

João Fernandes Campos Café Filho



Biography

He was born in Natal, Rio Grande do Norte, on February 3, 1899. He founded the Norte Newspaper (1921), editor of the Correio de Bezerros newspaper in the city of Bezerros, Pernambuco (1923), and director of the “A Noite” newspaper (1925), having written articles in the latter pleading with soldiers, corporals and young officers to refuse to fight the so-called Prestes Column, which resulted in his conviction to 3 months of prison. He escaped to Bahia in 1927, under the alias of Senílson Pessoa Cavalcanti, but ended up returning to Natal, where he turned himself in. In 1933, he ran for the City Council of Natal, but lost. He joined the Liberal Alliance and was one of the founders of the Nationalistic Social Party of Rio Grande do Norte in 1933. He was elected to Congress (1935-1937) and distinguished himself for defending the constitutional freedoms. With the threat of imprisonment, he went into exile in Argentina, returning to Brazil in 1938. He founded, along with Ademar de Barros, the Progressive Republican Party (PRP), from which he was elected to Congress (1946-1950). He was elected vice-president through a coalition of parties that fused under the Progressive Social Party. He assumed the Presidency of the Republic after Getulio Vargas committed suicide, on August 24, 1954. He was nominated as Minister of the Audit Court of the State of Guanabara (1961-1970). He died in Rio de Janeiro on February 20, 1970.

Presidential Period

Café Filho assumed the Presidency immediately after Getulio Vargas’ death. In his new cabinet, he had Eugênio Gudin occupying the Treasury Ministry, who defended a more orthodox economic policy, which tried to stabilize the economy and combat inflation. The minister adopted as his main measures, the restriction to credit and the reduction of public spending, thus seeking to reduce the public deficit, which, in his opinion, was the cause of the inflationary process. During the Café Filho administration, the single tax on electric energy, generating the Federal Electrification Fund, and the income tax on wages were created. His administration also became known for the creation of the Committee to find the location of the New Federal Capital; the inauguration of the Paulo Afonso hydroelectric plant in January of 1955 and the incentive for foreign capital to enter the country, which would influence the process of industrialization that followed.

He temporarily took a leave of office on November 3 of 1955, due to a cardiovascular illness, and on November 8, was substituted by Carlos Luz, President of Congress. After he recovered,

he tried to reassume the presidency, but his impediment was approved by Congress on November 22 of 1955 and confirmed by the Supreme Court in December.

Source: National Archive – Information Center of Presidential Collections

Summary

Fifteenth Period of the Republican Government - 31.01.1951 to 31.01.1956

2nd Phase: from 24.08.1954 to 11.11.1955

Born: Natal-RN, on 03.02.1899

Died: Rio de Janeiro(GB)-RJ, on 20.02.1970

Profession: Lawyer

In Office: 24.08.1954 to 11.11.1955 (01y02m20d)

Age when assuming Office: 55 years old

Inauguration: on 03.09.1954, in a joint session of Congress presided by Senator Alexandre Marcondes Filho

Observation: As Vice-President, he served as President, due to the death of the President, during the period from 24.08.1954 to 03.09.1954, when he was sworn in as President of the Republic

Source: Library