

THE PLAIN DEALER

OHIO'S LARGEST NEWSPAPER

CLEVELAND, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 1971

Allende No Threat to Democracy, Eaton Says

By John Nussbaum

Financier Cyrus S. Eaton dismissed as "the bunk" yesterday the notion that the election of Socialist Dr. Salvador Allende as president of Chile spells the end of democracy in that country.

Addressing the City Club Forum, Eaton reasserted his long-standing belief that "tolerance" is the best way to deal with communism and contended that Chile will not go Communist "if the United States follows wise and restrained policies."

Eaton told a capacity audience of his recent 10-day visit to Chile during which he said he conferred with political, business and cultural leaders as well as foreign diplomats in the South American nation.

EATON contended that in confirming Allende as president, the Chilean Congress

"upheld the country's constitutional traditions against tremendous pressures."

Asked, during the question period whether the people of Chile would have a chance to vote the new regime out of office if they wished, he declared:

"I am sure they will. When the time comes up for election, they will uphold a gain their constitutional tradition. The idea that the Allende government is the end of democracy is the bunk."

The attitude of the United States to Chile may well determine our relations with the entire Latin American world, he said.

"CHILE INSISTS on independence and is eager for good relations with the United States and every other country on earth, capitalist, Socialist or Communist," he said. "If the United States

treats Chile with consideration and respect, all the nations of this Western Hemisphere may well arrive at a real alliance for progress."

On the other hand, Eaton contended, U. S. pressure on Latin American nations to maintain an economic boycott of Cuba and to bar Communist China from the United Nations will make enemies.

EATON HAILED President Nixon's announced policy of continued friendship with Chile.

"If President Nixon means what he says, this represents a wise change in our foreign policy," he declared. "It means that we have at last decided to clamp the leash on the CIA, and to abandon our outworn strategy of trying, by force or by bribery, to interfere with and even overturn foreign governments that do not completely suit our lik-

ing."

Eaton asserted that "the test of capitalism lies not in staving off the threat of communism, real or imagined, but in demonstrating the success of our own chosen system here in the United States.

"THE DIFFERENCE between me and a good many of my fellows is that I have consistently advocated tolerance in political, economic and religious theories, and I

refuse to denounce men or nations for their opinions.

"To the bigots who criticize my unwillingness to censure other systems than ours, I must reply that I firmly believe in the necessity of diminishing the mutual hatred between capitalists and Communists, especially in this nuclear age when political misjudgment could send all mankind up in flames in a matter of minutes."