

# CUBA FOR BEGINNERS

50¢



# CUBA FOR BEGINNERS

by  
RIUS

CARTOONS FROM MEXICAN, CUBAN,  
CANADIAN AND AMERICAN COLLEAGUES  
APPEAR (MOSTLY INVOLUNTARILY)  
IN THIS BOOK. I WANT TO SAY  
THANKS TO ALL OF THEM. *RIUS*



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HE HAS PUBLISHED MANY COMICS IN  
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SPANISH IN BOUND VOLUMES FROM:

ELEUTERIO MENDEL 21  
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AS EVERYONE KNOWS, CUBA HAS ALWAYS BEEN IN THE SAME PLACE.

EVEN COLUMBUS, AS DUMB AS HE WAS, CAME ACROSS THE ISLAND IN 1492 AND CALLED IT "THE FAIREST ISLAND HUMAN EYES HAVE YET BEHELD."

HAVING SAID THAT, HE TOOK POSSESSION OF THE ISLAND IN THE NAME OF QUEEN ISABEL, AND FOUNDED A CUSTOMS HOUSE.



HI..! I DECLARE TODAY "DAY OF THE RARE"!! (THE WHITE RARE, OF COURSE..)



THE FIRST PROBLEM THAT CAME UP WAS THAT OF NAMING THE ISLAND; SOMEBODY WHO WANTED TO GET AHEAD PROPOSED THAT IT BE NAMED "JUANA", AFTER THE ROYAL PRINCESS...



JUANA? AND HOW DO YOU MAKE A "JUANA LIBRE"?

(AND FOR A TIME IT WAS SO NAMED... BUT WITH SUCH A SMALL NAME JUANA ISLAND GOT LOST ON THE MAPS...)



I HAVE A BEAUTIFUL, BEAUTIFUL NAME..!

... A PRIEST SUGGESTED ANOTHER NAME: "FERDINAND", WHICH, ALTHOUGH IT WAS LONGER, CREATED ANOTHER PROBLEM: NOBODY WANTED TO BE CALLED A "FERDINANDAN"!!

THEN ANOTHER PRIEST (THERE WERE A LOT OF PRIESTS) PROPOSED "SANTIAGO". BUT SOON NO MORE LETTERS ARRIVED: ANOTHER INGENIOUS PRIEST HAD ALREADY FOUNDED SANTIAGO OF CHILE..!



AND WHY NOT "CUBA"?

THAT IDIOT COLUMBUS THOUGHT HE HAD GOTTEN TO BOMBAY, AND CALLED THE TAINOS, SIBONEYES AND GUANATABEYES WHO LIVED ON THE ISLAND "INDIANS"

THEY SMOKED LONG CIGARS (CHE GUEVARA STYLE) AND DEDICATED THEMSELVES TO MAKING CHILDREN, SINCE THE LAND PRODUCED EVERYTHING THEY NEEDED, WITH NO HELP FROM UNITED FRUIT OR THE ALLIANCE FOR PROGRESS.



WHAT A SHAME!



GO! \*! AND WHY THE HELL DONT WE GIVE IT A \*!@# CATHOLIC NAME..?

(...ONE OF THOSE WHO WANTS TO GET IN GOOD WITH THE PRIESTS PROPOSED THAT THEY NAME THE ISLAND "AVE MARIA"... AND SO IT WAS APPROVED... THUS IT SEEMS VERY ODD TO US THAT THE ISLAND IS NOW CALLED "CUBA"...

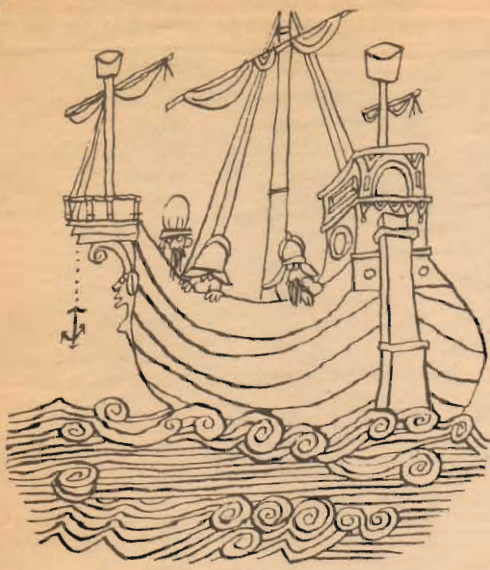
IT SEEMS LIKE THERE WAS SOME SABOTAGE BY THE NATIVES, WHO WERE ATHEISTS OF SORTS...



"AVE" MEANS BIRD...

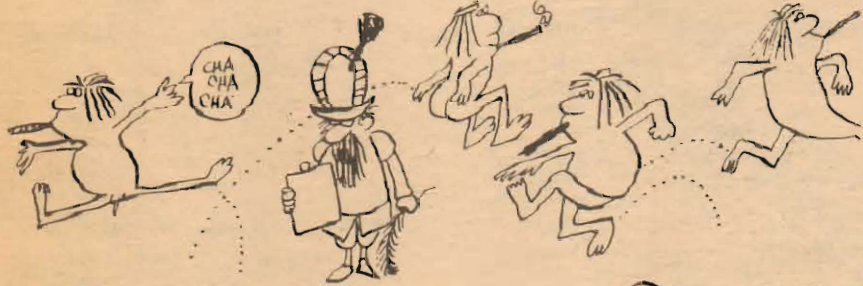
SHE MUST BE THE WIFE OF THE HOLY GHOST, WHO IS A PIGEON...

\*\*\*\*\* WHAT NOBODY KNOWS IS WHAT THE WORD "CUBA" MEANS. (AT LEAST, I DON'T... SORRY!) \*\*\*\*\*



SOON COLUMBUS LEFT AND CARRIED THE NEWS TO SPAIN AND IN 1511 ANOTHER SPANIARD, DON DIEGO DE VELAZQUEZ, FOUNDED THE FIRST CITY: BARACOA.

LATER, HE TRIED TO TAKE A CENSUS OF THE ISLAND...



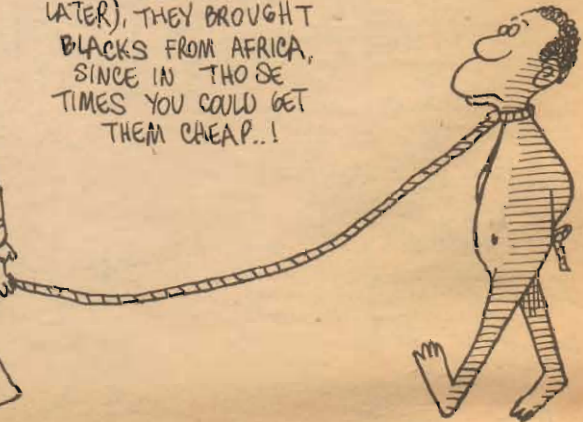
BUT IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE TO COUNT THE INDIANS: THEY WOULDN'T STAY STILL. SO THEY PATENTED A SYSTEM, WHICH THE YANKEES LATER COPIED, AND AFTER COUNTING ALL THE CADAVERS THEY DISCOVERED THAT THERE "HAD BEEN" MORE THAN A MILLION INDIANS IN CUBA...



BUT WHEN THE SPANIARDS WERE LEFT WITHOUT INDIANS, THEY REALIZED THAT THEY HAD BLUNDERED: WHO WAS GOING TO WORK? WHO WAS GOING TO SEED THE LAND, TO BUILD THE TEMPLES AND MAKE THE HOUSES...? CERTAINLY NOT THE SPANIARDS: THEY WERE CONQUISTADORES!!



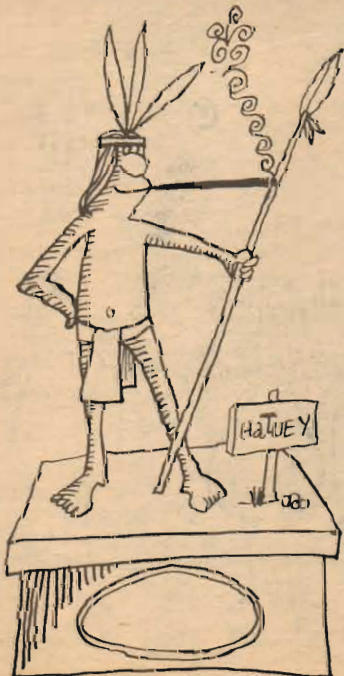
SO THEY INVENTED ANOTHER SOLUTION: (WHICH THE YANKEES ALSO COPIED LATER), THEY BROUGHT BLACKS FROM AFRICA, SINCE IN THOSE TIMES YOU COULD GET THEM CHEAP..!



THE INDIANS EXTERMINATED, THE MISSIONARIES TRIED TO CONVERT THE REST TO CHRISTIANITY... BUT THEY ADORED IDOLS WITH INDIAN FACES, INSTEAD OF IDOLS WITH SPANISH FACES...



AND SINCE NO ONE WANTED TO BE A CHRISTIAN, THEY CAPTURED THE INDIAN CHIEF -HATUEY- AND TRIED TO MAKE HIM A CHRISTIAN. BUT HATUEY ASKED:  
 - "WHERE DO THE SOULS OF THE SPANIARDS GO?"  
 - "TO HEAVEN", REPLIED A PRIEST.  
 - "THEM" - SAID HATUEY - "I PREFER TO GO TO HELL..." (AND THEY BURNED HIM ALIVE...)



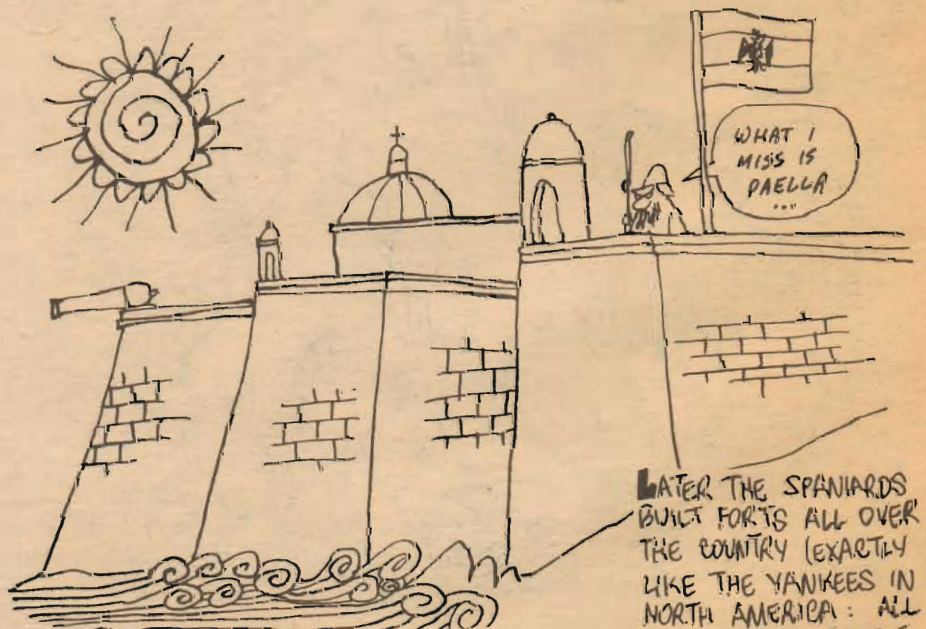
THAT WAS ANOTHER CHRISTIAN SYSTEM USED LATER BY THE YANKEES, SPECIALLY IN VIETNAM...

\*\*\*\*\*



SO CUBA WAS CONVERTED INTO A SPANISH COLONY WITH A SYSTEM OF SLAVERY (BUT VERY CHRISTIAN). THE KING OF SPAIN NAMED THE GOVERNORS, THE FUNCTIONARIES AND KEPT THE ISLAND QUIET WITH AN ARMY OF MERCENARIES... HOW PRETTY!

\*\*\*\*\*



LATER THE SPANIARDS BUILT FORTS ALL OVER THE COUNTRY (EXACTLY LIKE THE YANKEES IN NORTH AMERICA: ALL COLONIALISTS ARE THE SAME..!)

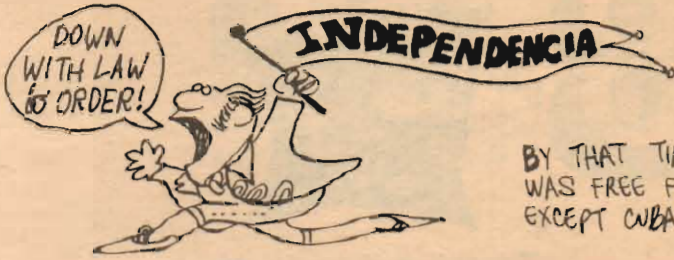


SOON THE WORLD REALIZED THE STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE OF CUBA... ESPECIALLY THE PRACTICAL ENGLISH!

CUBA WAS THE KEY TO THE AMERICAS!

BUT THE ATTEMPT FAILED: THEY HELD THE ISLAND JUST ONE YEAR. IN 1763 ENGLAND RETURNED THE ISLE OF CUBA TO SPAIN.

GOD SHAVE THE QUEEN!



BY THAT TIME ALL LATIN-AMERICA WAS FREE FROM SPAIN, EXCEPT CUBA!

SO, MORE INSURRECTIONS FOLLOWED: IN 1826, IN 1828, IN 1830, IN 1848, IN 1851, IN 1855...UNTIL IT BECAME A CUSTOM OF THE CUBANS...



MY CORN HURTS: THERE MUST BE AN UPRISING TONIGHT!



TO MAKE THE STRUGGLE A LITTLE MORE DIFFICULT, THE CATHOLIC MAJESTIES ORDERED SOME VERY "CHRISTIAN" LAWS...



LET'S GET AFTER THOSE NEGROES!



SOON THOSE LIVING IN CUBA SAW THAT SOMETHING WAS WRONG: THE ISLAND WAS VERY RICH, BUT ALL THE MONEY WENT TO SPAIN: THE SUGAR, THE TOBACCO, THE FRUIT... EVERYTHING WENT TO THE ROYAL TREASURIES OF THE SPANISH KINGS...



...AND THE ROMAN POPE...

NO CUBAN COULD OCCUPY A PUBLIC POST.. NO CUBAN COULD SET UP AN INDUSTRY OR A BUSINESS... MARRIAGES BETWEEN BLACKS AND WHITES WERE ANNULLED, EXCEPT IF ONE OF THE PARTIES WAS A NOBLEMAN NO CUBAN HAD THE RIGHT TO A LEGAL TRIAL AGAINST A SPANIARD.. NO CUBAN COULD TAKE LODGERS IN HIS HOUSE.. NO CUBAN COULD TRAVEL WITHOUT MILITARY PERMISSION...



NO CUBAN CAN GO TO HEAVEN WITHOUT PERMISSION...

\*\*\*\*\*



\* Down with the Spaniards! \*

AS A RESULT, IN 1819 THE FIRST UPRISING OCCURRED. UNFORTUNATELY, THOUGH, ALL THOSE WHO TOOK PART WERE GARROTTED TO DEATH...



OH, BOY! WESTERN CIVILIZATION, YIPPIE!

AND WHAT HAPPENED..?



PROBABLY AS A RESULT OF THAT, WITH THE YEAR

# 68

CAME

# MACEO

(ANTONIO TO HIS FRIENDS)



Tired of so much slavery, thousands of negroes, mulattos, and cafe-au-laits rose up in sticks, since they didn't have arms...

\*\*\*\*\*



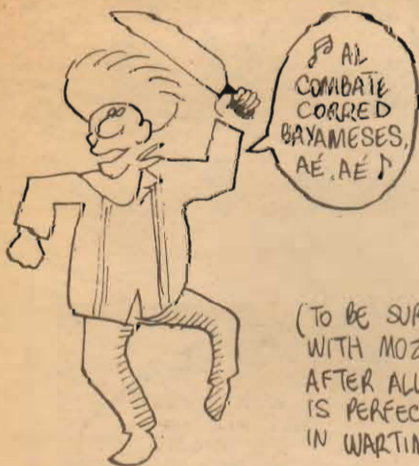
CARLOS MANUEL DE CESPEDES, A RICH PROPERTY OWNER WHO SET HIS SLAVES FREE, WAS CHOSEN AS PRESIDENT OF THE CUBAN REPUBLIC... (THE FIRST DECENT RICH MAN IN HISTORY...)



THIS TIME THE REBELLION SEEMS SERIOUS!

\*\*\*\*\*

Well, more or less serious: you know how the Cubans are, without music there is nothing! After making the rebellion, they made the music of the rebellion: "THE BAYAMESA"...



(TO BE SURE, IT WAS WITH MOZART'S MUSIC. AFTER ALL, NO ONE IS PERFECT, SPECIALLY IN WARTIME...)



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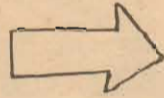
THE REVOLT LASTED TEN YEARS AND WAS SNUFFED OUT AT GREAT COST: 85,000 SPANIARDS AND 50,000 REBELS WERE KILLED (CESPESDES TOO)



NOW HE IS A NATIONAL HERO (A KIND OF WASHINGTON...)



SO ENDED THE YEAR 1878... A CRY FILLED EVERY MOUTH: (PART OF THE MOUTH, ANYWAY)



HAVING CRUSHED THE REBELLION, SPAIN MADE SOME CONCESSIONS: SLAVERY WAS ABOLISHED, AND REFORMS WERE PROMISED...



THE REFORMS, OF COURSE, REMAINED PROMISES...

(IN REALITY, EVERYTHING STAYED THE SAME IN CUBA: THE LITTLE ISLAND REMAINED A RICH SEAM OF GOLD FOR THE SPANIARDS... AND FOR THE CUBANS, ALSO A RICH SEAM OF GOLD, BUT IN DREAMS...)

SINCE I HAVEN'T WON THE LOTTERY, THERE HAS TO BE A REVOLUTION...



AS FOR DREAMERS,  
ONE OF THE BEST  
WAS A LITTLE MAN  
-SMALL ON THE OUT-  
SIDE AND BIG INSIDE-  
WHO WROTE POETRY  
AND WAS CALLED:

*José Martí*  
#...

EXILED FROM CUBA FOR "HIS SUBVERSIVE IDEAS",  
MARTÍ TRAVELED OVER HALF THE WORLD WORKING,  
RAISING MONEY, ORGANIZING CUBANS-IN-EXILE,  
AND WRITING (IN FAVOR OF... CUBAN INDEPENDENCE...)



**ACTIONS  
SPEAK  
LOUDER  
THAN WORDS.**



IN THE UNITED STATES HE FOUND THE MOST HELP: NOT BECAUSE THEY WERE TRULY INTERESTED IN THE INDEPENDENCE OF CUBA, BUT RATHER IN ANOTHER THING, EQUALLY SWEET: THE SUGAR...!!

MORE THAN SUGAR, I LIKE THE PRICES OF SUGAR!!

AT THE SAME TIME, OTHER RESTLESS PEOPLE BEGAN THE STRUGGLE (FOR THE UMPTENTH TIME) ON THE ISLAND: MACEDO, AGRAMONTE, CROMBERT, PALMA, AND SIX THOUSAND NAMELESS CUBANS WHO WANTED TO BE FREE...

WE'LL SEE WHO'S TOUGHER - THE SPANIARDS OR US...

ALREADY MR. MONROE HAD INVENTED HIS THEORY OF "AMERICA FOR THE AMERICANS" AND THE UNITED STATES DIDN'T WANT CUBA TO FALL INTO THE WRONG HANDS\*

(\*NOTE: THE "WRONG HANDS" MEANS ANY COUNTRY THAT IS NOT THE UNITED STATES!)



THINGS BEING WHAT THEY WERE, MARTÍ RENTED A BOAT IN KEY WEST AND GOT READY TO INVADE CUBA IN 1895...

THE SPANIARDS DIDN'T GO ALONG WITH THIS, AND ORGANIZED AN IMPERIAL ARMY OF... 95 THOUSAND, JUST SO THERE WOULDN'T BE ANY DOUBTS... AND THE BULLETS BEGAN TO FLY IN THE MIDDLE OF THE CUBAN SPRING (THAT IS, WHEN IT WAS FIENDISHLY HOT...)

WE SHOULD HAVE ATTACKED IN DECEMBER!

THE WORST THING ABOUT THE SHOOTING WAS THAT THE FIRST SHOT HIT JOSÉ MARTÍ, THE 19TH OF MAY, 1895...!

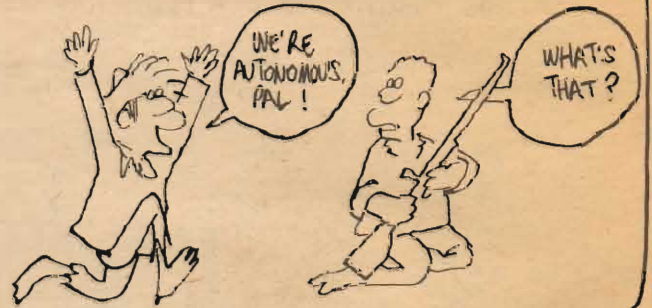


"I LIVED IN THE BELLY OF THE MONSTER, AND I KNOW IT WELL... EVERY DAY I AM IN DANGER OF GIVING MY LIFE FOR MY COUNTRY AND FOR MY DUTY TO PREVENT THE UNITED STATES FROM EXPANDING OVER THE CARIBBEAN AND SEIZING OUR LAND..."

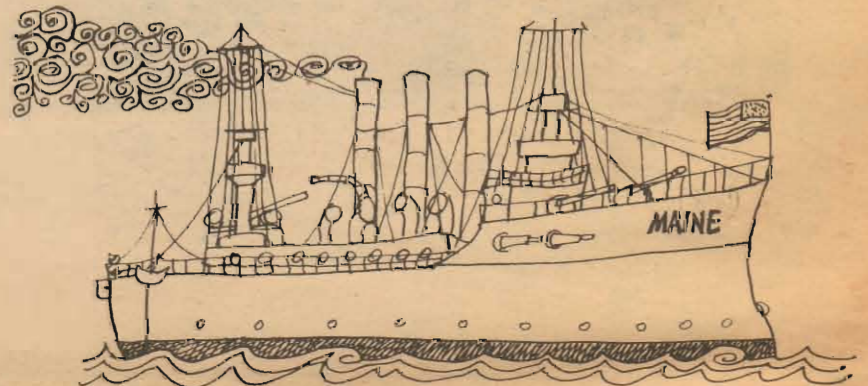


MEANWHILE, IN CACARAJICARA THE CUBANS TOOK ADVANTAGE OF THE SPANIARDS' SLOWNESS IN LEARNING THAT NAME AND GAVE THEM A GOOD BEATING. IN MANZANILLO THE SAME. ALSO IN WANTANAMO, AND ARROYO BLANCO AND GUAYAMO AND LAS GUASIMAS... SO THAT BY THE BEGINNING OF 1898 THE SPANIARDS DIDN'T WANT ANY MORE CHEESE, BUT RATHER WANTED TO LEAVE THE MOUSETRAP...

DESPERATE, SPAIN YIELDED AND CONCEDED TO CUBA HALF THE BARGAIN IN ORDER NOT TO LOSE ALL: AUTONOMY...



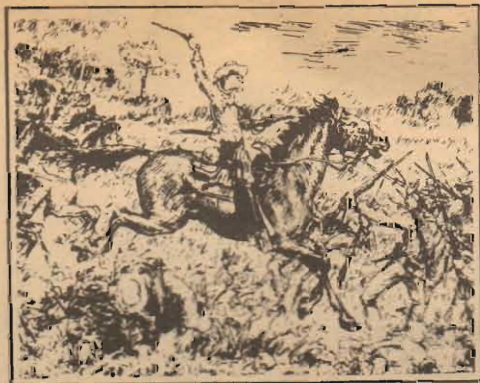
AND THAT'S WHERE THINGS WERE, WHEN SUDDENLY THE "MAINE" (WHICH WAS PROTECTING THE 50 MILLION DOLLARS OF AMERICAN INVESTMENTS) EXPLODED, KILLING THE ENTIRE YANKEE CREW.. (FEBRUARY 15, 1898)



(AS EVERYBODY KNOWS, IT WAS AN UNFORTUNATE ACCIDENT...)

WITH THE ORGANIZER AND SOUL OF THE MOVEMENT DEAD, THEY BELIEVED THE REBELLION WOULD QUICKLY PETER OUT. FORTUNATELY ONLY THE SPANIARDS HAD THAT IDEA...

MACEO, GÓMEZ AND MASSÓ DIDN'T SUBSCRIBE TO THAT IDEA AND KEPT ON SMASHING THE SPANIARDS THROUGHOUT THAT YEAR.



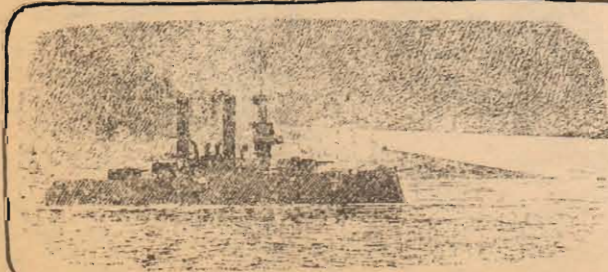
BY 1896 THE CUBANS HAD A FORCE OF 60,000 MEN; THE SPANIARDS CALLED FOR REINFORCEMENTS, ENLARGING THEIR ARMY TO 200,000 MEN...



