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*Smith, Earl F. T.*  
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# AMBASSADORS' ADVICE OFTEN TAKEN LIGHTLY

## Ex-Envoy's Warnings on Castro Ignored

[Second of a series.]

Washington, June 22 (UPI) — An American ambassador far from home sleeps better if he is sure his information and advice go straight to the top—to the secretary of state and then to the President. But he can't always be sure, and some ambassadors have been frustrated because the right people weren't told the right things soon enough.

This recalls the strange story of Ambassador Earl F. T. Smith, who flew to Washington from Havana in November, 1958, and offered to wager \$100,000 he could prove Fidel Castro was a Communist. This was long before Castro had confessed his addiction to Marxism.

Fulgencio Batista still was president of Cuba, and Castro was leading a revolt and winning considerable sympathy from Americans who considered him a romantic Robin Hood trying to throw the bad guys out of office.

Tells All in Book

After Smith left the diplomatic service, he wrote a book, "The Fourth Floor," referring to the section of the state department inhabited by middle echelon officials. He thinks their mistakes aided and abetted Castro in turning Cuba into a communist nation.

Smith tells how he flew to Washington in 1958, went into a state department conference, and was asked whether Castro was a communist. He replied: "If I may have a jury of 12 unbiased people, I will be willing to put up \$100,000 that I can convince all the members of the jury within 24 hours that the Castro movement is infiltrated and controlled by Communists."

No Comment on Offer

"If I am unable to convince the jury, the money may be donated to any charity stipulated by the state department. The Communists are too smart to give us any one piece of all-conclusive evidence. I need 24 hours to explain the sources, significance, and consistency of the evidence which has built up in the last 18-month period."

"There was no comment on my offer and the discussion continued regarding the economic conditions on the island," Smith adds.

Smith cannot and does not claim he was the only man in the United States diplomatic service who suspected Castro was a Communist. He concedes agents of the state department and the central intelligence agency were sending warning notes to Washington from Cuba. But then he writes:

"This knowledge was not made available to the American people. I am now convinced that neither President Eisenhower nor secretary of State John Foster Dulles were provided with information available to officials in the state department and the CIA."

Cites Murphy Case

Diplomacy operates on a two-way street. Just as an ambassador sometimes can't make the state department see the light, so does the state department occasionally lose control of an ambassador and wind up red-faced and wearing a dunce cap.

This usually happens when an ambassador receives his appointment as a reward for strenuous services in a Presi-

dential campaign. He feels his services have won him a private pipeline into the White House and that the state department is nothing but a building filled with paper shufflers who can be ignored.

In 1953, Robert Murphy was head of United Nations affairs in the state department. There was a debate at the U. N. in New York on Korea. After a lengthy conference, the state department instructed Ambassador Henry Cabot Lodge to vote "yes" on the upcoming resolution. Next morning, Murphy picked up a newspaper and learned that Lodge had voted "no." In his book, "Diplomat Among Warriors," he says he got Lodge on the phone and this is what happened:

Murphy: "Apparently our instructions failed to reach you."

Lodge: "Instructions? I am not bound by instructions from the state department. I am a member of the President's cabinet and accept instructions only from him."

Murphy: "This is a new situation to me. I'll have to discuss it with the secretary."

Lodge: "Yes, do that. He will set you straight."

Situation Is "Awkward"

Secretary Dulles didn't exactly set Murphy straight. What he did do was say that "this is one of those awkward situations which require special consideration."

Such a spectacle of one foreign policy flowing from the White House and a contradictory one flowing from the state department is what makes the professional diplomats of such nations as Britain and France shake their heads in bewilderment and wonder what the United States is really up to.

If a British ambassador to the United Nations violated the orders of the foreign office in London, he would be packing his bags before sundown and heading for some hot, humid, unimportant diplomatic job somewhere in the far-flung British commonwealth. For the