

# Chile Resorts to Book Burning

By Jack Anderson  
and Les Whitten

The military rulers of Chile, in an ugly attempt to stamp out ideas they don't like, are burning books.

Among the books that have gone up in flames is one written by Harvard's famed economist, John Kenneth Galbraith. Two books by the renowned Brazilian economist, Celso Furtado, also have been destroyed. One of them, "Development and Underdevelopment," is considered a contemporary classic.

The military junta began putting the torch to controversial books shortly after Marxist President Salvador Allende was deposed and killed in September, 1973.

At first, the military brass denied the book-burning charge, but pictures were produced of the literary bonfires. Then shame-faced Chilean officials conceded that some soldiers, in their counter-revolutionary zeal, had set fire to piles of "subversive" books.

Two years after the coup, however, we have established that books still are being destroyed systematically. A letter has been smuggled to us, for example, from the Valparaiso campus of the University of Chile.

"I am attaching for you," wrote an official to the university's administrative secretary, Dr. Eduardo Quevedo, "the books pertaining to this school's library which have been proscribed because of the political contents."

Quevedo obligingly submitted to the "custodian of the inventory" the "lists of books that must be proscribed from the school for political reasons." He asked the custodian to "devise the means for proceeding with their incineration."

On March 5, 1975, according to

another letter lifted from the files, the inventory chief "proceeded to comply with" the book-burning order.

The roster of forbidden literature, bearing the title, "List of Burned Books," included many books by Communist authors. But several non-Communist books, including Galbraith's "The New Industrial State" and Nobel Prize economist Gunnar Myrdal's "The State of the Future," also were reduced to ashes. In all, 60 volumes were tossed into the bonfire.

Footnote: We invited the Chilean embassy to offer its comments or rebuttals. Although we waited 15 days, the embassy was unable to obtain a response from Santiago. Chilean diplomats suggested unofficially, however, that the book burnings were the work of "minor" university officials who acted independently.

Our own sources, who are thoroughly familiar with Chile's university system, dispute this. The book burning would have been impossible, they said, without the knowledge and approval of the university's military supervisor.

**Hoffa's Revenge**—The disappearance of James R. Hoffa could lead to an intensive investigation of racketeer influence within the powerful Teamsters union.

The former Teamster boss vanished without a trace on July 30 after several mob leaders had tried unsuccessfully to persuade him to give up his struggle to win back control of the union.

The circumstances surrounding his disappearance have revived the interest of the Justice Department, Labor Department and Congress in the Teamsters. More than one investigation is

likely into the Teamster-Mafia connection.

FBI sources have confirmed, meanwhile, that our account of the Hoffa mystery is probably accurate. We reported on Aug. 21 that underworld sources, who have been reliable in the past, said Hoffa was eliminated by the mob to protect its hold on the Teamsters union.

Hoffa had dealt with the racket bosses, it was explained, but had never permitted them to dominate him. When he was sent to prison, he intended to continue running the union through his hand-picked successor, Frank Fitzsimmons.

But Hoffa was cut off from the union while in prison, and the mobsters took advantage of his absence to strengthen their stranglehold on various Teamsters locals. This allegedly has given them an inside track in handling some multimillion-dollar Teamster funds.

As we reported on Aug. 21, the racket bosses have held a dozen secret meetings with Hoffa in various parts of the country in an attempt to persuade him to retire from union politics. "Become an elder statesman," they urged him.

But Hoffa refused to back down. He was on his way to another meeting with mobsters, according to our sources, when he vanished. They wanted him out of the way so he wouldn't interfere with their Teamster operations. But he may get his revenge if federal investigators, as expected, start turning the union inside out.

**Pesticide Lobby**—The American Farm Bureau Federation and National Agricultural Chemical Association have joined together to form a powerful lobby, which is seeking to kill the Environmental Protection Agency's powers to keep

dangerous pesticides out of our food and water supplies.

A bill to give the Agriculture Department the final say on pesticide control has been introduced by Rep. W. R. Poage (D-Tex.) and Rep. William Wampler (R-Va.), both powers on the House Agriculture Committee.

Of course, the Agriculture Department has always been lenient toward pesticide use. The Poage-Wampler bill, therefore, would severely curb pesticide control.

We have now established that the Poage-Wampler bill was written, in part, by none other than the American Farm Bureau Federation and the National Agricultural Chemical Association.

We were puzzled for awhile about the lobbying effort of the National Environmental Development Association on behalf of the Poage-Wampler measure. But we have now discovered that the association is run by such dubious environmentalists as Ashland Oil, Pacific Gas and Electric, and the big fruit and vegetable growers.

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