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The Caribbean is Moving North

Puerto Ricans Are Moving Into New York So Fast The City is Changing All Its Future Planning



SOMETHING is happening in the Caribbean besides the invasion of Yankee tourists. To begin with, the rapidly growing population of Puerto Rico has burst its borders and is spilling over into the United States and Costa Rica in its quest for more room. Then, too, the warmer climate of the southland is slowly moving northward as if it also needs new territory.

Northern Yankees at the same time have taken to studying Spanish like mad because of closer relations with Latin America and the industrial boom down there. Many North Americans also have become intrigued with living in the Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico.

All of which seems to add up to a big switch of people and weather, but first let's take a look at the current shift in population.

New York City has always been a melting pot of nationalities. To the world's greatest city have come representatives of every race, from Europe, Asia, South America, from Africa, and added to them have come the ambitious Yankee sons and daughters from the cities and hamlets across the United States.

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EAST HARLEM PATROL now calls for police in pairs. New York City added 250 cops to that precinct in move to curb crime.

There always have been small areas within the great city in which the immigrants could live with like kind while learning the ways and the language of the Americanos. For the most part they got along, and they seldom crossed borders until ready to become absorbed in the new pattern of life. Except for the predominance of whites, no one group ever took over.

Today, however, there is a forceful change taking place, an influence so great that New York City officials have forecast a startling racial shift within a few years and are already making plans for meeting this switch.

By 1970 the Puerto Rican population alone is expected to more than quadruple, says the New York City Planning Department, while at the same time some three-quarters of a million white residents will desert the city for the suburbs.

The non-white population will jump from 12% to 28%, conserv-

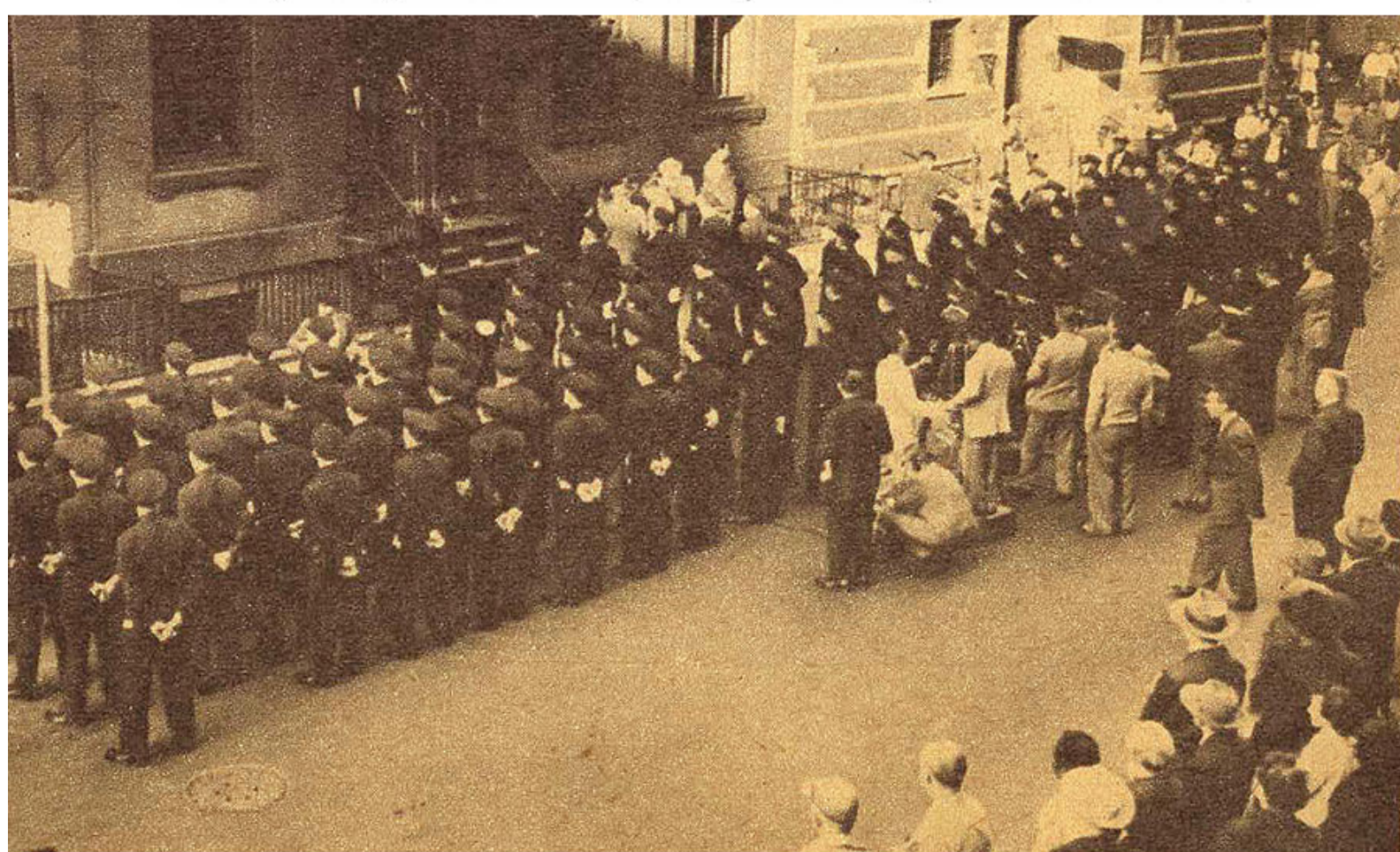
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TEENAGE RIOT. Members of a battling youth faction race through East Harlem armed with rocks and sticks. Man at left tries to escape the charge. Fight allegedly broke out between Puerto Ricans and Spaniards and four youths were seriously injured in fray.



