

Speaker 65:

Did you say that Cuba is better than the United States? Did you make that statement?

Eddie Lemansky:

No, I didn't make that statement.

Speaker 65:

Did someone there make that statement?

Student Speaker 11:

Jerry said it.

Jerry Weinberg:

Yeah, I said it.

Speaker 65:

You said that Cuba is better than the United States, yet you're a resident of the United States?

Jerry Weinberg:

I love the United States, too.

Speaker 65:

Do you plan to do anything specific to improve the United States in your own eyes?

Jerry Weinberg:

You'll see, [inaud].

Eddie Lemansky:

Well, I agree with that statement. Now, what I intend to do is to fight for socialism in this country because the reason that the Cuban revolution has provided a better way of life for the Cuban people, the reason that the Cuban people are living better than anyone in Latin America, and the reason that they have more control over their own lives than the people in this country, is because they've had a socialist revolution. And that's what I'm going to fight for in this country. That's what I intend to do.

Phil Clark:

How do you explain the fact that over 200,000 Cubans have voluntarily escaped from Castro's Cuba?

(Several students respond at once. A quiet discussion takes place for a few moments.)

Eddie Lemansky:

Just a minute. Okay. Go on. I'm sorry.

Phil Clark:

I'm just wondering why -- how you can explain why over 200,000 Cubans have voluntarily fled from Castro's Cuba to freedom in the United States since he took over in '59.

Student Speaker 12:

Freedom?

Student Speaker 13:
Freedom?

Charles Berrard:
What freedom, man?

Phil Clark:
For example, just the other day, a half dozen escaped on an inner tube, even risked their lives to try to make it across the Caribbean.

Eddie Lemansky:
Well, if you see that what they escaped to was freedom, if you believe that freedom exists in this country, then you're wrong.

Phil Clark:
I have one question to make, and that do you suppose if you were denouncing Castro that you could stand up here in Havana at the airport and say the same kind of things against the Castro regime you're saying against the United States regime here?

Student Speaker 14:
Yeah!

Student Speaker 15:
They do it all the time, the people there.

Phil Clark:
You want to try it?

Eddie Lemansky:
I don't believe it. Why should I say it? Now, look, you know, we can stand here, you know, shouting back and forth and people yelling and, you know, guys crossing each other up. It's getting late. Now, you might want to direct a couple of questions to some of the other gentlemen up here, and all of the other people who are in this room and who are outside all have plenty of things to say. And I think maybe we should, you know, end this fairly soon because it's getting late, and then you can talk to anybody you please.

Speaker 66:
Mr. Lemansky, this is a selfish question, but I want ask it because you have everybody here. Can you tell me if there is anybody who is a Long Island resident that is on one of these two planes. Right there? Okay. Just one? Thank you.

Eddie Lemansky:
Well, this isn't the whole group. They wouldn't let everybody in. They said it was space.

Speaker 66:
Okay. Very good. Thank you.

Speaker 67:

Mr. Lemansky, could I just ask you to repeat your statement about your Communist Party affiliation.

Eddie Lemansky:

No, man, why don't you listen? I said I was a member of the Progressive Labor Movement.

Speaker 67:

Our camera wasn't --

Eddie Lemansky:

No. No. No. No. No, I didn't say anything about the Communist Party. I said I'm a communist. The Progressive Labor Movement is a communist organization. It is not the Communist Party. And I am a member of that, and I'm proud to proclaim that I am a communist and that I am a member of Progressive Labor Movement and that I do everything that I'm capable of to bring socialism about in this country.

Speaker 67:

Thank you. (Students applaud)

Speaker 68:

I still would like to hear the answers to what would happen to you if you were to perform in Havana [inaudible 14:30].

Charles Berrard:

I'd like to know if there are any questions that are specifically addressed to me, because I have better things to do.

Speaker 69:

You were in Cuba at the time the Civil Rights Bill was passed here in the United States. (Students laugh.) [Inaudible 14:45] reported at all in the Cuban press?

Charles Berrard:

Thoroughly.

Speaker 69:

How was it received by the Cuban people?

Charles Berrard:

Thoroughly.

Speaker 69:

How was it received by you students?

Charles Berrard:

It was reported thoroughly in the Cuban press. And how was it received by the group? I think this group has various political opinions and orientations in regard to Cuba as well as the Civil Rights Bill. As far as I'm concerned, I think the civil rights bill is completely ineffective.

Phil Clark:

When does Castro intend to have an election in Cuba?