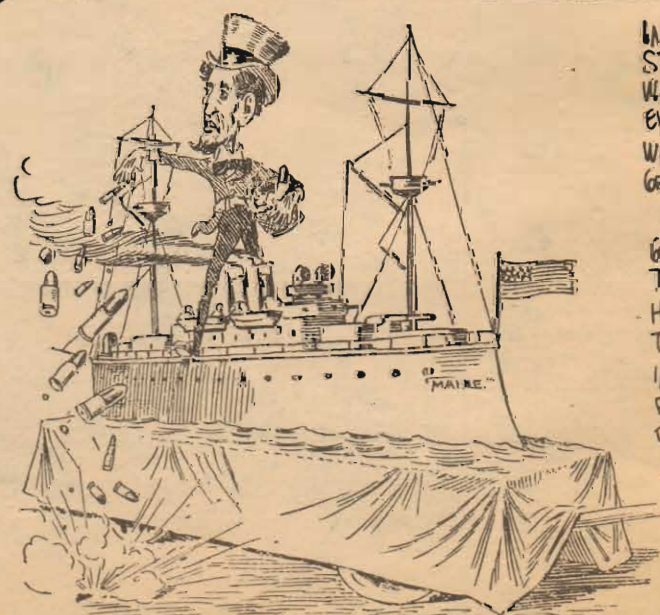
GOEST THOU AND HELP THOSE BEASTS TO GO QUICKLY TO HEAVEN...

BUT THE UNITED STATES, (ALWAYS PRACTICAL), BLAMED SPAIN AND FOUND THE PRETEXT TO INTERVENE IN CUBA. ON APRIL 21 PRESIDENT MCKINLEY DECLARED WAR AGAINST SPAIN "IN THE NAME OF GOD"...

I REMEMBER THE ALAMO! MAINE!



AND SUDDENLY A STRANGE ELEMENT APPEARED. AN AMERICAN BATTLESHIP DOCKED IN HAVANA "TO PROTECT AMERICANS LIVING IN CUBA": THE "MAINE"...

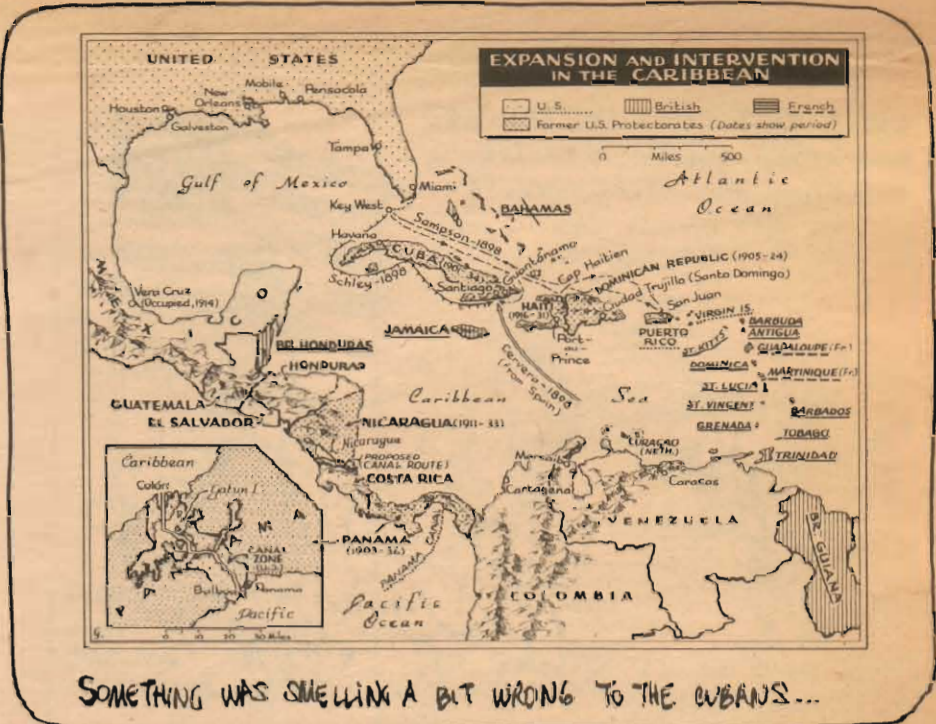


IN THE UNITED STATES NOBODY WANTED THE WAR; EVEN THEN THE U.S. WAS BEGINNING TO GET A BAD NAME. BUT WAR IS GOOD BUSINESS AND THE PRESS (MISTER HEARST) TOOK ON THE JOB OF INFLAMING "YANKEE PATRIOTISM" BASED ON FABRICATION AND LIES ABOUT SPAIN...

NATURALLY THE U.S. WON THE WAR (SPAIN WAS ALMOST DEFEATED BY THE CUBANS) AND IN PASSING TOOK POSSESSION OF PUERTO RICO, GUAM, THE PHILIPPINES AND A FEW OTHER LITTLE THINGS... IN EXCHANGE FOR THE "MAINE" AND 266 DEAD... A BARGAIN!



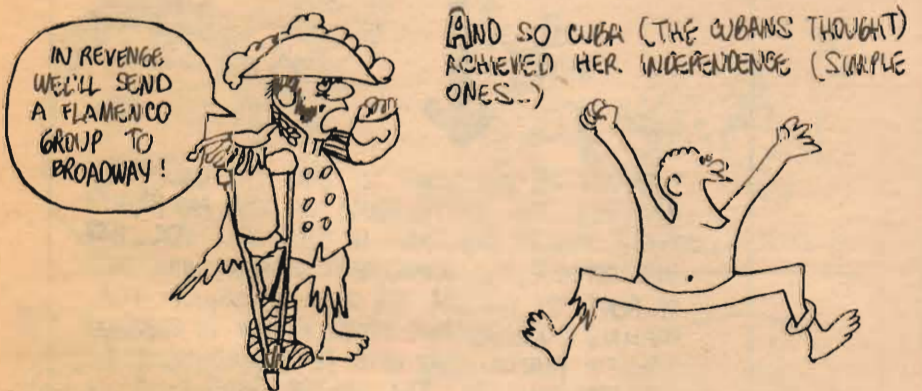
\*THIS CARTOON WAS PUBLISHED BY ENEMIES OF THE WAR... BUT WHO PAYS ANY ATTENTION TO CARTOONISTS...??



SOMETHING WAS SMELLING A BIT WRONG TO THE CUBANS...

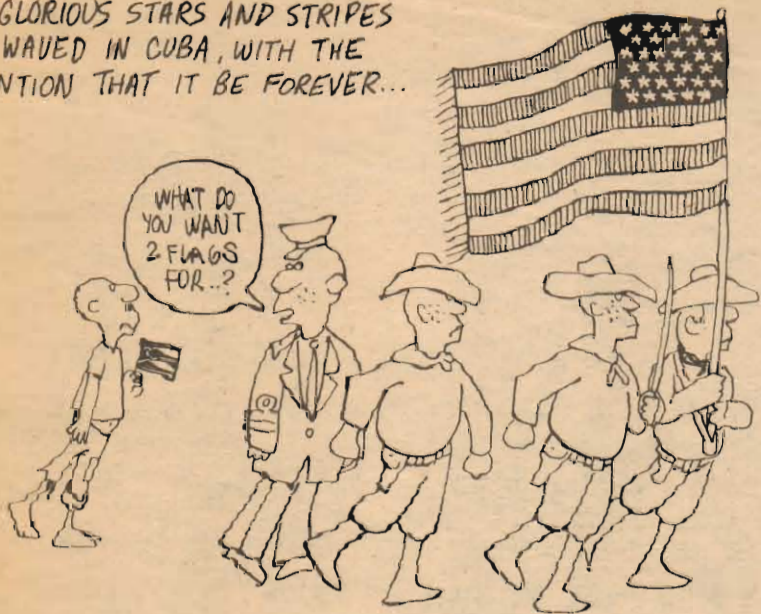


SO THE SPANIARDS LEFT CUBA...



SPAIN LEFT CUBA: ON DECEMBER 10 THE TREATIES WERE SIGNED IN PARIS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND SPAIN. AND CUBA? WELL...

THE GLORIOUS STARS AND STRIPES  
NOW WAIVED IN CUBA, WITH THE  
INTENTION THAT IT BE FOREVER...



HOWEVER, THE  
AMERICANS DIDN'T  
LIKE TO DO THINGS  
TOO AUDACIOUSLY;  
SO THEY INVENTED  
THE "PLATT  
AMENDMENT", TO  
TAKE OVER CUBA  
WITHOUT MAKING  
IT SEEM LIKE  
A FORMAL  
COLONY...

SMILE;  
WE'VE GOT  
TO KEEP UP  
APPEARANCES,  
YOU KNOW...



# TRUE HISTORY OF THE PLATT AMENDMENT

THE AMERICAN SENATE MET TO SET THE GROUNDS FOR RELATIONS BETWEEN CUBA AND THE U.S.

DO THEY KNOW HOW TO READ?

THEY RAPIDLY WROTE THE "AMENDMENT"... APPROVED IT... AND PRESENTED IT TO CUBA FOR APPROVAL...

SURPRISE, MAN...!

AND THEY GAVE CUBA ONE ALTERNATIVE: APPROVE THE AMENDMENT AND THE TROOPS WILL LEAVE... IF NOT, THEY STAY...

BUT... WHAT DEVILS DID THE PLATT AMENDMENT CONTAIN...?

THE SILENT MEMORANDUM

AMONG OTHER THINGS, THE JUICY PART WAS THIS:

"THE GOVERNMENT OF CUBA AGREES THAT THE UNITED STATES MAY EXERCISE THE RIGHT OF INTERVENTION FOR THE PRESERVATION OF INDEPENDENCE AND THE SUSTENANCE OF A GOVERNMENT ADEQUATE TO THE PROTECTION OF LIFE, PROPERTY AND INDIVIDUAL LIBERTY AND TO THE FULFILLMENT OF THE OBLIGATIONS WITH RESPECT TO CUBA, IMPOSED ON THE UNITED STATES BY THE TREATY OF PARIS... AND THAT NOW SHOULD BE ASSUMED AND FULFILLED BY THE CUBAN GOVERNMENT..."

AND MORE...

"ALL THE ACTIONS REALIZED BY THE UNITED STATES DURING THE MILITARY OCCUPATION WILL BE RATIFIED AND ALL THE LEGAL RIGHTS ACQUIRED THROUGH THEM, WILL BE MAINTAINED AND PROTECTED..."

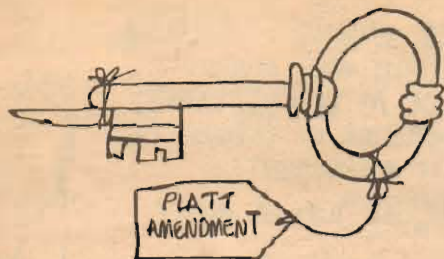
AND MORE...

"TO SET UP CONDITIONS SO THAT THE U.S. CAN MAINTAIN THE INDEPENDENCE OF CUBA AND PROTECT THE PEOPLE OF THE SAME, IN THIS WAY FOR HER OWN DEFENSE, THE GOVERNMENT OF CUBA WILL SELL OR RENT TO THE U.S. THE LAND NECESSARY FOR COALING STATIONS AND NAVAL BASES IN CERTAIN SPECIFIC POINTS THAT WILL BE AGREED UPON BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES..."

PLEASE DON'T FORGET THAT I'M JUST A DECORATION!

THAT'S LIFE...

NOT FOR LOVE, BUT FOR FORCE, "INDEPENDENT" CUBA BEGAN HER NEW LIFE UNDER THE GRINGO'S KNEE... THE UNITED STATES HAD THE KEY TO MESS AROUND IN SOMEONE ELSE'S HOUSE WHENEVER IT WANTED TO..!



ON THE SAME TICKET U.S. GOT GUANTANAMO BAY... AND THEY STILL HAVE IT (BY THE PLATT AMENDMENT, BELIEVE IT OR NOT..!)



THE LOGICAL PRESIDENT FOR CUBA WAS THE HERO AND GENERAL MAXIMO GOMEZ. BUT... HE WAS RADICAL AND BLACK...!!



SO, UNITED STATES PUT IN ONE OF ITS MEN: TOMAS ESTRADA PALMA, WHO RECEIVED ORDERS DIRECTLY FROM WASHINGTON... AND HIS SALARY, ALSO...



IN 1906 HE WAS REELECTED DESPITE POPULAR OPPOSITION... (BUT WITH U.S. PERMISSION). RESULT: ANOTHER REBELLION AND ANOTHER ARMED INTERVENTION OF THE U.S. "TO RESTORE ORDER"...

WE GOT TO GET USED TO DEMOCRACY...

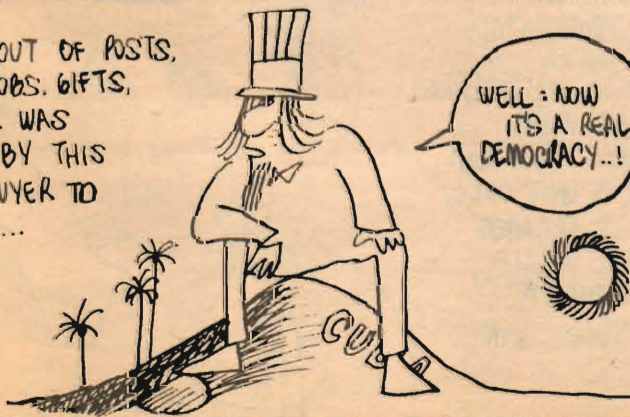


AS A RESULT, THE U.S. QUIETLY KICKED OUT THE CUBAN GOVERNMENT AND NAMED AN AMERICAN - MR. MAGOON - PRESIDENT OF CUBA UNTIL 1909. MR. MAGOON TAUGHT THE CUBANS SOMETHING THEY HAD NOT KNOWN BEFORE: ADMINISTRATIVE CORRUPTION...



(HE LEAVES CUBA A MILLIONAIRE...)

THE HANDING OUT OF POSTS, CONTRACTS, JOBS, GIFTS, FAVORS, ETC. WAS INTRODUCED BY THIS AMERICAN LAWYER TO THE ISLAND...



FROM 1909 TO 1913 GEN. MIGUEL GOMEZ IS THE PRESIDENT:

AMERICAN INVESTMENTS: \$400 MILLION...



FROM 1913 TO 1921 ANOTHER FRIEND OF AMERICAN INVESTORS: GEN. GARCIA MENCAL



THE AMERICAN INVESTMENTS REACH BY THAT TIME \$1,200 MILLION DOLLARS...



AND FOR VARIETY, THERE WAS ANOTHER ARMED AMERICAN INTERVENTION FROM 1916 TO 1921. ITS OBJECT? TO PUT DOWN STRIKES AGAINST THE SUGAR MILLS.. (AMERICAN-OWNED, OF COURSE)



BY 1925, THE U.S. CONTROLLED EVERYTHING IN CUBA: BANKS, MINES, TRAINS, SUGAR, CATTLE... AND THE GOVERNMENT. OH YES, AND THE TOBACCO..!



IN THAT YEAR ANOTHER PRESIDENT WAS INAUGURATED: GERARDO MACHADO, MANAGER OF THE "AMERICAN AND FOREIGN POWER AND LIGHT COMPANY" AND THE FIRST CUBAN DICTATOR...

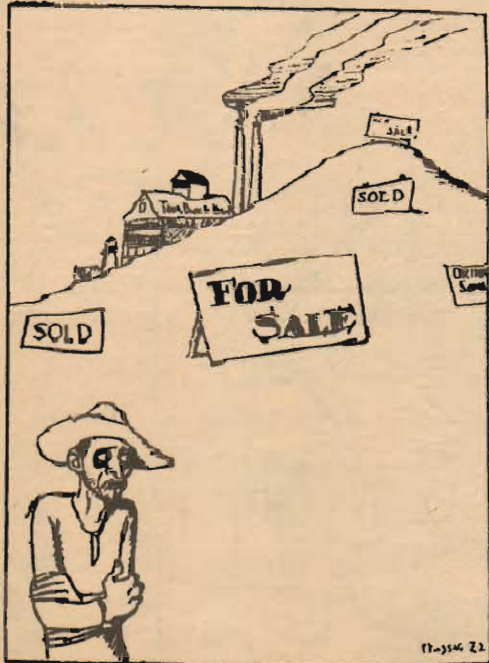


MACHADO "GOVERNED" FROM 1925 TO 1933 (A RECORD!). HE HAD A "PERSONAL" POLICE FORCE OF 15,000 MEN. HIS POLITICS: TO MAKE HIMSELF RICH AND TO PROTECT AMERICAN INVESTMENTS. HIS METHOD: ASSASSINATE ANYONE WHO OPPOSED HIS GOVERNMENT, WHOEVER HE MIGHT BE...

(AS THOSE WHO OPPOSED HIM MOST WERE THE COMMUNISTS, MACHADO KILLED MANY OF THEM)



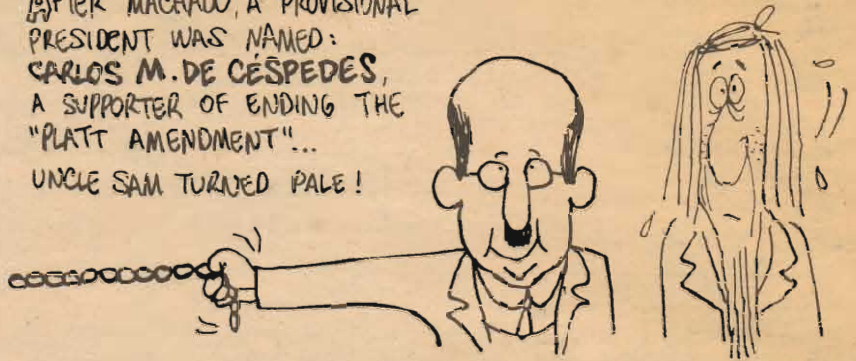
MANY STUDENT LEADERS WERE ASSASSINATED: JULIO ANTONIO MELLA, RAFAEL TREJO & OTHERS. ANOTHER STUDENT LEADER, VILLENA, DIED IN JAIL...



BUT NOT EVERYONE THOUGHT BADLY OF MACHADO: MR. CALVIN COOLIDGE THOUGHT THAT "UNDER MACHADO CUBA IS A SOVEREIGN STATE...HER PEOPLE ARE FREE, INDEPENDENT, IN PEACE AND ENJOYING THE ADVANTAGES OF DEMOCRACY..."

WITH THAT OPINION, MACHADO COULD STAY IN POWER...

AFTER MACHADO, A PROVISIONAL PRESIDENT WAS NAMED: CARLOS M. DE CÉSPEDES, A SUPPORTER OF ENDING THE "PLATT AMENDMENT"... UNCLE SAM TURNED PALE!



AND THIS IS WHERE THE SERGEANT ENTERS...

ALARMED, UNCLE SAM CALLED ON ONE OF HIS DEAREST NEPHEWS: AN OBSCURE (BOTH INSIDE AND OUT) SERGEANT, FULGENCIO BATISTA, TO PUT CUBA "IN ORDER"...



THE SERGEANT GOT SOME OTHER MILITARISTS TOGETHER AND HAD A "REVOLUTION". THUS ON THE 4th OF SEPTEMBER 1933, CÉSPEDES FELL, A "JUNTA" TOOK OVER FOR SIX DAYS, AND FINALLY IN CAME ANOTHER PRESIDENT: GRAU. BATISTA WAS PROMOTED TO COLONEL FOR HIS "CAMPAIGN MERITS"...

BUT YOU KNOW WHAT NON-CONFORMISTS THE COMMUNISTS ARE... IN 1933 THE COMMUNIST PARTY - AND THE STUDENTS - ORGANIZED A GENERAL STRIKE IN HIS HONOR, AND MACHADO HAD TO GO...



FOR THE FIRST TIME, THE POPULAR STRUGGLE IN CUBA, HAD A NEW AND "STRANGE" BATTLE CRY:

**DOWN WITH YANKEE IMPERIALISM!**



RIGHT ON!

AND ALL BECAUSE - WHEN MACHADO FELL - THE UNITED STATES CONTROLLED **70%** OF CUBA...

**70%**

THEY REALLY WENT WHOLE HOG!

GRAU WAS JUST LIKE THE OTHERS, BUT IN BACK OF GRAU THERE WAS A YOUNG MAN WITH RADICAL IDEAS:

**ANTONIO GUTERAS**

THANKS TO HIS INFLUENCE, THE NEW GOVERNMENT ABOLISHED THE OLD "PLATT AMENDMENT", INTRODUCED NEW LAWS CONTROLLING FOREIGN PROFITS, PROMOTED UNIVERSITY AUTONOMY, THE RIGHT TO STRIKE... AND TRIED TO NATIONALIZE THE ELECTRIC (AN AMERICAN) COMPANY...



NOTE: GUTERAS WAS NOT A COMMUNIST

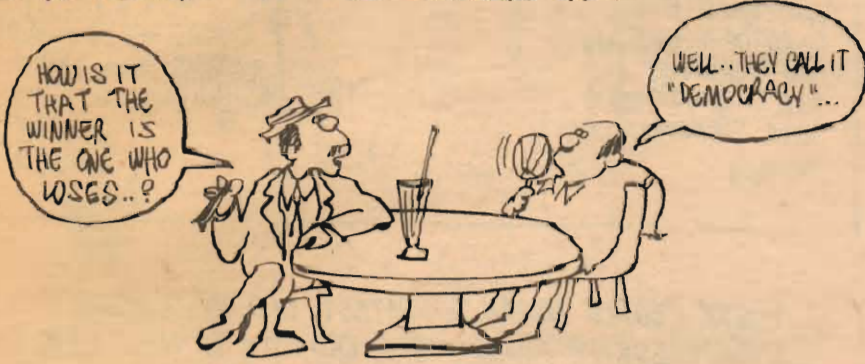
**RESULT?**

UNCLE SAM CALLS BATISTA, GUTERAS IS ASSASSINATED, GRAU FALLS, WASHINGTON APPLAUDS, CARLOS HEVIA BECOMES PRESIDENT (FOR 3 DAYS ONLY) AND IS REPLACED BY THE GORILLA MENDIETA, BATISTA'S TWIN...

YOU UNDERSTAND ME, NEPHEW...!



FROM 1935 TO 1940 COMES A COLLECTION OF BATISTA'S PRESIDENTS (WITH THE UNSELFISH HELP OF THE UNITED STATES): MIGUEL MARIANO GÓMEZ, LAREDO BRÚ... ALL WITH LESS VOTES IN THE ELECTIONS THAN OTHER "UNOFFICIAL" CANDIDATES...



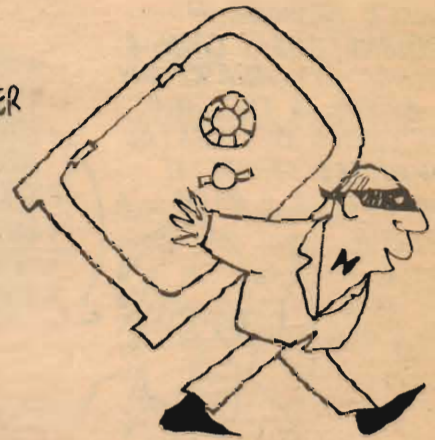
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# 1940

ELECTION YEAR... AND TO AVOID GOSSIP, IMPERTINENCE AND ALL THAT, BATISTA HIMSELF WINS (THIS TIME THE UNITED STATES AND BATISTA ABSTAINED FROM AIDING ANOTHER CANDIDATE..)



MORE ELECTIONS IN 1948 AND ANOTHER PRESIDENT: CARLOS PRIO SOCARRAS, WHO SURPASSED ALL EARLIER RECORDS OF CORRUPTION, REPRESSION, PROSTITUTION, POLICE BRUTALITY AND ROBBERY...

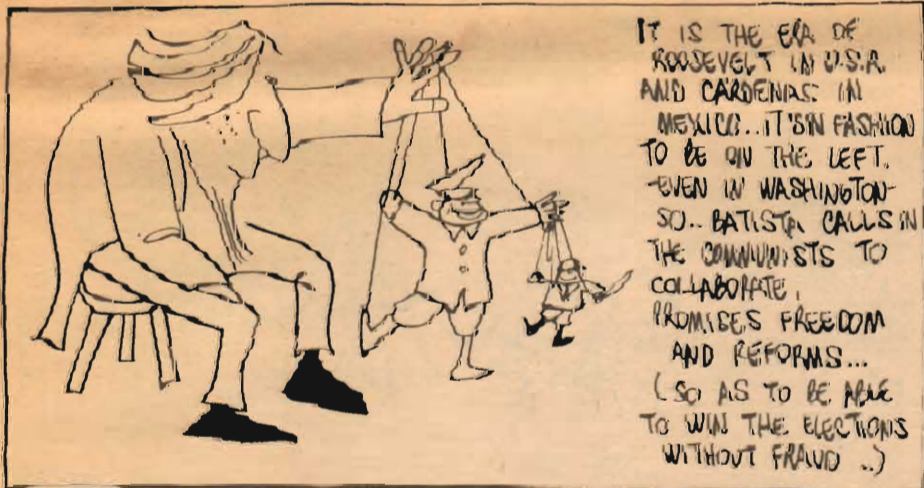


HOWEVER, SOMETHING GOOD CAME OUT OF ALL THE DIRT: A LOT OF DISGUISED CUBANS FOUNDED THE ORTODOX PARTY, WITH EDUARDO CHIBAS AS LEADER.



