

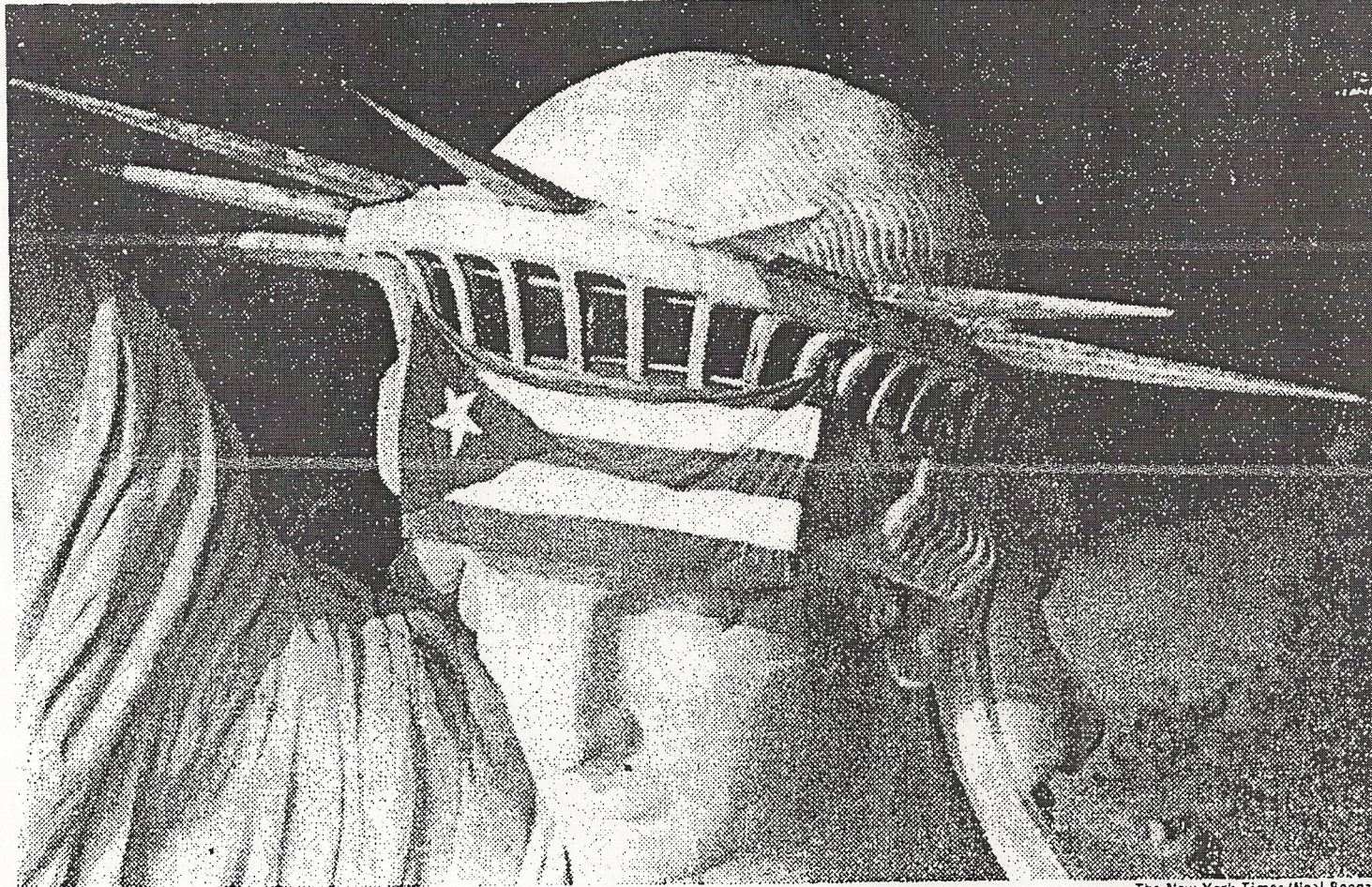
## 30 in Puerto Rican Group Held in Liberty I. Protest

By MARY BREASTED

*New York Times (1923-Current file); Oct 26, 1977;*

ProQuest Historical Newspapers New York Times (1851-2007) w/ Index (1851-1993)

pg. 30



The New York Times/Neal Boenzi

Puerto Rican flag hanging from the Statue of Liberty after it was occupied by nationalist group yesterday

## 30 in Puerto Rican Group Held in Liberty I. Protest

By MARY BREASTED

Thirty Puerto Rican nationalists demanding freedom for four Puerto Rican terrorists occupied the Statue of Liberty for eight hours yesterday, chasing tourists out of its inner passageways and locking themselves inside.

