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Dodd Disputes Fulbright On Dominican Intervention

By JOSEPH R. L. STERNE
[Washington Bureau of The Sun]

Washington, Sept. 16—Senator Dodd (D., Conn.) said tonight the attack by Senator Fulbright (D., Ark.) on United States intervention in the Dominican Republic would help the Communists revive a dying issue.

Fulbright, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, caused a furor yesterday by labeling the intervention a "grievous mistake" that has alienated social reformers in Latin America.

Today Dodd disputed this view by telling the Senate that many members of the democratic left in Latin countries have come to believe that last April's action staved off another Communist take-over in the Caribbean.

Johnson Speech Cited

Dodd cited the "tremendous impact" of President Johnson's August 17 speech where he compared the hemispheric alliance to the domestic Great Society program.

The Senator also mentioned the "tumultuous welcome" recently given by the Bolivian people to

Jack Hood Vaughn, Assistant Secretary of State.

"Therefore, I consider it all the more regrettable that the chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, with the great prestige that attaches to his position, has seen fit to reopen the entire issue of American intervention in the Dominican Republic in this tendentious manner," Dodd stated.

Publicity Expected

"Although the reports are not yet in, I am certain that his speech will be picked up and played heavily by every Communist and crypto-Communist and fellow traveler and anti-American leftist who wields a pen in the Latin American press."

Dodd predicted there would be heavy emphasis on Fulbright's charge that the United States, by intervening, appeared to be opposing rather than supporting social reform.

Before Dodd took the floor to speak to a chamber where the temporary presiding officer was the only other senator present, Senator Smathers (D., Fla.) praised him for offering an "excellent, accurate and logical" response to Fulbright.

Smathers contended that Dodd's views represented those of the majority in the foreign Relations Committee in the Senate, in the House, and in the country at large.

Dodd spoke several hours after he himself was attacked by Senator Young (D., Ohio) as a "self-appointed vigilante" who seeks "to play God with the phrase 'Communist conspiracy'."

Young's criticism was sparked primarily by Dodd's assertion last week that the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., the civil rights leader, was promoting appeasement by offering proposals to end the Vietnam war.

But Young also suggested that Dodd's fight with Fulbright might be due in part to Fulbright's "exposure of the fact" that Dodd had attended only one of thirteen committee hearings on the Dominican situation.

Fulbright got more direct support today from Senator Morse (D., Ore.), a member of the committee.

Morse charged that the Department of Defense and the Central Intelligence Agency cannot seem to understand that the Alliance for Progress was designed not to suppress but to aid and direct social changes in Latin America.

Morse said that right-wing champions of the status quo exploit the gullibility of United States military and CIA officials by warning of communism to block reforms essential for the success of the alliance.

"False Promise" Feared

"That is the surest way I know to hasten the day when the great masses of people in Latin America will have no other path to follow to the promise of economic freedom than the Communist path," Morse said.

"We are in danger of making the alliance a false promise. Another intervention on behalf of the likes of Donald Reid and Elias Wessin y Wessin ousted Dominican leaders and the people of Latin America will know once and for all that the real Alliance for Progress died with John Fitzgerald Kennedy."

The two Senate floor leaders apparently took opposing views today on the controversial Fulbright speech.

Senator Dirksen (Ill.), the Republican leader, said the President had to send in marines because of bloodshed in Santo Domingo and a buildup in the strength of Communist elements among the rebel forces.

Senator Mansfield (Mont.), the Democratic leader, said he agreed with Fulbright that there was no major Communist threat in Santo Domingo but he added that once a revolt starts the Communists can swarm in.

Case Disagrees

Still another comment came from Senator Case (R., N.J.), who said he had heard nothing in the Foreign Relations Committee's closed hearings that would justify Fulbright's conclusion.

This, in much greater detail, was the chief argument embodied in the Dodd speech.

The Connecticut Senator said he had no quarrel with Fulbright's belief that the United States should oppose the vested interests and side with social reformers on the Democratic Left in Latin America.

But he said he disagreed with Fulbright's contention that Ambassador William Tapley Bennett and other American officials had exaggerated Communist influence within the rebel movement.

Recalling that there was no evidence that Fidel Castro was a Communist during his rise to power, Dodd said Fulbright erred in seeking "mathematical proof" that the Communists had seized control of the Dominican revolution.

He suggested that American officials came to this conclusion on the basis of certain criteria that he found convincing. These were:

1. Seventy-seven identifiable Communists held command posts in the rebel movement.
2. The general political composition of the revolt was shifting from the democratic Left to the three Communist parties.
3. The revolt was highly organized

and "a textbook operation in the seizure of political power."

4. Radio and television broadcasts by the rebels bore "the heavy and unmistakable imprint" of Communist propaganda.

5. The rebels turned against anti-Communist progressives.

To document his view that the United States has not forfeited the support of social reformers in Latin America as Fulbright held, Dodd recited statements by various progressive organizations and newspapers.

"I find it most regrettable that the Senator from Arkansas ignored this mass of evidence," Dodd said.

"Indeed, I fail to understand how he could have ignored it. Somehow, it seems to me that he has shut out from his mind all facts which fail to harmonize with the preconceived thesis that the rebels were right and the Administration was wrong."

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