

"Unclean Hands" in the Sandino Stamp Case

By MANUEL GOMEZ.

(Continued From Previous Issue.)

Havana Farce Conference.

At the Havana Conference the American delegation not only defended U. S. intervention in Nicaragua but actually insisted on recognition by the Latin-American delegates of the right of U. S. intervention and police power throughout Latin America.

It is generally ignored in this country that the Pan-American Conference — ostensibly a "good-will" conference of the nations of the Americas — opened in an atmosphere of police-terrorism. The obedient Wall Street-owned Cuban government arrested or deported some 200 people, many of them representative Latin-Americans who went to Havana to protest against American imperialism. (In this atmosphere of police brutality, which amounted to a conspiracy to smother the true voice of Latin-American opposition — the unperturbed U. S. delegation delivered its widely press-agented homilies on

"western democracy" as opposed to European institutions delicately insinuating the superiority of the United States, and intended to bring about a tacit acceptance of U. S. leadership.)

When, therefore, the government tells us that we may not circulate stickers reading "Protest Against Marine Rule in Nicaragua," we look upon it in a much more serious light than do those who see it only as an interference with certain personal liberties. We are not astonished at the interference. A government which is doing the will of a financial oligarchy cannot be expected to observe the rules of the game. Imperialism and liberty are incompatible. We look upon the whole matter as a phase of the struggle between the forces of imperialism and the great popular opposition to it. Imperialist governments are notoriously very touchy on the subject of their "colonial policy" and the government of Wall Street and Washington is no exception.

Workers Oppose Imperialism

There is a reason why the govern-

ment was unwilling to meet our head-on challenge by criminal prosecution. The imperialist policy of Wall Street and Washington is not popular among the American masses. The great majority of American workers and farmers are opposed to the imperialist adventure in Nicaragua. Fearing too much publicity, the government felt that it could not afford to allow us the public platform of a criminal trial. Workers and farmers are disturbed enough as it is.

Workers and farmers have no interest in assaulting the people of Nicaragua or of any other country. The profits that are derived go to Wall Street, whose soldiers shoot down American workers in Colorado or Pennsylvania just as they shoot down the opponents of Wall Street in Nicaragua. Imperialism and imperialist war mean only suffering for the great mass of Americans. The All-America Anti-Imperialist League is founded upon the conception that the common people of the United States are bound by ties of fundamental interest with the peoples un-

der U. S. imperialist rule. Our faith is in the common people of America, especially the workers—not in the government. We are trying to build the U. S. section of our League upon the primary basis of working class support. The Sandino sticker case proves conclusively that our outlook is the correct one.

To Continue Fight.

We shall continue our fight to defeat the war against Nicaragua. We shall continue to oppose imperialism at every point. Courts of "equity" may decide that we have unclean hands, but workers will know that if this is the case it is merely from fingering the affidavit of Mr. Kellogg.

American imperialism is powerful, but the forces of opposition to it are great and growing. Thruout the American empire there are important elements who will fight to the end against imperialism, which is not simply "foreign policy" but a whole system of domination by a financial oligarchy based upon exploitation and suffering both at home and abroad.