

Part 1
University Years

Against the Reelection of Ramón Grau San Martín
(January 20, 1947)

From the Directorio Estudiantil Universitario to the Cuban People

Cubans:

Before the amazing mockery expressed in the reelection intentions of those who climbed to power mouthing principles which they have betrayed without scruple, the University of Havana once again stands up.

Sad but firm, the dignity and patriotism of Cuba's student youth is acquiring new force. The reasons for this stand are obvious, for all the people know from their own experience the sad results of selfishness and privilege, which are the only true motives behind those who favor the discredited plan to reelect Grau.

All the students raise high the glorious banner for which Mella, Trejo, Floro Pérez, Pío Alvarez, and all our heroes died, and their memory is a call to rebellion.

Our stand is clear and well defined: it is far from partisanship, for it is the product of our soul-searching and our pure ideals.

The Directorio Estudiantil Universitario makes public and solemn profession of its principles and declares:

We consider it a crime against the fatherland to drown it in blood, grief, and shame by encouraging goals that will surely result in civil war.

We believe that the ideas of reelection, extension of the period in power, or even the imposition of candidates can be found only in the sick minds of traitors, opportunists, and the constantly insincere.

We respect the history of the University; we also respect ourselves,

Declaration made by the Central Committee of the Directorio Estudiantil Universitario on January 20, 1947. The Directorio was at the time the name of the university federation. This declaration was signed by Fidel Castro, Rafael Díaz Balart (who later became Fidel's brother-in-law), Baudilio Castellanos (who in 1953 defended in court those who had participated in the Moncada attack), José A. Montes de Oca, Rafael González, Octavio Ortiz, Humberto Ruiz Leiro, Ricardo Valdés, Carlos Miyares, Raúl Granado, Arturo Zaldívar, Isidro Sosa, Andrés Muíño, Angel Miguel García, Jorge Rodríguez, Carlos Guevara, Juan Gros, Enrique Ovarés, Santiago Amador, Reinaldo Arza Balart, Eugenio Duarte, G. Rodríguez, Jorge Sidre, Raúl Sotolongo, Eduardo Rizos, Emilio Güira, Hugo Alvarez del Puerto, Manuel Pita, Frank Díaz Balart, Tomás Valdés Booth, Jorge Arredondo, Raúl Rodríguez, Raúl Reyno, and J. Torga. "Declaración del Directorio Universitario," *Diario de la Marina* (Havana), January 21, 1947, p. 2.

and we deeply love our fatherland, for which we desire happiness and progress. Consequently,

WE PLEDGE:

To fight Grau's reelection even if the price we have to pay in the struggle is our own death. "It is better to die on your feet than to live on your knees."¹

¹ This is a general revolutionary and libertarian slogan which Castro sometimes used. Its precise origin is not clear, although it has been attributed to the Mexican revolutionary Emiliano Zapata and was also common among the Republican forces in the Spanish Civil War, according to *Bartlett's Familiar Quotations*. Eds.

The Dignity of Our Freedom Fighters (November 6, 1947)

The miracle of this moment ought to be emphasized. The men who fought for our independence from Spain still, after fifty years, have the same rebellious spirit. It is a great event when the veterans of our independence struggle ally themselves with the students to lead forward the liberating aims of our past.

The freedom fighters of yesterday trust the young students of today; thus we are continuing their task of achieving independence and justice.

We thank them for the trust they have given us by permitting us to save the political dignity of the University with this symbolic treasure, the Demajagua Bell.¹

Speech delivered November 6, 1947, at the University of Havana when the students were denouncing government corruption. Luis Conte Agüero, *Fidel Castro, vida y obra* (Havana: Editorial Lex, 1959), p. 25.

¹ The Demajagua Bell is a historic relic, used by the first Cuban independence fighters in 1868 to announce the initiation of the war of independence. The university students used the bell in 1947 to initiate, at least symbolically, a struggle against government graft. The bell was in the custody of Independence War veterans. It must be noted that the bell was later removed from the university grounds by thugs hired by the Ramón Grau administration. Eds.

On the Death of Manolo Castro
(February 25, 1948)

Rolando Masferrer¹ wants to take over the leadership of the university to make it serve his personal interests. We have not allowed him to do so, in spite of the coercion and violence practiced against us for quite some time, as when Mario Salabarría² was still free. Now he tries to wash away his guilt and that of his friends of the Movimiento Socialista Revolucionario and attempts to vilify us and, moreover, to justify himself by making that false accusation. He wishes to incite action against us, using Manolo Castro as a pretext; in other words, he wishes to profit from the death of a friend.