THEY RAPIDLY WON THOUSANDS OF SUPPORTERS FOR A RADICAL CHANGE IN CUBA.

THE ORTODOXES DIDN'T ASK FOR MUCH: HONOR, POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC INDEPENDENCE AND SOCIAL JUSTICE. IN OTHER WORDS, LESS UNCLE SAM IN CUBA..



THE ORTODOX PARTY BROUGHT ANOTHER SHOCK TO GOOD OLD UNCLE SAM: BY 1951, IT WAS ALREADY CONSIDERED A SURE WINNER FOR THE 52' ELECTIONS, HAVING THE ADDITIONAL SUPPORT OF THE CUBAN COMMUNISTS..



WITHOUT PAIN OR GLORY THE BATISTA REGIME PASSED: THE 2ND. WORLD WAR BROUGHT DOLLARS TO THE COFFERS AND STRONGBOXES OF THOSE ALREADY FILTHY RICH OWNERS OF SUGAR, TOBACCO, NICKEL, ETC. (AMERICAN FIRMS, ANYWAY...)

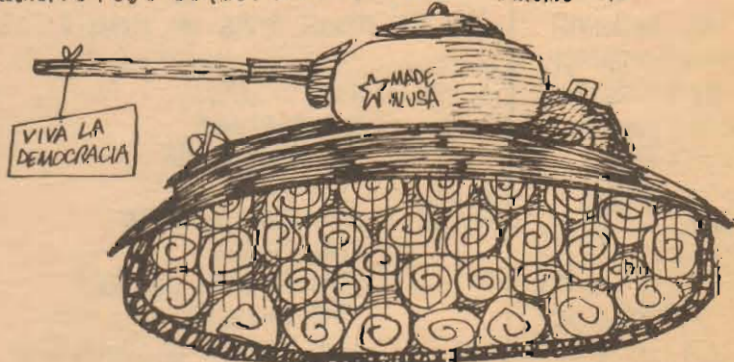
IN 1944 NEW ELECTIONS AND A "NEW" PRESIDENT: THE OLD GRAU, WHO - WITH HIS PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE - STOOD OUT AS THE MOST CORRUPT PRESIDENT... (CONSIDERING ALL PAST CHAMPIONS..)



PROSPERITY FOR THE CUBANS...! (AT LEAST, FOR MY FAMILY..)

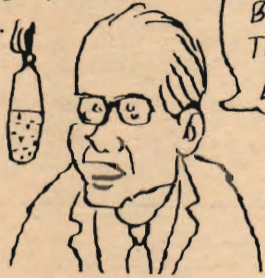
DURING HIS REGIME, CUBA BECOMES THE USA'S BROTHER..

WELL... ANOTHER PARTY, THE "AUTHENTIC", PRESENTED BATISTA AS ITS CANDIDATE, BUT WITHOUT A BIT OF SUPPORT AMONG THE VOTERS...



BUT, WHO NEEDS VOTER SUPPORT WHEN YOU HAVE TANK SUPPORT..?

DISCOURAGED BY THE APATHY OF VOTERS WHO NO LONGER BELIEVED IN ANYTHING, CHIBÁS CHOSE A SLIGHTLY EXAGGERATED WAY TO APPEAL TO THE CIVIC CONSCIENCE OF CUBA: HE COMMITTED SUICIDE AT THE END OF A RADIO SPEECH...



I ACCUSE THE PRÍO GOVERNMENT OF HAVING BEEN THE MOST CORRUPT THE REPUBLIC HAS EVER HAD!

-- AND THEN --  
BAM!

WITH CHIBÁS DEAD, BATISTA DIDN'T HAVE THE SLIGHTEST CHANCE OF WINNING THE ELECTIONS --- UNLESS THERE WEREN'T ANY ELECTIONS...

DO YOU KNOW WHO'S GOING TO WIN?

WELL, I KNOW WHO'S GOING TO LOSE...



PERHAPS BECAUSE OF THIS ON THE 10TH OF MARCH 52' INSTEAD OF ELECTIONS THERE WAS A COUP D'ÉTAT



DEMOCRACY SURVIVED IN CUBA...! AND TO PROVE IT, BATISTA ABOLISHED THE CONSTITUTION, DISSOLVED THE CONGRESS, OUTLAWED THE COMMUNIST PARTY, SURROUNDED HIMSELF WITH MILITARY BRASS AND ASKED UNCLE SAM FOR AID...



WITH THESE DEVELOPMENTS, THE DECENT\* PEOPLE PROCLAIMED BATISTA THEIR SAVIOR AND EVEN CARDINAL ARTEAGA GAVE HIS BLESSING TO THE NEW REGIME...



\* THE DECENT PEOPLE ARE ASSUMED TO BE:

HIGH SOCIETY  
THE BANKERS  
THE LANDOWNERS  
THE COLONELS  
THE INDUSTRIALISTS  
THE CLERGY  
THE AMERICAN INVESTORS  
THE LAWYERS  
THE KNIGHTS (of Columbus)  
THE RACISTS,  
ETC. ETC. ETC.

UNFORTUNATELY (FOR BATISTA) IN CUBA THERE WERE NOT MANY "DECENT" PEOPLE - THE MAJORITY WERE COMMON PEOPLE, A MASS OF "UNCULTURED" NEGROES, DYING OF HUNGER, "LAZY" AND "BACKWARDS", WHO DIDN'T UNDERSTAND THEIR "DEMOCRATIC" SOCIETY...



IN THE "FREE WORLD" DECENT COMES FROM "CENT".



THESE PEOPLE BEGAN TO PROTEST, LED BY THOSE EVER-PRESENT FOOLS, HALF QUIXOTE & HALF-RED,



LIKE THAT STUDENT LEADER, ORTHODOX PARTY MEMBER, EX-JESUIT STUDENT, REBEL AND LOUDEMOUTH, THAT CRAZY FIDEL CASTRO, WHOM NOT EVEN THE COMMUNISTS COULD CONTROL...



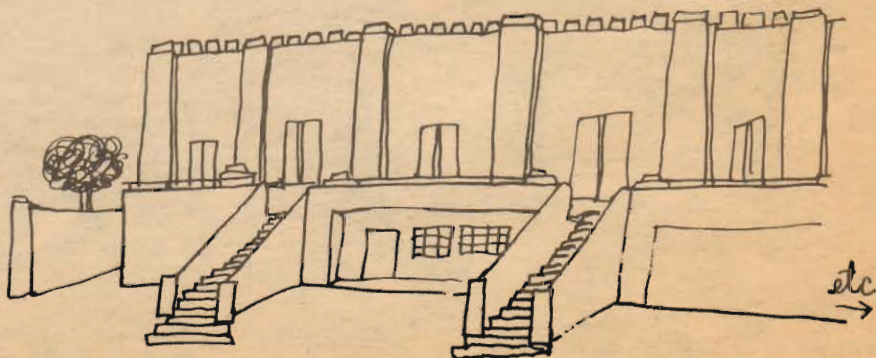
AND SO WHILE THE COMMUNISTS WERE SAYING THAT THE CONDITIONS WEREN'T RIPE FOR AN ARMED UPRISING, FIDEL CASTRO RUZ GOT TOGETHER 150 "CRAZY" MEN AND WOMEN AND DECIDED TO START THE REVOLUTION AGAINST BATISTA'S TYRANNY.



THE WORST THEY CAN DO IS KILL US!

ON JULY 26, 1953

FIDEL'S "CRAZIES" ATTACKED THE MONCADA GARRISON - IN SANTIAGO DE CUBA - WHERE THEY ENCOUNTERED OVER A THOUSAND PERFECTLY ARMED AND ENTRENCHED SOLDIERS..



BUT THE ASSAULT FAILED, PARTLY BECAUSE OF BAD LUCK (OF THE 150 PEOPLE WHO TOOK PART IN THE MONCADA ATTACK, ONLY 100 SAW ACTION: THE REST GOT LOST IN THE STREETS, AND THE ELEMENT OF SURPRISE WAS LOST...)



ONLY 30 SURVIVED, FIDEL AMONG THEM. THE REST WERE ASSASSINATED AFTER THE ATTACK, IN THE JAILS OR IN THE STREETS...



BATISTA WENT WILD AND ORDERED A SWIFT TRIAL FOR THE SURVIVORS...

THEY WERE SENTENCED TO 15 YEARS OF PRISON ON THE ISLE OF PINOS, EXCEPT FIDEL, WHO WAS GIVEN ONLY 19 YEARS OF FORCED LABOR, ISOLATED FROM THE OTHERS..



BAH: HISTORY WILL ABSOLVE ME..

(SUFFICIENT TIME FOR HIM TO GROW THE MUSTACHE, AND FOR THE GANG TO READ, STUDY AND ANALYZE THE MANY MISTAKES THEY HAD MADE; ABOVE ALL THEY SAW ONE THING: THEY HAD TO GET ORGANIZED AND DO THINGS IN A LITTLE LESS "CRAZY" WAY...



WE NEED TO LEARN WHAT ONE SHOULDN'T DO IN A REVOLUTION..

THEN WE WIGHT TO GO TO MEXICO, FIDEL..

MEANWHILE, BATISTA CONTINUES HIS WAYS AND BECOMES A GOOD TYRANT AMERICAN-STYLE...

THE STUDENTS, THE COMMIES AND THE WORKERS CONTINUED FIGHTING AGAINST BATISTA, WHO WAS NOW A FULL-BLOWN DICTATOR...



STRIKES, SABOTAGE, STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS AND EVEN AN ASSAULT ON THE PRESIDENTIAL PALACE IN HAVANA MAKE BATISTA NERVOUS...

WHAT CAN I DO WITH THESE NUTS?

TO APPEASE THE PEOPLE, BATISTA "ORGANIZED" NEW ELECTIONS AND FREED FIDEL AND HIS GANG. IT WAS 1955...



THAT SAME YEAR THE "CRAZIES" WENT TO MEXICO. THERE WAS LITTLE TO DO IN CUBA, EXCEPT BE SHOT BY BATISTA'S POLICE...

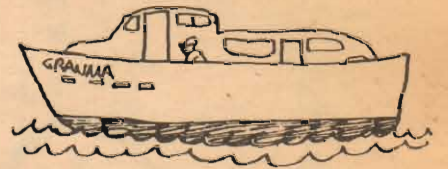
WE'VE GOT TO GET BACK TO CUBA SOON; I CAN'T STAND THOSE "TACOS"

RIGHT: THE SPICE IS KILLING MORE PEOPLE THAN BATISTA..



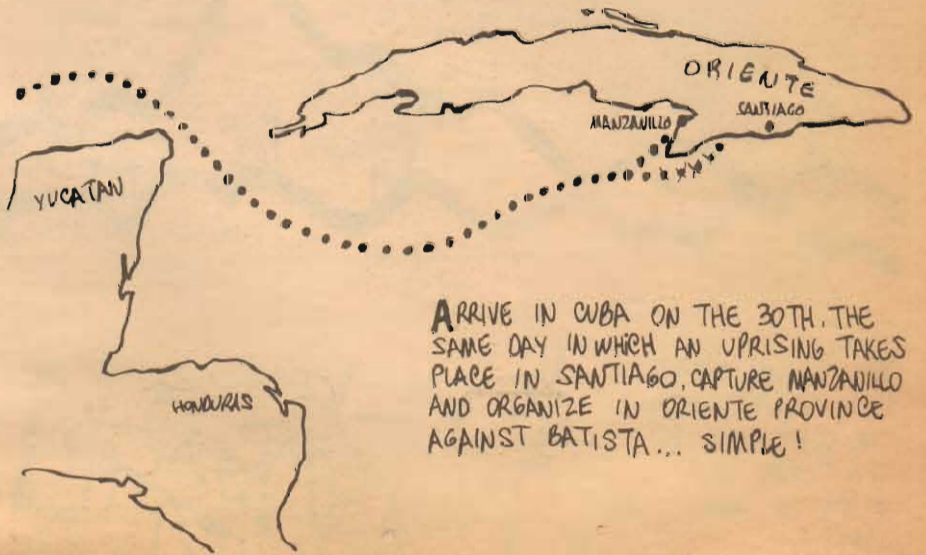
José Antonio Echeverría, Catholic student leader assassinated by Batista.

IN MEXICO THEY REORGANIZED THE GROUP, RAISED MONEY AND TRAINED CONSCIENTIOUSLY WITH GEN. BAYO, A SPANISH WAR VETERAN. THERE IN MEXICO AN ARGENTINIAN PHYSICIAN JOINED THE GROUP: CHE GUEVARA.



AND ON NOVEMBER 24, 1956, IN WHAT WAS PRACTICALLY A TOY BOAT, 82 "CRAZIES" SAILED FROM TUXPAN, VERACRUZ - WITH FIDEL LEADING - TO INVADE CUBA...

THE PLAN WAS THIS:

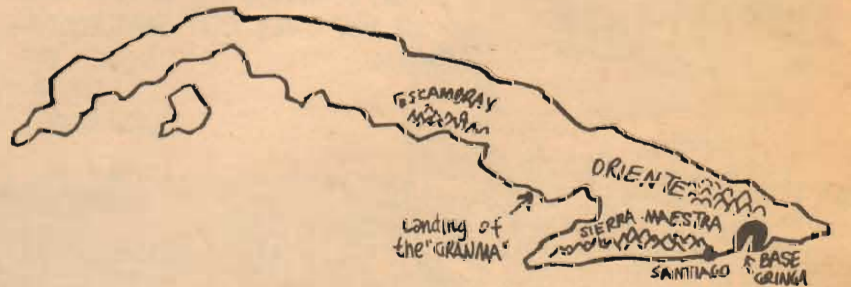


ARRIVE IN CUBA ON THE 30TH, THE SAME DAY IN WHICH AN UPRISING TAKES PLACE IN SANTIAGO, CAPTURE MANZANILLO AND ORGANIZE IN ORIENTE PROVINCE AGAINST BATISTA... SIMPLE!

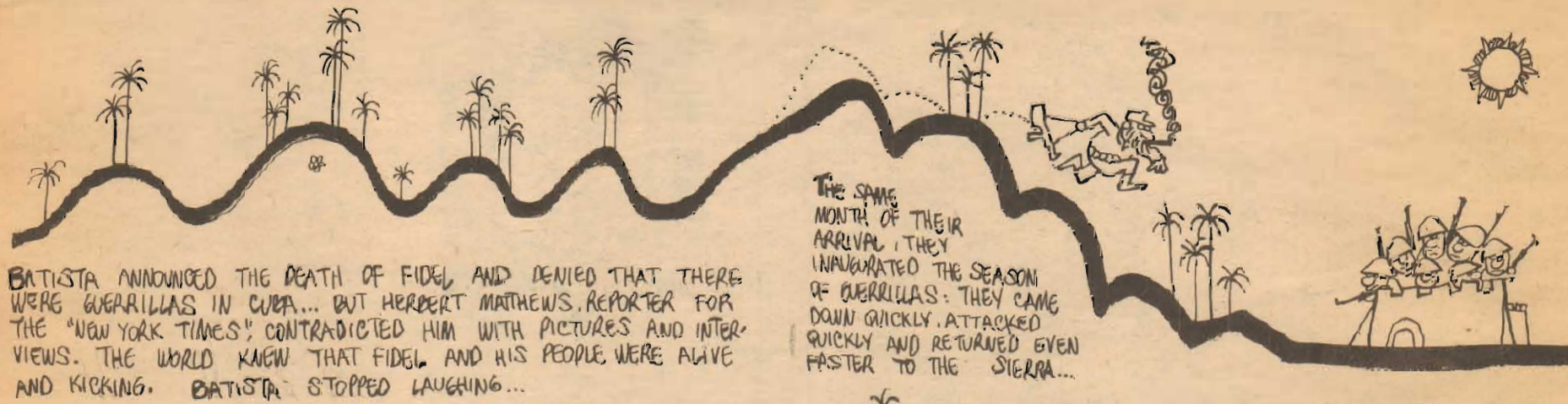
BUT A HURRICANE HIT THEM IN THE GULF OF MEXICO AND THEY ARRIVED ON THE COAST OF CUBA 2 DAYS LATE... ON A BEACH THAT WAS NOT THE RIGHT BEACH AND WITH A RECEPTION THEY WERE NOT EXPECTING: AIRPLANES OF BATISTA THAT BOMBED THEM...



THUS THEY LOST THE BOAT, THE WEAPONS, THE PROVISIONS AND TO MEN: ONLY 12 SURVIVED. CUBA IS ALMOST FLAT, EXCEPT FOR ORIENTE WHICH IS LOADED WITH MOUNTAINS AND SMALL HILLS WHICH JOIN TOGETHER IN WHAT THE GEOGRAPHERS CALL "THE SIERRA MAESTRA"; IT HAS A PEAK, THE "TURQUINO", ABOUT 2000 METERS HIGH, AND ISOLATED FROM ALL CIVILIZATION...



IT WAS THERE THAT THEY WENT, STARVING, SICK AND INJURED.



BATISTA ANNOUNCED THE DEATH OF FIDEL AND DENIED THAT THERE WERE GUERRILLAS IN CUBA... BUT HERBERT MATTHEWS, REPORTER FOR THE "NEW YORK TIMES", CONTRADICTED HIM WITH PICTURES AND INTERVIEWS. THE WORLD KNEW THAT FIDEL AND HIS PEOPLE WERE ALIVE AND KICKING. BATISTA STOPPED LAUGHING...

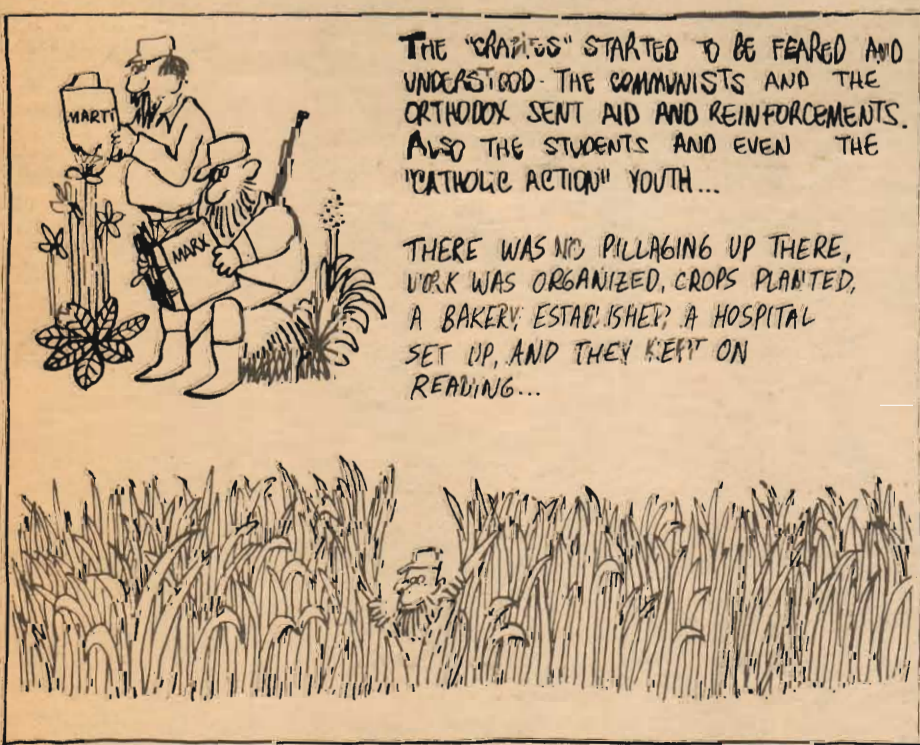
THE SAME MONTH OF THEIR ARRIVAL, THEY INAUGURATED THE SEASON OF GUERRILLAS: THEY CAME DOWN QUICKLY, ATTACKED QUICKLY AND RETURNED EVEN FASTER TO THE SIERRA...



THE TWELVE RESTED, MADE FRIENDS WITH THE CAMPESINOS OF THE SIERRA AND BEGAN TO GROW BEARDS...

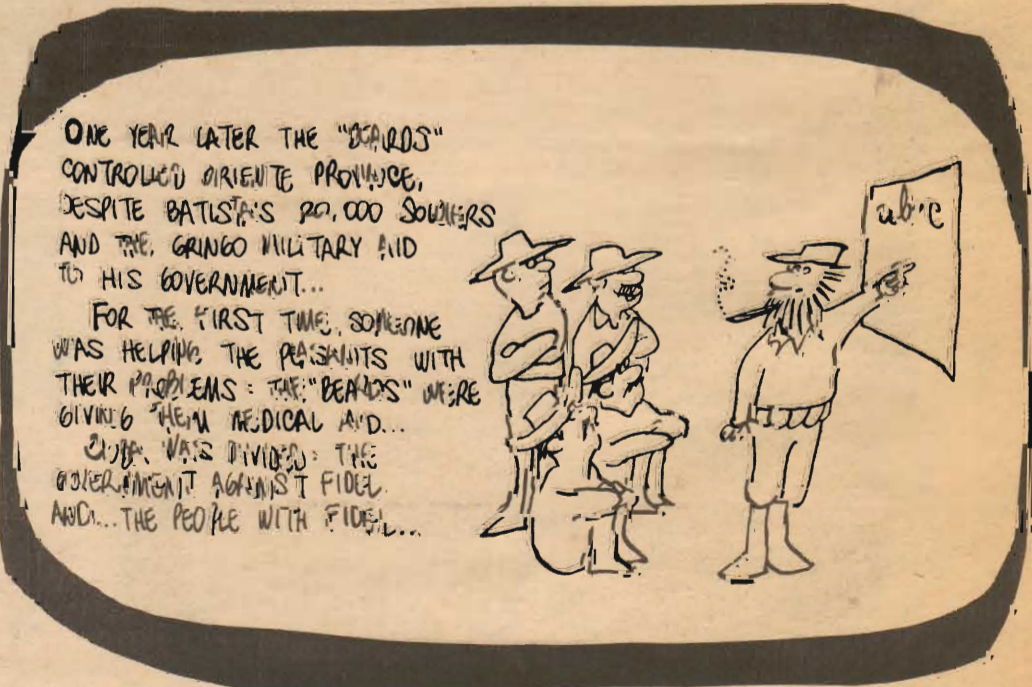


SOON VOLUNTEERS AND AID STARTED COMING TO THE SIERRA: ONLY BATISTA'S TROOPS COULDN'T FIND THEM BECAUSE "NOBODY KNEW" WHERE FIDEL WAS...



THE "BEARDS" STARTED TO BE FEARED AND UNDERSTOOD. THE COMMUNISTS AND THE ORTHODOX SENT AID AND REINFORCEMENTS. ALSO THE STUDENTS AND EVEN THE "CATHOLIC ACTION" YOUTH...

THERE WAS NO PILLAGING UP THERE, WORK WAS ORGANIZED, CROPS PLANTED, A BAKERY ESTABLISHED, A HOSPITAL SET UP, AND THEY KEPT ON READING...



ONE YEAR LATER THE "BEARDS" CONTROLLED ORIENTE PROVINCE, DESPITE BATISTA'S 20,000 SOLDIERS AND THE GRINGO MILITARY AID TO HIS GOVERNMENT...

FOR THE FIRST TIME, SOMEONE WAS HELPING THE PEASANTS WITH THEIR PROBLEMS: THE "BEARDS" WERE GIVING THEM MEDICAL AID... CLUB WAS DIVIDED: THE GOVERNMENT AGAINST FIDEL AND... THE PEOPLE WITH FIDEL...

SOMETHING INCREDIBLE HAPPENED: RAPIDLY THE PEOPLE FORGOT THEIR IDEOLOGICAL DIFFERENCES AND UNITED AGAINST BATISTA.

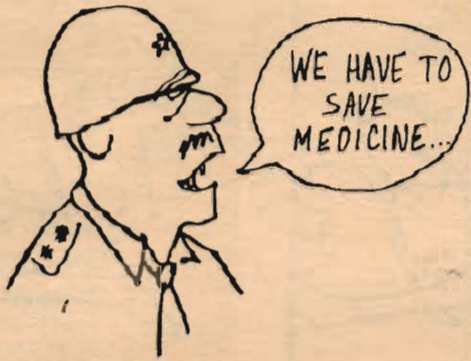
IN THE "JULY 26 MOVEMENT" (NAMED IN MEMORY OF THE MONEDA ATTACK) THERE WAS EVERYBODY: ANARCHISTS, CATHOLICS, STUDENTS, COMMUNISTS, BOYS, WOMEN AND OLD PEOPLE...



AND WHILE FIDEL FOUGHT IN THE SIERRA, THEY ORGANIZED THE FIGHT IN THE CITIES WITH TERRORISM AND SABOTAGE...



BATISTA HAD ONE ORDER IN REPLY: "NEITHER WOUNDED NOR PRISONERS"



THE FIGHT IN THE CITIES COST MORE LIVES THAN 3 YEARS OF GUERRILLA WARFARE IN THE SIERRA: BATISTA'S POLICE KILLED ABOUT 20,000 CUBANS... ALMOST ALL YOUNG CUBANS.



WHEN HE FLED, BATISTA TRIED TO "BEQUEATH POWER" TO SOME OF THE BATISTIANS WHO REMAINED...



ONLY THEY DIDN'T ACCOUNT FOR THE PEOPLE: A GENERAL STRIKE WITH THE SLOGAN: "ALL POWER TO THE BEARDS" MADE THEM CHANGE THEIR MINDS LIKE LIGHTNING...

