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Thoughts on Latin Assistant

By VIRGINIA PREWETT

Two front-runners for the post of Assistant Secretary of State for Inter-American Affairs are Dr. Clark Kerr, president of the University of California at Berkeley, and Mr. Richard Goodwin, a White House assistant and presidential ghost-writer credited with authoring Kennedy's "Alliance for Progress" speech. This writer does not know either candidate, but each has special recommendations for the job.

Dr. Kerr has been active for several years with CHEAR, the Committee on Higher Education in the American Republics. He has combined a career in education with service as mediator in major labor disputes. If State's Assistant Secretary for Latin America is to be brought in from the outside, his background would be of greatest service.

ADVANTAGE

At the risk of unorthodoxy, since experienced Latin Americanists usually decry the novice, this writer would like to point out advantages to be gained if Mr. Goodwin were appointed to the vacant post.

He is young—about 29—and a relative newcomer to the Latin American field. However, he has been increasingly designated as the White House link to inter-American policy implementation.

If Richard Goodwin, with his White House connection, were made Assistant Secre-

tary of State for Latin America, it could solve a number of dilemmas which are causing complaints under the present set-up.

As symbol of the White House, Mr. Goodwin would swing enough weight to clarify otherwise divided minds in State's Division of American Republic Affairs. Old-World-oriented Undersecretary of State Chester A. Bowles, control of personnel would then cease to complicate the implementation of Mr. Kennedy's Latin American policy.

TIES

The usefulness of Latin American Task Force Chief Adolf A. Berle would be enhanced. Dr. Berle has direct connections with the White House Latin American squad. Mr. Goodwin's presence in State would strengthen ties between Berle-advised policy and the machinery of action, and thus implement Kennedy's intentions.

State's real frustration is that the Treasury group, cronies of President Eisenhower. Survivors of the Treasury clique and their allies, as well as the Pentagon and other Government entities who've been making their own little Latin American sub-policies, might howl at the Berle-Goodwin combination. But it would at least bring control of policy for the New World back to the President and the State Department.

It would also emphasize how ridiculous it is for State's top Latin American post to be too low in the echelon to attract a thoroly mature Latin Americanist — and lead eventually to the needed upgrading of that post.

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