Manolo Castro was not fighting in the University any longer, and there was no reason whatsoever for him to be attacked. Far from encouraging the crime, if we had known beforehand what was going to happen, we would have prevented it.

On February 22, 1948, Manolo Castro, director general of sports and well-known student leader, was assassinated. He belonged to the Movimiento Socialista Revolucionario, which at the time was one of the many action groups in Cuba seeking hegemony over Cuban politics. Fidel Castro was denounced by MSR followers as one of the participants in the murder. On February 25, Castro was arrested and later freed. He then released a declaration about the events that had taken place. "Conferencia de prensa de Fidel Castro," *Diario de la Marina* (Havana), February 26, 1948, p. 25.

¹ Former member of the Communist Party, he broke with communism in 1940 and formed the Movimiento Socialista Revolucionario (MSR). Eds.

² Member of MSR and in charge of the police in Havana in the 1940s. Eds.

Grau Will Suffer a Shameful Defeat
(May 31, 1948)

A decisive battle is being waged between those who have ideals and those who have vested interests. On the side of the vested interests can be found the government candidates, the cabinet members, and the millions of dollars stolen from the national treasury. Also siding with them are those who have benefited, or hope to benefit, from the present regime. On the idealistic side can be found Eduardo Chibás

"El grausismo está a punto de sufrir la mas vergonzosa derrota," *Prensa Libre* (Havana), May 31, 1948.

and the few who did not give up when victory seemed lost. The people are behind them. Chibás will bring about harmony among Cubans, because many good Auténticos prefer the victory of Chibás to that of Núñez Portuondo. The coalitionists and Popular Socialists prefer Chibás to Prío.¹

¹ Eduardo Chibás ran for the presidency on the Ortodoxo ticket. Dr. Ricardo Núñez Portuondo was a Liberal Party candidate. Carlos Prío was the presidential candidate of the Auténtico Party. The Popular Socialists were the members of the Partido Socialista Popular (Communist). Eds.

The Assassination of Sergeant Fernández Caral (July 10, 1948)

Last night I read in *Prensa Libre* that at Havana's Fourth District Criminal Court, where charges were made regarding the assassination of Sergeant Caral, it was expected that I would arrive on the scene any moment. But why should I? In order to aid in the unforgivable attempt of implicating myself in something of which I am completely innocent?

There was the testimony of only one witness against me, young Reinaldo Aranda. According to the police record, when shown a photograph of me among other persons, he pointed me out as looking like one of those he had seen firing, which in itself is rather imprecise. Afterward, that statement (which did not even definitely incriminate me) was retracted by the witness in the press and before a judge, Dr. Riera Medina, in a categorical, civic, and courageous manner, in spite of police reprisals and bribes. Thus, the witness received the judge's congratulations.

How can they still try to prosecute me after the only basis of guilt has been destroyed and it has become clear that the witness was bribed and coerced in order to force him to testify against me? Is it not necessary, after this very obvious attempt to hurt me, which has been denounced by the witness himself, that I should have some protection of my rights?

For the same reason that my arrest was ordered after the testimony of witness Aranda, who later declared that he was coerced to make it, the arrest of the authorities accused of coercion and bribery by the same witness ought to be ordered.

Statement made by Castro rejecting accusations of involvement in the assassination of the University of Havana police sergeant Oscar Fernández Caral. See *Introduction* in this volume. *Prensa Libre* (Havana), July 10, 1948.

I believe, honorable Judge Dr. Riera Medina, that my reasons are worthy of consideration. My distrust, Dr. Riera Medina, is based on the fact that Mario Salabarría some time ago came before you with the accusation against Emilio Tró made by a grocer in Vedado, who was almost beaten to death so that he would make the accusation. Afterward, a massacre took place which was supposedly justified by the order of arrest based on a criminal accusation.

On that occasion, before the direct accusation of a witness, you as judge had to limit yourself to ordering the arrest. You fulfilled your duty. But would you have ordered it had you known their intentions and the fatal result?

You are now hearing a similar case, which is even worse because the accusing witness himself has denounced the coercion he suffered.

