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These Days By George F. Sokolsky

Praise From the Devil

THE OFFICIAL PAPER of Castro, Revolucion, on Jan. 23, 1960, praised Herbert Matthews, Latin American expert of the New York Times, as "a great North American." I rise to Herbert Matthews in defense. He did not after all tell Fidel Castro to behave like a beast!



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Revolucion said: "What is impressive about Matthews' recent act in our defense is the special circumstance under which it occurred. He certainly did not face the biased opinion of a group of foreigners, unable perhaps to understand us and who, in the long run, have no reason to love us other than for the satisfaction of their immediate needs. He confronted with the undeniable truth a deserter who first saw the light of the sun on these Cuban shores and went abroad to turn against us by so many inches of space in the Miami Herald and to brazenly discredit us on the television screen, betraying his country in a shameful alliance with vindictive crim-

inals and unscrupulous businessmen."

THE LANGUAGE of this article is mindful of Pravda and Izvestia back in the earliest days of the Bolshevik Revolution. It is mindful of the praise for John Reed and Big Bill Haywood. Since those days, Russian Communists have forgotten the word, Bolshevik, and they do not heap crumbs of praise upon these aliens who see in them perfections which they know they do not possess. Soon we shall read a Revolucion article praising Jack Paar as a great philosopher because he "senses" the goodness of the Cuban soul.

The Cuban newspaper says: "To such factions (in the United States) is due the ill will which hits North Americans at every point in the world where one takes their dollars without giving one's heart in exchange.

"Far be it from us to rise up against them. It is with such deceived people that we shake hands as with all peoples, regardless of how much those who distort reality, try to make enemies of us.

"It is, moreover, such people that we greet every day in the form of thousands of white and black Catholic and Presbyterian tourists who . . . and like Herbert Matthews, do more for the solidarity of all men than all

the millions from all mutual aid programs and from all inter-American banks."

What the Castrites are doing obviously is to irritate the American people and the Congress to such a pitch that we shall, in anger, blow them into the Caribbean. When the time comes, we shall cut off the sugar quota and the sugar subsidy, for obviously it makes no sense to assist such a country. If Castro finds his country enslaved by our generosity, he has the option of not accepting either the enslavement or the generosity.

AS FOR THE extraordinary praise for Herbert Matthews of the New York Times, this is unfortunate for Matthews because it raises a question which Senator Fulbright ought immediately to investigate. Why was Herbert Matthews called in by the State Department to brief Earl E. T. Smith on Cuba when Smith was appointed to be our Ambassador to that country? As things have turned out, was Matthews' judgment of the Castro revolution correct from the standpoint of the United States? Does not this official article give the impression that Matthews' attitude was and is partisan?

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