

LATINS APPLAUD MARTINEZ FRANK ANTI-IMPERIALISM

By MANUEL GONZALEZ

WASHINGTON, D. C., July 28.—Ricardo A. Martinez, the young Venezuelan who made a night-handed fight against American imperialism at the convention of the so-called Pan-American Federation of Labor, has already become an international figure, according to correspondents of Latin-American newspapers here. Many papers in Central and South America have printed leading editorials commending him.

From a group of Latin-Americans in New York the Venezuelan delegate has received the following telegram, sent to him in name of the Pan-American Federation of Labor:

"We are congratulations on your courageous stand for the weak and oppressed. Following your efforts with the bestest interest."

Commenting upon the above telegram, Martinez said:

"This means more to me than all of the denunciations of Green, Wolf and the others. No matter what the handful of renegades supposed to be representing Latin-American countries at the convention may say, Latin America is a unity in opposition to the Pan-American schemes of Wall Street and Washington. As for the working people in the United States, we have the placed confidence in them, for they are our brothers.

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Latins Cheer Martinez For Anti-Imperialism

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Green and Woll are not the American Federation of Labor even tho they may control its machinery now."

"I am sorry," he went on, "that my inexperience prevented me from making a more successful fight than I did. I should have objected to Resolution No. 1, submitted by the A. F. of L. delegation, which virtually established the 'Monroe Doctrine of Labor' as a guiding principle of the Pan-American Federation of Labor. Furthermore, I should not have allowed Green to be unanimously re-elected president of the pan-American Federation."

Martinez is one of the group of Venezuelan expatriates obliged to carry on their abroad because of the ferocious dictatorship of Juan Vicente Gomez, the American-favored President of Venezuela. He participated in the convention as the delegate of the "Union Obrera Venezolana" (Venezuelan Labor Union), which has its headquarters in New York City.

It was on the question of Haiti that Martinez had his first serious clash with Green. The resolutions committee, with Matthew Woll as chairman, had sidetracked a resolution insisting that the United States government should pay an indemnity to the family of the Haitian who was murdered a few days ago by a drunken U. S. marine of the army of occupation. In the debate over this resolution, the Venezuelan delegate brought in the whole question of the occupation and the crimes committed against the republic of Haiti thruout a long period of years.

"I differ with the delegate from Nicaragua," he said, "when he declares that here in Washington we cannot criticize the United States government. It is our duty to criticize the United States government, and it is the duty of the A. F. of L. delegates to join with us."

After one interrupting the speaker, with the excuse that he was out of order because he had made some comparisons between Haiti and Nicaragua, Green rose at the conclusion of the debate and stated with dignity:

"The chair must say one thing. While the Latin-American representatives may feel that they are suffering from many injustices the Pan-American Federation of Labor is not a clearing house for all the political grievances of the Latin-American countries. We must pursue a dignified, careful policy when we engage in these criticisms because there is always a danger that we may injure the cause we are trying to help."

That was the sum total of Green's comment on the outrages committed in Haiti!

Almost immediately following, came the big dispute over the general question of American imperialism and the concrete proposals submitted in resolution number 34, presented by the Venezuelan, Nicaraguan and Dominican delegations. The Nicaraguan delegation defended the resolution only half-heartedly, or not at all, while the Dominican delegates declared that they had endorsed the resolution originally because they did not understand it and demanded that their signatures be withdrawn from it.

"You cannot fool us as to the actual nature of the Monroe Doctrine," Martinez declared hotly. You may bring all kinds of evidence to aid you but we in Latin-America have our opposition to the Monroe Doctrine rooted in the experience of years. Latin-American delegates here may be silent, but they know what I say is true. President Green referred in his opening address to self-determination of nations. Well if self-determination means anything it means that Cuba, Porto Rico and the Philippines too must be declared independent. American imperialism must get out of Latin-America. American troops should be withdrawn immediately from all foreign territory—including China, where the United States is slaughtering Chinese in collusion with British imperialism."

The shame of it was that Green was able to say, as a prelude to his passionate defense of the Monroe Doctrine at the end of the discussion:

"It gratifies the A. F. of L. delegates to observe that none of the other speakers have expressed approval or endorsement of the sentiments expressed by the delegate from Venezuela."

Let that be a closing commentary on the Pan-American Federation of Labor convention as reported in these dispatches.