In the present state of the proceedings, without any evidence against me, there is no reason whatsoever for me to be part of that trial. That is why I will not appear before you. At any rate, who offers me guarantees that the proceedings are going to be honest? I do not distrust you. Your reputation as an honest judge is recognized by all. But what about the others? After the recent distortion of evidence to make us look guilty, what can be expected? Everyone says that the case against Ginjaume¹ is very suspicious, especially after the recently revealed irregularities.

Who would be responsible, Dr. Riera Medina, if my arrest were ordered, obviously without reason, and "some police agents," at the service of treacherous interests that I have fought against, take advantage of the opportunity to assassinate me?

¹ Leader of the Unión Insurreccional Revolucionaria. Eds.

Against an Increase in Bus Fares (January 30, 1949)

Compañeros:

There are too many rumors circulating that some leaders of the FEU,¹ without its knowledge or consent, have held interviews in the "Vista Alegre" cafeteria with Mr. Saud Juelle, manager of bus lines

"Transporte: Ciudadano, Esconde Tu Kilo!" *Bohemia* (Havana), January 30, 1949, pp. 51, 54-55.

¹ Federación Estudiantil Universitaria. Eds.

21 and 22, and have accepted \$2,500 each to prevent the struggle against the raise in bus fares. . . .²

²On the twenty-fourth of January the Cooperativa de Omnibus Aliados (COA) had raised the bus fair to 1 cent per passenger. The decision of the government to support the increase brought about diverse reaction from the population. At the University of Havana, the members of the Comité de Lucha suggested that the FEU fight the increase. The rumors at the time told of COA financiers having paid some members of the FEU in order to get them not to protest the measure. During the meeting at the University, Castro raised the question, but due to the shouts from the audience he was not able to complete the speech. Castro, in turn, was energetically refuted by Orlando Bosch, president of the School of Medicine. See the same issue of *Bohemia*, p. 54. Eds.

Letter to Amador García Algorri
(December 1951)

Comrade in ideals:

It is Christmas, and with these lines I want to send my sincere greetings to you and your distinguished family.

Recent sad memories dim our happiness during this Christmas season, but new and hopeful signs are emerging from the heat of sacrifice.

For us there is only one possible way of looking for a New Year, and that is by recalling the words spoken by Martí on the last Christmas before he died for freedom: "For a suffering country, there is no New Year other than that of the defeat of its enemies."

With those words I close.

Sincerely,
Fidel Castro

Letter written in December 1951 to a senator of the Partido del Pueblo Cubano. "Fidel siempre fue Fidel," *Bohemia* (Havana), April 26, 1959, p. 149.

I Accuse
(January 28, 1952)

When *Alerta* announced just on time that the President had declared his intention of resigning, Prío called all the news media that very day to deny the news explicitly. However, it was true. Similarly, he had

"Yo acuso," *Alerta* (Havana), January 28, 1952.

denied at the beginning of his administration the news about a government loan while its terms were being discussed.¹ Similarly, he denied his intention to send troops to Korea while a special battalion was being trained, which for other reasons was not sent later.

When Chibás accused him of undertaking great business transactions involving the purchase of apartment complexes in the United States, the President covered his face, blushing like a vestal virgin innocent of sin, and asked for the excommunication of the harsh prosecutor. It was true, and one report of the Economic Commission uncovered the flow of millions out of the country. When Chibás accused him of backing the residential district developments in Guatemala and the lumber empire, this created the most colossal scandal known to political debate. Now we begin to learn the truth of that public denial.

The nature of the facts denied on each of those occasions made the immediate presentation of proof impossible at that time. The corrupt leaders believed they had discovered a new style of hiding their sins, which was to ask for proof of their immorality. They thought in that manner they could escape the public anathema, hiding themselves behind the screen of stock companies.

Very well, I have come today to denounce one of the greatest immoralities of Dr. Carlos Prío Socarrás in all its aspects, which alone could deny him the respect and consideration of our citizenry. It is as grave as to build in New York or to promote residential districts in Guatemala, the only difference being that it is happening here in Cuba; beforehand I challenge him to refute me, because this time I hold the accusation in one hand and the proofs in the other.

Here is the truth that I am attempting to disclose to the people.

