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POLITICAL

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PSYCHOLOGICAL

POLITICAL

1. When Will Meneghetti Return?

Deputy Solano Borges (PL) is acting governor of Rio Grande do Sul in the absence of the regular incumbent, Ildo Meneghetti, who is in Rio de Janeiro carrying out a vigorous program of visits, lunches and dinners designed to convince President Castelo Branco and others in authority that the state is eminently deserving of all possible assistance toward the solution of its many problems. Curiously enough, Solano's temporary absence from the Legislative Assembly means that the

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government coalition no longer has a majority in that body. With a modesty which is rarely found these days, Solano declared that he had no particular plans for his brief term in office, adding that it would be a breach of etiquette for him to make any major changes during that time. Cândido Norberto (MTR) who as Legislative Assembly president took charge of the state during Meneghetti's absences last year, had no such qualms, and took advantage of his ephemeral reigns to create several abacaxis (messy situations) which took Ildo months to straighten out.

Cândido Norberto was the father of the "Send the RGS Legislative Assembly to the U.S." movement, which may result in the award of a limited number of grants to members of that body. Rather nastily, he has figured that the state government will again lose its parliamentary majority when and if the grants are made, and has been outspoken in fighting the idea of summoning suplentes (deputy deputies) to duty during such a period.

And now, when will Meneghetti return (presumably with his tucker-bag full of good things for one and all)? He says that it will be on Friday the 21st, but his assistant for foreign assistance, Dr. Othelo Laurent, who presumably knows better than his chief, says that it couldn't possibly be before Sunday, in view of the amount of work still to be done.

2. Romeu, Romeu, You Served Me Well But I Must Throw You To The Maragatos

Sr. Mário de Lima Beck (PL) assumed charge of the RGS Rice Institute (IRGA) on Monday, August 17, vice Romeu Scheibe (PSD), who at least had a deputy's seat waiting for him in the Legislative Assembly, easing out his suplente, Darcy Conceição, one of those who was particularly anxious to go to the United States on a travel grant (see item 1 above).

In view of the fact that the Consulate reported last week that Meneghetti appeared to dominate the IRGA crisis, Beck's assumption requires a word of explanation. This is the way the Governor put it to Scheibe:

"Illustrious Friend: I can only praise your work at the head of the important autonomous agency which defends, in this state, the interests of the rice-growers... Thanks to your efforts and to your intelligent tenacity, a solution, at least a partial one, has been found to many of the problems which deeply concern RGS with regard to the sale of its rice. There was therefore no administrative reason to remove you from your job. It is only political necessity which forces me to agree to your departure from the post you so greatly honored... It was agreed that the parties...could bring about...the modifications which they deemed necessary..."

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Why Meneghetti didn't realize this at the time the matter first came up is something of a mystery, but he managed to sound fairly convincing when he gave the assurance that he was giving the orders - at least, when he warmed up to his subject. Fortunately, Scheibe accepted his removal with good grace - at least in public, and maragato Beck is reported to be pretty knowledgeable when it comes to rice.

3. Pôrto Alegre Municipality Makes Every Effort To Clinch IDB Loan

Under the spurring of Mayor Célio Marques Fernandes, the City Council is being requested to give urgent consideration to three legislative measures which are required before the municipal government can sign the agreement under which it can borrow \$ 3,165,000 from the Inter-American Development Bank for the development of its water supply and sewage disposal systems. This loan has been pending for a number of years, but a series of changes in requirements, difficult moments and near calamities have thus far stood in the way. (Emotional outbursts over the delays encountered by the loan application may well have been a contributing factor, although certainly not a major one, in the sudden death of former mayor José Loureiro da Silva a few months ago.) The principal measure under consideration is one which authorizes the municipality to issue bonds in support of the guarantee which the State Bank of Rio Grande do Sul is being requested to give to the IDB.

4. German Technicians Wanted To Develop RGS Agriculture

State Secretary of Agriculture Adolfo Fetter has requested the German Federal government, through its consular and diplomatic representatives in Brazil, ~~has requested~~ that 30 German technicians be sent to this state to help implement agricultural development programs "made possible through sums provided by the Food For Peace program of the Alliance For Progress". (It is assumed that this latter portion of the report is incorrect. That is the way, however, it appeared in the press.)

The breakdown of technicians would be as follows: 15 experts in animal husbandry; 7 dairy products specialists, 3 sausage-makers and 7 well-diggers, the latter to provide their own well-digging equipment. The technicians would come within the general framework of the German "Volunteers For Peace" program.

5. The Return of Ieda Maria

A mature, highly glamorous Ieda Maria Vargas (Miss Universe 1963) returned to Porto Alegre, the home town for which she felt such great saudades during her reign as "the world's most beautiful girl", and is taking some rest before settling down to her studies completing the requirements she must meet before qualifying as a primary school teacher. She seems determined, however, not to be talked out of her plans to

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marry a local boy, Flávio Carneiro, who accompanied her on her first trip to Miami Beach.

Ieda spoke in a generally favorable manner of her contact with the United States, although she found Brazilian youth generally better educated than young Americans of comparable age. Asked to explain, she stated that Americans generally pay little attention to the rest of the world, whereas others, including Brazilians, start thinking about it at an early age.

The Miss U judges were clearly not in error in picking the now lovelier-than-ever Miss Vargas. It is wondered, however, how long the erstwhile beauty queen will be content to remain within what must now be to her the somewhat restricted confines of the gaúcho capital.


PSYCHOLOGICAL

BPAO David H. Barnhart is currently visiting the interior university city and railroad center of Santa Maria. In his absence, it would seem that the three topics, transcending the state boundaries, which drew most attention from the local press and other media during the past week were the following:

- a) Adhemar de Barros and his troubles. "The Devil was loose in São Paulo but I caught him by the tail." Replacement of General Mena Barreto: General Mena Barreto promises to speak frankly.
- b) The Cyprus crisis. Russia promises assistance to Makarios in event of invasion.
- c) Governor of Amazonas sends military force to occupy Legislative Assembly. He arrests Plinio Coelho. This is black eye for Revolution. Castelo Branco will take firm measures. Governor resigns. Governor withdraws his resignation. All calm in Manaus.

Other almost equally interesting headlines and important stories: Milk Soars; Meat Remains Unavailable; General Iba (head of SUNAB) will take firm measures.

Vera Lúcia (Couto dos Santos) wins third place at Long Beach. Everyone admires beauty and grace of our 20-carat Brazilian mulata.


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