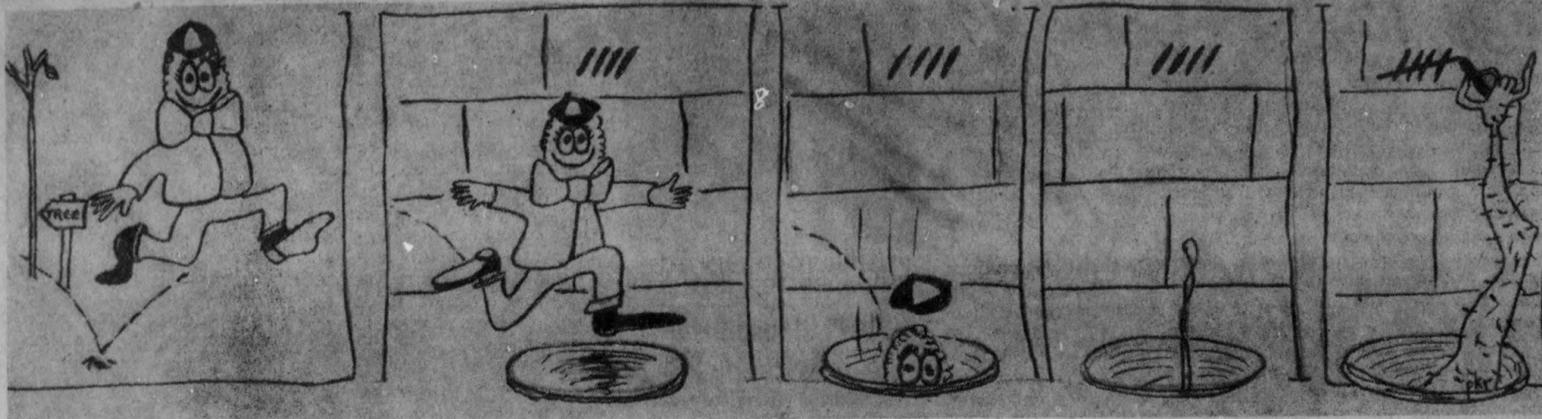


RAUNCHY'S contribution to the hole story.



Fredericton
October 3rd
John Russell

An American friend of mine once remarked to me, "I can't understand why in hell we are having such a problem in those underdeveloped countries. Just look at what we do for those people! We build them highways, railroads, telephone systems; we create industries in their countries providing the people with employment; we raise their standards of living; in fact we give them millions in aid each year. Why, if it wasn't for us half of them would still be in the woods. And look at how they repay us. They rob us of our investments and slander our name all over the world."

Well it occurred to me that my American friend had hit upon a very interesting point. That point is that the American people have really no desire to create bad feeling or suffering anywhere in the world. But due to their social system—the capitalist system—it is inevitable that they do just what they do not want to do in many foreign lands. That is they do create discontent and misery by their very presence in those lands. But how is this so since everybody knows, as my American friend suggests, that the individual American is a combination of freedom personified and a Johnny-do-gooder. It is so because the nature of their so-called 'free enterprise' system makes it essential to their very existence as the richest nation in the world that they export their capital to every corner of the earth. To be a 'friend' of the United States means that you must permit American business to pour their capital into your country buying up everything in sight. In short, to be a friend of the Americans you must first be owned by them.

But so what says the Canadians! And rightly so. For as long as Canadians can sit in front of the TV with their bellies full of beer they don't care who owns their means of production. But other nations have more respect for their national identity. The Cuban people, for instance, had respect for their national identity. Let's look at Cuba and the United States for a moment. What happened in Cuba? The

Americans built railroads, highways and the like in Cuba; they created industry and gave the people employment; they say they say they raised the standard of living in Cuba, and all the rest. Then the Cubans threw them out and turned towards the Communist block. Now the Americans are angry, disillusioned, and can't understand.

That is, freedom for American business capital to invest in foreign countries. It is obvious that the United States does not consider a country free if that country does not choose to do business with it. Surely the people of the Dominican Republic were not free under Trujillo, nor were the people of Argentina free under Peron, nor were the people of

thing under the sun in Cuba on the pretense of developing the country. But after fifty years of this great capitalistic onslaught,

after all the industries, plantations, hotels, etc., etc., had been set up, the Cuban people were still grubbing in the dirt, living in filthy hovels and starving. It was a joke. People who cared about Cuba realized that the American role had evolved into that of a parasite feeding off the rotten Batista regime and yet at the same time supplying the regime with its life blood. When the revolution finally came and the new government decided to nationalize industries for the good of the people, the Americans were the first ones to howl. They immediately yelled "communist", plotted counter-revolutions and cut off trade relations. I wonder what they expected Castro to do after they cut him off economically. They tried their damndest to keep other capitalist countries

away from him so he naturally accepted help from the only people who would give it to him.

But the ironic, sickening part of this whole business is that the Americans are still in the dark and refuse to read the writing on the wall. They really believe they are doing what is best. They have developed this attitude—a mixture of superstition, ignorance, bigotry, pragmatism and other abhorptions of the mind—which presents them with the image that God shines His light on the United States of America alone. And therefore anybody who deviates from the ideas in their precious Constitution or in any way interrupts the pursuit of the almighty dollar represents an intolerable evil that must be stamped out and crushed. If the Americans don't wake up soon it won't be long until all the other oppressed people in the southern hemisphere rise up out of their squalor and kick them out.

AMERICAN FRIENDS

by JOHN RUSSELL

I should like to ask the Americans if they thought that the Cubans were free people under Batista — that they were free to live their own lives according to that great American formula "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness". If they did they were sadly mistaken. For how can the people of a country be free according to the American formula if everything in their country is owned by somebody else. In Cuba the Americans owned all the communication systems, the sugar plantations, the factories and hotels. The Cubans were employed all right. They slaved on the plantations, in the hotels and factories, in the brothels and in everything else that the Americans owned. But when it came to the Cuban people owning anything, then the Americans put their foot down. And isn't this what the Americans do in any country that they 'help'. They are all for giving people anything under the sun but when it comes to people helping themselves without American assistance then the Americans gnash their teeth because they aren't getting anything out of it. In short, as long as the Americans are doling out aid and everybody else is in the position where they must accept this aid in order to eat, then the Americans are quite happy.

But they never tire of telling the world that this isn't so. America stands for freedom of the individual and the 'good life', they say. In fact President Kennedy's favorite word is freedom. But what he means and what Americans in general mean by freedom is 'capitalist freedom'.

Cuba under Batista. But the American government supported all of those regimes right down to their bitter end and it continues its support of any regime that deals with American business.

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