

1961

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — APPENDIX

A3927

...a headache that a whole crate of aspirin
...didn't cure.

Obviously the bearded Cuban premier
didn't plan for his proposal to turn out the
way it has and boomerang against him. The
swap was supposed to put President Ken-
nedy behind the eight ball in Castro's con-
tinuing propaganda battle against the
United States and "Yankee imperialists."

Argentina is an example of how Castro's
machinery-for-a-human life thinking is
backfiring against him.

The Castro proposal has been bitterly de-
nounced almost unanimously in Buenos
Aires, where President Arturo Frondizi has
shown a marked reluctance to take a firm
stand against Castro's Communist regime.

In a front-page editorial, the influential
Correo de la Tarde newspaper called the Cas-
tro plan a barbarity.

"For human dignity, if not for political
or ideological reasons, Fidel Castro's terror
should be driven from the continent," the
stinging editorial declared.

"If any further proof were needed of his
low estate, of his cruelty, it has been fur-
nished now by Castro. One thousand Cubans
are worth only 500 tractors to the govern-
ment now ruling in the island."

The editorial also criticized President
Frondizi for not taking stronger action on
the Cuban problem.

Correo de la Tarde also rounded up this
sampling of opinion in the Argentine capital:

Jorge W. Ferreira, secretary of the majority
group of congressmen in President Frondizi's
Radical Intransigent Civic Union party,
termed the exchange "inadmissible." He
added that "the human rights consecrated
by the United Nations charter appear to be
irreconcilable with the Cuban Government's
offer."

Congressman Carlos Adrogué of the op-
position Radical Civic Union Party of the
people declared that "what is happening in
Cuba shows contempt for freedom and the
dignity of the human person."

A labor union leader, Juan Carlos Brunetti,
said Castro's proposal "shows the infamy of
the Communist regime and will open the eyes
of those who believe in freedom."

So it is in Argentina. Reaction is similar
throughout Latin America. Even in Brazil,
where President Janio Quadros is holding
firm with Castro, sentiment against the
Castro dictatorship is being fanned by the
Brazilian press.

[From the Washington Post, May 26, 1961]
LATINS CRITICAL OF CASTRO'S PW-TRACTOR
SWAP

Latin American editorial reaction to Fidel
Castro's "Tractors for Prisoners" exchange
has been generally critical. Here are some
examples:

Argentina: La Capital, Rosario (moder-
ately liberal; a leading provincial daily):
"The incredible proposition has again shak-
en the free world with its brutality and
utilitarianism, free of any human feeling."

Brazil: Diario Cartola, Rio de Janeiro (lib-
eral; a leading daily): "The ransom opera-
tion now being negotiated in Washington
reveals in all its hideousness the inhuman
nature of the Cuban revolution."

Colombia: El Espectador, Bogotá (strongly
liberal; country's second largest circula-
tion): "Even though the exchange has been
suggested in terms that shame humanity,
we believe that it should be accepted."

Costa Rica: La Republica, San José (Costa
Rica's leading liberal daily): "Fidel Castro
committed the mistake of aiming at a target
that brought into action the most notable
characteristic of the North American people,
generosity. This has always been the error
of the Communists, they work on numbers
and figures, and figure that the more the
better."

Ecuador: El Telegrafo, Guayaquil (liberal;
influential): "Even though this is a filthy

blackmail I believe the sinoids should be
given the machines they want because it
might be that tomorrow they would want to
trade Roa for a still."

Guatemala: El Imparcial, Guatemala City
(liberal and often critical of United States;
a leading daily): "The totalitarian cynicism
has exceeded all limits with two facts that
revolt the conscience of all decent men: the
first is the sordid valuation of human life
made by Castro in offering to trade the pris-
oners for tractors * * * the mockery is de-
basating to the Cuban people and to the one
who made it."

Nicaragua: La Prensa, Managua (moder-
ately conservative, a leading daily): "It is
awful to know that in this America of ours,
so far removed in time and space from the
Saracen coast, first to emancipate the slaves
and first to claim all the freedoms, slavery
has now established itself at a level much
more materialistic and commercial than
that known by the Babylonians, Assyrians,
Phoenicians, Greeks or Romans."

Panama: El País, Panama City (moder-
ately liberal, a leading daily): "No one with
a particle of respect for his own nationality
could think of selling his countrymen for
tools. It is paradoxical that the 'aggressors'
should be the ones outdoing themselves to
collect funds with which to save the lives
of the Cuban citizens who are persecuted in
their own country."

Peru: Ultima Hora (a leading daily, mod-
erately conservative): "The proposal shows
the false apostle in his true light. It shows
him to be the vilest huckster among the
agents of Soviet imperialism. As if it were
not enough that he has tried to sell his coun-
try to the Moscow hierarchs, he now makes
his cynical offer to trade patriots for trac-
tors."

Uruguay: El Plata, Montevideo (Blanco
Party organ, conservative, a leading daily):
"One thing should have become clear * * *
the Fidel Castro regime has reached a de-
gree of degeneracy and brutality that re-
volts human understanding."

Venezuela: El Mundo, Caracas (leftist
liberal, often critical of United States):
"With this offer to trade men for trucks
(sic), in addition to the policy of the firing
squad, Fidel Castro has enthroned anthu-
manism in America." (Note: a direct slap
at Fidel's claim of "humanismo" for his rev-
olution.)

In Miami, meanwhile, 10 paroled Cuban
invaders, scheduled to return to Havana
today, still lacked a firm commitment on the
tractors-for-prisoners exchange plan.

Unconfirmed reports circulated that the
prisoners may seek an extension of their 1-
week parole in the United States, United
Press International reported. But the pris-
oners, who have pledged to return, had no
comment.

The fund-raising committee, which is
headed by Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt, labor
leader Walter Reuther and Milton Eisen-
hower, planned to send several representa-
tives with the prisoners to obtain precise
technical information from Castro about the
types of equipment he wants.

Tractors for Prisoners

EXTENSION OF REMARKS

OF

HON. DANTE B. FASCELL

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 29, 1961

Mr. FASCELL. Mr. Speaker, while
there has been some criticism in the
United States over Fidel Castro's trac-
tors for prisoners exchange, it is now
becoming apparent that Fidel Castro's
disdain for human life has aroused bit-
ter resentment and criticism through-
out Latin America. It would seem that
this latest blunder of his will go a long
way in neutralizing some of the sym-
pathy which he had obtained as a sym-
bol in some Latin countries. This Latin
revulsion to Castro is certainly timely
and necessary. The incident serves to
dramatically demonstrate to the Latins
that Castro is not the symbol of the
revolution they seek; that the American
revolution is the true revolution, and
that under our system they can achieve
the social and political freedoms for
which they strive.

I commend the following articles to
my colleagues as examples of the new
trend which Castro has started among
the Latins:

[From the News, May 24, 1961]

TRACTOR TRADE STIRS LATINS

(By Hal Heron)

Cuban dictator Fidel Castro's tractors-for-
prisoners barter deal appears to be causing