Eight hours after occupying the statue and draping a Puerto Rican flag from its crown and a banner calling for the independence of Puerto Rico across its pedestal, the group was arrested by Federal authorities without violence. A spokesman for the United States Park Police indicated that members of the group would be charged with trespassing on Federal property.

Deputy Chief Hugh Groves of the United States Park Police, commander of field operations, flew to New York City from Washington to supervise the arrest of the demonstrators. He said that when the statue was retaken by Park Police the demonstrators had been very cooperative

and that the only damage had been the breaking of a glass door.

"If there's such a thing as being a pleasure to work with, why those people were," he said.

Park police said that the demonstrators had been given seven offers of amnesty by the Federal authorities before they were finally arrested, at around 6 P.M.

### Cutting Off Traffic

Shortly after the takeover began, at 9:30 A.M., the Park Police and the Coast Guard moved quickly to cut off all tourist traffic to the island, and vessels occupied by reporters were kept 500 yards away.

According to plan. Supporters of the group told reporters, who had been summoned to the scene by repeated phone calls from the group, that they had intended to invite the press to a news conference on Liberty Island shortly after the statue was occupied.

But, because a quick blockade by the authorities thwarted that plan, it was the support group at the Battery that held a news conference and numerous press briefings to speak on behalf of the Liberty Island protesters.

They were expressed most often by Vicente Alba, a former member of the Young Lords political party. He was arrested last August on what later turned out to be misinformation that he might be connected with the F.A.L.N., which has claimed responsibility for setting off bombs in New York City.

Mr. Alba said that he and the Liberty Island protesters, known as the Committee to Free the Five Puerto Rican Nationalists, wanted the four nationalists still in jail for shooting up the House of Representatives in 1952 set free.

The 91-year-old statue has been the site of several other protest demonstrations in recent years.



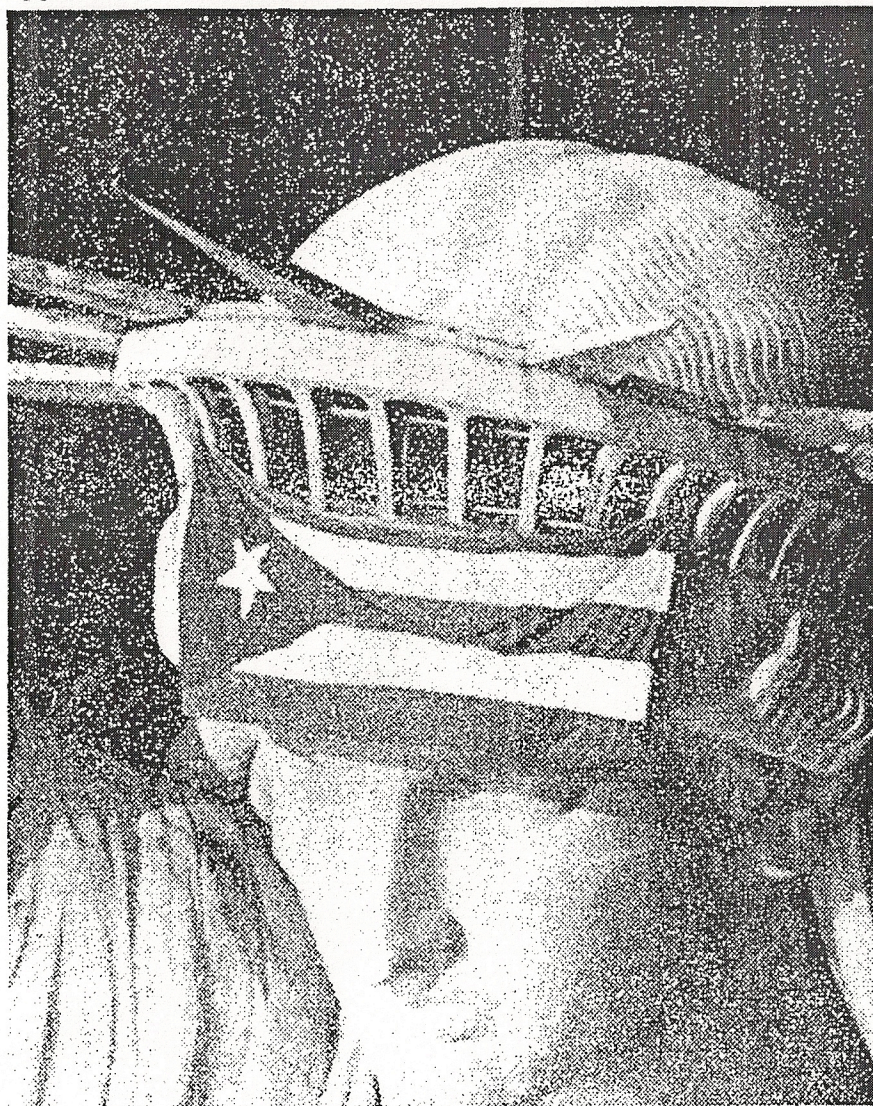
## Byrne Is Given Support in 3d Visit By National Democratic Chairman

