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JUL 9 1963

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1. Spotlight On Brizola

Deputy Leonel Brizola (PTB-Guanabara) is being given what is presumably a nation-wide bad time by the Diarios Associados (Assis Chateaubriand) newspaper, radio and TV chains, represented in Porto Alegre by the Diário de Noticias, Radio Farroupilha, and TV Piratini. The "Mop Up Brizola" operation has been centering around the famous quarrel between João Calmon and the "Terror of the Pampas", alias "Kid Brizola", aka the "Sorcerer's Apprentice of Carazinho", regarding the latter's "land reform" program, under which he disposed of a not particularly valuable piece of his personally-owned land for allegedly ten times what he had paid for it, claiming that he was thereby giving land to the landless (Sem-Terra). Brizola has been compared in this connection to Capilane,

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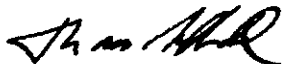
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b. Austrian Ambassador Albin Lennkh paid an unofficial visit to Rio Grande do Sul last week at the invitation of the Rector of the Federal University at Santa Maria. Upon his return from the Interior, Ambassador Albin scheduled commercial talks in Porto Alegre with Secretary of Economy Daniel Faraco.


Thomas J. Duffield
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Profumo, Josef Goebbels, Shylock and Tartuffe, in each case to his own disadvantage. The weight of Calmon's accusation against him lies in two proven facts: a) that Brizola actually bought the land, instead of receiving it as part of an inheritance from a relative of his wife's (née Goulart); b) that he neither gave it away nor sold it for a nominal price.

In fairness to Brizola, it can be pointed out, as representatives of his party have not failed to do, that the land was apparently obtained in exchange for property located elsewhere in the state and which did indeed form part of Dona Neuza's inheritance; that it was sold at the price of Cr\$10,000 the hectare (although allegedly appraised at twice the value by the Bank of Brazil) and on easy terms (15 years to pay, no interest). This does not mean that Brizola's part in the deal was necessarily beyond reproach, although it suggests that he is not the only one who can hit below the belt. He is probably more adept than most, however, and the Associados may be telling nothing more than the truth when they claim that their staffs here are receiving constant threats of violence and that a gang of ruffians tried to burn down the property in which TV Piratini is located.

2. Municipal Campaign Developments

The MTR officially launched the candidacy of Cândido Norberto for Mayor of Porto Alegre last week amid efforts to evoke the memory of the late MTR national leader Fernando Ferrari and promises of a high-level campaign. Norberto is now awaiting the selection of his opponents by the Partido Trabalhista Brasileiro (PTB) and a sharply divided Ação Democrática Popular (ADP).

The five ADP parties have, for the last month, been busily vetoing each other's nominees. The Partido Democrático Cristão (PDC) is toying with the idea of bolting to the PTB and elements of the União Democrática Nacional (UDN) are casting longing eyes toward Norberto.

The PTB seems likely to select either State Deputy Wilson Vargas or State Deputy Sereno Chaise with the latter, a Brizola supporter, now conceded the edge. While the PTB candidate selected automatically will be considered the front runner in heavily PTB Porto Alegre, Norberto's widespread popularity in the city makes an upset possible. His chances will increase if the ADP selects a weak candidate or is unable to agree on a common standard bearer.

3. Legislative Squabble Ends

Abortive attempts to deprive President of the Legislative Assembly Cândido Norberto (Movimento Trabalhista Renovador - MTR) of his office sputtered to a halt last week as the deputies, in a spirit of weary and grudging compromise, elected a new slate of assembly officers to serve under Norberto. The victory of Norberto was a moral one since, with the assembly now in recess for one month, he is expected to resign the presidency in August in order to campaign for Mayor of Porto Alegre (see No. 2, above). Significantly, Governor Ildo Meneghetti's Partido Social Democrático (PSD) which led the move to oust Norberto, did not permit its deputies to reoccupy their positions among the Assembly officers.

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4. Meneghetti Asserts States Rights Position

Governor Ildo Meneghetti has reacted predictably to a recent telegram from Federal Minister of Justice Abelardo Jurema enjoining him from negotiating foreign loans except through the Ministry of Foreign Relations. Scenting a threat to his concept of states' rights and particularly his present discussions with USAID officials, Meneghetti has informed the Minister of Justice that he (Meneghetti) claims the constitutional right to carry on such negotiations directly and that he intends to continue to exercise this right. Meneghetti has promised to write a personal letter to President Goulart setting forth his views on the subject. (He has already made it known locally that he believes the federal Senate has some regulatory powers in this area (under Article 63 of the Constitution), but that the executive branch has none.)