At the beginning of his administration, a voracious appetite for land took hold of Carlos Prío. One after another a number of farms were acquired, each of which saw the construction of ostentatious palaces, swimming pools, airports, and a whole series of luxuries. In that manner "La Altura" and "La Chata" and others became famous. However, this was not enough; he then conceived the idea of acquiring a chain of the best farms and most valuable lands in the vicinity of Havana. They extend from Calabazar in the municipality of Santiago de las Vegas and past Managua in the municipality of San Antonio de las Vegas.²

Some public voices mentioned some of those farms, and others have never been mentioned. But, above all, the juridical condition of those lands was unknown: the name of the entity in which they appear

¹ Loan made in 1950 benefiting close associates of the President. Eds.

² In Havana Province. Eds.

registered, the procedures utilized, the "straw men" who represented the President, and perhaps something still far worse, what channels the President was using to promote those large landholdings.

All of these things I have come to uncover today, as one more stroke in the somber picture of corruption and moral decay which the people contemplate in the present regime.

The story of what I am going to tell dates back several years.

It was about mid-1944. On July 11, before officer René Alarcón of the Judicial Police, a mother announced that her nine-year-old daughter had been brutally abused. I will omit the names of mother and daughter, as well as any other data which could identify those persons. I will also omit other circumstances which, although helpful as demonstrations of the most repugnant and scandalous aspects of this crime, I will pass over out of respect for public sensitivity. The following day the Judge of Instruction of Marianao,³ Dr. Cabrera Lastre, made the facts known to the pertinent authorities, informing them that he had just opened Case No. 792 in 1944. The following day the same judge issued a warrant for the arrest of Emilio Fernández Mendigutía, considering that the facts related to the accusation had the character of a crime against morals, as foreseen and sanctioned in Article 482a of the Social Code. Bail was set at 3,000 pesos. On August 10, 1944, Emilio Fernández Mendigutía, who was immensely rich, appointed Dr. Amador Bengochea as defense lawyer.

On November 13 of that year at 1:00 P.M., the case began in court. But on April 25, 1945, in the midst of the trial, defense lawyer Dr. Amador Bengochea presented in writing to the court the statement that because of profound differences with the defendant, he was withdrawing from the defense. On that same day, Emilio Fernández Mendigutía presented a written statement to the Fourth Criminal Court which read

Having been notified yesterday that my lawyer, Dr. Amador Bengochea, has resigned from my defense due to differences with myself, I have come through this letter to appoint as my defense lawyer Dr. Carlos Prío Socarrás, with his law office in this city, "A" Street No. 66 in Vedado; he has accepted my defense and signed this letter as proof of his willingness.

At that date Grau was already governing the country, and Carlos Prío was Senator of the Republic, candidate for president, and one of the most influential persons of the regime.

On appointing him defense lawyer, the defendant was already thinking of taking all possible means to have himself vindicated.

³ Havana suburb. Eds.

But the Fourth Criminal Court, with a firmness which is a credit to that judicial branch, unflinchingly maintained its decision to administer justice.

On May 24, 1945, the Fourth Criminal Court, composed of justices Manuel E. Romeu, Rogelio Benítez Cárdenas, Jesús Rodríguez Aragón, found Emilio Fernández Mendigutía guilty and imposed the following sentence:

Considering that the proven facts constitute a crime, he is sanctioned to be deprived of liberty for six years with access to the special interdiction of exercising the right of passive and active suffrage and to fulfill any public position during the sentence. Likewise, we impose a civil obligation to indemnify the person injured, due to moral damages inflicted, with the sum of 10,000 pesos of official currency, being obliged to the payments of quotas and expenses if claimed, and also the sum of 1,000 pesos as payment to defense lawyer Dr. Carlos Prío Socarrás for services rendered.

The "concluding section" of the sentence I will not reproduce because of the sensibilities and scruples mentioned before.

The sentence was appealed on June 18, 1945. After several decisions, it was definitely upheld and ratified in all its parts by the Supreme Court of January 18, 1950, and on June 3 the Supreme Court ordered its fulfillment on July 20 of that year. But by that time Carlos Prío was President of the Republic, and ten days after—without the convicted man having spent one hour in jail—the Chief of State signed Decree No. 182 on August 1, 1950, published in the *Gaceta Oficial* on the fourth of that same month on page 15367, which stated in part the following:

In exercise of the powers conferred upon me by the Constitution at the request of the Minister of Justice and having heard the Council of Ministers:

I Resolve: to grant total amnesty to Emilio Fernández Mendigutía, pardoning him from what is left of the sentence of six years imposed on him by the Court of Appeals in its decision of January 18, 1950, dictated in Case No. 792 of 1944 of the Criminal Court of Marianao, as the performer of a crime as well as those accessories as the sentence points out. Given at the Presidential Palace, Havana, August 1, 1950.