THE TWO TACTICS TOGETHER - GUERRILLA WARFARE AND POPULAR UPRISING - SUCCEEDED IN ITS OBJECTIVE: ON THE FIRST OF JANUARY 1959, THE PRESIDENTIAL CHAIR BECAME TOO HOT FOR BATISTA...

**THE REVOLUTION HAD TRIUMPHED!**

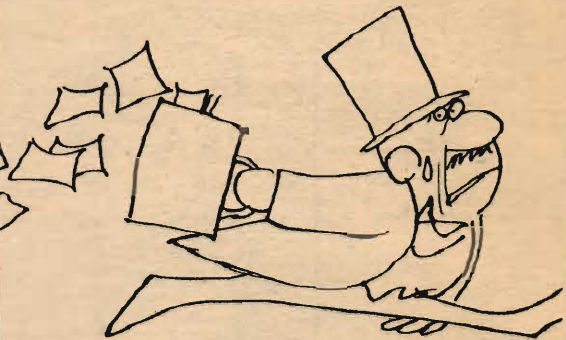
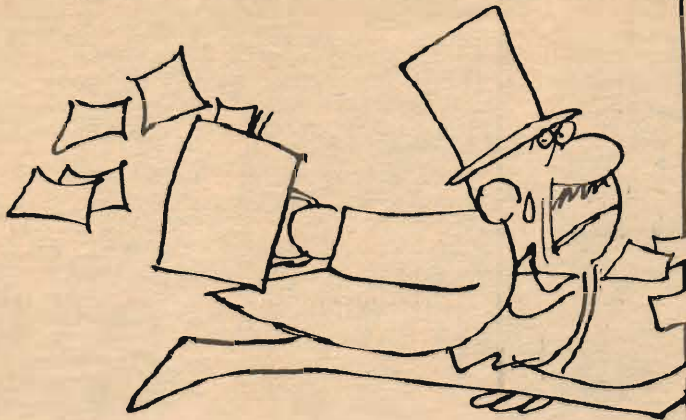
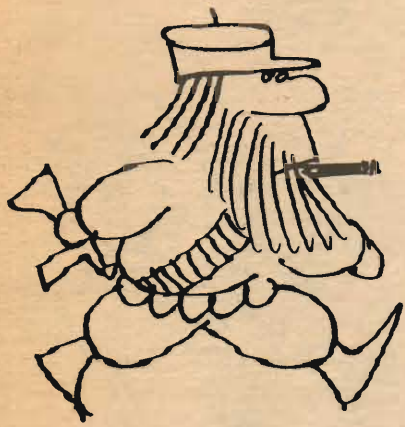
THE MAGISTRATES NOMINATED TWO "NEUTRALS" (NO BATISTIANS, NO BEARDS): URRUTIA AS PRESIDENT AND MIRO GORDONIA AS PRIME MINISTER...



AND WHAT THE DEVIL DID THE UNITED STATES DO...?

VERY SIMPLE: ACCORDING TO THEIR NOBLE TRADITIONS THEY SENT 3 DESTROYERS AND 2 SUBMARINES TO HAVANA, TO SEE WHAT THEY COULD FISH...

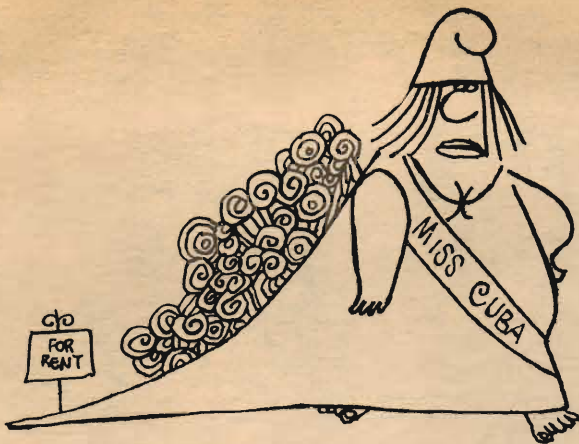




IN ORDER TO UNDERSTAND WHAT HAPPENED IN CUBA WITH THE TRIUMPH OF THE REVOLUTION, YOU HAVE TO TAKE A GOOD LOOK AT WHAT CUBA WAS IN

**59**

AT THE TRIUMPH OF THE REVOLUTION CUBA WAS - LIKE ANY OF THE COUNTRIES OF LATIN AMERICA - A "GREAT LITTLE DEMOCRACY"... PART OF THE "FREE WORLD" AND PRIDE OF "WESTERN CIVILIZATION"... A REPRESENTATIVE DEMOCRACY.



**THIS MEANS:**

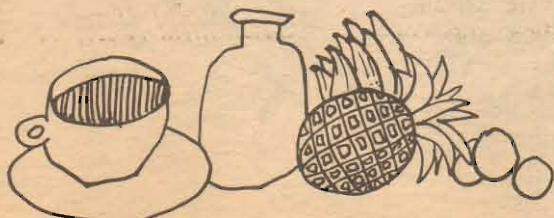


SUGAR, HER GREATEST WEALTH, WAS CONTROLLED, BOUGHT AND SOLD BY UNCLE SAM



BANKS...? ALL CONTROLLED BY UNCLE SAM...

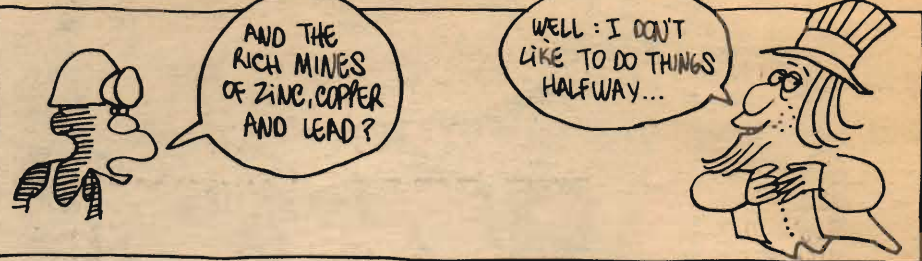
COFFEE ?  
FRUIT ?  
MILK ?



UNCLE SAM'S TOO...



AND THE CUBAN TOBACCO, THE BEST IN WORLD?



Who DO YOU THINK WAS THE OWNER OF THE BEST LANDS OF THE MOST FERTILE ISLAND OF LATIN AMERICA...??



THE COUSINS, OF COURSE... \*

\* IN OTHER WORDS, UNCLE SAM'S CHILDREN...

AND ALTHOUGH THIS MIGHT BE BORING... WHO OWNED THE HOTELS, THE TRAINS, THE OIL, THE CASINOS, THE TELEPHONES, THE COMMERCE AND EVEN THE BASEBALL PLAYERS..?



YEAH, YEAH... YOU GUESSED IT...

CUBA WAS AN "ALL-AMERICAN" COUNTRY !

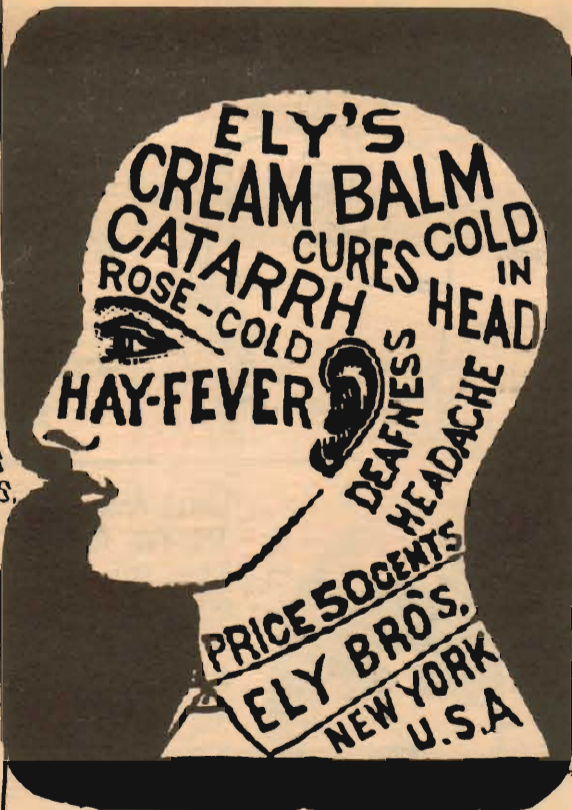
AND WHO DO YOU THINK  
SOLD EVERYTHING TO CUBA  
THAT IS:

MACHINERY, TOOLS, FOOD, COTTON, BEANS, WHEAT, CORN, FODDER, CARS, TRUCKS,  
CLOTHES, RADIO AND TV SETS, PAPER, TYPEWRITERS, ADDING  
MACHINES AND THE LIKE, RECORDS, PENS, TECHNICAL  
BOOKS, MEDICINE, SURGICAL INSTRUMENTS, CUTLERY,  
WHISKEY, OIL, LOCOMOTIVES, ELECTRICAL MATERIAL,  
SPORTING EQUIPMENT, CANS OF EVERYTHING  
IMAGINABLE, ELEVATORS, COCA-COLA, GUM  
LUMBER, GLASS, EVEN CIGARETTES!,  
TOILET PAPER, OIL AND GREASE,  
LUBRICANTS, REFRIGERATORS,  
CHEMICAL INSTRUMENTS,  
THOROUGHBRED CATTLE,  
AIR CONDITIONERS,  
LOCKS, GANGSTERS,  
INDIA INK!!!  
SHOES, FISH,  
SOLDER,  
PINS,  
HATS..



I RECOMMEND  
A SHOT OF RUM,  
SO YOU CAN GET  
THROUGH THE  
FOLLOWING...

... ABRASIVES, SUITS, SOCKS,  
COLOGNE, EYE-BROW PENCILS,  
ENGINEERING AND DRAFTING  
EQUIPMENT, BRASSIERES AND  
PANTIES, FLASHLIGHTS AND  
CAMERAS, RAZOR BLADES, HOE,  
SCISSORS, AIRPLANES  
OF ALL SIZES, HEATERS,  
CONTRACEPTIVES (A BASIC  
NECESSITY), STEEL PLATES  
AND BEAMS, YACHTS, NUTS  
AND BOLTS, SPECTACLES,  
SUNGLASSES, TOWELS, TOUR-  
ISTS, BLENDERS, LENSES,  
MASCARA, BUTTER AND LARD,  
DOGS, TRUMPETS, TOILETS,  
SPRINKLERS, OXYGEN, CANDY,  
GAS, NYLON STOCKINGS, FILMS  
AND NEWSREELS, FISHING NETS,  
SHOE POLISH, LAMPS, HELMETS,  
FISH HOOKS, ALL TYPES AND  
KINDS OF MOTORS, LOTIONS,  
TOOTH PASTE, TOOTH PICKS,  
BARBER EQUIPMENT, CANNONS,  
JUKE BOXES, SOAP AND SOUPS,  
RIFLES, BICYCLES, BANKNOTES,  
SINKS, PISTOLS, SUITCASES,  
TANKS, FLOWER POTS, COINS  
AND PAPER MONEY, SHIRTS,  
SLEEPING PILLS, UNDERSHIRTS,  
LIQUOR, YEAST, RAILROAD  
CARS, DENTURES, CHAIRS,  
PAINTS, DRY CLEANING EQUIP-  
MENT, RADIO AND TELEVISION  
STATIONS, PLUMBING EQUIP-  
MENT AND... WHEE!



IF ANYTHING  
IS MISSING, YOU  
PUT IT DOWN..



DEFENDING (BODY AND SOUL) ON UNCLE SAM, THE REST IS EASILY  
EXPLAINED, AS IN ANY REPRESENTATIVE DEMOCRACY:

GOVERNMENT  
WAS CORRUPT,  
THE PRESS WAS  
CORRUPTED,  
POLITICIANS  
CORRUPTED THE  
TRADE UNIONS,  
BUSINESSES  
BECAME THE BASE  
OF CORRUPTION,  
THE ELECTIONS WERE  
ALREADY  
CORRUPT.  
HAVANA WAS THE  
MOST CORRUPT  
BROTHEL OF THE WORLD  
AND THE  
CORRUPT  
POLICE SERVED  
TO ASSURE  
THAT CORRUPTION  
DIDN'T  
END...



"SOMETHING" WENT WRONG IN CUBA, BUT THIS AND OTHER THINGS  
ARE COMMON IN ALL LATIN AMERICA COUNTRIES, EVEN THOUGH NELSON  
COMES "TO ASSURE" CHANGES WITH EVERY NEW AMERICAN PRESIDENT...

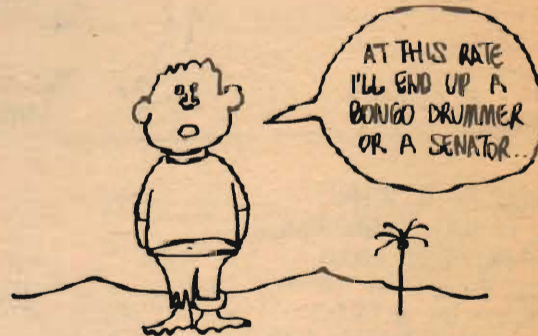
OTHER DEMOCRATIC  
VIRTUES WERE NOT  
LACKING IN CUBA:

IN 1958 THERE  
WERE HALF A  
MILLION  
UNEMPLOYED  
(IN A POPULATION  
OF SIX MILLION)



EACH YEAR HALF  
A MILLION CHILDREN  
WENT WITHOUT SCHOOL.

BESIDES WHICH,  
TWO-THIRDS OF THE  
CHILDREN HAD NO  
PRIMARY SCHOOL  
TO GO TO...



FIVE MILLION CUBANS  
(OUT OF A POPULATION  
OF SIX MILLION)  
DIDN'T HAVE THEIR  
OWN HOMES AND LIVED  
IN "BOHIOS" (HUTS)  
WITHOUT LIGHT, WATER  
OR SEWERAGE...



IN THE COUNTRY, THE PEOPLE WERE NOT EVEN OWNERS OF THE LAND THEY WORKED. THEY HAD NO SCHOOLS, NOR HOSPITALS; 10 THOUSAND TEACHERS WERE NEEDED AND ILLITERACY REACHED 43% (1958)



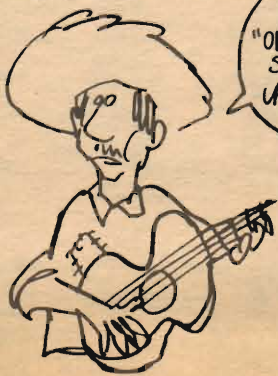
SURROUNDED BY THE SEA, THE POOR CUBANS COULD NOT GO TO THE BEACH BECAUSE THEY WERE PRIVATE (ESPECIALLY IF THEY WERE BLACK)



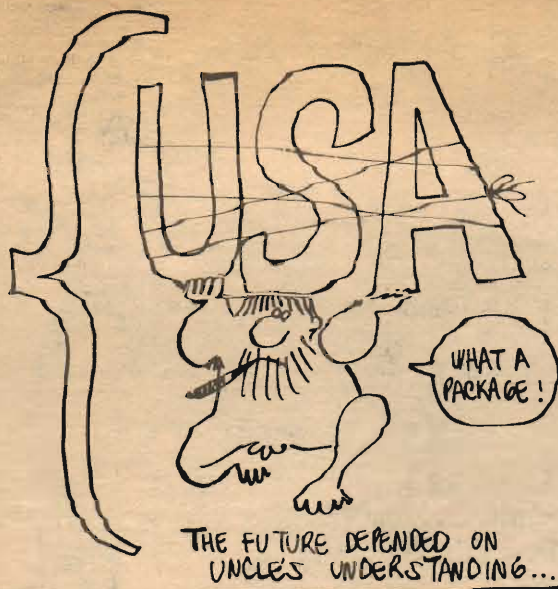
WE DON'T HAVE TO ENVY THE U.S. ... WE HAVE DISCRIMINATION TOO...

THERE WAS LITTLE WORK AND BAD PAY --- AND FOR FOUR MONTHS OUT OF THE YEAR THERE WASN'T EVEN THAT...

AFTER THE SUGAR CANE HARVEST, EVERYBODY WENT HOME TO DIE OF HUNGER. (THAT WAS WHAT THE REVOLUTION FOUND...)



AS YOU CAN SEE, THE REVOLUTION HAD TWO BURDENS: CORRUPTION AND ECONOMIC DEPENDENCE WHICH TOGETHER FORMED A SINGLE PACKAGE :



SOON UNCLE BEGAN TO GRUMBLE INAPPROPRIATELY: HE PROTESTED ABOUT THE EXECUTIONS (WITH TRIAL) OF BATISTA'S ASSASSINS. PERHAPS BECAUSE HE HADN'T DONE IT WHEN BATISTA KILLED 20,000 INNOCENT PEOPLE IN THE STREETS AND JAILS...

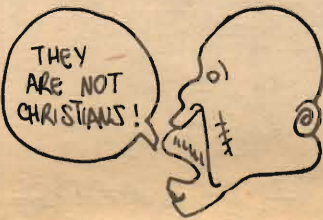
(AS OPPOSED TO 550 SHOT BY THE NEW GOVERNMENT...)



THE "POOR INNOCENT" PEOPLE THE U.S. TRIED TO DEFEND WERE ALL THOSE POLICEMEN, MILITARISTS AND GUN-TOTING KILLERS WHO FOR YEARS AND YEARS MADE A LIVING KILLING PEOPLE...



MANY FLED TO THE U.S. (WHERE ELSE?) AND WERE USED TO "TESTIFY" AGAINST "CASTRO'S DICTATORSHIP" IN THE NEXT FEW YEARS...



OTHERS FELL INTO THE HANDS OF THE CUBAN PEOPLE, WHO COULD ONLY SETTLE THEIR OWN ACCOUNTS AND GIVE THEM WHAT THEY DESERVED...



THE REST WERE JUDGED FOR THEIR SO INNOCENT CRIMES AND SENTENCED TO JAIL OR TO STAND BEFORE THE WALL. THE US DID THE ONLY THING IT COULD DO :



IN THE FIRST MONTH OF THE URRUTIA-MIRO GOVERNMENT, MIRO (THE PRIME MINISTER) RESIGNED ON HIS OWN INITIATIVE. IN HIS PLACE, URRUTIA NAMED FIDEL CASTRO...



UNCLE SAM AND THE RICH PEOPLE WERE NOT TOO HAPPY WITH THE CHOICE OF FIDEL, BUT THEY RESIGNED THEMSELVES TO IT... FIDEL WAS NOT A COMMUNIST, BUT A NATIONALIST SIMILAR TO FIGUERES, BETANCOURT, LERAS CAMARGO, OR HAYA DE LA TORRE... SO THOUGHT UNCLE SAM...



WITH A CABINET FORMED BY OLD POLITICIANS, FIDEL DECREED THE CONFISCATION OF THE LANDS OF BATISTA AND HIS FRIENDS...

WHAT COMES FROM WATER, RETURNS TO WATER..

GOD WILL PUNISH YOU FOR MESSING WITH MY FRIENDS..

AND THEN CAME THE NITTY-GRITTY OF ANY REAL REVOLUTION:

# the agrarian reform

LAND FOR THOSE WHO WORK IT!

THE LATIFUNDIOS (LARGE LAND HOLDINGS) WERE ELIMINATED AND THE LAND WAS GIVEN TO ALL THOSE WITHOUT LAND...

THE "OWNERS" PROTESTED, EVEN THOUGH THEY WERE OFFERED PAYMENT FOR THE CONFISCATED LANDS WITH BONDS OF THE NEW GOVERNMENT, EARNING 4 1/2 % INTEREST ANNUALLY...



FROM NOW ON THE GOVERNMENT WOULD CONTROL THE LANDS, WHAT THE LANDS PRODUCED AND THE PRICES OF THE PRODUCE: FOR THIS THEY CREATED THE

# INRA

(NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF AGRARIAN REFORM)

IN THE BEGINNING, INRA WAS THE MOST DIRECT AND SIMPLE WAY TO CARRY OUT THE CUBAN REVOLUTION...

INRA WAS ALMOST THE PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT..

AS LONG AS A FORMAL GOVERNMENT EXISTED, INRA IN THE 1st YEAR:

BUILT ROADS IN RURAL AREAS..

BUILT SCHOOLS IN THE RURAL AREAS..

.. AND EVEN HOSPITALS FOR THE PEASANTS..

THE IDEA WAS TO CARRY OUT A REAL AGRARIAN REFORM: GIVE THE PEASANTS LAND PLUS THE MEANS TO A DECENT LIFE...

WELL, UNCLE SAM DIDN'T MUCH LIKE THE "AGRARIAN REFORM" EITHER... ESPECIALLY WHEN HE REALIZED THAT THE BEARDS WERE GOING TO DIVIDE UP THE AMERICAN-OWNED LANDS, TOO (75,000 ACRES)

NOR DID HE LIKE IT WHEN CASTRO CLOSED THE CASINOS, GIVEN THE COINCIDENCE THAT THE CASINOS WERE OWNED BY AMERICANS (GANGSTERS, TOO..)

YOU LOSE: IT CAME OUT RED!

AND HE WAS STUNNED WHEN HE LEARNED THAT FIDEL HAD LOWERED BY DECREE THE ELECTRICITY AND TELEPHONE RATES.. (BY PURE COINCIDENCE, BOTH COMPANIES WERE ALSO AMERICAN..)

WHAT A SHAME: THE REVOLUTION WAS GOING SO WELL..!

TWO MONTHS AFTER THE TRIUMPH, THE GOVERNMENT PROCLAIMED SOMETHING REALLY INCREDIBLE: THE

# URBAN REFORM

HOME, SWEET HOME..

FIRST, IT DECREED THAT PEOPLE PAY ONLY HALF OF THE RENT THAT THEY HAD BEEN PAYING... (IMAGINE THE EXPRESSION ON THE FACES OF THE RICH APARTMENT BUILDING OWNERS..)

WHEN THEY SAID "REVOLUTION" I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE LIKE THE MEXICAN REVOLUTION!

BUT THIS WASN'T ALL: THERE WERE PEOPLE WHO HAD LOTS OF HOUSES BESIDES THE ONE THEY LIVED IN (HOUSES FOR VACATION, FOR RENT OR A "BACHELOR HOUSE", YOU KNOW..)

AS OPPOSED TO FIVE MILLION CUBANS WHO DIDN'T EVEN HAVE ONE..



IN HAVANA ALONE  
THERE WERE MORE  
THAN 300 BROTHELS,  
MORE THAN  
700 BARS AND  
ABOUT...  
15,000 PROSTITUTES..!



AND THE BULK OF THE "CLIENTELE" CAME FROM  
THE UNITED STATES, WHICH CONSIDERED HAVANA  
"ITS" BROTHEL... (NOW IT'S PUERTO RICO)

FIDEL ALSO LOWERED THE RATES FOR MEDICINES, TRANSPORTATION,  
HOTELS AND TOOK OTHER MEASURES FAVORING THE POOR...



HOW CAN  
YOU TRUST  
SUCH A  
GOVERNMENT?

**ALSO**

HE  
DECREEED THAT THERE  
WOULD NO LONGER  
BE PRIVATE BEACHS  
NOR COUNTRY CLUBS  
ONLY FOR RICH PEOPLE  
(NO PLAYBOY CLUBS IN  
CUBA..)

HE LOWERED THE  
PRICES OF CABARETS,  
THEATRE, MOVIES,  
BARS... AND BEGAN  
TO CONSTRUCT  
CHEAP HOUSES ALL  
AROUND THE  
ISLAND...



IT IS  
IMPOSSIBLE  
FOR CUBANS TO  
SUPPORT THIS  
FIDEL..!

CONCERNING THE PRESS,  
SOMETHING INCREDIBLE  
HAPPENED: WITH THE  
TRIUMPH OF THE REVOLUTION  
NOBODY TOUCHED THE  
NEWSPAPERS, NOR ISSUED  
ANY DECREES CONCERNING  
THEM...

THE FOURTH  
ESTATE IS  
UNTOUCHABLE!



LIKE THE LATIN AMERICAN  
PRESS, THE CUBAN RECEIVED  
"SUBSIDIES", WERE REWARDED  
WITH OFFICIAL CONTRACTS  
AND PUBLISHED ONLY NEWS  
"MADE IN USA"... AND  
APPROVED BY THE GOVERNMENT

MONEY  
TALKS\$!



DURING BATISTIA'S REGIME,  
THERE WAS NO FREEDOM  
OF THE PRESS: HE  
ABOLISHED IT BY DECREE,  
ESTABLISHING CENSORSHIP  
BY THE GOVERNMENT..

FIDEL'S NEW GOVERNMENT  
REESTABLISHED  
UNRESTRICTED FREEDOM  
OF THE PRESS... BUT  
TOOK AWAY THEIR  
SUBSIDIES...

LIBERTY NO!  
SUBSIDY SÍ!



AND THE CUBAN PRESS MAGNATES PROTESTED  
"SO MUCH" FREEDOM... AND BEGAN TO  
ATTACK THE "COMMUNIST" MEASURES OF  
THE NEW GOVERNMENT...

THOSE DAMN BEARDED  
GIVE GIVE US FREEDOM  
OF THE PRESS TO  
ATTACK THEM!

IT MUST BE  
SOME KIND  
OF COMMUNIST  
TRICK!



THOSE WHO PROTESTED AGAINST THE  
UNJUST ATTACKS ON THE GOVERNMENT  
WERE... THE NEWSPAPER VENDORS  
AND SHOP WORKERS...

