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THE DAILY WASHINGTON MERRY-GO-ROUND

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and "More Merry-Go-Round".

HOW DAVILA SPARED STIMSON FROM BEING
"WRONG HORSE HARRY" AGAIN IN CHILEAN
REVOLUTION--- FOUNDER OF SOCIALIST
REPUBLIC NOW LIVING IN NEW YORK

WASHINGTON---Many Latin American diplomats, and even a lot of Americans who have been going up to New York lately have had as one of the reasons for their trip a call at a modest apartment on East Eightieth Street. The apartment is furnished in a subdued modernistic style by a woman who has spent most of her life wanting to take care of her own house, but whose official duties never allowed her to do so.

For her husband is Carlos Davila, of Chile, founder of the first Socialist Republic in the Western Hemisphere, and now for the first time both she and her husband are doing just exactly what they want to do.

Davila for many years was Chilean Ambassador in Washington, and one of the most potent and scintillating personalities in the diplomatic corps. Not content with the cloistered social life of the routine diplomat, Davila got to know his United States. He went on air junkets out to the Middle West. He got acquainted with American student life at the University of Missouri. He went on the Chautauqua platform and saw something of America's Main Street. A former newspaperman, he worked until three or four every morning and took his exercise about the time the milk-man was making his rounds before dawn.

DAVILA resigned his ambassadorship when President Ibanez was overthrown, and returned to Chile to found a weekly newspaper called "Hoy" --- Spanish for "To-Day" --- which was patterned after "Time." With it he influenced the Chilean Army and eventually won it over to his cause.

Two major revolutions and two minor ones make Davila one of the most experienced experts on government turnovers in this part of the world. Regarding the last one, which put him out of the presidency, there is an untold story of how Davila saved Henry L. Stimson, U.S. Secretary of State, from increasing his prestige as "Wrong Horse Harry." Stimson, it will be recalled, had bet on the wrong Brazilian Government just one day before it was overthrown, and in Chile he was about to do the same thing.

It happened that the United States and Great Britain both had informed Davila they would recognize him as president of Chile if he would sign a statement promising to rescind a previous law seizing foreign deposits in Chilean banks. Davila did not agree with the law and did not enforce it, but he refused to sign such a statement or to place any condition whatever upon his recognition.

So the State Department withheld recognition, eventually giving as its reason the excuse that Great Britain would not recognize Davila. The British, on the other hand, withheld recognition largely because they knew Davila was pro-American.

Finally, after Davila had been in office several months, the State Department changed its mind. It instructed Ambassador William S. Culbertson to extend recognition whenever he deemed it expedient. Culbertson brought this information to President Davila.

"My friend," Davila replied, "you have been very good to me in the past. I want to save you from making a mistake. It would be a mistake to recognize me now. I may not be in office three or four days from now."

Ambassador Culbertson expressed amazement.

"Don't ask me any questions," Davila told him. "Just wait."

President Davila knew at that time that opposing political parties had been working on the army, taking the officers out in small groups and gradually poisoning their minds against him.

Exactly four days later he resigned. //

THE DAVILA FAMILY had been living in constant strain all during this period. Before Davila became president they had to remain in hiding for many months. So on the day her father resigned, Violetta, his nine-year-old daughter, jumped into the deposed president's arms.

"Daddy, I am so glad you aren't going to be president any more," she cried. "Now we can see something of you."

Her father had been working on an average of twenty hours a day.

Senora Davila lost fifteen pounds during that period. Now that she is in New York she says she doesn't want to regain it. That is about the only thing she liked about the revolution.

Davila was the first president of Chile to resign and not flee from the country. He remained in Santiago as a private citizen for twenty days before sailing for New York.

Now Senora Davila is having the time of her life painting, fixing up her apartment, and living the bohemian life she has always wanted to live. She has no embassy dinners to worry about, nor any presidential cares. She would rather be in New York as a private citizen than wife of the president of Chile.

Ambassador Davila also is enjoying life. He is almost as active as he was when in Chile. But there are reports that things are not going so well in Santiago and that he may be called back. For the time being, at any rate, Violetta and Luce, his two daughters, are enjoying life and getting the most out of their daddy.

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