ONE DOWN. A victim of the youth rioting in East Harlem lies on the street while a lad with stick moves in at the right. The cameraman caught this front line action luckily. Below, 100 of the 250 new cops being assigned to duty outside the precinct station.



actively speaking, while the white majority will diminish from 87% to 72%. Today there are already 246,000 Puerto Ricans spread up and down both New York's East Side and West Side, with the greatest concentration in East Harlem, but in 15 years the Puerto Rican population is expected to reach over 1,160,000.

By 1970, say the city planners, there will be two Puerto Rican children to every three white children.

Behind these startling figures is quite a story, including a policing predicament which is being temporarily solved by new Police Com-

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MAMBO DANCERS. The Latin American influence is felt in West Harlem too where they're kicking it up at the Savoy Ballroom. Below, entrants in Harlem beauty contest.



missioner Francis Adams' experiment in the heart of East Harlem.

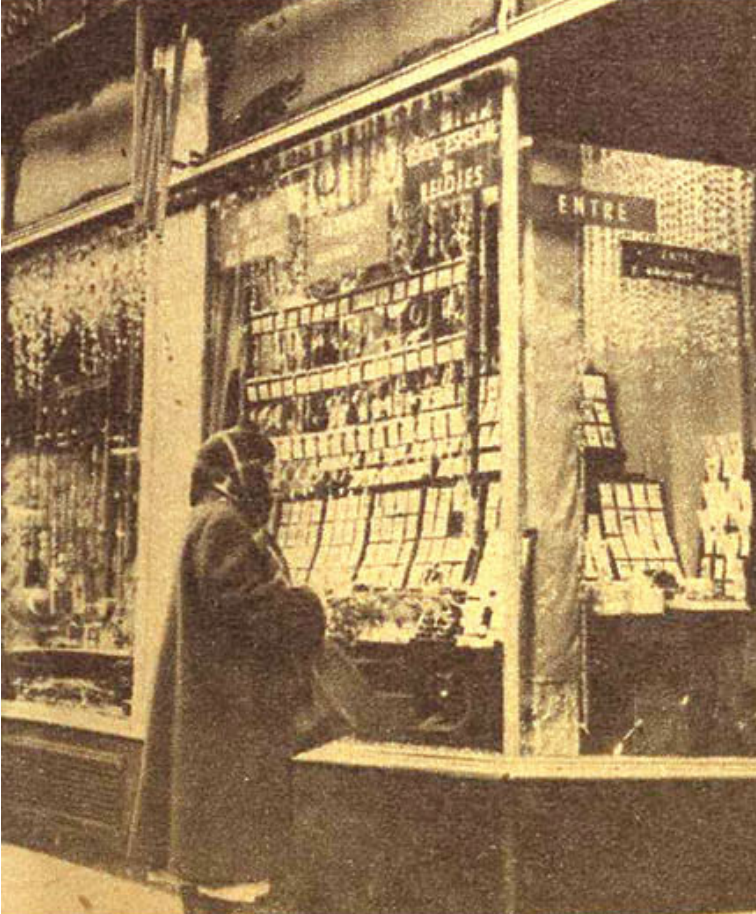
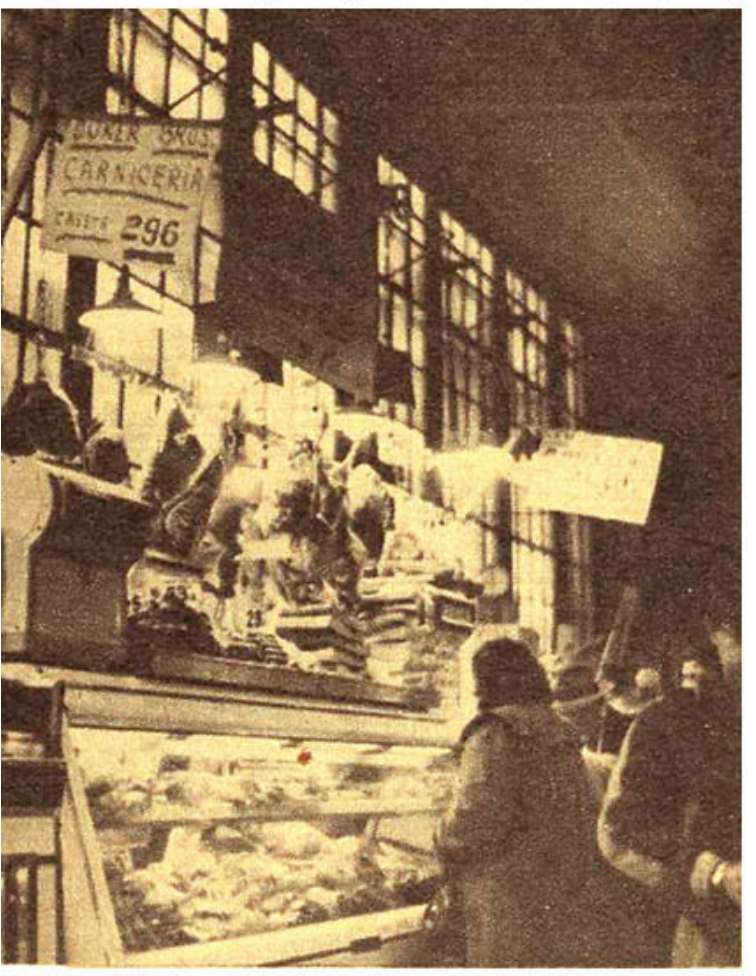
Back in 1910 almost 80% of New Yorkers were foreign-born or of foreign-born parents, and 10 years later Jews and Italians made up one-third of the total population. By then the area now known as East Harlem, running from Fifth Avenue to the East River above 110th Street, was made up chiefly of Italian families. Directly to the west was a concentration of Jewish families. Years later these families spread out to other areas around the city, while the increasing non-whites moved into Harlem and East Harlem. Today, Puerto Ricans occupy most of East Harlem.

The attraction of bigger incomes has been bringing Puerto Ricans to New York by the shipload and planeload. One plane which had crashed a couple of years ago on takeoff from San Juan was found to be carrying 69 passengers beside the crew, many more than usually are carried in standard craft.

