

## Dutra Wins

By Virginia Prewett

From her column in the Chicago Sun

**B**RAZILIANS are trying to figure out how the December 2 super-democratically honest and orderly elections could result in the endorsement of men who have denied Brazil a democratic government for half a generation.

In the first presidential vote in 15 years, conservative General Eurico Gaspar Dutra, supported by the ousted dictator-president, Getulio Vargas, rolled up what appears to be an insurmountable majority over Major General Eduardo Gomes, the democratic hope, and two lesser candidates.

To understand what happened it is necessary, first of all, to consider Brazil's country and city vote separately.

In the country districts the Jose Linhares government, installed by a bloodless army coup on October 29, did not have time to root out the well-entrenched Vargas machine which originally launched Dutra and swung in behind him at Vargas' command on the eve of the election.

In the country, it is conceded even by Gomes' followers, the votes for Dutra were really votes for Vargas.

Vargas' hold on the Brazilian people is based primarily on 15 years of intensive propaganda, topped off by a complete official shutdown on

all criticism of him from November, 1937.

Late in 1939, the active press department started to create a cult of near-worship of Vargas as "the father of his people."

The state-controlled radio in remote sections dinned this into the people incessantly, with the result that rural Brazilians, who make up approximately half of the electorate, have scarcely heard of any other national figure.

The strongest point of Vargas' program with the poor everywhere was his custom every now and then of ordering wage increases.

Vargas' conspicuous failure to control prices adequately, meanwhile, launched Brazil on the road to inflation, which annulled the wage increases, but Brazilians in general did not even realize this.

Gomes' failure to win the cities where it was expected he would have a walkaway was due to a combination of factors, including his own campaign mistakes.

Until the October coup, his backers never really expected elections to be allowed and only started in earnest a little over a month before the date for voting.

In the final phase of the campaign a series of political moves cut much ground out from under Gomes' feet. The communists launched a civilian

nominee, Yeddo Fiuza, which split the democratic vote.

Meanwhile, an intense whispering campaign against Gomes was started. First of all, it was said he was anti-Negro and intended to "send them into the interior." Second, the attitude that the illiterate masses were not able to vote was distorted into a charge that Gomes said the working man did not count.

These charges at the last minute swung the vote which had been revolted by the expose of Fiuza into the Dutra column.

Brazilians on the whole are proud of their good showing in bringing off a reputable election.

There still exists a possibility that Vargas' forces may wangle some kind of legalized coup to return him to power through congressional action.

Or it could take the form of an early Dutra resignation and the holding of new elections with Vargas as a candidate.

In such a case, Vargas' opponents say they would abandon their present attitude of acquiescence.

*Soviet policy is successful*

## Iron Curtain on Iran

By Jay G. Hayden

From his column in The Detroit News

**S**TATESMEN and journalists of other countries may rail against Russia's black curtain of censorship, but none can deny that from the standpoint of the new Moscow imperialism, communist style, it works.

The latest illustration is the Soviet's amazingly swift and successful demarche in Iran.

One of the things that all newspaper correspondents visiting Iran during the war marveled at was the line between American and Russian zones of occupation, which no American soldier or civilian was permitted to cross even to deliver lend-lease goods.

Iran was a main avenue of American supply to Russia. War

equipment, food, gasoline and other vital commodities, together with brand new motor trucks to carry them, were landed at Iranian ports. American Army drivers conducted these goods several hundred miles to points just short of the line of Russian occupation. There Russian drivers took over and we saw no more of either goods or trucks after they passed beyond eyesight in the direction of Russia.

The Iranian territory which the Russians thus shut off from American or other foreign observation for four years is the province of Azerbaijan, which just now has undergone an alleged popular revolution, detaching it from control of the Iranian shah.

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