5. Meneghetti To Remain Aloof From Adhemar's And Lacerda's Projected "Coup"?

The Rio correspondent of Jornal do Dia (Catholic) describes the Old Capital as suffering at present from an unusual plague of unusually alarming rumors. According to one of them, the Army had been placed on the alert, in the expectation that a movement to depose President Goulart would be launched in São Paulo on the occasion of a congress to be held there by "democratic syndicate forces", at which Governors Adhemar de Barros, Carlos Lacerda and Ildo Meneghetti would all be present. Meneghetti did not show up, however, so that the golpe, if one were contemplated, had to be postponed to a more auspicious occasion. Other papers note that the RGS Governor will be spending the July 11-15 period in Brasília, in an attempt to pry loose from Jango some funds promised by the President but which have not yet been made available to his native state.

6. Gaúcho Couple Home for Holidays From Moscow's Lumumba U.

José Montserrat Filho and his wife Ruth Fonini Montserrat, both students at the Patrice Lumumba University for Foreigners in Moscow, have returned to visit their families in Porto Alegre during the University's summer session. Both began their studies at the Faculty of Philosophy of the University of Rio Grande do Sul, and are taking five-year courses at Lumumba, he in International Law and she in Philosophy (The first year is devoted to language study). Although their romance had started in Porto Alegre, the wedding was held in Moscow.

In Ruth's eyes, the most striking thing about the USSR is the feeling of security enjoyed by the people, based on economic stability, comprehensive health, medical and scientific programs, and educational opportunities. The couple mentioned that Brazilian football, films and architecture were well-known in the Soviet Union, and added that it was possible to drink the traditional cafézinho in Moscow, although the ingenious Russians have industrialized the product, "concentrating its essence, which is sold in cans".

7. Michaelsen Leaves for Federal Post

Upon his departure for Brasília to assume his new duties as Minister of Commerce and Industry, Egidio Michaelsen told reporters that combating inflation would be his

most important task. He said inflation has been the direct cause of all Brazil's ills, including its political troubles. Michaelsen promised that, with "inflexible morality", he would work to stimulate production, promote development of industry, support "legitimate" commerce, dynamize Brazils' commercial relations with "all the countries of the world", etc. The new minister felt that it was necessary to "democratize" capital and "humanize" work.

Minister Michaelsen's conciliatory gesture in making a farewell call on Governor Meneghetti, his political opponent and rival in last year's electoral campaign, evoked much favorable comment.

8. Bishop Dies In Latest Varig Crash

The crash of a Varig DC-3 near Passo Fundo, Rio Grande do Sul, on July 2, killed 11 persons, including Dom Luiz Felipe de Nadal, Roman Catholic Bishop of Uruguaiana. The accident was caused by a heavy fog over the Passo Fundo airport. The pilot tried twice to land at one end of the runway and then made a third attempt, entering from the other end, in the hope that the visibility there would be greater. (Another report has it that he was attempting to land on a highway.) Unfortunately, one wheel hit a tree, throwing the plane out of control. The machine later lost its right wing and crashed to the ground, killing all but 2 of those aboard. No Americans were involved. Ultima Hora ran its customary gruesome pictures of the dead, including two of the Bishop, face-up and face-down. It still has far to go before surpassing its coverage of the death of MTR leader Fernando Ferrari, whose body was shown hanging upside down in the wreckage of his plane, with blood streaming down the face and an open fountain-pen by its right hand.

9. Success Will Not Spoil Ieda Maria: Would Refuse Date With Rock Hudson.

Ieda Maria Vargas (Miss Brazil-63; See Weekly Summary No. 62, A-74, June 25, 1963) is quoted as having stated, during her plane's stopover in São Paulo, that she intended to remain in the United States the minimum amount of time necessary to compete in the Miss Universe contest, because she couldn't bear to be away from home very long. With regard to the possibility of her accepting a film contract, she declared pointedly that she would refuse any invitation from the movie colony, "even if it came from Rock Hudson!" On her subsequent arrival in Porto Alegre, she announced her intention of throwing a special type of churrasco, termed by her a "Brizolão", for her fellow-contestants at Miami Beach. Ultima Hora, which reported the story, noted with a certain lack of gallantry that the attractive gaúchinha was running a temperature of 38°C. at the time she made her statement.

10. Miscellaneous

a. Responsible state officials are busily searching for some 243 motor vehicles which are listed on the State's inventories but cannot be located. The Administration has promised a police inquiry into the wholesale disappearance of trucks and autos--most of which were purchased while Federal Deputy Leonel Brizola was governor.