

THE ESSENCE OF CUBA'S PROBLEM

By Norman S. Casserley

WHEN the blood and sweat of revolution have thinned away, when the ecstasy of newly born freedom yields to the mechanical reality of everyday economics, who will have benefited most by the Castro revolution? It cannot be the poverty pounded peasants, for the overthrow of dictatorship has never yet been accompanied by the overthrow of poverty. In Cuba, as in other countries, the ultimate cause of poverty is the monopoly of natural resources.

Take, for example, the greatest of all natural resources, land itself. Who owns the life-giving land on which Cuba's sugar is grown? Not the people of the nation, though it is called the nation's land. Not the sweating masses who work the soil, though some of them had their fingers torn off and their eyes plucked out for "their" land. Even Cuba's "capitalist" corporations do not own the land on which their sugar cane is raised. The richest lands and mines of Cuba, together with the valuable land on which its very cities rest, are all owned by a

few monopolists.

Monopoly of natural resources is the grandfather of all monopolies. It dictates the prices of all products. It commands how much of a laborer's production is given back to him in wages. It results in a rising cost of living and a falling purchasing power in money — in one word, inflation. Thus the entire life of any country is controlled by economic monopoly.

Abolition of a particular dictatorship will, of course, temporarily provide a trickle of progress. Cuban wages will go up a fraction in time. Political freedom may blind the masses to economic monopoly, so that their new achievements will trick them into producing more — in order to pay for the increased rents that will be charged for monopolized sugar lands and other natural resources. In short, the monopolists of natural resources will gain the most benefit from Castro's hard-won revolution.

Cuba, this is your next challenge. People everywhere, this is the real battle of economic life.



CONGRESS ON BALANCED LIVING

The Fourth Congress on Balanced Living will be held at Earlham College, Richmond, Indiana, August 28 to 30, 1959. The theme will be "The Nature and Fulfillment of Human Desires."

Co-sponsoring the congress will be the American Humanist Association of Yellow Springs, Ohio; American Natural Hygienists of St. Louis; Cornelian Corner of Detroit; Henry George School of Social Science, New York; Friends of the Land, Zanesville, Ohio; and School of Living, Brookville, Ohio. Panels of leaders and invited specialists will analyze the physical, social and personal aspects of human desires, and propose ideas and measures which will be helpful in fulfilling those desires. Co-sponsorship by the participating organizations does not necessarily imply approval or disapproval of the programs of other groups.