

Ousted Bosses Back at Chile's Plants

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SANTIAGO, Chile, Sept. 24 —The military junta has placed the vast majority of state-controlled factories and businesses back in the hands of the executives who ran them before the Government of President Salvador Allende Gossens was voted in to power.

During the late President Allende's three years in office, workers took control of many companies. These workers provided the militant backbone of the Allende Government, and put up the stiffest armed resistance to the military during the Sept. 11 coup that toppled it.

In the immediate aftermath of the coup, businessmen and politicians predicted that it would be politically difficult, if not impossible, for the junta to return the hundreds of state-controlled factories and business enterprises to private management.

Manager Returns

"I heard about my reappointment on the radio," said Cristián Bulnes, the general manager of Soprole, the largest milk company in Santiago.

"There were about 150 workers standing outside the plant when I arrived," he recounted. "But I walked past all of them, and I did not even think about being scared."

Soprole, which has about 380 employees, was taken over by the Allende Government last October when the company joined a general business strike in protest against the régime's political and economic policies. The Government dusted off a little used, 40-year-old law permitting the state to requisition companies when "breakdowns in supply" occur.

Military Junta Replaces Allende's Appointees at Seized Factories

In cases involving labor disputes, the Government appointed "interventors" to run companies for indefinite periods. And during the last weeks of the Allende régime, many companies were simply taken over by militant workers against the advice of more moderate leftists in government.

In all, about 350 private companies were brought under state control despite repeated court decisions declaring the take-overs illegal.

Production fell dramatically at almost all the businesses that came under state control. The inexperience of the interventors was considered partly to blame—the one at Soprole was a veterinarian and ranking Communist party official—but in most cases the declines were primarily attributed to the shortage of raw material.

In addition, many working hours were lost because of almost daily political meetings in

Pakistani Chair at Columbia

Ali Bhutto, Prime Minister of Pakistan, announced yesterday that a permanent visiting professorship in Pakistani studies would be established at Columbia University's South Asia Institute. The professorship, which is scheduled to begin in September, 1974, will be financed by the Pakistani Government "to bring about a better understanding of Pakistan," Mr. Bhutto said.

the companies. A number of workers in each factory were assigned full-time to committees on defense and industrial and public relations.

According to Mr. Bulnes, production at Soprole declined 20 per cent in the year the company was under state control—a figure confirmed by the interventors who ran it during that period.

But Mr. Bulnes does not expect a dramatic increase in milk production now that the company is back in private hands because of the disastrous state of dairy farms in the country and because the military government does not have the credits necessary to import enough powdered milk from abroad.

Since the return of Mr. Bulnes to Soprole, 22 employees have been suspended indefinitely.

Business Group Consulted

"Most of them came into the company after it was intervened," Mr. Bulnes explained. "We are consulting with the workers to weed out the extremists. My own impression is that the military Government wants production and labor discipline."

Although Mr. Bulnes discovered that he had been reappointed by turning on his radio, his name was not picked out of a hat.

When the military junta took over, it consulted the Chilean Society for Industrial Development—the most influential business association in the country—for a list of experienced people to run the companies that had fallen under state control during the Allende régime.