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Spanish language theaters are thriving. Wrecked car left with refuse.



Signs inside and outside East Harlem stores are all in Spanish.

Once in New York, however, these people discovered they did not understand the language and they had few talents for non-agricultural Manhattan. So many had to go on city relief and double up in already-crowded tenements, creating a perplexing problem for the city fathers.

A great number have found employment at machines in the garment district and in other endeavors in lower Manhattan. They fill the subway trains that run uptown directly through the swanky East Side with their lively laughter and native talk.

When an increase in crime and violence posed a policing problem, Commissioner Adams recently turned the Manhattan 25th precinct into a testing ground. He assigned 250 additional patrolmen to the 186 in that area in what he called "Operation 25," and within 10 weeks proudly reported that major crime in East Harlem had been reduced 50%. Now 1500 more men have been added to the entire

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force, bringing it to a strength of 21,600 policemen.

One reason, however, for the increase in violence has been the thriving black market in Puerto Rican birth certificates that has enabled hundreds and perhaps thousands of criminal aliens to operate here under protection of a phoney American citizenship.

This situation has brought undue criticism on the large group of respectable Puerto Rican migrants and has damaged the reputation of a proud and sensitive people. The black market is rated by the Department of Justice and the Puerto Rican government as a serious problem and one which they are striving to stamp out. It allows the criminals—prostitutes, procurers, safecrackers and even murderers—to buy American citizenship for from \$100 to \$500.

As a U.S. citizen by birth, the Puerto Rican has complete freedom on the mainland whenever he chooses. However, few Yankees know the difference between Puerto Ricans and other Spanish-speaking persons. The heaviest concentration of criminal aliens posing as Puerto Ricans are Cubans, says the Investigation Division of the Immigration and Naturalization Service which has nabbed and deported people of many nationalities—South Americans, Dominicans, Spaniards and Mexicans. Cubans of good character can easily gain entry to the United States, but the Cuban criminal has found his way easiest by claiming citizenship by virtue of Puerto Rican birth and which he buys on the black market.

One New York lawyer was disbarred and placed under indictment for taking groups of Cubans, a dozen at a time, to Canada and then bringing them back to New York as citizens with black market Puerto Rican birth certificates. In four months he made \$23,000, the Justice Department says.

One ring of procurers with phoney citizenships, recently smashed, had been sending prostitutes through Chinatown on weekend door-to-door calls. The girls made lipstick marks on the doorway to show others the place had been covered.

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Disputing the oft-made charge that migrating Puerto Ricans go to New York intentionally to be placed on relief, Welfare Commissioner Henry McCarthy says: "There is evidence that most people don't want to be on relief, and that is particularly true of Puerto Ricans. Only about eight percent are now on relief."

Teaching these new residents the English language has given New York public schools a problem. At first teachers were bewildered by the Puerto Rican influx. When they slowed down to help the children, the mainland pupils complained. Now some schools have orientation classes where the children remain from three months to a year. Many, however, are pushed out by the constant influx of new pupils. Other schools give non-English speaking pupils a period of instruction each day or assign a bilingual buddy to help and interpret.

In one school in Spanish Harlem, at 109th Street and Madison Avenue, the 1500 enrollment is 99% Puerto Rican and 1% Negro.