FIDEL HIMSELF PROHIBITED THEM FROM  
OPPOSING THE OWNERS, AND ASKED  
THEM TO KEEP ON WORKING AS BEFORE

THEN THE WORKERS INVENTED THE  
"POSTSCRIPT".....

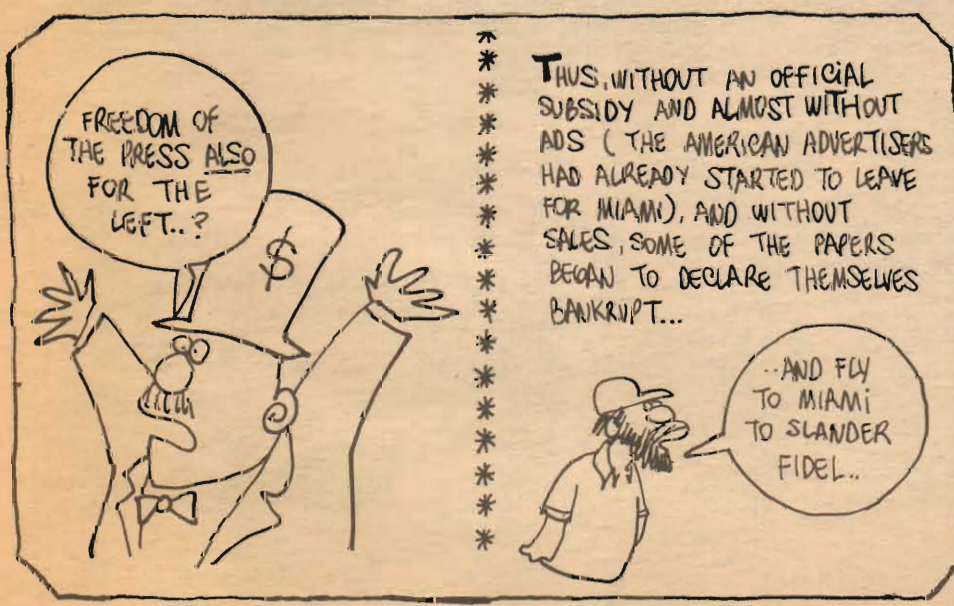
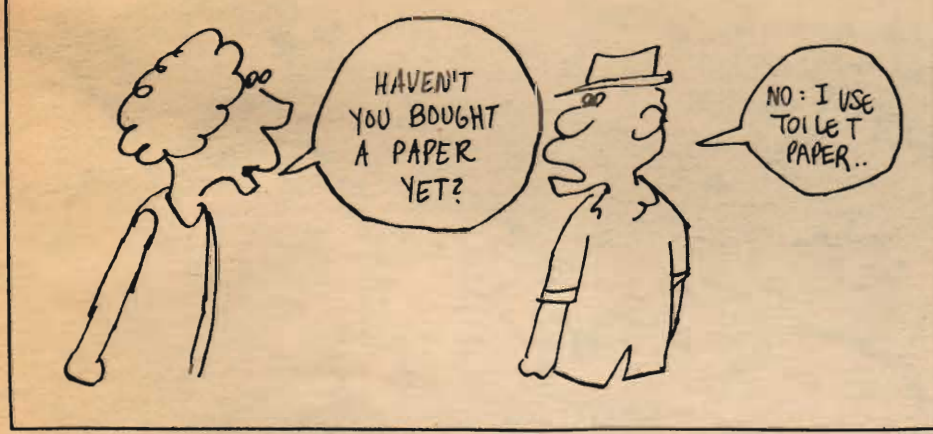


AT THE END OF AN EDITORIAL OR ARTICLE WHICH THEY CONSIDERED TO BE FALSE, THEY WOULD ADD THIS "POSTSCRIPT":

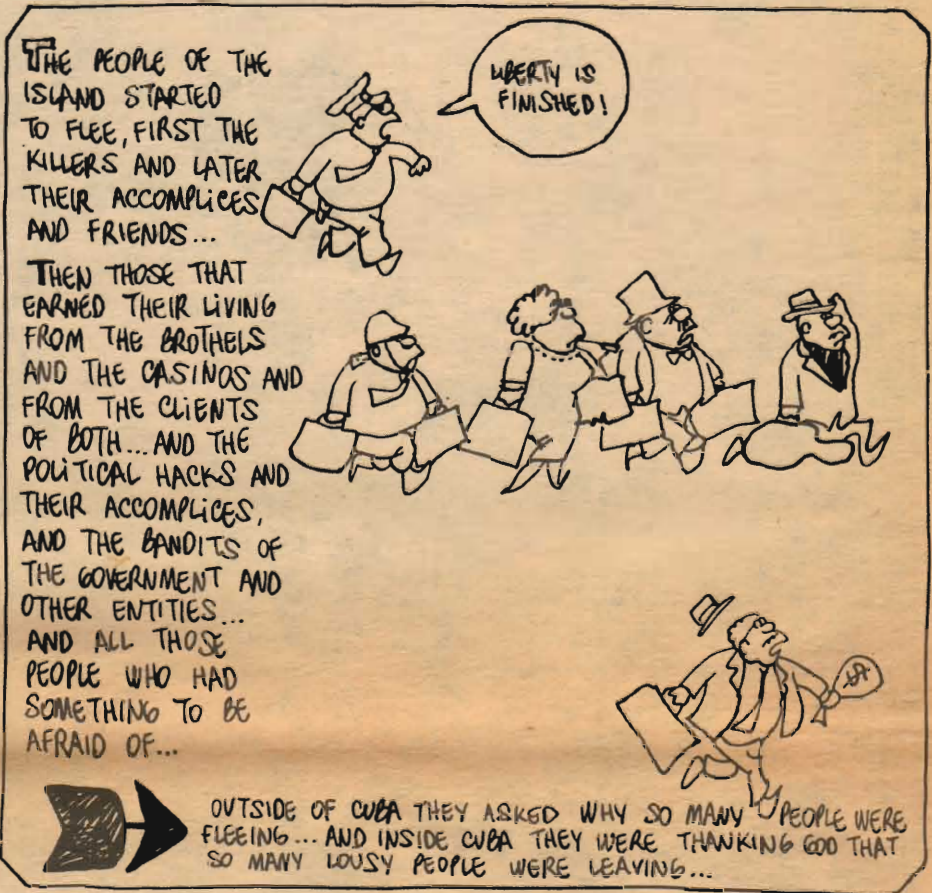
"THE NEWSPAPER VENDORS AND THE PRINTSHOP WORKERS DECLARE THAT THE PRECEDING ARTICLE IS NOT IN ACCORD WITH THE TRUTH, NOR WITH THE MOST ELEMENTAL ETHICS OF JOURNALISM..."

...

THE PUBLIC, FOR ITS PART, REALIZED THAT THE PAPERS WEREN'T TELLING THE TRUTH AND SIMPLY STOPPED BUYING THEM...



WITH THE RADIO AND TELEVISION - FAITHFUL SERVANTS OF BATISTA - THE SAME THING HAD TO OCCUR: THEIR OWNERS WENT OFF TO THE "FREE WORLD" TO SELL TIME "ENGLISH SPOKEN!"

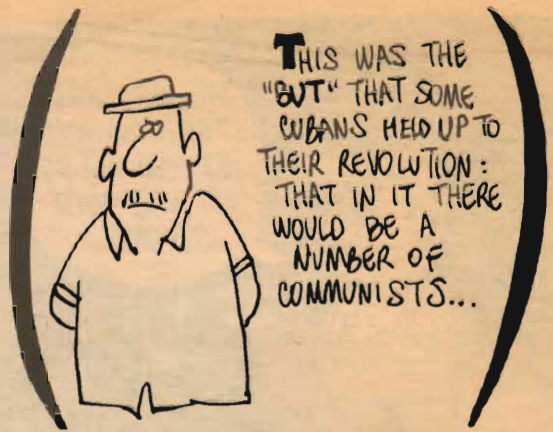
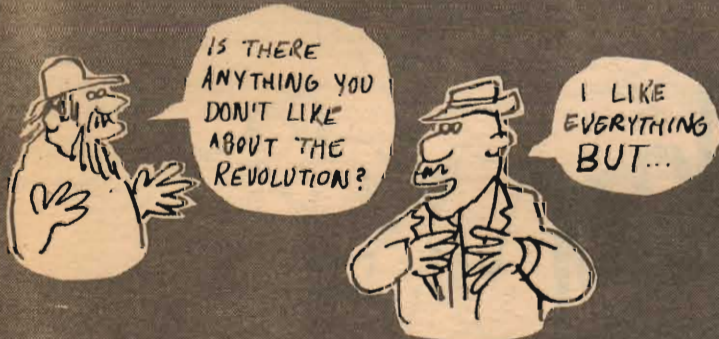
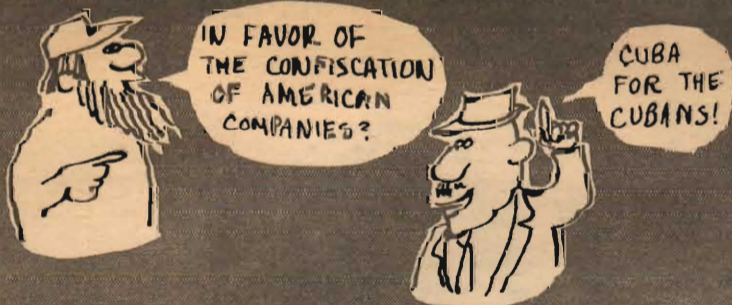
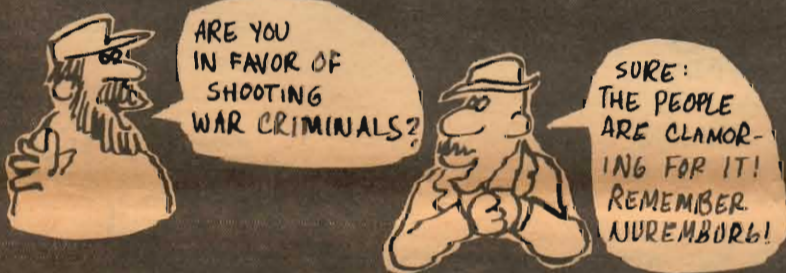


CAN YOU IMAGINE: AFTER YEARS AND YEARS OF READING "LIFE EN ESPAÑOL", READER'S DIGEST... AND SEEING THE ANTI-COMMUNIST SLANDER IN THE MOVIES, ON THE TELEVISION AND IN NEWSPAPERS...

\*\*\*\*\*

NOBODY KNEW WHAT COMMUNISM WAS, EXCEPT BY THE PROPAGANDA OF THE AMERICAN PRESS. IN TIME, MANY OF THOSE WHO FLEW TO MIAMI BECAUSE OF THE SLANDERS, RETURNED TO CUBA (NOT EVERYBODY CHANGING THE "NATIONAL AIRLINES" ITINERARY, OF COURSE...) 23.

AND THE PEOPLE WERE SO INFLUENCED BY THIS ANTICOMMUNIST PROPAGANDA, THAT SOME STRANGE THINGS BEGAN TO HAPPEN...



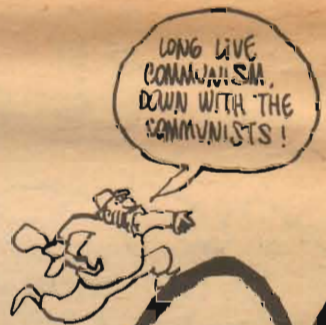
THE (COMMUNIST) POLICIES SEEMED MAGNIFICENT TO THEM... BUT THEY DIDN'T WANT THE POLICYMAKERS TO BE COMMUNISTS..!!



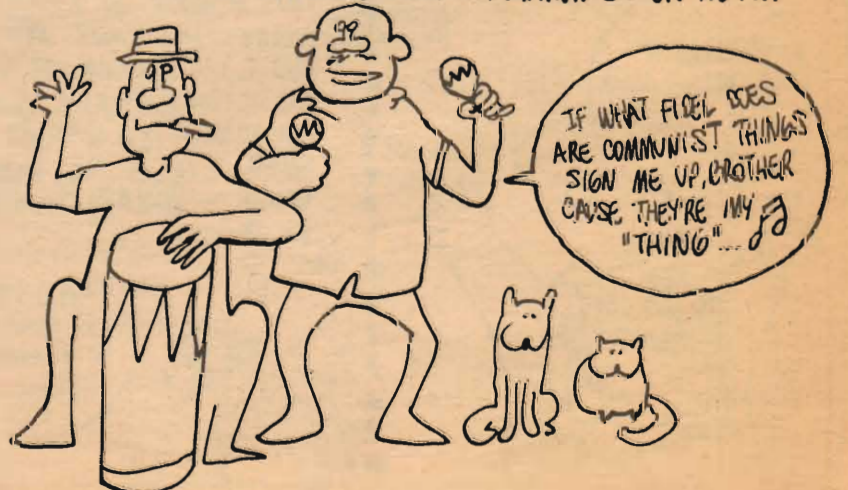
\* MOST OF THE PEOPLE SOON REALIZED THAT THESE THINGS WERE COMMUNISM: AGRARIAN REFORM, FREE SCHOOLING, URBAN REFORM, FREE HOSPITALIZATION, JUSTICE FOR ALL, NATIONALIZATIONS, NO SEGREGATION, ETC. ETC.



SOME WHO DIDN'T GO TO MIAMI SCARED BY COMMUNISM DID SOMETHING WORSE: THEY TRIED TO FIGHT IT WITH WEAPONS... (DIAZ LANZ, HUBERT MATOS, WILLIAM MORGAN) AND THEY CLIMBED THE SIERRA OF ESCAMBRAY ONCE AGAIN TO "COMBAT" COMMUNISM (WITH CIA HELP, NATURALLY..)



BUT THEY DIDN'T LAST UP THERE: THE PEOPLE THEMSELVES TOOK CHARGE OF BRINGING THEM DOWN AND CONVINCING THEM THAT THE REVOLUTION WOULD CONTINUE ONWARD, COMMUNIST OR NOT...



ANOTHER ONE CONFUSED BY THIS "COMMUNISM" WAS... PRESIDENT URRUTIA WHO HAD BEEN SIGNING THE "COMMUNIST" LAWS...

UNCLE SAM MIGHT GET ANGRY!



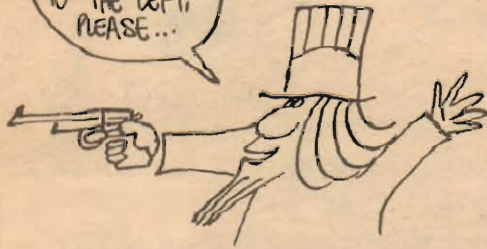
HE ASKED THAT "THE COMMUNISTS BE PURGED FROM THE REVOLUTION." THE ISSUE WAS CLEAR: THEY WANTED TO DIVIDE THE PEOPLE WITH THE "PHANTOM" OF COMMUNISM.

IN THE SIERRA NO ONE ASKED WHO WERE REDS...



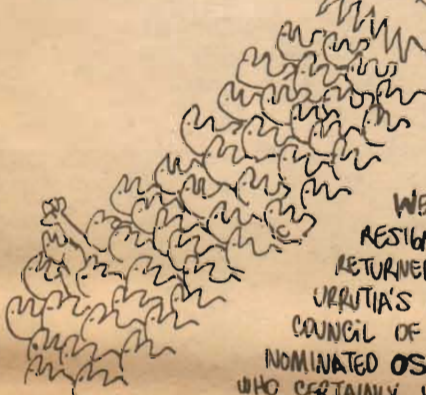
→ THUS, FIDEL SUBMITTED HIS RESIGNATION, CHARGING URRUTIA "OF ACCUSING THE REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT OF COMMUNISM"... AND SO GIVING THE U.S. A PRETEXT FOR INTERVENING...

A LITTLE MORE TO THE LEFT, PLEASE...



IMMEDIATELY THE PEOPLE REACTED: FROM ALL OVER THE ISLAND PEOPLE CAME TO HAVANA TO ASK THAT URRUTIA RESIGN INSTEAD OF FIDEL...

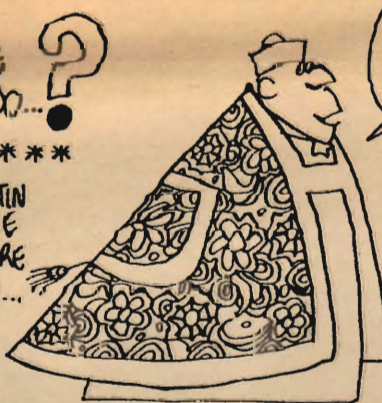
FI-DEL FI-DEL FI-DEL FI-DEL!



WELL: URRUTIA RESIGNED AND FIDEL RETURNED.. AND IN URRUTIA'S PLACE, THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS NOMINATED OSVALDO DORTICOS, WHO CERTAINLY WASN'T A COMMUNIST EITHER...

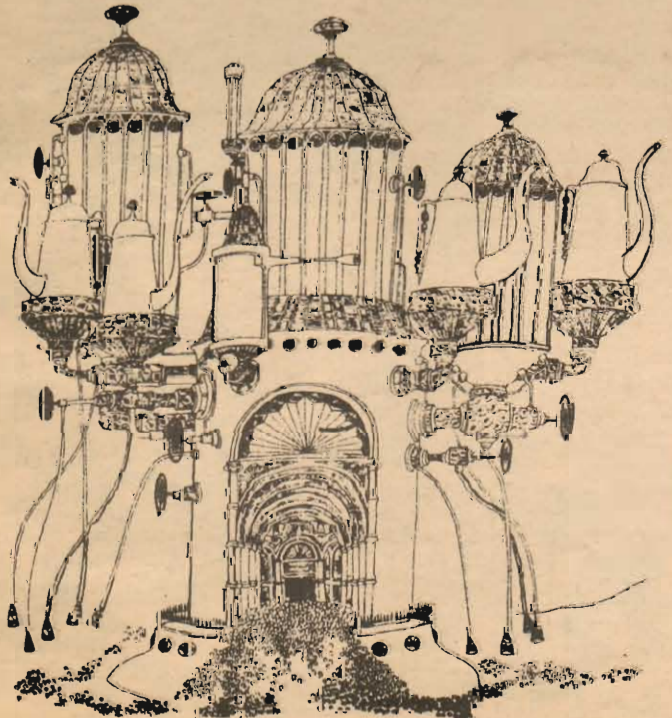
... AND WHAT DID THE HOLY MOTHER CHURCH DO...?

\*\*\*\*\*  
IN CONTRAST TO OTHER LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES, THE CHURCH IN CUBA WAS MORE OR LESS A DECORATION...



THEY GAVE ME A PRIZE IN THE CARNIVAL PARADE...!

CUBANS SAY THAT THEIR REAL RELIGION IS DRINKING COFFEE...

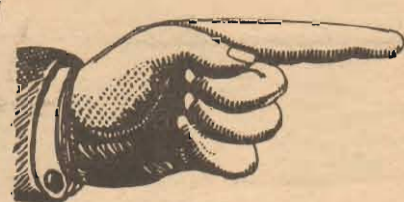


(SO, THE COFFEE-POT WOULD BE THE CATHEDRAL...)

FOR EVERY PRIEST THERE WERE NINE THOUSAND PARISHIONERS... AND SINCE IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE TO CARE FOR ALL OF THEM, THEY CHOSE TO DEDICATE THEMSELVES ONLY TO A FEW: THOSE WHO COULD PAY TO GO TO HEAVEN...



IT'S HARDER FOR A RICH MAN TO ENTER THE KINGDOM OF GOD THAN...



POLITICAL CHANGES NEVER AFFECTED HER: BATISTA CAME IN AND THE CHURCH WAS PRO-BATISTA... WITH MACHADO, MACHADIST AND WITH PRIO, PRO-PRIO...

YOU KEEP OUT OF MY BUSINESS AND I'LL KEEP OUT OF YOURS...



ON THE OTHER HAND, RELIGION WASN'T VERY IMPORTANT TO THE PEOPLE: ONLY 51% WERE (OFFICIALLY) CATHOLICS AND THE REST WERE INDIFFERENT, MASON'S, AGNOSTICS OR SPIRITUALISTS...



AND TO FINISH QUICKLY: THE GREAT MAJORITY OF THE PRIESTS WERE SPANIARDS, AMERICANS OR ITALIANS...

WHEN FIDEL TRIUMPHED, THE CHURCH APPLAUDED THE NEW GOVERNMENT - AS WAS ITS CUSTOM - AND WAS READY TO ADAPT ITSELF - AS ALWAYS - TO THE NEW SITUATION.

THEY'RE "DEARDS", LIKE YOU...



EVERYTHING WAS FINE UNTIL FIDEL ANNOUNCED THE AGRARIAN REFORM AND THE NATIONALIZATION OF THE LANDS OF THE CHURCH (CONSIDERABLE)

CERTAINLY CHRIST WAS A COMMUNIST... (THAT'S WHY THEY CRUCIFIED HIM!)



(AFTER THAT, THE CHURCH BEGAN TO ATTACK THE "COMMUNIST" GOVERNMENT THROUGH SERMONS AND NEWSPAPER'S ARTICLES...)

THUS, INSTEAD OF TAKING THE PEOPLE'S SIDE, THE CHURCH WENT ASTRAY, TOOK THE SIDE OF THE RICH AND BEGAN TO INTERFERE WITH FIDEL...

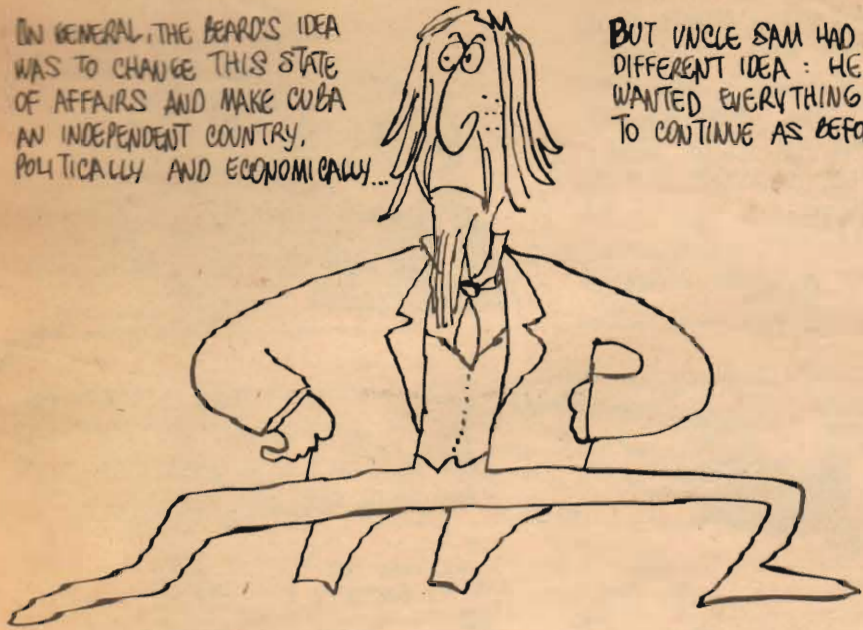
OUR FATHER, WHO ART IN MIAMI...



OR TO FOLLOW THEIR RICH PARISHIONERS TO MIAMI... BY 1961 HALF OF THE PRIESTS WERE THERE, (ONLY THE TRULY CHRISTIAN REMAINED) AND THE PEOPLE DID THE OBVIOUS THING: THEY QUIT GOING TO CHURCH...

IN GENERAL, THE BEARDS IDEA WAS TO CHANGE THIS STATE OF AFFAIRS AND MAKE CUBA AN INDEPENDENT COUNTRY, POLITICALLY AND ECONOMICALLY...

BUT UNCLE SAM HAD A DIFFERENT IDEA: HE WANTED EVERYTHING TO CONTINUE AS BEFORE..



WITH THE GOAL OF SETTLING THINGS AMICABLY, FIDEL WENT TO THE U.S. IN 1959, BUT THEY GAVE HIM THE COLD SHOULDER...

FIDEL'S BEARDS ASK FOR BONES, AND THEY GIVE 'EM STONES; AND THEY ASK FOR CRUMBS AND THEY GIVE 'EM NONE...

SORRY, I DON'T HAVE A LIGHT.

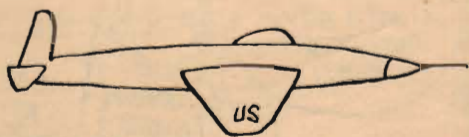


SO THE BEARDS REALIZED THAT THEY WOULD HAVE TO CHANGE CUBA IN SPITE OF THE U.S. AND ITS INTERESTS...

SORRY: CUBA SI YANKEES NO!



NOT ONLY DID UNCLE SAM NOT WANT TO HELP THE NEW GOVERNMENT, BUT HE ALSO STARTED TO PLAY DIRTY TO CUBA... AND SO, IN JULY, 1959 BEGAN THE NEW PERIOD OF "FRIENDSHIP AND UNDERSTANDING" BETWEEN THE 2 COUNTRIES: AMERICAN PLANES NAVALM-BOMBED THE CUBAN CANE FIELDS...



UNCLE DENIED EVERYTHING, BUT SEVERAL DAYS LATER, ANOTHER YANKEE PLANE PILOTED BY AN EX-CASTROTE (PAID BY CIA) FLEW OVER HAVANA DROPPING LEAFLETS BLASTING FIDEL AND MACHINE GUN BULLETS (BOTH MADE IN USA).

