

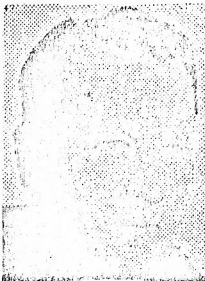
THE PLAIN DEALER

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GEORGE E. CONDON

How Not to Win Friends and . . .

Whatever people may think about Cyrus Eaton's political and social philosophy, nobody is likely to accuse him of being a man who cannot see the forest for the trees; not since the Cleveland Electric Illuminating Co.'s hired hatchetmen went on a raid in the industrialist's Acadia woods and toppled more than 400 of his ancient timbers.



CONDON

The domestic crisis brought on by this action has not diverted Eaton's eyes from the foreign scene, however. The 87-year-old Cleveland financier took time off just a week or so ago to pay a friendly visit to the new Marxist president of Chile, Salvador Allende. His reaction to that visit was given to the nation on the NBC-TV program, "Today," and it included several observations which likely will find favor among an awfully large number of Americans who usually find themselves at variance with the Eaton philosophy.

EATON SUGGESTED, for instance, that the United States likely would get along better with the new Chilean government if it removed the CIA agents who, he alleged, are "spread across the South American country."

Most Americans are, by nature, by instinct, and by tradition, opposed to the cloak-and-dagger type of governmental spying and surveillance, whether at home or abroad.

Not many citizens will subscribe to the idea that the United States needs a network of CIA agents in Chile, Transylvania, Iceland or anyplace else. Our diplomats abroad used to keep Washington apprised of foreign affairs in a satisfactory manner, at

a lot less cost, and without anywhere near the degree of friction caused by professional spies.

EATON SAID something else that deserves careful consideration.

"The true test of capitalism will be in the United States," said this capitalist, "but for the system to work we cannot spend money like drunken sailors to impose our ideas over the globe."

American taxpayers who live in a home society which is beset by financial problems, and who see vividly how much good could be done at home with the billions of dollars which are being disbursed abroad by the United States in a game of international bribery which we cannot hope to win, probably will agree with Eaton's view—even if not for the same reasons.

But it seems to me that his idea is worth trying out, and, as a matter of fact, I should like to suggest a starting point. If we should begin hacking back foreign aid, I can't think of a better place to begin than in South America—Chile, for example, would be a splendid country to lop off the relief role, if it is on it.

ECUADOR IS THE nation which is scheduled to receive \$29 million from big-hearted Uncle Sam this year. Ecuador also is the nation which, claiming dominion over Atlantic coastal waters up to 200 miles from its shore, recently has seized (at the last count) 14 American fishing vessels—for whose release the United States has paid ransom thus far totaling between \$500,000 and \$700,000.

If we needed any evidence that money will not buy friendship, it is plain to see in the overt Ecuadorian hostility. But if our statesmen play our cards right, perhaps they can persuade the Ecuadorians to accept our millions, even if they don't really like us.

Foreign aid

CIA

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