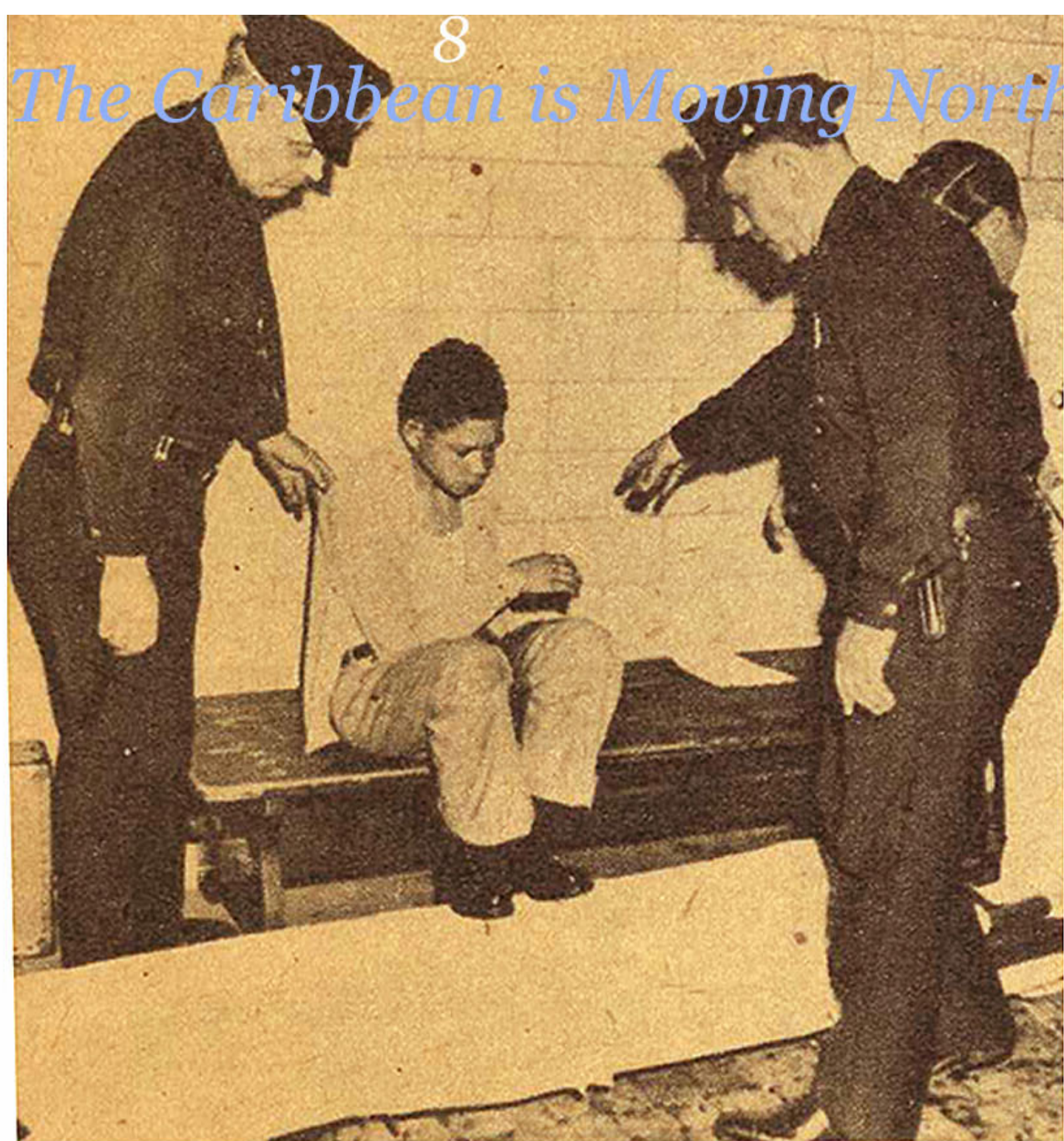
Landlords have been guilty of trying to hijack their rents in this area, some newcomers paying \$25 a week for one-room apartments in converted rooming houses. At one such place inspectors found 24 housing department violations. Landlords on the other hand complain that more people than planned for were occupying the premises. This is partly due to the Puerto Rican's sense of hospitality for should a relative be turned away on arrival he might say "You are a bad brother" and the reluctant host would lose face.



CASUALTY in the teenage street fighting in East Harlem gets attention from police.

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GRILLING is given this youth by police while interne waits with a stretcher.