WHAT A SHAME! IT'S A CRIME!



ANOTHER PROOF OF FRIENDSHIP?



CUBA HAD NO AIRPLANES AND TRIED TO BUY SOME (FOR DEFENSE AGAINST "OTHER" AIRPLANES) FROM ENGLAND...



THE LATE EISENHOWER (LIKE) PROTESTED TO ENGLAND... AND ENGLAND NOTIFIED CUBA THAT "MAMA SAYS NO"

HURRAH FOR FREE TRADE!



(IT WAS STILL 1959)

MORE?

ON THE 18th AND 21st. OF JANUARY 1960 TWO MORE PLANES COMING FROM FLORIDA BOMBED THE SUBURBS OF HAVANA...

MORE?

ON THE 17th OF JANUARY EISENHOWER BEGAN (IN SECRET) THE TRAINING OF CUBAN REFUGEES TO ACT AGAINST CUBA "AT THE PROPER TIME"...



THIS WILL BE EASIER THAN THE NORMANDY INVASION..

STILL? MORE

AS THINGS WERE GETTING STICKY, CUBA TRIED TO BUY ARMS AND MUNITIONS IN THE USA...

SORRY: WE'RE CLOSED..

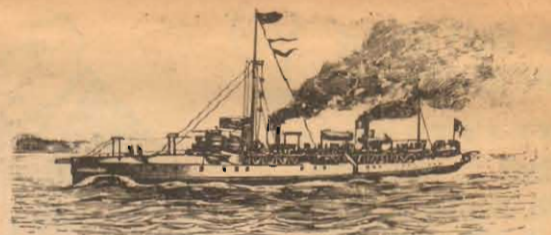


AND SO UNCLE SAM, WHO HAD BEEN SELLING WEAPONS TO CUBA FOR 50 YEARS, NOW REFUSED TO SELL TO FIDEL..

AND STILL MORE:

IT WAS MADE CLEAR THAT "CUBA'S ATTEMPT TO OBTAIN THEM WOULD BE OPPOSED THROUGH EVERY POSSIBLE MEANS BY THE U.S.A..."

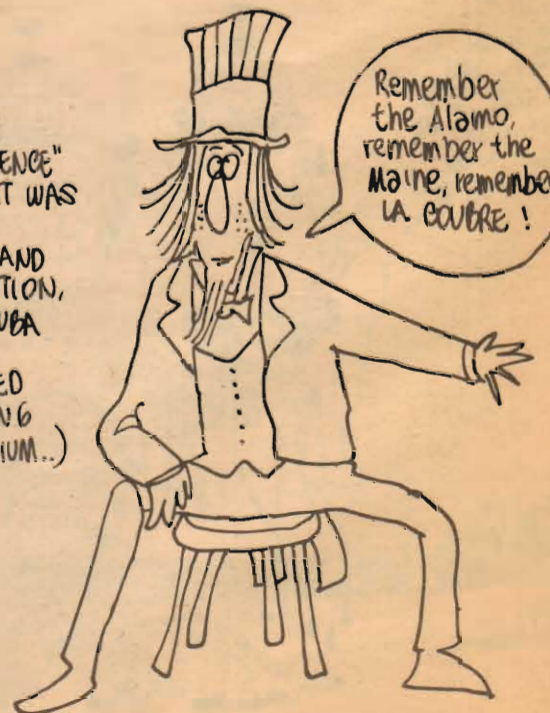
OH, FREE ENTERPRISE!



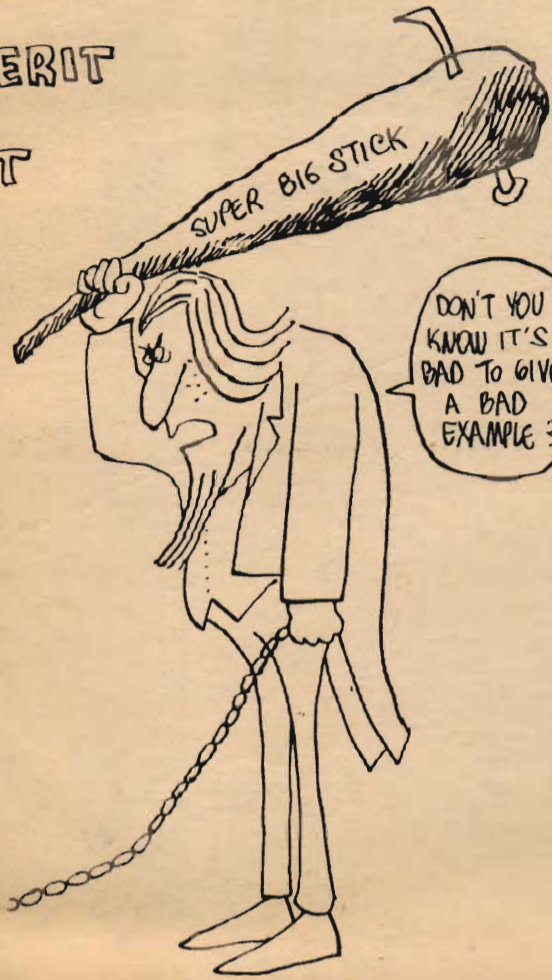
THAT IS WHY ON MARCH 4, 1960 THE FRENCH STEAMSHIP "LA COUBRE" MYSTERIOUSLY EXPLODED IN HAVANA DOCKS, KILLING 70 PEOPLE.. (THE CIA KNOWS THE EXACT NUMBER, OF COURSE)

(BY PURE "COINCIDENCE" THE BOAT WAS FULL OF ARMS AND AMMUNITION, WHICH CUBA HAD SUCCEEDED IN BUYING IN BELGIUM..)

Remember the Alamo, remember the Maine, remember LA COUBRE!



WHAT WRONG  
HAD CUBA  
DONE TO MERIT  
THIS  
TREATMENT  
FROM THE  
UNITED  
STATES..?



WELL: YOU ASKED FOR IT...

PRACTICALLY NOTHING:  
ONLY IT HAD MESSED  
WITH THE ECONOMIC  
INTERESTS OF THE  
UNITED STATES.. AND  
AS JOHN FOSTER  
DULLES SAID :



"THE UNITED STATES  
DOESN'T HAVE FRIENDS:  
IT ONLY HAS  
INTERESTS..."

WHAT  
ELSE  
HAD THE  
**REVOLUTION**  
DONE IN  
LESS THAN  
**ONE**  
YEAR  
THAT MADE  
THE  
USA  
ANGRY..?

IT HAD GIVEN  
HOUSES TO  
THOSE WHO  
DIDN'T HAVE  
ANY...

IT HAD GIVEN  
LAND TO  
THOSE WHO  
HAD NONE..  
AND IT HAD  
GIVEN ARMS  
TO THESE PEOPLE,  
SO THAT THEY  
COULD  
DEFEND THEIR  
HOMES AND  
THEIR LAND...



WHAT OTHER  
LATIN-AMERICAN  
GOVERNMENT  
FOLLOWS OUR  
EXAMPLE?

ANOTHER  
PROOF OF  
YANKEE  
FRIENDSHIP?



NOW COMES  
THE CASE OF THE  
**PETROLEUM**  
(THE OIL, YOU KNOW...)

CUBA DIDN'T PRODUCE  
ANY OIL (ONLY RUM).  
BUT THERE WERE  
REFINERIES WHICH  
PROCESSED AND REFINED  
THE CRUDE OIL BROUGHT  
FROM OTHER COUNTRIES...

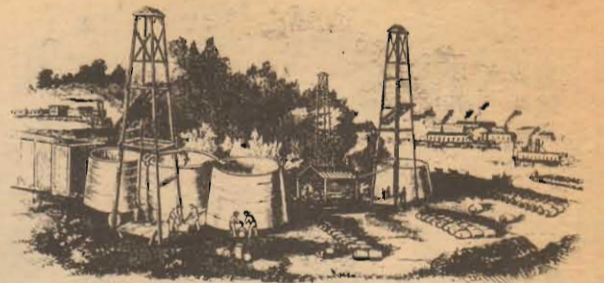


HAVE YOU  
GUESSED WHO  
OWNED THE  
REFINERIES?



CUBA WAS OBLIGED TO BUY THIS OIL FROM  
THE YANKEE MONOPOLIES (ESSO, SINCLAIR,  
TEXACO) AND DELIVER IT TO THE YANKEE  
REFINERIES (ESSO, SINCLAIR, TEXACO), SO THEY  
COULD SELL TO CUBA - AT THE PRICES THEY  
SET - THE GASOLINE, OIL, ALCOHOL, KEROSENE  
AND ALL THOSE STRANGE THINGS WHICH ARE  
EXTRACTED FROM CRUDE OIL... AND SOLD  
WITH THE BRAND NAME ESSO, SINCLAIR, TEXACO..

BUT ONE DAY  
THE SOVIET  
MIKOYAN  
ARRIVED TO  
OFFER CUBA  
OIL IN  
EXCHANGE  
FOR SUGAR...  
AND FOR LESS  
MONEY THAN  
VENEZUELAN  
OIL (READ  
AMERICAN OIL,  
PLEASE..)



CUBA SIGNED THE CONTRACT.. BUT THE GRINGO  
REFINERIES REFUSED TO REFINER THE SOVIET OIL,  
THUS HOPING TO BREAK THE BEARDED GOVERNMENT.  
**BUT:**

LET'S SEE. ONE,  
TWO, THREE... HEY,  
I'LL SAVE TWENTY  
MILLION DOLLARS  
A YEAR !!!



SINCE NOW IT WAS  
A MATTER OF EITHER PUT  
UP OR SHUT UP, CUBA  
NATIONALIZED THE YANKEE  
REFINERIES AND BEGAN  
TO REFINER THE SOVIET OIL...



MEXICO,  
CUBA,  
PERU..

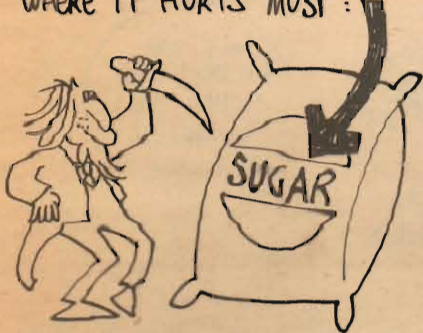
UNCLE SAM FLEW INTO A RAGE AND WITHDREW ALL THE PETROLEUM TECHNICIANS... BUT THIS DIDN'T WORK EITHER: THE BEARDS TOOK CARE OF THE REFINERIES WITH MEXICAN (UNOFFICIAL) AID...



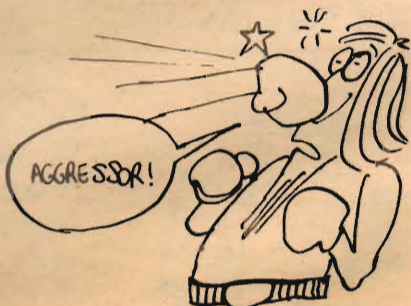
THIS WAS IN FACT A DECLARATION OF WAR: THE ONLY SOURCE OF INCOME CUBA HAD WAS SUGAR...



THEN UNCLE SAM HIT CUBA WHERE IT HURTS MOST:



CUBA, HIT WITH A RIGHT CROSS, GOT UP AND REPLIED WITH A LEFT HOOK: IT NATIONALIZED ALL YANKEE PROPERTY!



THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT (IKE) DECIDED TO BUY 1 MILLION LESS TONS FROM CUBA IN 1960.. AND TO BUY ABSOLUTELY NONE IN 1961

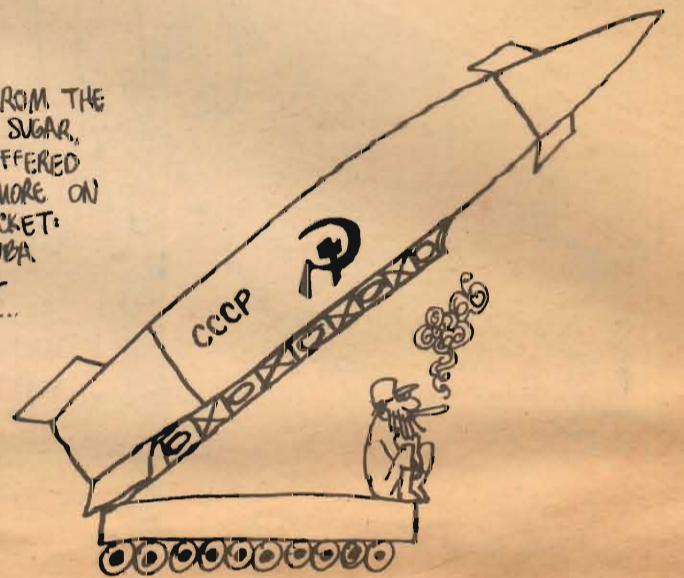


(CUBA WAS READY TO FIGHT... IN SPITE OF THE UNEQUAL DISPUTE WITH U.S.)

IT WAS THEN THAT UNCLE SAM STARTED SAYING THAT "CUBA WAS GOING COMMUNIST"... ALTHOUGH WITHOUT SAYING WHO WAS PUSHING HER THERE...



SOON, ASIDE FROM THE PURCHASE OF SUGAR, THE USSR OFFERED SOMETHING MORE ON THE SAME TICKET: TO DEFEND CUBA AGAINST ALL AGGRESSORS...

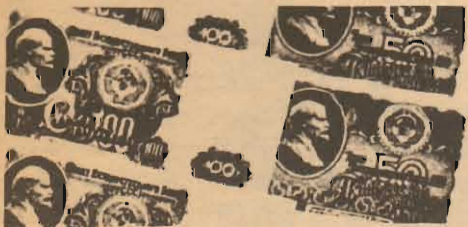


BUT THE PROBLEM WAS STILL THERE: IF THE U.S. AND ALL ITS "ALLIES" REFUSED TO BUY ITS SUGAR, WHAT WOULD CUBA DO...?

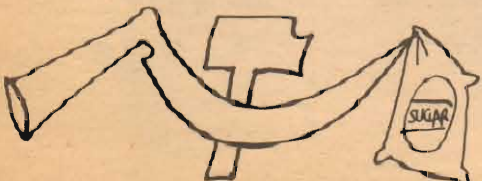


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ABANDONED BY ITS "FRIENDS", CUBA WAS SAVED BY NONE OTHER THAN THE "ENEMIES OF DEMOCRACY, LIBERTY AND GOD"...



THE USSR PROMISED TO BUY 700,000 TONS (AT A PRICE MUCH HIGHER THAN THE WORLD MARKET PRICE) AND CHINA WASN'T FAR BEHIND, ORDERING 500,000...



КОММУНИЗМ



AFTER A YEAR OF BOMBINGS, SABOTAGE, ECONOMIC AGGRESSION AND OTHER ETCETERAS OF THE USA AGAINST CUBA, EISENHOWER APPEALED TO THE

OAS

"ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES", BUT YOU CAN CALL ME "COLONIAL DEPT. OF THE USA"!



ACCUSING CUBA OF AGGRESSION...!!!

THE OAS CALLED A MEETING OF ALL LATIN-AMERICAN COUNTRIES IN SAN JOSE, COSTA RICA...



"Now for the evidence", said the King, "and then the sentence."

"No!" said the Queen, "first the sentence and then the evidence!"

"Nonsense!" cried Alice, so loudly that everybody jumped, "the idea of having the sentence first..!"



...AND SO THE OAS SENTENCED "AGGRESSIVE" CUBA AND REACHED THE "AGREEMENT" THAT CUBA WAS A "THREAT" TO THE ENTIRE HEMISPHERE.. (BELIEVE IT OR NOT, RIPLEY !!)

MEANWHILE, AT THE UN CUBA DENOUNCED THE UNITED STATES FOR PREPARING AN INVASION OF ITS TERRITORY, TO BE LAUNCHED AFTER PRESIDENT KENNEDY TOOK OFFICE...



AN INVASION OF CUBA? THAT FIDEL IS CRAZY!

AS USUAL, THE HONORABLE UN SAT ON ITS HANDS WHILE THE UNITED STATES TRAINED ITS MERCENARIES IN GUATEMALA, HONDURAS, NICARAGUA (AND OF COURSE, IN FLORIDA, TOO!)

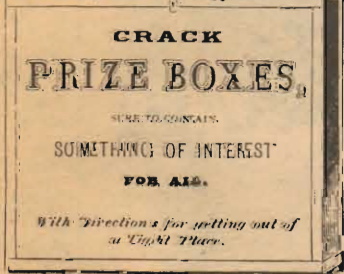


AND WHILE THE GRINGOS PLANNED TO INVADE CUBA AND DO AWAY WITH THE BEARDS, THE BEARDS ALSO INITIATED AN INTENSIVE TRAINING ALL OVER THE ISLAND, BUT A LITTLE DIFFERENT...



NOT SATISFIED WITH THIS, THE U.S. DECLARED ANOTHER HUMANITARIAN MEASURE AGAINST CUBA:

AN EMBARGO ON ALL GOODS GOING TO THE ISLAND FROM THE UNITED STATES...



NOT EVEN A WHISKEY, BROTHER!



I DON'T KNOW WHY, BUT I'M BEGINNING TO SUSPECT THAT THEY'RE TRYING TO STARVE US TO DEATH...

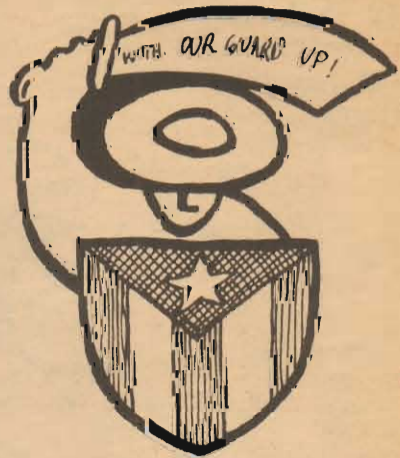
..AND MORE: A CAMPAIGN OF SABOTAGE AND TERROR. TERRORISTS PAID BY THE U.S. (CIA) BEGAN BURNING STORES, PUT BOMBS IN FACTORIES, MOVIES AND SCHOOLS... AND... ASSASSINATED PEOPLE INDISCRIMINATELY...



COMMUNISM IS INHUMAN! THE REDS ARE MURDERERS!

(MEANWHILE, EISENHOWER COMPLAINED THAT CUBA DID NOT "COOPERATE IN IMPROVING RELATIONS..." GOOD!)

CUBA DECIDED, SINCE THE SITUATION WAS BECOMING SO BAD, THAT IT SHOULD ARM ALL THE PEOPLE... LOOK-OUTS WERE POSTED, DAY AND NIGHT, HOUSE BY HOUSE, ALL OVER HAVANNA...



THUS -IN EVERY BLOCK- THE "COMMITTEES FOR THE DEFENSE OF THE REVOLUTION" WERE BORN... AND AS IF BY MAGIC THE WAVE OF TERROR AND SABOTAGE DECREASED...



# abc



ON APRIL 10, 1961, 120 THOUSAND LITERACY WORKERS OF ALL AGES SPREAD OUT OVER THE ISLAND TO TEACH READING AND WRITING TO **ONE MILLION ILLITERATES** AND BY DECEMBER OF THE SAME YEAR, CUBA HAD LOWERED THE ILLITERACY RATE FROM 24% TO 3%

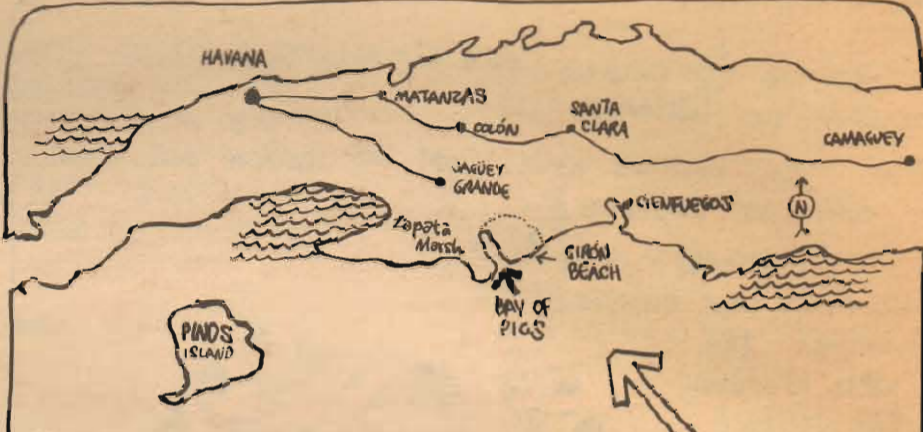
WELL, I KNOW HOW TO READ... AND TO IDENTIFY AIRPLANES...!



WHILE THE CUBANS WERE IN THAT CAMPAIGN, ON APRIL 15, 1961 (FIVE DAYS LATER) FLEETS OF AMERICAN AIRPLANES PAINTED WITH THE INSIGNIAS OF THE CUBAN AIR FORCE, LEFT FLORIDA AND BOMBED THE AIRPORTS IN HAVANA, CIENFUEGOS, SAN ANTONIO DE LOS BAÑOS AND SANTIAGO DE CUBA, TRYING TO WIPE OUT THE REVOLUTIONARY AIR FORCE...



AND IN THE EARLY MORNING OF THE 17th, 1500 MERCENARIES INVADIED THE ISLAND, WITH 5 AMERICAN SHIPS, 2 BATTLESHIPS, AND 3 FREIGHTERS LOADED WITH TANKS AND ARTILLERY. COMING FROM NICARAGUA AND ESCORTED BY 2 DESTROYERS OF THE U.S. NAVY...



MR. KENNEDY'S PLAN WAS THIS: TAKE POWER IN A ZONE OF CUBAN TERRITORY...CREATE THERE A "PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT"...WHICH WOULD IMMEDIATELY REQUEST HELP FROM THE UNITED STATES, WHICH WOULD (EFFICIENTLY) TAKE CARE OF THE REST...

ONLY MISTER JFK FORGOT ONE TRIVIAL DETAIL: THE CUBAN PEOPLE...

AS SOON AS YOU LAND IN CUBA, THE PEOPLE WILL RISE UP IN ARMS!

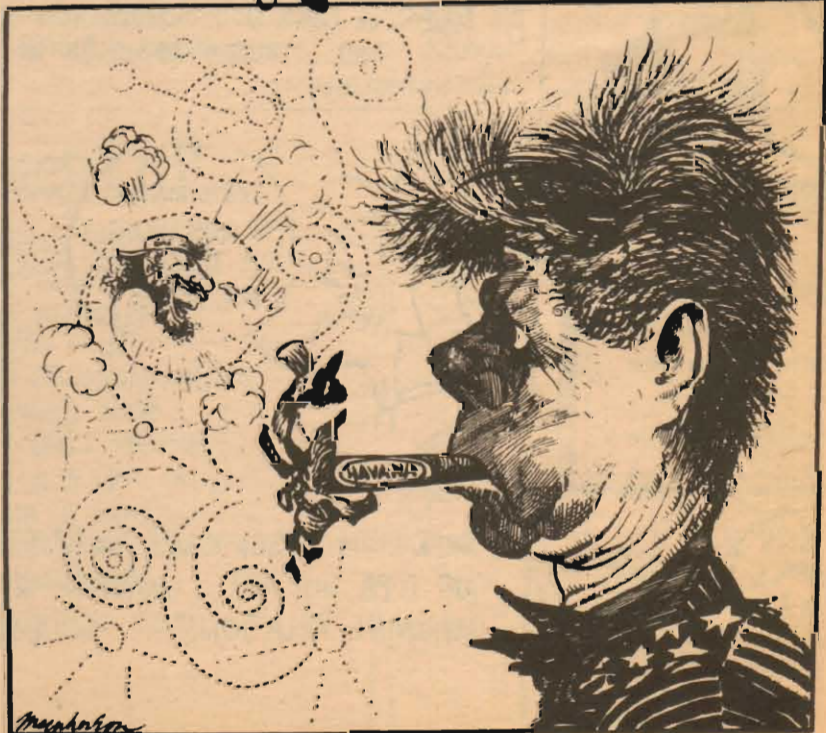
GOODY GOODY!



AND SO IT WAS: THE CUBAN PEOPLE ROSE UP IN ARMS... AND IN 48 HOURS DEFEATED THE INVADERS THAT CAME TO "LIBERATE THEM"...



BUT LIFE SAID THAT EVEN WIFE'S DICTATORSHIP!



THIS WONDERFUL CREATION OF COLLEAGUE MacPHERSON SUMS IT ALL UP...

30.

..AND WHO WERE THESE "LIBERATORS"?



PLANTATION OWNERS, WAR CRIMINALS, EX-MILITARISTS, LANDLORDS, EX-POLICEMEN, FUGITIVES, PLAYBOYS AND BUMS ...

WHO INVADED CUBA DEFENDING THESE "PRINCIPLES":



804,070 ACRES OF LAND  
9,666 BUILDINGS AND HOUSES  
70 INDUSTRIES  
10 SUGAR MILLS  
5 MINES  
2 BANKS  
2 NEWSPAPERS



WHICH THE REVOLUTION HAD TAKEN FROM THEM AND RETURNED TO THE CUBAN PEOPLE..

THEY "ONLY" WANTED CUBA TO RETURN TO..

**illiteracy MISERY**  
PLANTATIONS

...AND TO ARISTOCRATIC CLUBS FOR THE RICH (NOW SCHOOLS FOR THE POOR), AND TO...

