attention of U.S. citizens. That one photo of the little girl with the tear in her eye (she was on her way to the U.S., and homesick for the only home she'd ever known—the Holt orphanage) was published in many of the nation's largest metropolitan dailies, and Wolcott earned much deserved recognition for that and other photos in the series. We are grateful that we were permitted to use the exclusive photos along with the Register-Guard series.

I have said it before, and I say again, that the Eugene newspaper is among the best of the nation's regional newspapers, and far outshines some of the so-called best metropolitan newspapers.

Some cynic has suggested that it might be a good idea for Congress to set up every government program like the suggested five-year foreign aid plan. Then the lawmakers could go home and stay there for five years.

And our downtown wit would like to know if you've heard about the crazy monkey in the Portland zoo who thought he was his keeper's brother.

And still another sage surveyor of world affairs hopefully asks if we can hold the Berlin line until we teach the Peace Corps how to shoot.

One of our South Suburban fuel dealer friends points out that Americans don't have too much to squawk about when it comes to gasoline prices. An American Automobile Association survey shows that European prices range from 10 to 30 cents more per gallon. France and Monaco have the highest prices—75 cents a gallon.

High-test gas costs were: Austria, 38 cents; Belgium 57; Denmark 60; Finland 65; France 80.



YOUR POCKETBOOK

Make Careful Study In Any Land Buying

By FAYE HENLE
Wake up! Credit like all good things can be and is being abused.

The miracle of it is that with so much temptation so relatively few of us go overboard when it comes to using consumer credit.

If you are a wise user of credit, you will shop around until you find a lender that offers the lowest true interest rate.

Unfortunately few lenders today quote true interest rates. Instead, there are three other methods generally used by lenders to calculate what they will charge when you borrow. These are:

The add-on method in which the lender adds the finance charge to the amount borrowed. If you borrow \$100 at 6 per cent, you pay back \$83 each month for a year, or a true interest rate of over 10 per cent.

West Germany 70; Great Britain 75 (for the Imperial gallon); Greece 70; Ireland 70; Spain 67; Norway 56; Sweden 57.

I don't know how you fared, but I can't think of a single instance during the two-times period that I missed an appointment because of the DST-PST time situation. I believe the reports and fears of confusion were somewhat exaggerated. This is not to say, however, that have the entire state on one time or the other would not be much more desirable.

Somewhat shocking to those of us who believe in the free enterprise system is the knowledge that student answers to questions concerning business practices, government controls, labor relations, and other aspects of human affairs show what could be a low regard for the system that has made America great. Results of a poll of 1,443 students in 13 high schools in a typical industrial community show that:

56 per cent said owners get too much compared with employees.

56 per cent favored price controls over competition.

77 per cent believed that, in many industries, one or two companies are so large as to constitute monopolies.

71 per cent thought a worker should not produce all he can.

66 per cent said that the most practical way for workers to raise their standard of living was to "get more of the company's money." Only 34 per cent chose the answer "produce more."

54 per cent believed that "the fairest kind of economic system is one that takes from each according to his ability to pay and gives to each according to his needs."

56 per cent when asked "which has done the most to improve living standards in this country?" chose organized labor; 16 per cent said "business management," 14 per cent "government," 14 per cent admitted they didn't know.

As if I wasn't having enough trouble, now I learn that the middle name of Nikita Khrushchev is—Sergeyevich.

We hear a lot of ways the home town newspaper is put to work increasing the standard of living of all of us. But the experience of the Moline (Ill.) Dispatch people is something unique. Seems that one good subscriber complained that several issues of the Dispatch were missing. The carrier was exonerated. Neighbors who were checked shook their heads. But one afternoon, one of the neighbors saw the Dispatch arrive. Shortly after, a rabbit hopped along, sniffed a bit, then grabbed the paper and beat it. She reported the incident to the subscriber, who was a bit skeptical, but willing to try a plant on the thief. The next day when the Dispatch was delivered it was taken in, and an old newspaper substituted. A few minutes later Mrs. Rabbit came along, grabbed the newspaper in her mouth and disappeared. This time she was followed by a train of people who found under the back porch a lovely nest, built from Dispatches shredded and chewed into a comfortable home for the rabbit family!

BARBS

You have to make allowances for college students, which is what keeps Dad broke.

Children are always a handicap to grownups who want to lead a dull life.

How can you expect prison inmates to believe in their convictions?

Little boys are people who grew up not to be much help to dad.

When a man's wife can read him like a book he'd be smart to turn over a new leaf.

It's so easy to add to your face value—smile!

Many accidents happen in the kitchen and the new bride puts them on the dining room table.

A good doctor is one who knows as much about human nature as he does about medicine.

Brazil

ACROSS

1 Largest city in South America

7 Its principal river is the _____

13 Oleic acid ester

14 Round

15 Emancipator

16 Handies

17 It is a vast mineral wealth

18 Greek letter

20 ———— in Brazil

21 Feels ire at

22 Ungrate

23 Boundaries

24 Close (poet.)

33 Marguerite

34 Teeth

35 Incubation

36 Bank worker

37 Landed properties

38 Large state

40 Unproductive

42 Boundary (comb. form)

43 Body part

44 College degree

49 Mexican state

52 Boy's name

53 Ornamental structure

56 All

57 Chargers

58 Brought up

DOWN

1 Boat builder

2 Seaweed

3 Golfer's mounds

4 John (Gaelic)

5 Baseball immortal

6 Bird's home

7 Rings into galaxy

8 Sea (Fr.)

9 Exit

Answer to Previous Puzzle

1 Across: Brazil

2 Down: Boat

3 Across: Seaweed

4 Down: Golfer

5 Across: Mounds

6 Down: John

7 Across: Gaelic

8 Down: Baseball

9 Across: Immortal

10 Down: Bird's

11 Across: Home

12 Down: Rings

13 Across: Into

14 Down: Galaxy

15 Across: Sea

16 Down: Fr.

17 Across: Exit