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1. PTB Regional Directorate Demands Authentic Trabalhista Candidate in '65

At the closing session of its meeting, on February 27, the Regional Directorate of the PTB, under the presidency of João Caruso, but with Deputy Leonel Brizola (PTB-Guanabara) much in evidence, passed a series of resolutions which did not include one directed against the party's National President (João Goulart). The RGS representation in the PTB bancada at the Chamber of Deputies, which showed up almost in full force at the meeting, was apparently prepared to block such a resolution, had it been proposed.

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The most important decision of the Directorate, in reply to Caruso's plea, was one to oppose any form of alliance or understanding with the PSD in the 1965 presidential race. Among the reasons given for this stand were:

- (1) The PSD is reactionary and against reforms;
- (2) The PSD stems from and is tied to interest groups who wish to preserve odious privileges which are against the welfare of the people;
- (3) Ex-President Kubitschek, during his administration, failed to keep the word he had pledged to the RGS PTB and to the state's illustrious Governor, L. Brizola. He constantly sought to stop progress, halt economic development, and in general to sacrifice the most sacred interests of the Gaúcho people.

The Directorate accordingly authorized its Regional Executive Committee to do whatever is necessary to bring about the nomination of a presidential candidate from within the ranks of the PTB itself.

Other resolutions included: a motion of confidence in Brizola, Caruso, and other members of the Executive Committee; a motion of confidence in President Goulart's Land Reform program; a motion that Brizola be appointed Minister of Finance; a motion pledging active opposition to the State (Meneghetti) government; a motion of confidence in Porto Alegre's Mayor Sereno Chaise and in other PTB municipal governments; a motion to call an immediate PTB National Convention; a motion to expropriate all remaining operations of Bond and Share. So that the United States might not feel left out of things, the Directorate also expressed solidarity with the heroic people of Panamá, in their fight to free themselves from foreign domination.

2. Like Caesar, Brizola Refuses Crown

The fine Italian hand of Federal Deputy Leonel Brizola was much in evidence during the meeting of the RGS Regional Directorate of the PTB last week (see Item 1, above). In contrast to the difficulties encountered recently in a hostile Belo Horizonte, Brizola, in his friendlier native state, had things pretty much his own way.

He easily accomplished his primary objective of vetoing state PTB support for PSD presidential candidate Juscelino Kubitschek and placing the party on record as in favor of the selection of a PTB candidate.

After listening benignly to demands from the well coached young (ala moça) PTB and several senior party leaders that he serve as the PTB's candidate for president in 1965, Brizola rose like Caesar to refuse the proffered crown. It would be best if the party delayed selection of its own candidate for a time lest its rejection of Kubitschek be interpreted on other than ideological grounds. He added that, although

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he was "probably" ineligible, he would place his name at the disposition of the party later should it be needed as a rallying point in the crusade against a PTB-PSD alliance.

Brizola was unable or unwilling to obtain a motion of censure against President João Goulart that would have supported recent attacks upon the President by his (Brizola's) mouthpiece, state party president João Caruso (see Weekly Summary No. 96, February 18, 1964). However, he accomplished this by implication, through a motion endorsing his and Caruso's leadership. Referring to Goulart more in sorrow than anger, Brizola said he would be the first to applaud the chief executive should he throw out the reactionary (PSD) elements in his government and launch a campaign for basic reforms demanded by all true trabalhistas. In the meantime, however, Brizola said he would not attend meetings or even sit on the same platform with Goulart as long as he was accompanied by those aides who are responsible for Brazil's troubles.

Only one sour note marred Brizola's otherwise successful week. This came from visiting Federal Deputy Temístocles Soares Sales (PTB-Minas Gerais) who was conspicuously absent from the meeting of the Directorate. Soares Sales told the press that the PTB in his state and throughout the nation did not support Brizola's campaign of agitation and that the time had come to turn out Brizola and his gang.

3. Dissident PSD (Pro-Lacerda) Movement Takes Shape: Will Issue Manifesto March 4

Speaking through Sr. Glycério Alves, former federal deputy and presently a member of the PSD Regional Directorate, a number of PSD leaders in RGS announce their intention to oppose the candidacy of Juscelino Kubitschek and to favor that of Carlos Lacerda. The group, which includes prominent members of the local party, plans to issue a manifesto defining its position on Wednesday, March 4. According to Sr. Alves, the dissident peessedistas feel that JK is not the man Brazil requires at this critical time; he is the father of inflation; he gave nothing to RGS, when as president he loaded down Minas, São Paulo and Goiás with goodies; although he fails to define his position, he is obviously ready to accept the help of any element, however disreputable, which could be brought to support his candidacy.

The role of State Secretary of Education Ariosto Jaeger (PSD), who was only recently described as "JK's campaign coordinator in RGS" seems to be turning increasingly into that of a coordinator of education. On the other hand, rich landowner Protasio Vargas allowed his name to be mentioned as one of the sympathizers with the anti-JK movement, although he hasn't quite been able to bring himself around to backing Carlos Lacerda (often described by the PTB as the assassin of Sr. Protasio's brother, the late Getúlio Vargas).