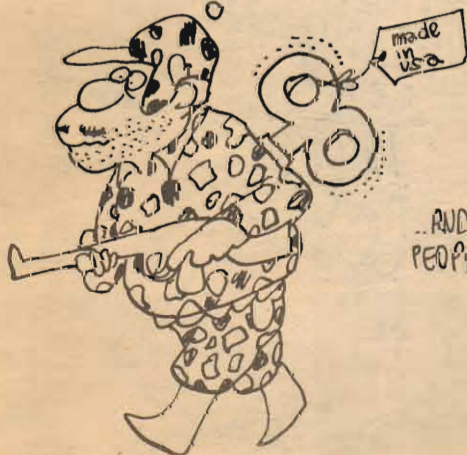
BEACHES "FOR WHITES ONLY.."



and to prostitution and schools only for the privileged and representative democracy...

THEY WANTED TO RETURN THE RICHES OF CUBA TO THE BRINGOS, RETURN TO "FREE ENTERPRISE", TO THE ROULETTE WHEEL, TO UNEMPLOYMENT, TO THE "FOLKLORE" OF SINGING CHA-CHAS WITH AN EMPTY STOMACH...

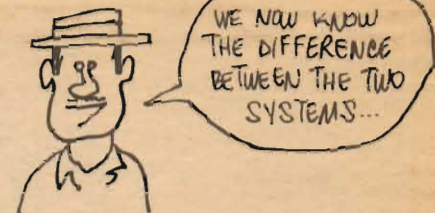
Definitely: **THIS** is for YOU!  
No question about it: YOUR vacation in **CUBA** island of sunshine **CUBA** the Las Vegas of the Caribbean **CUBA** land of beautiful señoritas



..AND THEY EXPECTED THE PEOPLE TO SUPPORT THEM!

( PARENTHETICALLY : THE THOUSAND AND SOME ODD TRAITORS WHO WERE TAKEN PRISONERS - INCLUDING SOME PRIESTS - WERE GIVEN BACK TO THEIR OWNER IN EXCHANGE FOR MEDICINES... FOR THE FIRST TIME IN THEIR LIFE THEY SERVED FOR SOMETHING... )

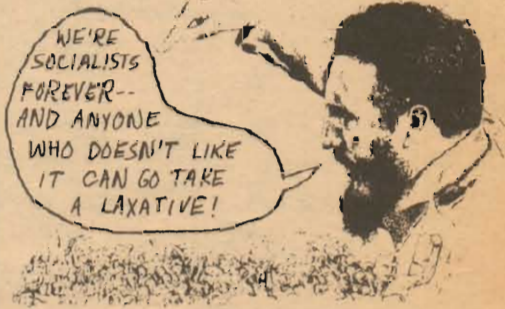
THE INVASION HELPED CUBA MORE THAN A MARSHALL PLAN: IT DISPELLED ALL DOUBTS AMONG THE PEOPLE; EVERYONE JOINED THE REVOLUTION AND UNITED AGAINST THE COMMON ENEMY:



WE NOW KNOW THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE TWO SYSTEMS...

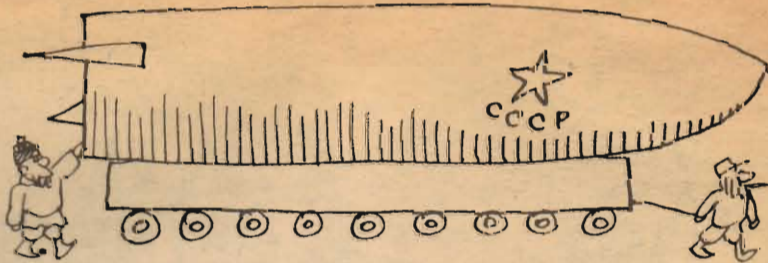
..AND NOW, AT LAST, FIDEL COULD SAY, ALTHOUGH IT HURT UNCLE, THAT CUBA WAS GOING TO BE A

**SOCIALIST REPUBLIC**



WE'RE SOCIALISTS FOREVER-- AND ANYONE WHO DOESN'T LIKE IT CAN GO TAKE A LAXATIVE!

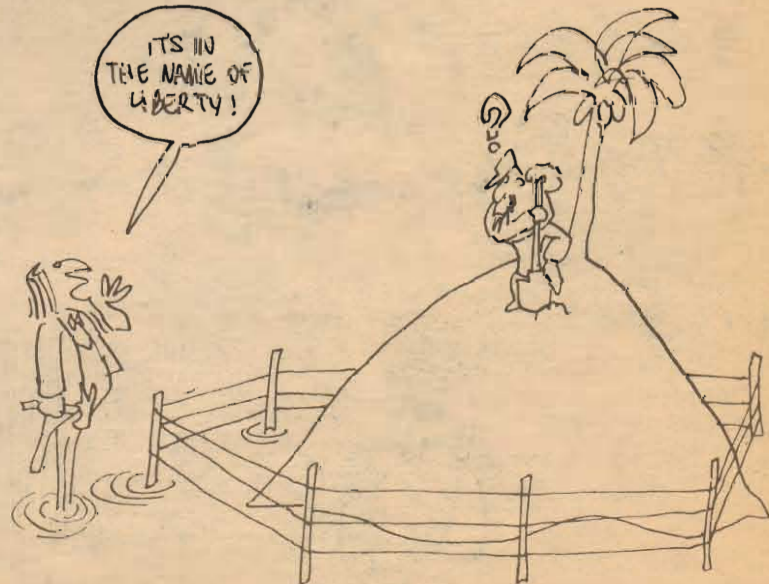
CUBA COULD NOW EXPECT NOTHING (GOOD) FROM THE USA... BUT URGENTLY NEEDED TECHNICAL AID TO DEVELOP ITSELF... AND MILITARY AID TO DEFEND ITSELF. WHO COULD GIVE THIS AID, AND IF POSSIBLE, WITHOUT STRINGS ATTACHED? (GUESS...)



KENNEDY'S THREAT TO DO AWAY WITH SOCIALIST CUBA OBLIGED THE BEARDS TO ASK THE SOVIET UNION TO "LOAN" THEM SOME ROCKETS... THANKS TO THE OFFER MADE BY MIKITA KRUSCHEV.

BECAUSE OF IT AND THE "SOCIALISM", CUBA WAS EXPELLED (WITH USA AID) FROM THE OAS... AND IN OCTOBER 1962, KENNEDY TOOK ANOTHER STEP OF FRIENDSHIP TOWARDS CUBA: HE DECREED THE TOTAL AND ABSOLUTE BLOCKADE OF THE ISLAND...

IT'S IN THE NAME OF LIBERTY!



THE PRETEXT FOR IT WAS "TO EXCLUDE THE ENTRY OF OFFENSIVE WAR MATERIAL"... HOW IS THAT...?



VERY SIMPLE: "OFFENSIVE" WEAPONS ARE THOSE OF THE ENEMY... AND "DEFENSIVE," THOSE OF THE UNITED STATES...

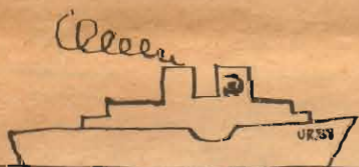
YOU CAN LAUGH AT THE OLD PIRATES: KENNEDY PUT THEM TO SHAME BY DECLARING THAT NO SHIP COULD GO TO CUBA WITHOUT HIS PERMISSION...!!

THINGS SOON GOT HOT: THE USA STATED THAT THEY WOULDN'T LET ANY SOVIET SHIP PASS WITHOUT "INSPECTING" IT... AND THE SOVIETS SAID THAT THEY WOULDN'T LET ANY GRINGOS INSPECT THEM... AND SO BEGAN THE VERY FAMOUS...

### CUBAN MISSILE CRISIS

FABRICATED BY THE GOOD OLD UNCLE TO FINISH CUBA AND ITS FRIENDS OFF ONCE AND FOR ALL...

SHOOT BEFORE THEY GET A CHANCE TO START TALKING... WE CAN'T BEAT THEM IN A DEBATE!



AND WHAT RIGHTS WERE THE AMERICANS EXERCISING...?

WELL, THE AMERICANS HAVE THEIR RIGHTS, YOU KNOW...



IN A FLASH THE UN INTERVENED (STRANGE THING) AND GOT THE USA AND USSR TO TALK IT OVER AND EVEN TRIED TO INSPECT CUBA...



THIS IS NOT THE CONGO, MISTER..!

NIKITA TOOK HIS ROCKETS OUT OF CUBA (ANGERING THE CUBANS) AND KENNEDY PROMISED NEVER TO INVADE CUBA, END THE BLOCKADE, etc.

I PREFER THAT TO THE THIRD-AND FINAL- WAR..

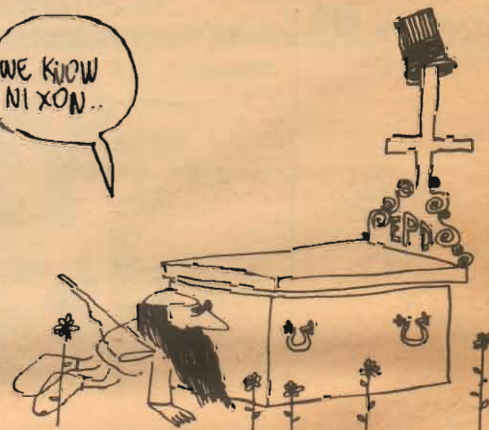


I WON'T DO IT AGAIN...



AND SO THE MENACE WAS STOPPED... FOR A WHILE: THE BLOCKADE CONTINUES AND THE IDEA OF INVADING CUBA IS STILL FASHIONABLE IN THE WHITE HOUSE AND THE PENTAGON.

WE KNOW NIXON...

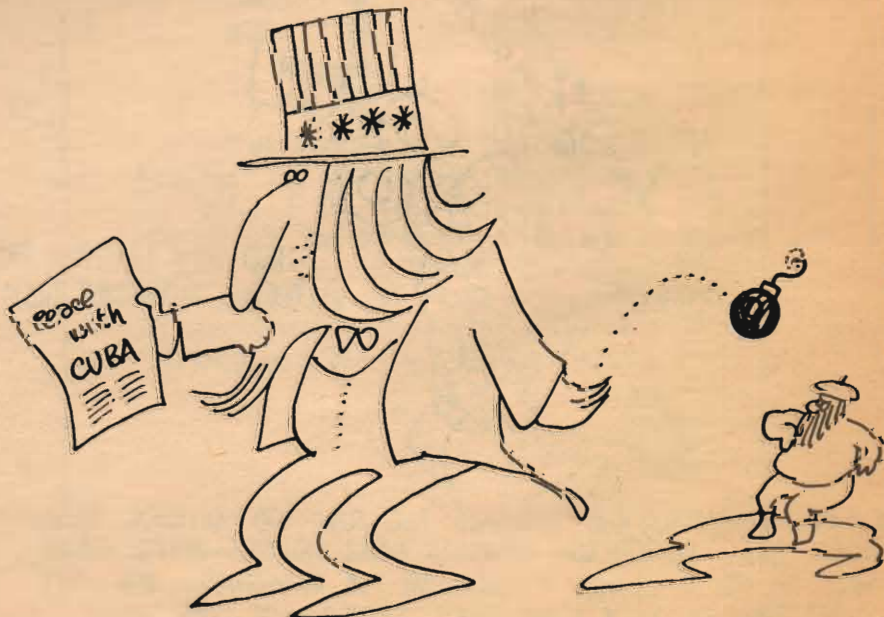


WHEN DO WE INVADE CUBA, GENERAL?

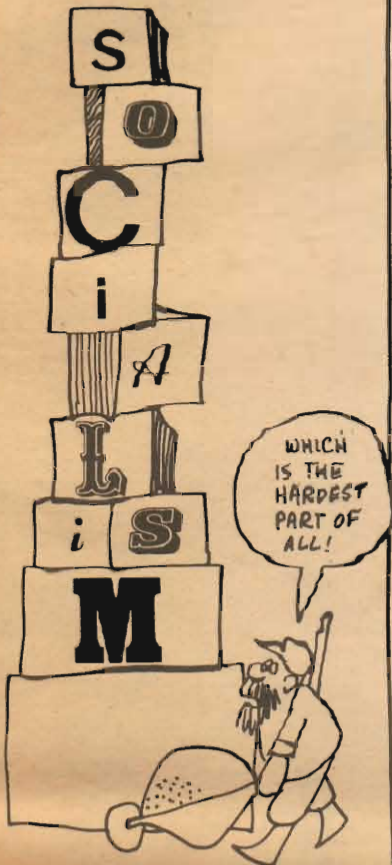
SOME OTHER DAY. I HAVE TO GIVE A SPEECH ABOUT PEACE NOW...



BESIDES FAILING TO DO WHAT IT PROMISED, THE UNITED STATES HAS CONTINUED TO HARASS CUBA WITH SPIES, SABOTEURS, PRESS CAMPAIGNS, AND WITH OTHER PROOFS OF DEMOCRATIC AND CHRISTIAN FRIENDSHIP...



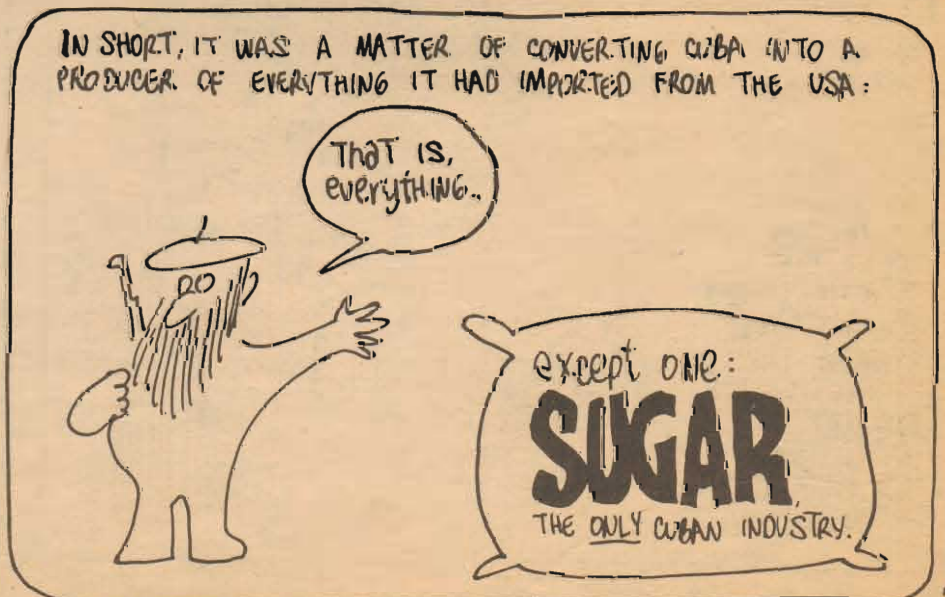
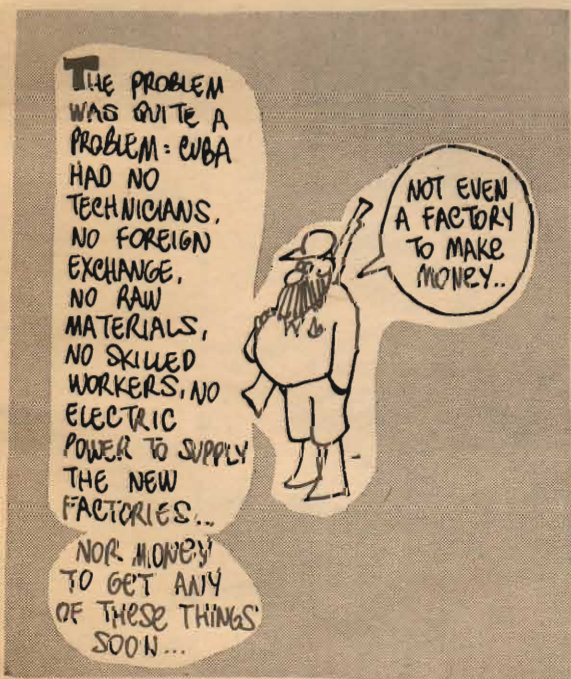
WITH THE DANGER GONE (NEFF!),  
CUBA FINALLY BEGAN - JUST IN  
1963 - TO BREATHE NORMALLY  
AGAIN AND DEDICATE ITSELF  
ENTHUSIASTICALLY TO THE  
CONSTRUCTION OF



THE ONE IN CHARGE OF THIS KNUTTY  
PROBLEM OF MAKING THE SOCIALIST  
ECONOMY WAS ERNESTO GUEVARA.

*ché*

AN ARGENTINE DOCTOR, WHO KNEW AS  
MUCH ABOUT ECONOMICS AS LYNDON  
B. JOHNSON KNOWS RUSSIAN, BUT HAD  
MANY IDEAS - NOT ALL OF THEM GOOD  
FOR CUBA - AND ENTHUSIASM...



TRYING TO PRODUCE WHAT THEY GOT BEFORE FROM THE US CUBANS MADE A BIG MISTAKE, REDUCING THE SUGAR AREAS AND SOWING THOSE AREAS WITH OTHER THINGS: TOMATO, RICE, VEGETABLES, ETC.



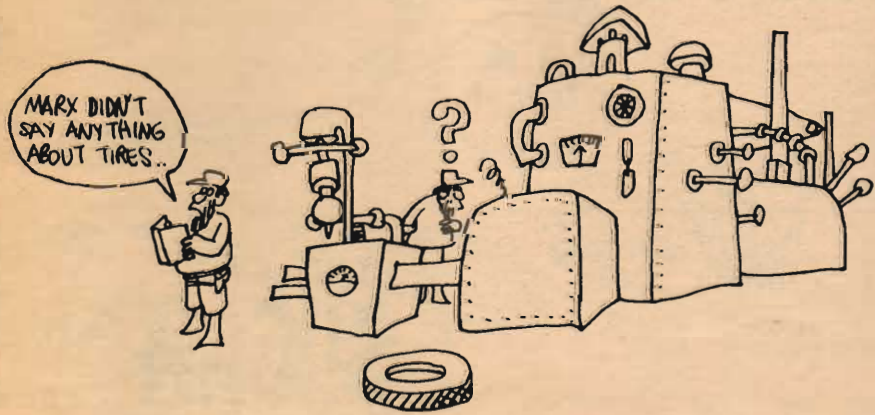
ALL GOOD THINGS TO EAT, BUT NOT TO GET FOREIGN CURRENCIES, VITAL FOR GETTING RAW MATERIALS FOR THE 'CUBAN INDUSTRIALIZATION'...



ANOTHER THING WORKED AGAINST CASTRO'S EFFORT TO BUILD ITS OWN ECONOMY: AS AN EXAMPLE LET'S CONSIDER THE CASE OF A TIRE FACTORY...

- A THE INSTALLATION: YANKEE
- B THE CAPITAL: YANKEE
- C THE MANAGEMENT: YANKEE
- D THE ENGINEERS: YANKEES
- E THE RAW MATERIAL: YANKEE
- F THE SPARE PARTS: YANKEE
- G THE FORMULAS: YANKEE
- H THE KNOW-HOW: YANKEE

SO, WHEN THE TIME CAME TO NATIONALIZE THAT INDUSTRY (AND THE OTHER AMERICAN INDUSTRIES) A LITTLE CHAOS APPEARED...

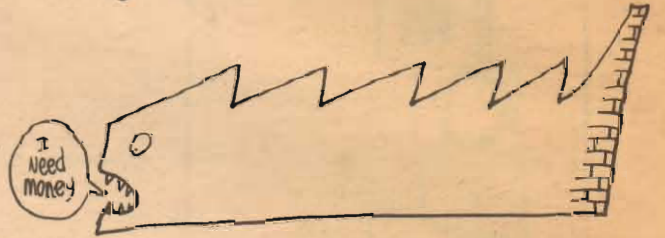


AND STILL MORE PROBLEMS:

1 THE AMERICAN TECHNICIANS LEFT... AND IN THE PROCESS TOOK ALONG THE FEW CUBAN TECHNICIANS...



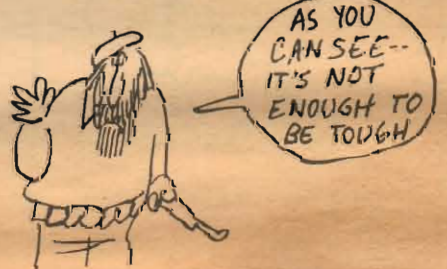
2 THE FACTORIES WERE WITHOUT MONEY, FORMULAS AND MANAGEMENT...



3 THE UNITED STATES QUIT SENDING RAW MATERIALS AND PROHIBITED OTHER COUNTRIES FROM SUPPLYING THEM TO CUBA...



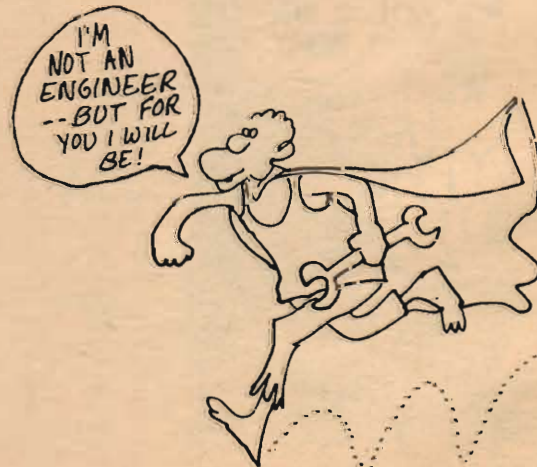
AND THIS HAPPENED TO ALL THE FACTORIES THE YANKEES HAD THERE...



DESPITE ALL THIS, NO FACTORY STOPPED IN CUBA, NONE ARE STOPPING NOW... (AND THE WAY THINGS ARE GOING, NONE WILL STOP)



THE CUBAN WORKERS TOOK THE PLACE OF THE GRINGO ENGINEERS... AND THE GRINGO ADMINISTRATORS... AND THE GRINGO MILLIONAIRES... AND THE FACTORIES KEPT RUNNING AS IF NOTHING HAD HAPPENED...



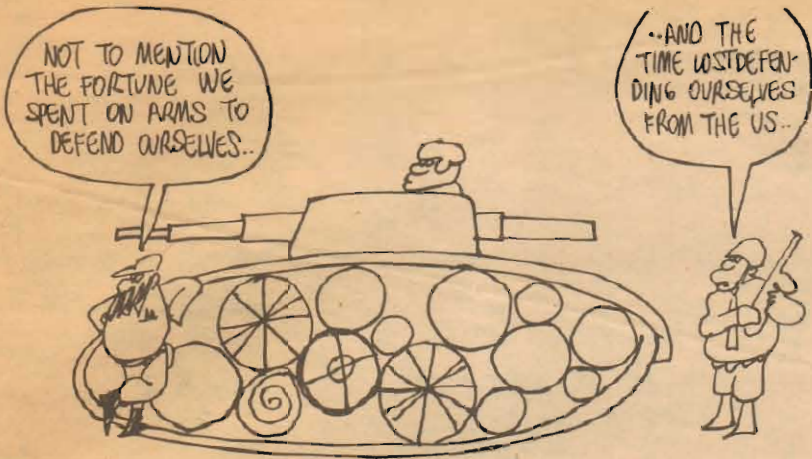
THE FIRST YEARS OF REVOLUTION WERE HARD FOR CUBA.



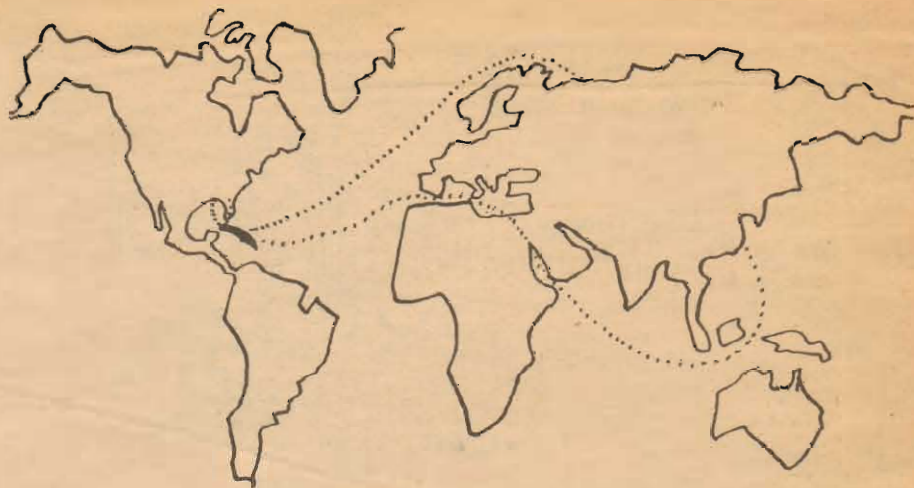
ECONOMIC ERRORS:  
LACK OF TECHNICIANS  
DIFFERENT PARTS  
LACK OF ECONOMISTS  
BLOCKADE AND EMBARGO  
LACK OF FOREIGN EXCHANGE  
BAD ADMINISTRATIONS  
CIA SABOTAGE

RESULT:  
LESS TO EAT.