Eddie Lemansky:

When the people want it. They have elections in Cuba.

Charles Berrard:

Any others directed to me because --

Speaker 70:

Mr. Berrard, are you a member of any of the Negro organizations in the United States?

Charles Berrard:

I was a member of Los Angeles Corps.

Speaker 70:

Corps?

Speaker 70:

You are no longer a member?

Charles Berrard:

I am not in Los Angeles.

Speaker 70:

Are you going to join any of the new organizations or any of the old organizations either, for that matter?

Charles Berrard:

None of the old organizations.

Speaker 70:

Which of the new organizations?

Charles Berrard:

Well, there are no new organizations that -- I-- organized new organizations that I can speak of right now that I would like to join, but there are people, thousands of Negroes throughout the country who -- black nationalists as I consider myself -- who are beginning to organize, and there are definite signs of organization throughout the country.

Speaker 71:

Mr. Lemansky, how would you define an American communist, please?

Eddie Lemansky:

How would I define an American communist? I think the easiest way to define it would be to say that an American communist is one who works to bring about socialism in America in the United States and bases his work on the understanding that the bourgeoisie, the owners of the means of production, control the government, and that the government operates in their interest, and that the way to end that is to establish a government which operates in the interest of working people, not in the interest of their

bosses, but in the interest of workers, and that an American communist bases his work on the science of Marxism and Leninism.

Speaker 72:

Would your definition of socialism be also the definition of what exists in Sweden or in Denmark?

Eddie Lemansky:

This is a press conference about Cuba and about the United States. I don't see the point in --

Speaker 73:

Anybody else have a subpoena? Any other Subpoenas?

Eddie Lemansky:

Well, I expect I have one outside. I don't see the point of that. And I think, you know, we may as well put this to an end.

Luis Miguel Valdez:

I'd like to say something about elections.

Eddie Lemansky:

Yeah.

Luis Miguel Valdez:

As a matter of fact, elections are held in Cuba. They are not on paper which can be distorted like it was during the Batista regime and like it's done in every Latin American country!

Student Speaker 16:

Guatemala. Nicaragua. Puerto Rico.

Phil Clark:

You say there are elections in Cuba?

Luis Miguel Valdez:

Yeah. I want to explain what sort of elections, man. Elections every Sunday. It's called voluntarily labor. Now, I don't know what sort of work you've done, but if you've ever been out in the Southwest and gone out to the fields and broken your back the way most of the people in Latin America have to do in order not to starve to death, you wouldn't be asking so many foolish questions about why so many gusanos are in Miami. You know why so many gusanos are in Miami? Because they couldn't stand the idea of work. Work, man! (Students cheer and applaud).

While we were in Matanzas and in Las Villas, we went out and worked. And I think most of these students are of similar backgrounds, a good old average American background, can speak about the hardness of physical labor that all Cubans go out and do every Sunday. While we were crossing through the provinces, we saw people packed into trucks, voluntarily, going out to do this work.

Student speaker 17:

And singing.

Student speaker 18:
Singing!

Luis Miguel Valdez:
And singing. Now, I'd just like you to show me one instance in the United States when that's been done, and I'd just like to ask you, you know, if you can point out one instance when you had a hard day's work in your life.

Phil Clark:
I don't intend to get personal with you on who worked harder. I could stack my prowess against yours anytime. But I want to ask you again if this is your idea of an election in Cuba?

Luis Miguel Valdez:
It isn't on a piece of paper.

Phil Clark:
I still want to ask you this one question. Is this your conception of an election?

Luis Miguel Valdez:
It certainly is! What more do you want?

Phil Clark:
Don't you believe in the secret ballot? (Valdez and other students laugh.)

Luis Miguel Valdez:
I think that the people of Latin America will answer that question for you eventually.

Phil Clark:
Even in communist Russia, they have -- they go through the motions of an election every once in awhile.

Luis Miguel Valdez:
As Fidel Castro said, "Every country makes its own revolution." This country is going to make its own revolution.

Student Speaker 19:
I want to say this, we go out singing in church. We go out singing in church... [inaud.]

Eddie Lemansky:
All right, I think this, this is getting silly. [inaud - Many people talking over one another]. All right, hold it.

Speaker 74:
[inaud]...in church too!

Eddie Lemansky:
This is getting silly and I think there's no point in continuing. Any of you who would like to talk with any of the students individually are perfectly free to do so, but this is...[inaud]

End Part Five - [00:10:20:72]