

Cuban Prosperity Main Reason Revolutionary Moves Failing

HAVANA, Cuba — (NEA) — Revolutions these days are for big boys. That's if they're going to be successful.

The courageous Hungarians found this out trying to overthrow the might of Russia. And that's what the band of about 200 "juvenile delinquents" — as Cuban President Fulgencio Batista calls them — who tried to take over this government discovered to their mortal extinction.

However, any similarity between the Cuban and Hungarian uprisings ends with the youth of the rebels.

The aborted Cuban revolution, student agitator, Fidel Castro Ruiz, and a pack of his buddies invaded the Oriente Province from Mexico wearing home-made soldier suits, has degenerated into widespread, sporadic, bloody terrorist activity. The motives of the various participants in these acts even bewilder the oldest Cuban hands.

A few of the acts of terror seem Commie-caused. Some are being directed by former President Carlos Prío Socarras, Batista supporters claim. There are other claims that Dominican Republic President General Rafael El Trujillo has a hand in the skullduggery.

Most of the original juvenile rebels have either been killed or are in jail. Their cause was lost when the citizens refused to take up the arms which the rebels offered and when the Cuban army remained loyal.

Since then, however, other enemies of Batista have used the uproar to try to weaken the President. Bombs have been thrown in waterworks. Sugar refining machinery has been sabotaged. Homemade bombs have been thrown in public buildings.

Batista has retaliated by suspending constitutional guarantees in all but Havana and Mantanzas provinces. Only heavily armed guards around the public buildings and the homes of top officials betray the presence of a crisis in Havana. The trouble has not affected the booming tourist business.

Untold scores of suspected terrorists have been jailed.

From all of this it's obvious that Batista is not the most popular Latin American boss. The average Cuban resents his military coup of 1952.

But the big thing going for Batista today—which prevents any juvenile delinquents from over-

throwing him—is a record peacetime prosperity. And the economic future looks even brighter than the present.

This is the main reason why the average Cuban is unhappy about the present violence and will refuse to support the type of screwball revolt which has overthrown other Latin American governments in the past.

This year's sugar crop, the island's No. 1 source of wealth, is going to be big and the price is favorable. Tourist business is at an all-time high, 42 per cent above last year. The island is jumping with oil prospectors spending millions of dollars. New industries are moving in every month. Public and private construction has set a new record every week for the past year.

This prosperity is the result of Batista's long-range planning, aided and sparked by two of his key assistants.

Dr. Joaquin Martínez-Saenz, President of the National Bank of Cuba, is the father of most of the government's economic planning which has led to the business boom and the growing influx of foreign investment in Cuba. He has helped make Cuba less dependent on its sugar crop by encouraging other industries.

Martínez - Saenz helped draft legislation to encourage foreign investments, induced construction of medium and low-priced housing, created a credit arrangement for farmers which stimulated increased production of rice, coffee and corn and drafted a decree which has facilitated the mining of gold in Cuba.

The other key man carrying an important burden for Batista is Nicolas Arroyo Marquez, Minister of Public Works. He is a brilliant young architect who has sparked a renaissance in building and home design, in addition to directing an ambitious public works program with an efficiency rarely found in Latin America.

One of Arroyo's outstanding efforts in design and construction is a huge circular concrete sports arena. It seats 18,000 persons and has no supporting columns interfering with the view of any spectator. Many architects from the U.S. have come to Cuba to inspect this unique structure.

Arroyo's public works program includes 126 new bridges completed, 693 new sewerage and drainage systems built, 8 new hospitals, 200 new schools and 2,000 miles of highways laid down, among other projects.

In spite of all the obvious im-

provements which Batista has made in Cuba there are still plenty of people who would like to see him ousted. He has intimated that he will not seek re-election in 1958—which he is prohibited to do under the constitution. And there are elements in Cuba which would like to make sure of this by force.

However, it's the sheer size and costliness of the Batista government's efforts in Cuba which put a revolution out of the class of juveniles. The successful revolution leader is going to have to convince the Cuban people that he will give them something better than Batista has provided. And he is going to have to take over the army—which Batista has in the palm of his hand.