...AND WE LOST A LOT EXPERIMENTING... AND THE DROUGHTS AND HURRICANES WITH YANKEE NAMES... AND... JUST LOOK AT THE MAP AND YOU'LL SEE ONE OF THE MAIN PROBLEMS



& NOTE THE SMALL DIFFERENCE WHICH CUBA HAD TO OVERCOME: INSTEAD OF IMPORTING THINGS FROM MIAMI, CUBA HAD TO GET THEM FROM THE USSR OR CHINA OR POLAND (MORE THAN 10 THOUSAND MILES) -- AND NOTE THAT CUBA HAD NO SHIPS AT THAT TIME!!

BUT CUBA IS STILL WORKING AGAINST ALL THOSE PROBLEMS AND CUBA IS NOW

# TEN YEARS OLD!!

CUBA - THE FIRST SOCIALIST COUNTRY IN THE AMERICAS - HAS SHOWN US THAT IT IS NOT IMPOSSIBLE TO OVERTHROW A CORRUPT GOVERNMENT SUPPORTED BY GRINGOS AND RICH EXPLOITERS OF THE PEOPLE...

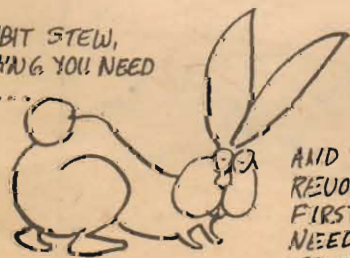


IT'S NOT ENOUGH - DESPITE WHAT A LOT OF PEOPLE THINK - TO RISE UP IN ARMS ONE DAY AND HEAD UP YOUR FAVORITE MOUNTAIN TO WAIT FOR THE FALL OF THE GOVERNMENT...



→ A RADICAL CHANGE DOESN'T TAKE PLACE FROM ONE DAY TO THE NEXT: YOU HAVE TO WORK TOWARD IT AS IF THERE WASN'T ANY HURRY...

TO MAKE RABBIT STEW, THE FIRST THING YOU NEED IS A RABBIT...



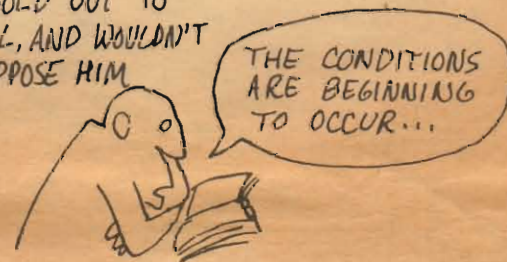
AND TO MAKE A REVOLUTION, THE FIRST THING YOU NEED ARE REVOLUTIONARIES--

### WHY DID THE REVOLUTION IN CUBA TRIUMPH?

- ...JUST BECAUSE FIDEL WENT UP INTO THE HILLS?
- ...JUST BECAUSE LEFTISTS ORGANIZED DAILY STRUGGLE THROUGH UNIONS AND STUDENTS?
- ...JUST BECAUSE BATISTA KILLED PEOPLE LIKE MAD AND SET HIMSELF UP AS DICTATOR?



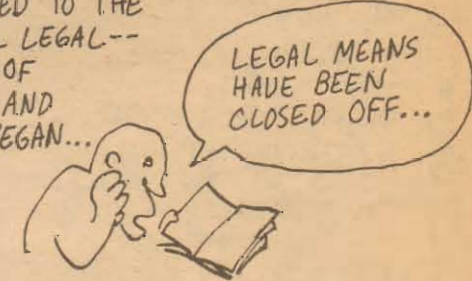
**a** BATISTA ESTABLISHED HIMSELF AS DICTATOR, SOLD OUT TO YANKEE CAPITAL, AND WOULDN'T LET ANYONE OPPOSE HIM



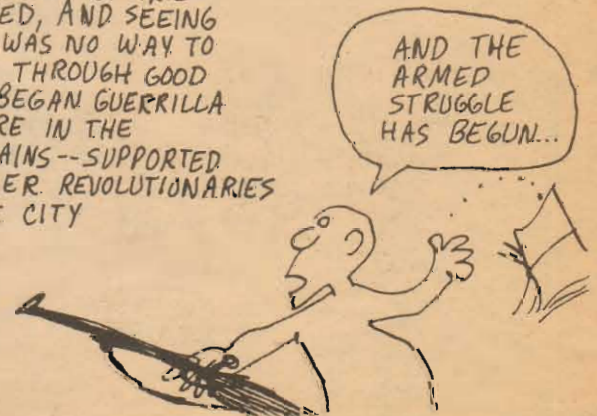
**b** THIS CREATED POPULAR DISCONTENT, LED BY ORGANIZERS WHO HAD STRUGGLED AND PARTICIPATED IN POLITICAL PARTIES AND UNIONS FOR YEARS AND YEARS



**c** BATISTA RESPONDED TO THE PROTESTS -- STILL LEGAL -- AND A STREAM OF ASSASSINATIONS AND PERSECUTIONS BEGAN...



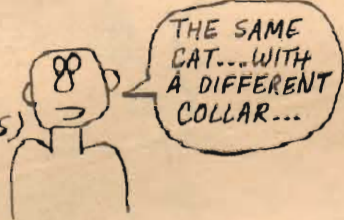
**d** THE REVOLUTIONARIES REACTED, AND SEEING THERE WAS NO WAY TO DO IT THROUGH GOOD WILL, BEGAN GUERRILLA WARFARE IN THE MOUNTAINS -- SUPPORTED BY OTHER REVOLUTIONARIES IN THE CITY



**e** AND (MOST IMPORTANT OF ALL)---  
THE PEOPLE UNDERSTOOD WHAT WAS  
HAPPENING, AND JOINED THE  
STRUGGLE AGAINST THE "DEMOCRATIC"  
GOVERNMENT OF THAT FAT SLOB  
BATISTA... SO: GUERRILLA WARFARE  
AND A POPULAR UPRISING TOGETHER...

AND THEN...

**f** BATISTA FELL, BUT THE SAME  
GROUP STAYED IN POWER  
(ARMY-CLERGY-YANKEE CAPITAL-  
THE RICH AND THE POLITICIANS)



WELL,  
THE REVOLUTION KEPT MOVING  
FORWARD... IN CUBA THINGS  
DIDN'T STOP THERE...

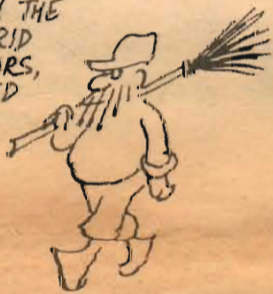
**g**

THE REVOLUTION DISMANTLED  
THE GOVERNMENTAL APPARATUS.  
IT DESTROYED ALL THE  
PROFESSIONAL ARMY AND  
CREATED AN ARMY MADE  
UP OF THE REBELS THEMSELVES



**h**

IT BROKE UP AND SWEEP AWAY THE  
OLD POLITICAL SYSTEM, GOT RID  
OF THE SENATORS, GOVERNORS,  
AND DEPUTIES, AND CREATED  
A COLLECTIVE POWER OF  
THE PEOPLE

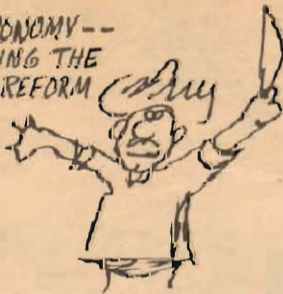


**i**

...THE CHURCH EMINATED ITSELF  
WITH ITS FENCE-SITTING...

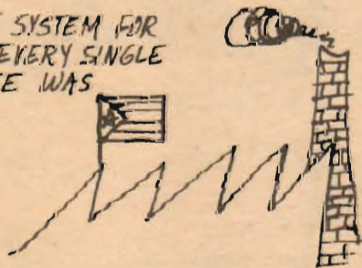
**j**

TO ORGANIZE THE NEW ECONOMY--  
AND TO CONTINUE DESTROYING THE  
OLD ONE--THE AGRARIAN REFORM  
WAS DECREED...



**k**

TO FINISH OFF THE SYSTEM FOR  
ONCE AND FOR ALL, EVERY SINGLE  
FOREIGN ENTERPRISE WAS  
NATIONALIZED...



**l**

AND TO CROWN IT ALL...  
THE SOCIALIZATION OF ALL  
DOMESTIC ENTERPRISES--  
WHICH NOW BELONG TO  
THE CUBAN PEOPLE...



...THE URBAN REVOLUTION  
THAT "WAS GOING TO  
DIE IN A YEAR". AS THE  
AMERICAN EXPERTS SAID,  
HAS DONE A LOT OF  
THINGS:



## AGRARIAN REFORM

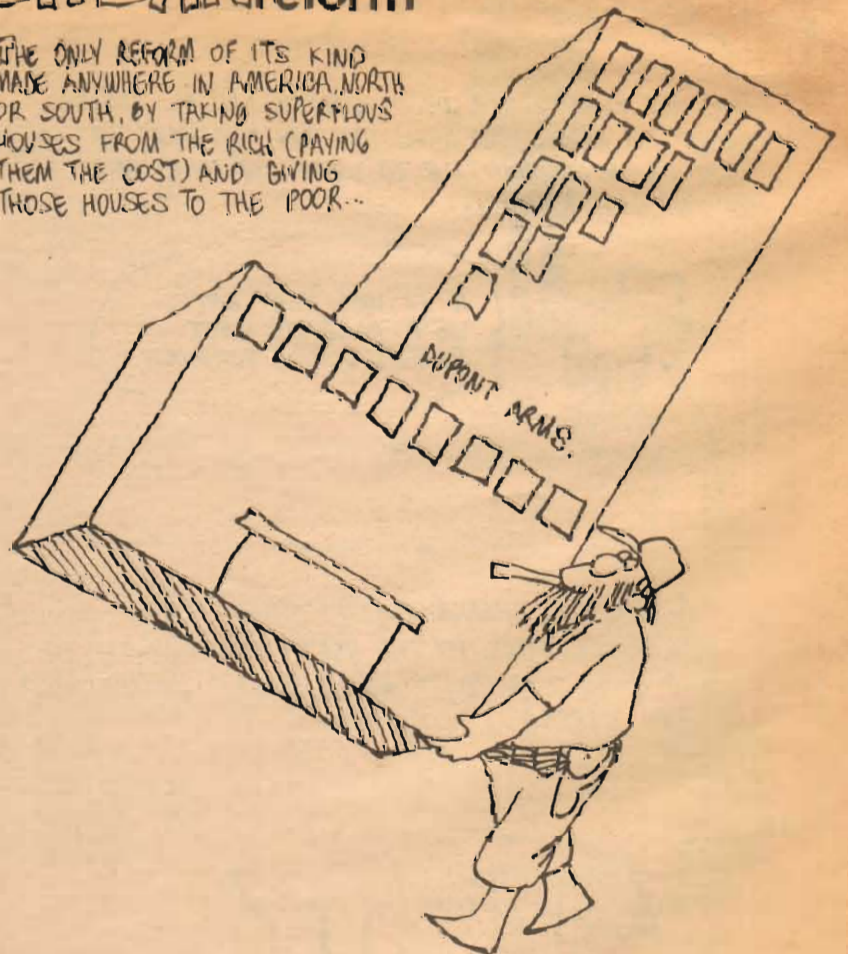
THE MOST COMPLETE IN ALL  
LATIN AMERICA..!



(CUBA HAS DOUBLED ITS PRODUCTION SINCE 1959 AND IS DOING THE  
INCREDIBLE IN SUGAR: TEN MILLION TONS FOR 1970!)

## URBAN reform

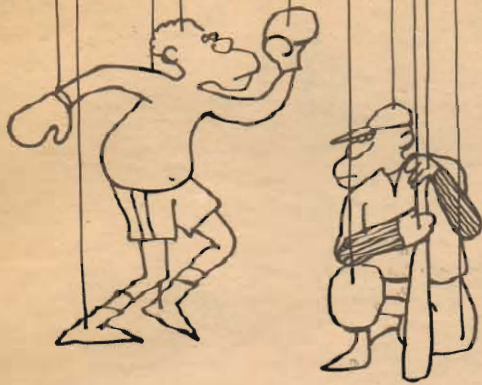
THE ONLY REFORM OF ITS KIND  
MADE ANYWHERE IN AMERICA, NORTH  
OR SOUTH, BY TAKING SUPERFLUOUS  
HOUSES FROM THE RICH (PAYING  
THEM THE COST) AND GIVING  
THOSE HOUSES TO THE POOR...



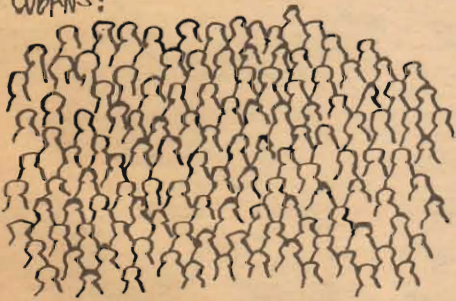
IN ADDITION, COMPLETE NEW TOWNS (WITH HOSPITALS, SCHOOLS,  
AND ALL OTHER URBAN SERVICES) ARE BEING BUILT IN THE  
RURAL AREAS, REPLACING THOSE CHARMING FOLKLORIC "BOHIOS"  
OF THE PEASANTS.

# SPORTS

BEFORE, ALL SPORTS WERE PROFESSIONAL AND RUN BY AMERICAN GANGSTERS... THE BEST BOXERS AND BASEBALL PLAYERS WERE SOLD IN THE INTERNATIONAL MARKET LIKE COWS...



TODAY, ALL KINDS OF SPORTS ARE PLAYED BY MILLIONS OF CUBANS!



AND THE OLD PROFESSIONAL SPORTS (BOXING, BASKETBALL, FOOTBALL, BASEBALL, VOLLEYBALL, CYCLING) ARE ALL AMATEUR NOW... AND STILL MORE:



# GOVERNMENT

THE COLLECTIVE POWER IS THE CUBAN COMMUNIST PARTY, FORMED BY ALL KINDS OF PEOPLE (EXCEPT MILLIONAIRES) AND YOU KNOW THE PRIME MINISTER..



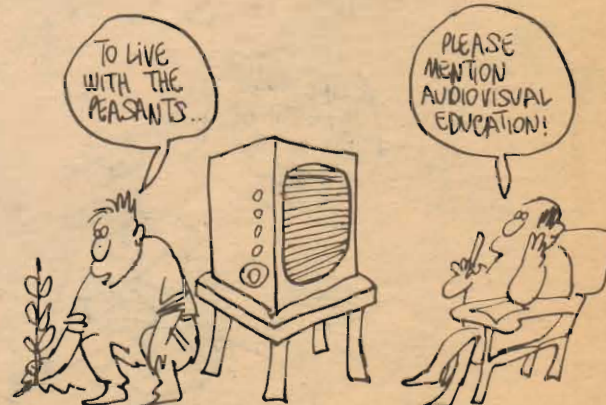
# EDUCATION

I HATE STATISTICS AND I WOULD JUST SAY THAT ALL EDUCATION IN CUBA IS FREE (EVEN COLLEGE), BUT IN 10 YEARS THE EDUCATIONAL GROWTH IS FANTASTIC... SO, PLEASE LOOK AT SOME NUMBERS:

	1958	1968
elementary schools	7,567 schools	14,753 schools
High School students	63,526	186,040
Normal School Students	1,279	6,800
Agrarian Schools	NONE	37
Fishing Schools	NONE	3
Scholarships	NONE	245,000
Teachers	21,806	68,583



BESIDES THAT, CUBA HAS SET UP SPECIAL SCHOOLS FOR EX-SERVANT GIRLS, FOR THE BLIND AND DEAF AND DUMB, FOR EX-PROS, AND TODAY IS SENDING HIGH SCHOOLS STUDENTS FOUR MONTHS A YEAR INTO RURAL AREAS...



# ECONOMICS



THE EMBARGO'S THE BEST THING THAT EVER HAPPENED TO THE REVOLUTION, BECAUSE THEY HAD TO INVENT EVERYTHING FROM THE BOTTOM UP, AND THAT'S GIVING THEM A SOUND ECONOMIC FOUNDATION...

THE CUBAN ECONOMIC PLAN IS TO DEVELOP AGRICULTURE TO THE UTMOST IN ORDER TO FINANCE INDUSTRIALIZATION. ABOUT OVERNIGHT INDUSTRIALIZATION HAS BEEN ABANDONED AS IMPRACTICAL, SINCE CUBA HAS ENTERED INTO THE SOCIALIST BLOC, WHERE ECONOMIES ARE NOT COMPETITIVE... AND THE OLD IDEAS? WELL, THE OLD IDEAS HAVE BEEN ABANDONED AS INTO THE SOCIALIST BLOC, WHERE ECONOMIES ARE NOT COMPETITIVE...



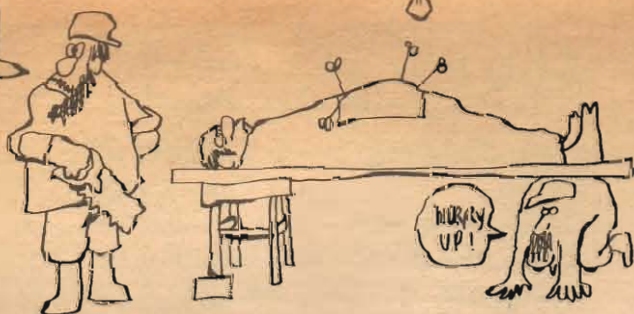
# MEDICINE

PRIVATE MEDICAL PRACTICE IS ALMOST NONEXISTENT IN CUBA NOW. CUBAN DOCTORS FEEL THAT PRIVATE PRACTICE IS UNETHICAL, ANTI-SOCIAL AND THAT IT TURNS THE PATIENT INTO A PIECE OF MERCHANDISE.



THERE HAVE BEEN PROBLEMS, OF COURSE. 2500 OF CUBA'S 7200 DOCTORS LEFT FOR FLORIDA AND IN ORDER TO PUT A SOCIALIZED MEDICAL PROGRAM INTO PRACTICE, CUBA NEEDED THOUSANDS OF NEW DOCTORS...

AS WELL AS APPROPRIATE FACILITIES FOR FREE MEDICAL CARE!



THE REVOLUTION HAS BEEN ABLE TO COMPENSATE FOR THE ABSENT DOCTORS AND THE LACK OF HOSPITALS, AND DURING THE NEXT THREE YEARS 2500 NEW DOCTORS WILL BE ON HAND. BUT NOW, FOR THE FIRST TIME IN THEIR LIVES, MANY CUBANS IN THE RURAL AND MOUNTAIN REGIONS HAVE SEEN A DOCTOR AND RECEIVED MEDICAL ATTENTION WITHOUT PAYING A CENT!

BUT THAT IS NOT ALL. THERE ARE A LOT OF LITTLE THINGS IMPOSSIBLE TO FIND IN ANY OTHER LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRY:

LIKE THE HONESTY OF THE GOVERNMENT...



...and it is the only country in Latin America without ALCOHOLISM!



CRIMES AND ROBBERIES ARE VANISHING

It sure is boring to be a cop...



THE TELEPHONE IS FREE...

GIVE ME THE MOON...



THERE IS NO MORE UNEMPLOYMENT...

MIAMI, HERE I COME!



EVERY ONE HAS PAID VACATIONS...



NO MORE VICE, GAMBLERS, ILLITERACY, MISERY, VAGABONDS AND SENATORS, PROSTITUTION AND DRUNKEN MARINES...

SAH! WE STILL HAVE FUERTO RICO!



BOSSSES NO LONGER EXPLOIT THE PEOPLE



RENTS AMOUNT TO ONLY 10% OF SALARY...

The landlords are in Florida, man!



AND THERE AREN'T ANY FAT, INSOLVENT MILLIONAIRES...

DON'T LET JOHN PAUL GETTY FIND OUT!



AND NO MORE DISCRIMINATION...



IN SHORT: NO MORE "AMERICAN AID"; NO MORE "FREE WORLD"; NO MORE ROCKEFELLER'S VISITS, WORLD BANK, AND CHARTER FLIGHTS...

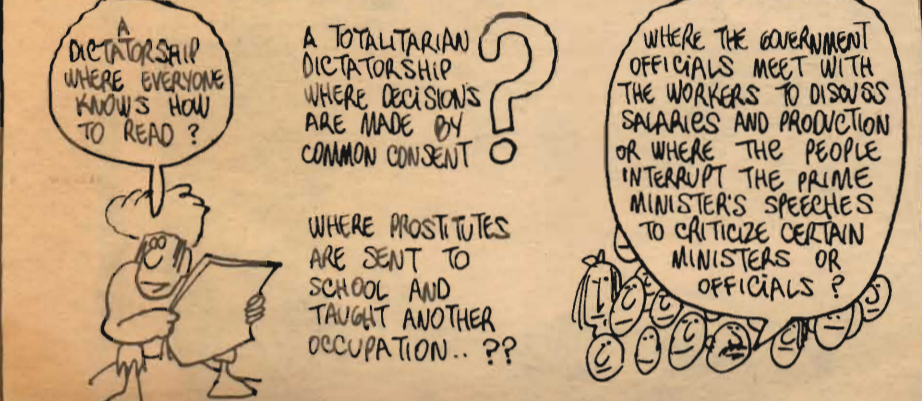
NO MORE YANKEES!





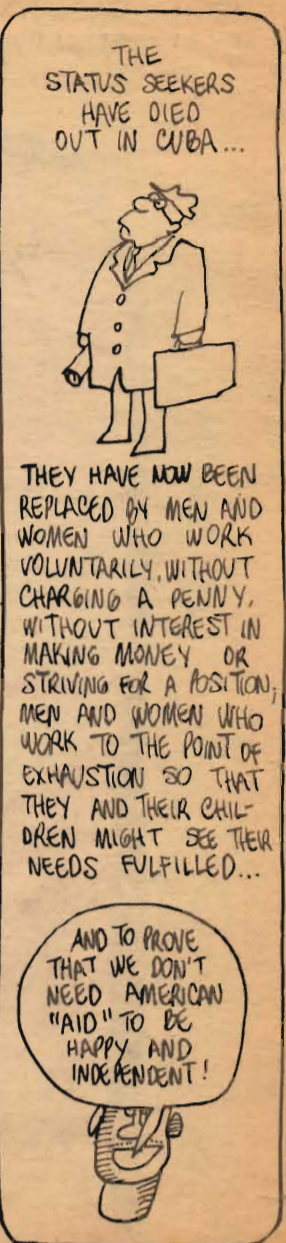
A DICTATORSHIP WHERE THE HIGHEST GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS PLAY BASEBALL IN THEIR SHIRT SLEEVES WITH THE REST OF THE PEOPLE...??

WHERE THE ENTIRE POPULATION IS ARMED AT ALL TIMES ????

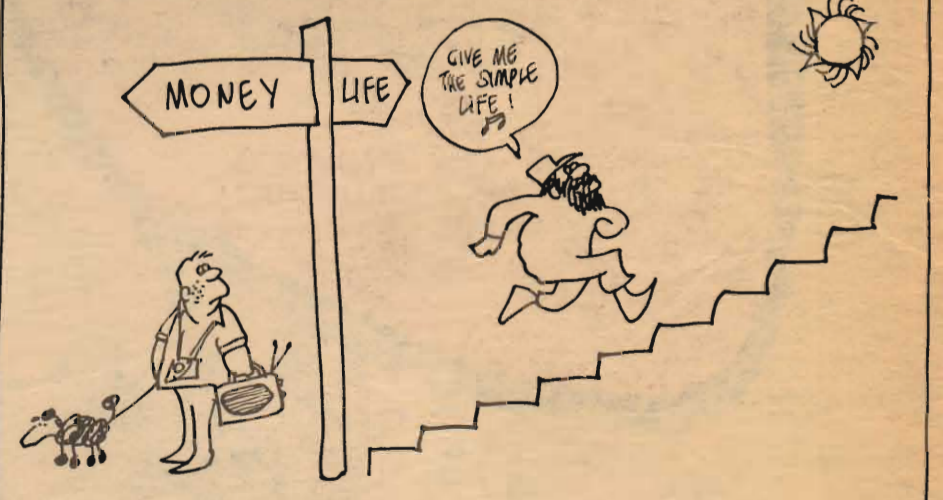


WHERE PROSTITUTES ARE SENT TO SCHOOL AND TAUGHT ANOTHER OCCUPATION.. ??

COME ON MISTER NIXON, MISTER ROCKEFELLER OR MISTER MILLIONAIRE. ASK THE AMERICAN PEOPLE TO COMPARE "DICTATORSHIPS" - THEIRS AND THE CUBANS - AFTER INVESTIGATING THE FACTS, THAT IS... !!!



NO COMPARISONS ARE GOOD: IT IS A DIFFERENT WORLD, BASED ON COMPLETELY DIFFERENT CONCEPTS THAN THOSE WE KNOW IN OUR SO-CALLED "FREE" SOCIETY FULL OF POVERTY AND INJUSTICE ...



CUBA - FORGET NUMBERS AND LIVING STANDARDS - IS CREATING THE POSSIBILITY OF A NEW SOCIETY BASED NOT ON MONEY BUT IN THE COMMON AND BETTER LIFE. CUBA IS A LIVING EXAMPLE OF A PEOPLE REALLY MOVING AND WORKING, SURVIVING AND GROWING -- AGAINST ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE ODDS.

I lived in the belly  
of the monster and  
I know it well...  
every day I am in  
danger of giving  
my life for my country  
and for my duty to  
prevent the U.S.  
from expanding over  
the Caribbean and  
seizing our land.

- Jose Marti 1853-1895  
poet, revolutionary, patriot  
of the Cuban Independence  
movement.