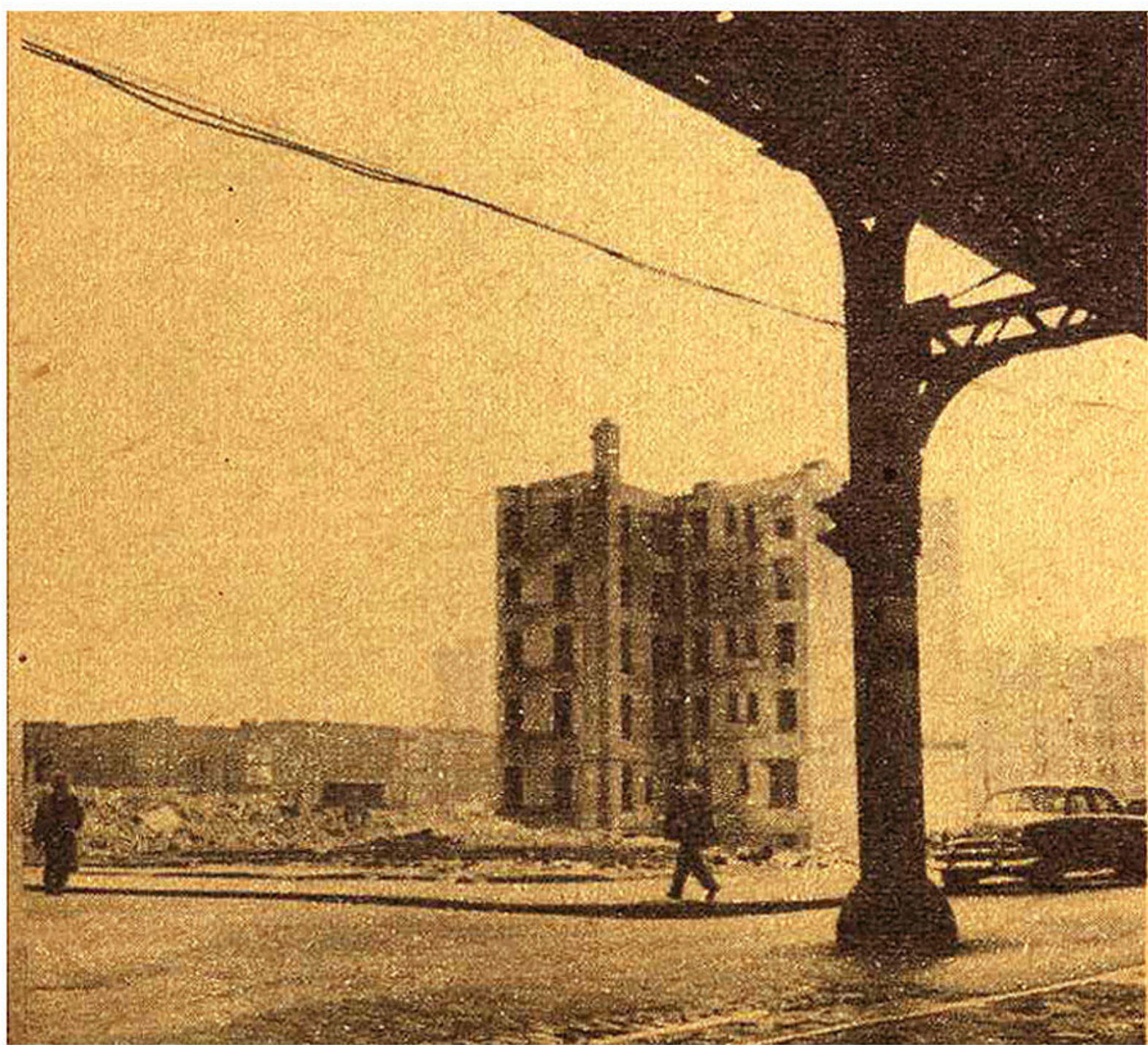


Kids clean up refuse from vacant lot so they can play there.



