

CUBA RIDICULING HER BUREAUCRATS

Model' Office Shows Blind Channels of Command

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HAVANA, Oct. 27—A much-visited exhibit here suggests that the life of the Cuban bureaucrat is marked by biweekly illness, continual visits to the water cooler, a hot pursuit of office intrigue and a cold indifference to the public.

The exhibit is another of Premier Fidel Castro's battles against the bureaucracy that, according to the Cuban leaders themselves, has entrenched itself in wide sectors of the Government.

The reorganization of the Cuban Communist party at the beginning of this month, aside from its political aspects, has as a primary objective the creation of an instrument to discover and combat bottlenecks, red tape and even the corruption in the vast administrative apparatus.

"The sterile, unproductive bureaucracy is the opposite pole from Communism," Mr. Castro told a recent meeting of party leaders.

Two Aspects Deplored

"There are two aspects in which the bureaucracy is destructive," one official said recently over a three-hour lunch. "One is its incompetence, its paper-shuffling, its wasting of time. The other is the power it has, in an economy of scarcity, to decide who will receive and who will not."

The exhibit seems dedicated to the first aspect. It is a bureaucratic chamber of horrors, organized by the staff of Palante, Cuba's humor magazine.

It is a model of what purports to be the central offices of a mythical Government enterprise, the Consolidated Coffee-Counter and Hole-in-the-

Wall Administration.

The visitor is led through a complicated series of detours, simulating the endless corridors of a Government office, and passes signs with inscriptions such as: "Don't bother us," "You need another signature," "The man who decides this is on vacation," and "Lily is having lunch."

Semi-Detached Fellow

He passes a giant table of organization. It is headed by a Super Big Boss whose only connection with the rest of the organization is through three avenues labeled "Lolita," "Lily" and "Fifita."

Lolita supervises the Department for Saying No, the Rubber Stamp Office and the Impenetrable Files. Lily supervises the fourth vice president. Fifita does not supervise anything but she has influence.

This is made evident by the next exhibit, a Roster for Planned Illnesses. A notice beside the roster explains that unexpected sick leaves are hampering office work. Therefore, it continues, workers must now sign up to be sick.

Fifita Gets 7 Days Off

Of the 16 days shown on the roster, Fifita has seven. She is to have two colds, one visit to the chiropodist, one sore throat, a stomachache, a visit to the dentist and a day off to go with her aunt to the gynecologist.

Fifita is also in charge of collecting funds to buy a present for the Super Big Boss.

Further along, the visitor comes upon Fifita herself. She is a mannequin holding a cigarette and talking, in frozen immobility, into a telephone.

The exhibit ends with a notice to the employees. It warns:

"We must intensify our paper work to the maximum. There must be no laxity or favoritism on this point. We must demand more and more forms from everyone, without exception."