

# Losing Influence Cuba Communists

HAVANA (UP)—Communism appears to be on the wane in Cuba. The progressive elimination of years-long Communist influence is necessary slow, however. The forthcoming presidential elections in 1948 may be used in haste trading by political opportunists to extend the life of the Communist party in Cuba.

April, received a series of reversals from a once-friendly political ally—the government of President Ramon Grau San Martin. The present outspoken antagonism of the government to Communist influence in the Cuban labor movement has affected seriously the voting strength of the Communists as well as their prestige.

Control of the powerful Cuban federation of labor has slipped from the hands of Communist bosses since April. The break between President Grau and the Communists appears complete. The Communists have already formally withdrawn their support from his regime.

# Nation's Divorce Rate In 1947 Shows First Decline Since War

New Trend Attributed to Settlement  
Of Hasty Marriages in 1946

For the first time since before the war, the nation's divorce rate dropped sharply this year, a survey showed today.

In 1946, more Americans than ever before flocked to the divorce courts to iron out their post-war matrimonial problems. But this year the trend reversed abruptly as the nation settled down to peacetime living.

Divorce judges agreed that the big reason for the decline was the fact that most of the wartime marriages which did not "take" already had been dissolved. Other factors they cited were:

ONE: Women had lost some of their independence and no longer were able to shed their husbands and get high-paying jobs.

TWO: Soaring prices had canceled out the "easy money" of the immediate postwar period, and fewer couples could afford divorce.

THREE: The higher birth rate tended to keep marriages intact. As David B. Roberts, county prothonotary at Pittsburgh, Pa., put it, "Rosie the Riveter and Winnie the Welder are back home taking care of their children."

One of the biggest divorce declines reported in a survey conducted by United Press was recorded by Buffalo, N. Y., and surrounding Erie County. Up to Christmas Eve this year, the county had 387 divorces and 348 annulments, compared with 882 divorces and 1121 annulments last year.

Even Reno, Nev., the nation's divorce mecca, reported a substantial reduction. Up to Dec. 29, Reno divorces totaled 7122, compared with 11,060 last year, the all-time peak. It was the first downward trend in Reno since 1937.

St. Louis reported a 42 per cent reduction in divorce petitions. As of Dec. 21, there were 4800 petitions filed, compared with 8440 in 1946. Because of the sharp drop, one of the city's three domestic relations courts was closed.

In New York, the five boroughs of the nation's largest city reported a 20 per cent reduction in divorces, annulments, separations and dissolutions. There were 9320 cases completed through September, 1947, compared with 11,926 for 1946.

In Chicago and Cook County, the divorce rate dropped for the first time since 1946.

# Bell Testman Receives Award

Perry M. Westenbarger of Bridgeport, testman for the Indiana Bell Telephone Co., received a jeweled pin in reward for his service, the utility announced today.

He joined the Bell system as a repairman in 1917. In 1935, he was made repair clerk and was appointed to his present job two years ago.

# COIN COLLECTOR'S DREAM BATTLE CREEK, Mich. (UP)—

City Treasurer Harry Atkinson gets fun out of taking money from parking meters. Besides providing revenue for the city, the meters make interesting additions to Atkinson's hobby—coin collecting. Atkinson has found coins from 15 foreign countries.

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\$1.00 VALUE (Seconds) T-Shirts 95¢ 49¢	ARMY RE-ISSUE 4-BUCKLE Arctics \$1.98	\$18.95 VALUE LEATHER Jackets \$12.88
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# It's No Fun Being Captives Of Greece's Guerrillas

Two British Soldiers Held Five Days,  
Stripped, Released With Curt 'Thanks'

VOLOS, Greece, Jan. 1.—When it was reported by Greece's guerrillas—straight from two guys who should know. Recently two British soldiers, sick of traveling in lumbering motor convoys, decided to make the run from Athens to Volos—about 180 miles—without an armed guard.

So they started out with a precious cargo of beer, cigars, clothes and other necessities to be delivered to the small British garrison in Volos.

It was a nipping ride, with the crackling mountain air and priceless scenery providing a needed nerve tonic. Suddenly a stream of machine gun bullets whizzed across the truck's radiator. Just a few deadly inches from the windshield.

Pulling to an immediate stop the two soldiers pushed down into their seats. The only weapon they had was a money wrench. Seconds later both doors opened and rifle barrels were placed right smack on their ear lobes—a most distressing sensation.

About a dozen ragged, determined mountain folk—armed with German, Italian, British and American guns (and some dreadful-looking local knives)—marched them out and went through their pockets, taking inventory.

The boys reached for the heavens and prayed in their native tongue, which meant absolutely nothing to these Greek Jesse Jameses. They were, of course, a band of guerrillas warring against the organized government and the United Nations.

Leaving one guerrilla to guard the prisoners, the others disappeared into the hills and returned shortly with 10 mules. They unloaded the cargo—stopping only for an occasional bottle of beer. They then drenched the truck with gasoline and made a corking bonfire.

There followed an all-night march up the side of a mountain. The barefoot, they suffered the hellish 23 miles to Volos where the medics bathed their torn feet in steaming water and their insides via a jug of brandy. Finally, a Greek interpreter arrived, put on his glasses and translated the note.

"Thank you very much for the supplies," it read. "The beer is excellent."

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# HE KNOWS WHAT'S COOKIN'

FT. WAYNE, Ind. (UP)—When Floyd Locke is "cookin' with gas" it could be either shrimps or music. Night's he's chef in a restaurant here. During the days he scores music for big-name bands. Locke has been associated with Glenn Miller, Bob Crosby and Vincent Lopez.

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