(Signed) Carlos Prío Socarrás, President. Manuel A. de Varona, Prime Minister. Oscar Gans, Minister of Justice.

It was essential to relate the preceding because we shall see immediately its relation to the chain of farms acquired by President Prío between Calabazar and Managua.

The mere enumeration of these farms, their former owners and present ones, as well as the dates of purchase and the manner in which

they were given to a certain stock company will disclose the whole matter eloquently.

"Casas Viejas" Farms: Purchased by Emilio Fernández Mendigutía through adjudication in a public auction toward the end of 1943 and given to the Compañía Agropecuaria e Industrial "El Rocío," registered under title 405 before Notary Public Mario E. Pereira on September 10, 1946.

Gordillo Farm: Purchased in a public auction by Emilio Fernández Mendigutía toward the end of 1943 and given to Compañía Agropecuaria e Industrial "El Rocío" and registered under title 405 before Notary Public Mario E. Pereira on September 10, 1946.

San Francisco de Paula o Menocal Ranch: Fourteen *caballerías* of land, with boundaries on the north with the Potrero Lisundia farm, on the south with Potrero Piñales, on the east with Camino Real de Calabazar Barreto, on the west with Dr. Gabriel García's farm.

Formerly they were the property of the heirs of Francisco Otamendi y Durañona, acquired in a public auction by Emilio Fernández Mendigutía and given to Compañía Agropecuaria e Industrial "El Rocío," registered under title 405 before Notary Public Mario E. Pereira on September 10, 1949, and registered in the property registry of Bejucal on page 144, volume 87, dated January 18, 1947.

Galera and Cafetal Avelino Ranch: Thirteen and a half *caballerías*. Boundaries: on the north with the Llanes farm; on the south with Camino Real de Calabazar to Barreto, on the east with the Gavilán farm, and on the west with the San José coffee farm.

Just like the former, it was the property of Otamendi and Durañona's heirs, and it was acquired in public auction by Emilio Fernández Mendigutía and given to the Compañía Agropecuaria e Industrial "El Rocío" and registered in the property registry of Bejucal on page 73, volume 89, on January 18, 1947.

Carlos Prío began to control these farms as soon as he became President of the Republic. A highway that was supposed to go from Calabazar to Managua was constructed immediately, although not all the way to Managua but rather to the heart of those farms under the control of the stock company Compañía Agropecuaria e Industrial "El Rocío." Already by that date Mendigutía had been sentenced by the Court of Appeals of Havana and awaited the adverse judgment of the Supreme Court. It was evident that, taking refuge in the stock company "El Rocío," he had transferred the stock to Carlos Prío Socarrás, in whose hands lay the power to free him of his deserved punishment which was imposed by the courts. Long before receiving amnesty, he was appointed Civil Secretary for the President, a position

created just for him, thus becoming an intermediary of the regime for the acquisition of new farms in the surrounding area.

Thus, a year after Prío had been in power and in possession of the previously mentioned farms, Mendigutía, acting as the President's representative, purchased the farm "Pancho Simón," which was the property of Oscar García Montes, in title of sale No. 292 of July 18, 1949, before Notary Public Mario E. Pereira Gallardo, registered in file 52, volume 73, page 8. The tenant farmer who occupied that farm was brutally forced out.

On June 29, 1949, deed 545, before Havana's Notary Public Mario Recio, Prío's straw man Emilio Fernández Mendigutía acquired, from their owners Mmes. María and Guillermina Godínez of León, the farm "Lage" or "Mercedes" adjacent to the just-mentioned farms and with an extension of ten *caballerías* of land, bordering in the north Camino or Calzada of Havana; in the south the farm of Francisco Navarro, in the east the farm of Don Paulino Simón, and in the west the road of Puerto Escondido. It was inscribed in the property registry of Bejucal on page 138, vol. 78, and dated June 6, 1949. All this took place before the amnesty. Besides these farms, Carlos Prío has a mortgage of \$50,000, registered in his name in the registry of San José de las Lajas, on the farm "Amelia Maria" of twenty-seven *caballerías* owned by Mr. Gonzalo del Cristo.

Before concluding, I am going to cite some facts about the cultivation and forms of labor established on those farms, in order to unmask the First Executive of our nation.

