

Appendix 2: Cuban Newspapers

It may help future researchers to understand the role of Cuban newspapers in the late 1920s and early 1930s, so I have included this appendix. The biases of these newspapers are reported below as they have been recorded by various American diplomats based in Havana during this time period, or from evidence as deduced by this writer. Diplomats regularly clipped newspaper items and included them in their reports sent to Washington. There was a very active free and competitive press in Havana during this era. The multiplicity of newspapers ensured that a variety of often conflicting points of view was heard, and no newspaper so dominated opinion as to relegate the others to irrelevance. The newspapers actively backed, or were tools of, different candidates and parties, and there was a close relationship between the two. Below are my observations of the following newspapers:

El Herald was pro-Machado. The ex-Director of El Herald was Disiderio Ferreira and he was appointed Chief of the Secret Police in Havana.¹

The Evening News was anti-Machado and reported a lot of labor news.

It is the general custom of Cuban newspapers (from long before Machado's administration) to have a Senator as Director so as to protect them from any government censure.

El Dia opposed Machado, and was a Conservative Party newspaper.

¹ Havana Post, October 19, 1925, Havana.

Heraldo de Cuba was described as a Liberal Party newspaper.

Excelsior was described as a semi-official government publication.

Havana Post had a section every day with excerpts from all the other major Cuban newspapers translated into English.

El Pais was owned by a Liberal Congressman.