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# Cuba to hold elections

By Stephen Kinzer  
Pacific News Service  
The people of Cuba will go to the polls this month for the first time since the 1959 revolution that brought Fidel Castro and his guerrilla comrades to power.

A series of elections beginning October 10 will lead to the establishment of local and provincial legislatures and a national parliament, to be known as the National Assembly of People's Power.

No longer in any apparent imminent danger, the Castro government is moving to give the people in decision-making in a manner unprecedented in modern socialism.

The seeds of "People's Power" were sown in 1970, after the failure of the 10-million-ton sugar harvest on which Castro had staked "the honor of the revolution." In a series of speeches after the harvest, Castro accepted responsibility for the failure and declared that Cuba needed to change its internal power structure.

In particular, he said the Communist Party had become far too in-

involved in the day-to-day administration of government, urging that it confine itself to providing broad political direction for the country but withdraw from administration. The Cuban revolution, he said, was entering "a new, more mature phase" — the democratization of the revolutionary process.

For five years, a group of leading Cubans, led by Blas Roca, a member of the Central Committee of the Party, and Dr. Denio Camacho, dean of the Law School at Havana University, worked to shape Castro's proclamations into specific proposals. The result was the approval last January of a national constitution, which Cuba had not had since the revolution.

As a result all Cubans over the age of 16 will be eligible to vote on October 10 for local representatives to 169 municipal assemblies. The electoral districts will be very small, giving voters a chance to meet each candidate personally.

In recent weeks, posters have begun appearing on walls and bulletin boards throughout Cuba display-

ing photographs and biographies of the candidates — the only form of campaigning permitted other than personal contact. Candidates run without party affiliation and may not spend money to campaign.

On October 28, the municipal assemblies will convene and elect from their number representatives to 14 provincial assemblies, which in turn will select the members of the National Assembly.

According to the new constitution, the National Assembly of People's Power "is the supreme organ of state power" and "is the only organ in the Republic invested with constituent and legislative authority." Previously, these functions had been the province of the Communist Party.

Members of the National Assembly will serve five-year terms, and all but those elected to leadership posts will keep their regular jobs.

The Assembly's first act after it convenes December 2 will be to elect, from among its deputies, a 30-member Council of State. The president of the Council of State will be head of state and head of government, appointing a cabinet and directing the government within the revolutionary socialist policy set by the party.

Precisely where the line of authority will be drawn between the party and the "organs of People's Power" remains to be seen.

**CASTRO'S ROLE**

Under the constitution, it appears that Fidel Castro will not be eligible to retain his post as prime minister unless he is elected to the Municipal Assembly of People's Power by his neighbors and then to the Provincial and National Assemblies by his fellow delegates. Even if he does seek election, he may plan to step down once he is convinced that the new structure of government is sound.

In any case, he is expected to retain his position as first secretary of the Communist Party.

In 1970, in one of Castro's first major statements on the process that was to become "People's Power," he said, "The revolutionary process itself has gradually revealed the inconvenience of bureaucratic and administrative methods."

Popular sovereignty, he confessed, "had taken a back seat — not through the fault of either the workers' organizations or the workers themselves but through our fault, the party's fault, the fault of the country's political leadership."

Castro emphasized that "our party's role cannot be — nor can it ever be — that of replacing the administration or the mass organizations. Without yet knowing what would be the final product of the process he was initiating, he pledged that the nation "will emerge stronger and more democratic than ever before" — it will be very strong because it will be very democratic.

The constitution gives broad powers to the National Assembly, including the power to pass and repeal laws, to approve the national budget, to declare war, to name the attorney general and to approve "the principles of the system for planning and the management of the national economy."

Municipal and provincial assemblies are given similar administrative authority, combining executive and legislative powers. According to the constitution, they will "direct economic, production, and service units . . . and provide economic, cultural, educational and recreational services."

These delegates, serving for two-and-a-half years, will also retain their regular jobs.

Cuban leaders admit they are not certain how successful "People's Power" will be or what new problems it may create, but they are clearly convinced that the administration of government should be under popular electoral control.

## Letters

Who was rude at Houston?

Editor:  
Two weeks ago there was a letter to the editor from a girl complaining about the rudeness of two Kansas State football trainers during the halftime induction of the new members into the Hall of Fame. I agree with her that I was proud to be an Aggie at that game; I wish I could say the same about the University of Houston game.

After Houston's third extra point, the Aggie fans wouldn't return the football to the field. A Cougar manager asked them to give the ball back, but they refused. The manager had to get a policeman and they had to go into the stands to retrieve the ball.

Personally I was embarrassed, and I think it was a childish display of unsportsmanlike conduct. Just because we're not winning the game, we're still supposed to act like "good Ags."

Maybe some people thought it was funny and cute, but I wonder how many would think the same if it had happened at Kyle Field.

Wanda Weatherly, '79

Slouch

by Jim Earle



"I've had a number of students who have had to be absent to participate in the centennial festivities. Have you heard anything about a pool shooting exhibition as part of the convocation activities that would require a student to miss class?"

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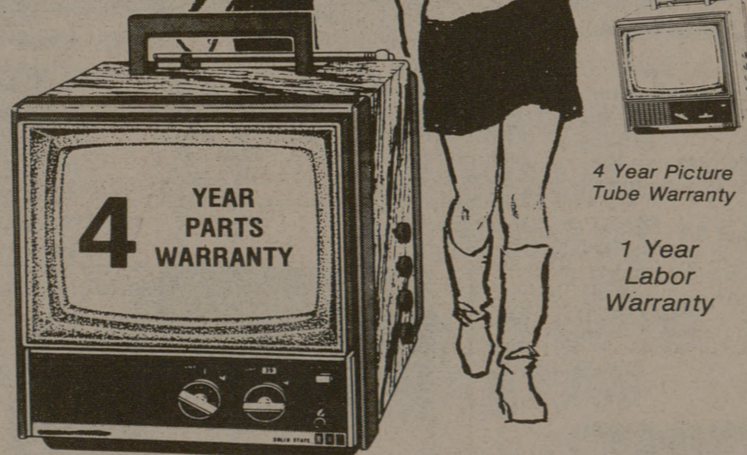
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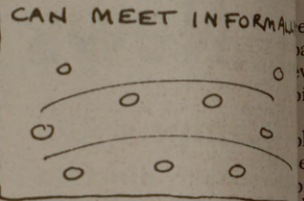
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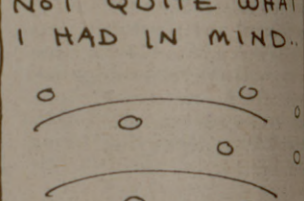
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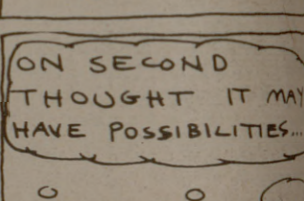
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