Governor Meneghetti, who had carefully avoided endorsing the JK candidacy, has not thus far revealed his views concerning that of CL.

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4. Meneghetti's Answer to Brizola: "Groups of Twenty"

Working through the Chief of his Military Household, Colonel Orlando Pacheco (of the Brigada Militar) with whom the idea apparently originated, Governor Meneghetti is calling upon the components of his ADP coalition to bring about, as early as possible, the creation of "Groups of Twenty", designed to counter the action of Brizola's recently-formed "Groups of Eleven". The statutes of the new groups provide that they defend the democratic regime; insure obedience to the duly constituted authorities; fight agitation and preserve peace in the state; fight for freedom of work, freedom of religion, political freedom; freedom to acquire or to inherit property. Ten "Groups of Twenty" will constitute a Comando; each Comando will bear the name of a great Brazilian, leading off with that of Bento Gonçalves, hero of Rio Grande do Sul's Farroupilha Revolution.

5. Agrarian Reform

In moves clearly designed to keep the state administration's newly reorganized land reform agency (IGRA) off-balance, agents of SUPRA (federal land reform agency), MASTER (Movimento dos Agricultores Sem Terra) and FAG (Frente Agraria Gaúcha), launched sem terra land invasions near the cities of Tapes and Bagé.

At Tapes, near the sem terra settlement of Banhado do Colégio, nearly 300 landless peasant families swarmed onto the fazenda Santo Antônio only to meet prompt counter measures. State police and elements of the Brigada Militar surrounded the fazenda, barred the entry of sem terra representatives, cut off food supplies and settled down to starve the invaders out. This aroused a storm of criticism from the left. State SUPRA president Eliseu Torres vainly asked the III Army to remove the brigada troops. At the end of the week about 80 families had left the fazenda, but the others hung on awaiting rescue promised by no less a personage than General Aassis Brasil, President Goulart's Chief of Military Household.

At Bagé, in the southwest cattle country, landless peasants unwisely anticipated the division of a federal experimental farm administered by the III Army and formed a camp on the border of the property. This was too near to suit General Hugo Garrastazú, commander of the Third Cavalry Division, who had received no orders regarding the cession of the farm. Using troops with fixed bayonets he quickly forced the withdrawal of the sem terras to a more distant point. Although the Army accomplished its mission without violence, the purity of its motives were questioned due to the fact that the zealous officer in direct command of the evicting troops, Colonel Osmar Mendes Paixão, is also president of the local land owners association.

In response to these disturbances, the state land owners group

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(FARSUL) is reported to be discussing the formation of a protective association similar to that active near Belo Horizonte.

6. Standardized Textbook Not The Answer: Archbishop Scherer

Archbishop D. Vicente Scherer of Pôrto Alegre declared in his weekly pastoral broadcast that while inflation had made the price of school textbooks excessively high, the Ministry of Education's desire to issue standardized textbooks at low cost for nationwide use would, if adopted, ring the knell of Christian secondary education in Brazil. According to the Archbishop, Minister Paulo de Tarso has already issued a number of instructions against private schools, of a distinctly totalitarian nature and reminiscent of measures taken under the Hitler and Mussolini regimes. If the Ministry were to be given complete control over textbooks, the latter, as in Cuba, would preach revolutionary and demagogic solutions to Brazil's problems. The Christian solution, according to Dom Vicente? Bring an end to inflation.

7. Entrance Exams For Pat Lumumba U.

The Brazil-USSR Cultural Institute of Rio Grande do Sul announces that competitive entrance examinations for Moscow's Patrice Lumumba University For Friendly Peoples will be held on March 11. Three series of tests will be given: Physics and chemistry, for admission to the Faculty of Engineering; the same, plus Portuguese and biology, for the Faculty of Agronomy and Biology; Portuguese, literature, history and geography, for admission to the Faculty of Law and Economics. Russian language courses start at the Institute on March 16.

8. Political Notes

a. State deputy Jairo Brum, president of the state MTR, told newsmen that the MTR presently favors Carvalho Pinto for president in 1965. Should Pinto not run, the MTR will cast about for another "third candidate" and, failing that, will probably opt for Juscelino Kubitschek.

b. State PRP officers are concerned over overtures being made to their national leaders by presidential hopefuls Juscelino Kubitschek and Adhemar de Barros. They believe that, regardless of instructions issued by the national or state leaders, the vast majority of the party's members will vote for Carlos Lacerda. One PRP officer says, "We can't stop Lacerda because he is the candidate of vengeance. He will get the votes of the frustrated janistas, the anti-Jânio group, the anti-golpistas, those who oppose JK and Brizola, and the democrats".

c. PRP state deputy Alberto Hoffman took office as Secretary of Economy.


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