

Merry-Go-Round

AUG 4 1964

**Latin President
Hears Strange Talk****Drew Pearson**

IT HASN'T LEAKED OUT of the diplomatic corps, but the president of Costa Rica while on a State visit to the King Ranch in Texas was so shocked at Fascist conversation that a protest was made to the State Department.

President Francisco J. Orlich and his party spent three days at the famous King Ranch, largest in the world. They enjoyed viewing its amazing operation of Santa Gertrudis cattle and its quarter horses. But they were dumbfounded to hear some of their hosts talk with glee about the assassination of President Kennedy as if it were a boon to the country.

In Costa Rica, Mr. Kennedy has been almost deified, and President Orlich was so upset over the gloating over his death that his party complained about it to State Department officials.

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OLD BOB KLEBERG, senior member of the family which owns the King Ranch, was the height of courtesy. He did not engage in any Fascist conversation; it was the younger members of the far-flung family who did.

The King Ranch covers 837,000 acres of Texas land. The Klebergs also operate ranches in Australia, Argentina, Peru, and up until seizure by Castro, a 30,000-acre

cattle ranch in Cuba. In Pennsylvania, the family owns the Buck and Doe Run Valley farm of 10,000 acres near Coatesville, while in Kentucky it owns a horse breeding farm near Lexington.

Various members of the Kleberg family came to the ranch for the Costa Rican visit, including Dr. Deaver Alexander of the University of Pennsylvania, who manages the King farm near Coatesville.

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JAMES CLEMENT, whose father was former chairman of the Pennsylvania Railroad, was also present, together with Bob Shelton, who married one of the Kleberg daughters and opened the family ranch in Argentina.

Also present was Mrs. Tobin Armstrong, who is married to a top Republican leader for Texas and a big Goldwater organizer. In fact, most of the Kleberg family were ardent Goldwaterites, except for the Alexanders, who as Pennsylvanians were loyal to Governor Scranton.

Richard Kleberg Jr. and his daughter were the most reactionary Goldwaterites. He is the son of the late Congressman of the same name for whom President Johnson served as an assistant when he first came to Washington.

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Correction — This column was in error in reporting that members of the Costa Rican President's party registered a formal complaint about Fascist conversation while being entertained at the King Ranch in Texas. Some of the Costa Ricans complained informally to State Department officials, but not formally. It was outside Texas guests who indulged in the right-wing conversation, not members of the Kleberg family, who own the ranch. The Klebergs were the height of cordiality, did not engage in political intolerance.

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SEPT 28 1964