They are administered by Army Lieutenant Marino Coy, who was a sergeant until the sixth of this month and year, when bypassing the military promotions system as a Christmas gift, President Prío promoted him. The labor in the fields, and this is a very weighty fact, is performed mainly by members of the armed forces. Approximately forty recruits from Managua Camp are sent daily by the Calabazar Highway to the farm, where they enter in a truck with official license plate number 2770. They begin work at 7:00 A.M. and leave at 5:30 P.M.

The stables are cleaned by national police officer Figueredo.

A soldier, Tejeda, takes care of horses.

A brother of the lieutenant-administrator, police officer Neno Coy, also renders his services in various ways.

Besides the soldiers, a dozen peasants from the area also work there. They are picked up before sunrise, at 5:30 A.M., beginning work at 6 A.M., and without rest they labor until 11 A.M. when a twenty-minute break is granted them to eat at the inn, where they must pay

50 cents; then, they return to work from 11:30 A.M. until 6 P.M. For almost twelve hours, they engage in wearisome labor such as shucking corn, piling rocks, and digging coal.

The farms produce essentially small fruits and fruit trees.

Extensive areas are dedicated mainly to the cultivation of sweet potatoes, vegetables, corn, and beans, which have been sold for up to \$18 and \$20 a *quintal*⁴ in the province of Havana.

Thirty-three acres are planted with coffee.

They have planted 7,000 Pestonit avocado tree grafts, whose high price due to their good quality is no less than \$30 each, for a grand total of approximately \$200,000. At the present time 10,000 holes are being dug to plant an equal number of Pestonit grapefruits.

There are two stables for dairies. In the old stable eighty-seven Hershey cows are milked, and in the new one are others of different breeds. Two hundred breed pigs are presently being raised. The barnyard animals run into the thousands. In machinery they have three bulldozers, around twenty tractors, and a turbine from the Ministry of Health used for irrigation.

Near the main entrance to the Gordillo farm a luxurious chalet is found for recreation, and beside it is a small barracks for the soldiers who guard the several farms.

The working conditions are truly horrible. The soldiers work under the direction of a lieutenant who resides in Rancho Boyeros; when he is not there, work is done under the direction of a corporal. On more than one occasion violent protests because of the hardships of the work have been manifested, and to such a degree that in order to subdue the workers into obedience the authorities have had to utilize persuasive methods and grant some improvements, such as time off Saturday afternoons, which they did not have before.

Worse still is the treatment of the workers who are watched by Lieutenant Coy, wearing a bayonet on his hip, taking advantage of his position as army man with authority that is, of course, arbitrary and tyrannical. The workers are paid only \$2.50 a day, from which we must subtract 50 cents for food and 20 cents which Lieutenant Coy's brother charges for giving them a ride to and from work. No peasant family lives on the farms: They all have been removed.

Everything I have stated is rigorously factual, and I invite an honest court to verify it, at whose disposal I will place the evidence that corroborates what I have presented here and demonstrates how Dr. Carlos Prío had no scruples as President of the Republic when he

⁴ One quintal equals 100 pounds. Eds.

lowered the dignity of his office and his professional decorum by granting amnesty as President to one he could not absolve as a defense lawyer.

I ACCUSE President Prío of prostituting the spirit of presidential pardoning, committing a crime of bribery punished by the Social Defense Code, by granting amnesty through self-evident gifts from the accused and becoming the owner, prior to granting amnesty, of the farms owned by the amnestee Emilio Fernández Mendigutía.

I ACCUSE the President of the Republic of violating labor laws and guarantees of social legislation by submitting the workers on his farm to the most iniquitous exploitation, with shifts of twelve hours of labor and miserable salaries under the direction of military foremen.

I ACCUSE the President of the Republic of mixing and lowering the function of the armed forces of the Republic, turning soldiers into laborers and peons and forcing them into slave labor, taking advantage of his office, putting them to produce for the benefit of his own particular patrimony.

I ACCUSE the President of the Republic of promoting the system of latifundia—proscribed by the Constitution—and contributing therefore to chronic unemployment through the substitution of paid workers by obligatory labor from soldiers.

I ACCUSE President Prío, finally, of betraying the high interests of the nation when intervening in the market as one more competitor in the production of milk, cattle, and agricultural products, produced at a lower price by not paying salaries, and of sacrificing the Cuban peasants for his own convenience.