By ALFONSO A. NARVAEZ Special to The New York Times

New York Times (1923-Current file); Oct 26, 1977;

ProQuest Historical Newspapers New York Times (1851-2007) w/ Index (1851-1993)

pg. 63



The New York Times/Neal Boenzi

**PUERTO RICAN NATIONALISTS SEIZE STATUE:** Puerto Rican flag hanging from the Statue of Liberty yesterday after it was occupied by nationalist group. About 25 persons occupied the statue, chasing tourists out and locking themselves in. By yesterday evening officials had peacefully removed the demonstrators. It was not immediately known where they were taken or with what they had been charged.

## Byrne Is Given Support in 3d Visit By National Democratic Chairman

By ALFONSO A. NARVAEZ

Special to The New York Times

CLIFTON, Oct. 25—Kenneth M. Curtis, the national Democratic chairman, told a luncheon audience of 200 today that this was his third trip to New Jersey to campaign for Governor Byrne in his uphill drive for re-election "and every time I come back I find the race is getting closer."

"We need a courageous Democratic Governor to work with the Congress and with President Carter," Mr. Curtis said. "Brendan Byrne can do all these things. The only way a Democrat can be defeated in this country is by other Democrats."

Richard J. Coffee, the Democratic state chairman, said at the "Lawyers for Byrne" luncheon at the Mountainside Inn that in the last three or four weeks "there has been a groundswell of support for Brendan Byrne."

Earlier at a senior citizens' housing development in Paterson, Mr. Byrne said that his Republican rival, State Senator Raymond H. Bateman "will increase the sales tax, will increase property taxes, will increase corporate taxes and when he's finished with all that, in the second term, he'll go back to the income tax after he's raised all the other taxes."

"I have a solution for the problem of his second term," the Governor added. "Don't give him a first term."

Senator Bateman told the editorial board of The Philadelphia Inquirer yesterday that he could run the state for the next four years without an income tax but that "I am not precluding that tax in the future."

"If the economy did not pick up," Senator Bateman added, "I would be quick to go in that direction."

"My proposal to add one cent to the sales tax doesn't make me the most popular guy in town," Mr. Bateman said.

Throughout the day, the Governor made a strong appeal to senior-citizen groups to give him a second term to complete such programs as a special utility rate for the elderly.

He noted that during his first term he had pressed for passage and had signed into law a bill that would permit pharmacists to substitute generic drugs for costly name-brand drugs, had recently signed a law that would allow elderly people to obtain prescription drugs at \$1 for each prescription and had participated in numerous groundbreaking ceremonies for construction of housing for the elderly.

The Governor returned to one of the main themes of his campaign—that "the present tax structure is fair to senior citizens and it is not going to be better if we have an increase in the sales tax."

The Governor started the day by greeting workers at the 6 A.M. shift at the Singer Company in Elizabeth, then toured the United Social Services projects of the Diocese of Paterson, where he posed with children in a multilingual day-care center, shook hands with youngsters in a haven for runaway youths and spoke with elderly members of the Father English Nutrition Center. He also greeted construction workers at the site of a 111-unit senior-citizen housing project in East Orange and met with two groups of elderly people at two locations there.

Shortly before 5 P.M. he went to the George Washington Bridge bus station in Manhattan to greet commuters as they boarded buses for their homes in New Jersey. Commuters seemed startled to see the Governor standing at the top of the escalators leading from the subway, shaking hands with homebound commuters and asking them to support him in a bid for a second term.

Reproduced with permission of the copyright owner. Further reproduction prohibited without permission.