

Robert Taber, a reporter for CBS, founded the Fair Play for Cuba Committee in February, 1960. Taber had covered the Guatemalan coup in 1954 for CBS, and he had first-hand knowledge of the 26th of July Movement. Saul Landau was FPCC's student leader. The catalyst for Taber's initiative was Alan Sagner, a wealthy New Jersey contractor, who had read an article about Cuba by Taber in *The Nation*. Along with Waldo Frank and Carlos Santos-Buch, a medical student, this small group was joined by Richard Gibson. Gibson was Taber's co-worker on the night shift at CBS, and he had previously covered the rebel movement in Algeria from 1955 to 1958. Gibson was one of eight blacks on the original thirty-member committee of FPCC, and he introduced a black nationalist element to FPCC. The original group raised money for an ad in the *New York Times*, which appeared on April 6, 1960. The founders objected to the slanted--and increasingly hostile--news coverage of the Cuban revolution, the ending of diplomatic ties between the US and Cuba, and the ban on travel to Cuba.

The FPCC grew between the summer of 1960 and the spring of 1961. Its peak membership--claimed to be as high as 7,000--came in April, 1961. The FPCC attracted attention from Senator James Eastland's Senate Internal Security Subcommittee, and several members were called to testify about monetary support from the Cuban government (through the UN delegation) for the April, 1960 ad. The FPCC suffered from internal struggles for power between the original founders and the Socialist Workers Party, represented by Berta Green. Richard Gibson, who had risen from President of the New York chapter to Executive Secretary in January, 1961, fled the country in September, 1962. By then, the FPCC was declining due to its internal problems as well as external attacks. American public opinion had shifted away from support for Castro, and those who continued to support the Cuban revolution in 1962 were on the fringes of the far left. The FPCC has been cited by at least two authors--Van Gosse and Richard Welch--as the first inspiration for the New Left. By the time Lee Harvey Oswald requested information on formal membership in May 1963, the New Left had moved on to other issues.