

4 Cubans Convicted And Fined For Riot

2 Officers Say Mob Beat Them

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Four Cubans were found guilty today of charges growing out of the riotous anti-Batista demonstration last Friday and fined \$150 each or 60 days in jail. Two Miami policemen had been injured in the brawl.

Judge Charles E. Snowden, Miami Municipal Court, found the four guilty on three counts — resisting arrest, assault and battery, and disorderly conduct — and imposed the fines.

Fined were Mrs. Eva Gutierrez, 33; Albert Blanco, 22, 1019 SW 24th Road; Hector, Cornielot, 18, of 459 SW 3rd St.; and Arturo Munoz, 22, of 736 NW 1st St.

Some 50 other defendants, charged with disorder, were found not guilty.

To facilitate trial, defendants were placed in two groups: one of about six people charged with resisting arrest and assault and battery; the other, those simply charged with disorderly conduct. The more serious offense was tried first.

Quinn Tells Of Attack

Leading off the prosecution witnesses was Miami police Sgt. John Quinn, who was on the scene when the riot started. He was knocked to the ground and injured when he tried to halt the marchers.

Quinn said, "I couldn't hold them off. If I hadn't used my fists, I would have 'had' it."

He described how he was dragged down the street, kicked and trampled on. A Negro—not one of those arrested—tried to stab him with the jagged end of a flagpole, he said.

Quinn submitted in evidence black armbands, Cuban and American flags and a black banner bearing a crudely painted slogan.

Following Quinn on the stand, police Lt. James Ford related how he came to Quinn's aid, and was in turn knocked down and dragged on the street.

The group had no permit for a parade or demonstration, and blocked pedestrian and automobile traffic on the sidewalks and Biscayne Boulevard, he said.

Representing the defendants were attorneys Dave Walters and Gino Negretti.

Negretti, called to the stand by Walters, testified he happened to be passing by Bayfront Park, as the rally was being held Friday. He was attracted by the Cuban flag and went to see what was going on.

Planned Church Prayer

The group, he said, merely intended to march to Gesu Church to pray for their dead. They had started marching to the church, singing the Cuban national anthem, he said, when Officer Quinn tried to take away the Cuban flag.

Efforts to retain the flag, their symbol of freedom, precipitated the rioting, Negretti claimed. Cubans, he pointed out, are an easily excitable people.

Negretti's testimony conflicted with that of the police officers, who showed the route of the marchers as being several blocks out of the way to reach Gesu Church.

Speaking through an interpreter, Mrs. Eva Gutierrez, of 590 SW 7th St.—one of those charged with assault — said she was widowed May 28 when her husband was "assassinated" by Batista authorities.

She said most of those in the demonstration had husbands, brothers and other kin who had been killed by Batista representatives.

The court was packed with Cubans, and a number of spectators stood outside in the corridor during the trial.