

FREEDOM EMBARGO

I am a native of Miami having lived here before the arrival of the Cuban Exodus. I feel obligated to comment when pompous men of social stature impose their own Sugarcane Curtain censoring freedom between America and Cuba; especially when some justify their views by stating how long they've been in exile here; which apparently is a license to lecture others as to politically correct views on "*amargo*" (sour) embargoes and the immigration of favoritism.

Despite the etiquette of émigré guests squatting on the host, and who's been here longer – such reasoning is the slippery slope of tensions within the human family because some tribe has always been here before us. Still, it's troubling when I hear some, "*old school*" Cubans of economic and social prominence, drunk with success in America, feeling entitled to lecture others who question the justification of the souring effects of painful embargoes; or look down upon other Cubans of lower racial and economic stature they label as lazy and criminal; worse, derogatorily calling other Latin immigrants "*Indians*" that they feel owe them; and of course the disappeared neighborhoods of Haitians and African-Americans. But when these beneficiaries of American generosity call President Kennedy a coward, I'm compelled to write this commentary on the attitudes among some "*old liners*" that I encounter with regularity at sidewalk cafés on Key Biscayne, where wealth, ill got, or earned, tries to insulate itself from the nation's realities.

Many citizens believing in the idealism of the natural rights of freedom, are tired of their right to be at liberty to go anywhere, and speak with whomever we please, embargoed by the traumatized vengeful trying to reinstitute a romanticized world of feudalism, which for most Cubans was poverty held in place by some oppressive notion of aristocracy with rights to the people. But, a small group lost their plantations with servants, they dream of reclaiming the nostalgia of those relations; yet a way of living that had small children defecating worms in the sugarcane and tobacco fields. It is a failed economic and social model whose ethical thought is first for riches of estate building at the expense of the trapped poor – the majority that end-up supporting revolutions fanned by extremist ideologues whether fascist or communist – and the Cuban Revolution was such a case. However the idea that a small group wants to reinstate themselves and a failed system by starving out their own to get at one of their own, an educated man of the same class, is clearly immoral – hence impractical. Cubans and many other Americans on both sides of the Sugarcane Curtain are tired of an embargo that punishes millions of people to get at one, old, decrepit mummy of a man. Death comes for all, including Castro; but a new revolutionary generation is coming online that can combine practical social democracy with free enterprise that rejects the vulgarities of both communism thwarting individual incentives to create, and capitalism usuriously exploiting people as things in the pursuit to monopolize creativity. It seems these two ideologies share a lot in common?

Miami was always destined to grown into an international destination given its geographical location, yet unfortunately, the elite Cubans openly state they built the infrastructure in Miami making it a destination



BY HUBERT KLEINPETER, PHD

point for all others, a partial truth which is used in conversation as a justification to holding racial and class attitudes against poorer Cubans and other immigrants. It is as though the “*old school*” Cubans are in competition to prove their worth to be Americans. It is indicative of a psyche in love with American society, yet contemptuous of it when I hear Cuban elites playing the stereotype card by complaining how they are treated by the “*white man’s rule book*,” – by “*Anglos*,” as they are called. So – as good Americans they too subject others to their notions of what ought to be in the rule books.

All societies have political rule books and the loving Cuban people brought some baggage endemic to their cultural rules which have been replicated in Miami; they are a traumatized people suffering the hang-over from an oppressive political concoction of their own making – Uncle Fidel Castro – another in a long line of “*caudillos*,” a despotic Latin character that personifies the worst of the stereotypical Cuban disposition – a “*bocona*,” a “*bigmouth*” of a man meaner than the sea since many put to sea. Cuban society was feudal, having limited experiences at democracy with nationalists reacting to Spanish colonialism, then followed by a series of “*caudillos*,” strong men enforcing their politics of control. Similarly, that political immaturity of brute control flowered a bit in Miami in the form of political, social, and economic battles of domination; in this case, a particular group dreaming of imposing economic dominance over Old Cuba and cultural dominance over New Cuba in Florida. Perhaps the penchants of egoism are why former Senator Mel Martinez, an emigre child turned fascist, lectured me in an email that the US does not torture people. Despite credible facts, of course he was right and everybody else wrong.

Politics of any persuasion that extort agreements are bad for business, best to be a neutral nation when operating among nations whatever their beliefs; and most Americans and companies want to operate as neutrals because they know embargoes obstruct open trade along a nation’s frontier – a nexus of good and bad change, for whoever controls the flow inward has an impact on internal political issues. Besides the embargo solidifies Castro’s despotic reasoning by demonizing the Americans as the culprit – and we are not – only a small group in Miami confused as to divided loyalties to which state – the US or Cuba they serve. It is a form of authoritarian imposition of a view not to be questioned by others. Others who point-out that Cubans are free to come here and advocate a view that many disagree with, then taking freedom from Americans to be at liberty to travel, think and say what we feel about extremists in Miami holding the nation hostage. Many Cubans claiming to be democratic don’t even recognize their own little tyranny of fascism replicated in little Havana and projected outward onto a tired nation wanting unobstructed change.

Most Cuban people are good citizens, yet their “*old school*” leaders are their own worst enemies when insisting on imposing narrow views – that heavy handedness is generally disliked by other immigrants and citizens who feel left out of the “*gangster*” like politics of social power. Miami in the early 60s was a safe paradise with modest homes, open windows with tropical breezes, swaying palms, and a bay teeming with tropical fish and conchs. Now with many an exiled exodus in residence, the once picturesque landscape is paved over with each dwelling resembling a small jail with bars securely on the windows to protect a new found form of imported fascism. The smart don’t like bars on windows because one can be burned alive in the dwelling. So let us build walls and bars, but leave the liberty of Americans alone to freely travel and trade with Cuba. Like the free people we are told we are, but in reality not, extremist views hold us prisoners in our own homes – our nation of many nationalities which some have forgotten. But like the ignorant putting bars on windows, perhaps now all will parish behind those bars when they remained silent when the right to travel freely was buried – when that theft of liberty occurred by elites that came with their “*dry feet*” from one tyranny to construct another. Like fascists, they lecture about freedom while silencing others the right to freely deal with Cuba to build relationships necessary for Cuba to move from despotism to a hybrid blend of ethical capitalism harnessed to modern social democracy.