

help in the United States, and France and England hesitated to support the canal project openly. Without an official guarantee from any government, moreover, European investors would not part with their money. The vagaries of Central American politics, the unscrupulousness of partners, and the manipulations of bankers were additional contributors to the so-called "Belly Fiasco."

Allen has exposed a key incident in the diplomacy after a wide search for documentation throughout the world. Among other sources, he has effectively used the papers of General Mirabeau Buonaparte Lamar, the erstwhile president of Texas, who served as a minister plenipotentiary in Central America. The new light that Allen throws on the foreign policy of the Buchanan administration is particularly noteworthy; so is the infectious enthusiasm he brings to the topic. It is indeed unfortunate that he has weakened his contribution by a poor presentation of the materials. The text bogs down in needless details and asides; quotations are weakly introduced; and many issues and pertinent questions are raised and then left dangling, perhaps because there was too much emphasis on Belly's own works and the *New York Herald*. Also there is no index, and the maps are totally inadequate. Further the title is misleading, for the book does not provide a meaningful analysis of French influence in Central America before Belly's appearance.

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My Fourteen Months with Castro. By RUFO LÓPEZ-FRESQUET. Cleveland, 1966. World Publishing Company. Appendix. Index. Pp. xvi, 223. \$4.95.

Rufo López-Fresquet was Minister of the Treasury in Castro's first revolutionary government, holding office from January 1959 to March 1960. Late in October 1960 he fled Cuba and now lives in Puerto Rico. His memoirs of this period were commissioned by the Hoover Institution on War, Revolution, and Peace at Stanford as part of a continuing project designed to collect the impressions and analyses of key Cuban exiles. This background information is important, for if the reader expects to find a work of scholarship here, he will certainly be disappointed. López-Fresquet's book is an interesting and at times a useful account of one insider's impressions of Castro and the early months of his rule. But it is neither history nor even a historical document of note. It is a memoir, and as a memoir it must be judged.

Fortunately, because López-Fresquet belongs to the group of exiles who understood the poverty of United States policy in Cuba, the bru-

tality of the Batista regime, and the reasons for Castro's spectacular early successes, we are spared the ultra-conservative fantasies which sometimes pass for analyses of these phenomena. However, since the author believes himself under attack or about to be attacked by conservatives, he spends entirely too much time justifying his own participation in the Castro government. He evidently feared that those on the right would accuse him of being either a dupe or a traitor.

As a consequence of this defensiveness, we get too little memoir and too much self-congratulation and flogging of dead issues. The author is at his best recounting his experiences in those early and frantic months when he tried to impose some semblance of fiscal order on a treasury bankrupted by Batista and plagued by the caprices of Castro and his lieutenants. The book is much less satisfactory when López-Fresquet plays sociologist, historian, or apologist. The sociology does not add to what others have said; the apologies are not needed; and at times the history is inaccurate. For instance, the author lists Armando Hart, one of the nineteen "founding fathers" of the fundamental law of 1959, as no longer holding high office in Cuba (p. 77). Hart, however, became not only Minister of Education under Castro, but later secretary for organization of the Communist Party. He is currently a member of both the central committee of the party and of the polit-bureau or party "steering committee" and has been for years one of the six or eight most important men in Cuba. Despite such occasional lapses, however, most of the narrative rings true.

In sum, *My Fourteen Months with Castro* is a useful book. It is not history; it is not sociology; it is not even vintage memoir. But given the paucity of serious writing and trustworthy documentation on the Cuban revolution, we need all the help we can get. And this book, although seriously flawed in some respects, is nevertheless of some help in understanding those critical fourteen months. This is more than can be said for the writings of most other exiles.

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Papeles de Pedro F. Bonó. Para la historia de las ideas políticas en Santo Domingo. By EMILIO RODRÍGUEZ DEMORIZI. Santo Domingo, 1964. Editora del Caribe. Academia Dominicana de la Historia. Index. Pp. 636. Paper.

Pedro Francisco Bonó (1828-1906) was one of the most respected men in the history of the Dominican Republic. A businessman, lawyer, and planter, he moved in and out of politics as duty, rather than ambition dictated. In moments of greatest danger to the nation Bonó