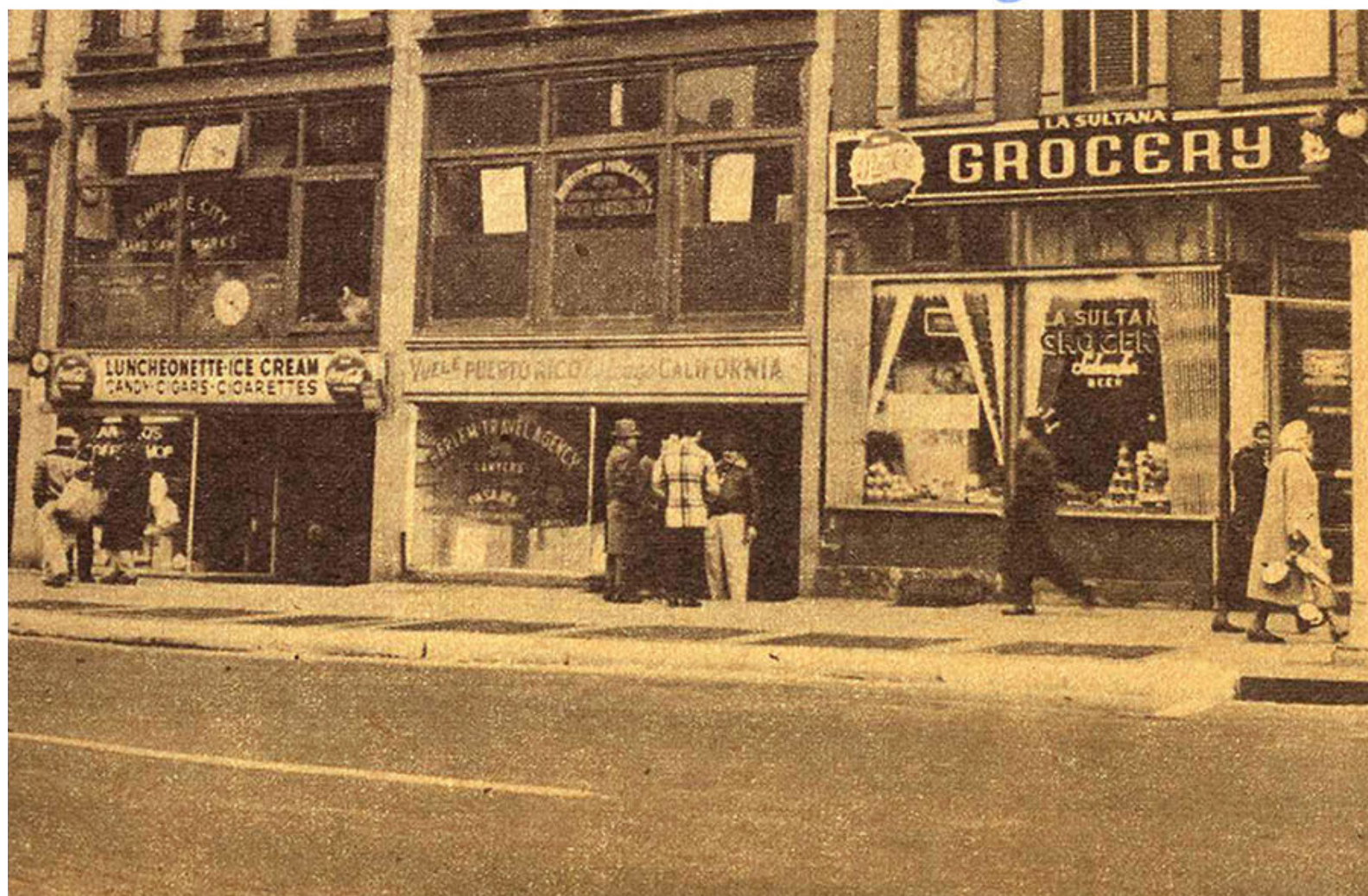
Street vendors, site cleared for new housing.



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TYPICAL SCENES in East Harlem show former Islanders dealing with a pushcart.

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American-type luncheonette and Puerto Rican travel agency.

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