

PAN-AMERICAN CONFERENCE CLOSES WITH APOLOGIES FOR IMPERIALISM

Venezuelan Delegate Forces Red-Baiters to Defend Predatory Policy of Wall Street

By MANUEL GOMEZ.

WASHINGTON, D. C., July 23 (By Mail).—The convention of the Pan-American Federation of Labor closed today, with an expression of satisfaction voiced by President Green for the complete harmony which, he said, prevailed thruout the gathering.

Scarcely were the words out of his mouth when delegate Ricardo A. Martinez, the grim young Venezuelan who single-handed and in one day had transformed the convention from a disgusting dumb-show into an arena of conflict around the issue of American liberalism, was handing out copies of a statement in reply to Green's vicious counter-attack of yesterday.

Martinez put up a great fight, altho he allowed more than half the proceedings to pass before he got started, probably due to inexperience. Altho he experienced much difficulty in getting the floor during the closing sessions, and when he did get the floor the interpreter did not always translate what he said, he succeeded nevertheless in making Green and Woll expose themselves as hypocritical apologists for the policy of Wall Street and Washington in Latin America. His fight also brought to light the fact that most of the Latin-American delegations to this so-called labor convention were sent here by their respective governments—or rather by the American-bosomed dictators who boss the particular governments concerned.

Conspiracy Against Workers.

It is almost unbelievable in a gathering claiming to represent the workers of the Americas, that in spite of the fact that he directed his fight against the imperialistic exploiters of those workers, he got practically no real support. The other Latin-Americans were the first ones to attack him when he pointed out that all was not well with the dictatorships operating in their Monroe-Doctrine countries.

Martinez was the only out-and-out dissenter in a convention which amounted to a conspiracy against the workers of the Americas.

Would Disarm Labor.

President Green's closing remarks on harmony clearly betrayed the essential purpose of the thing as a sustained attempt to disarm Latin-American labor in the face of U. S. imperialism—instead of preparing them for concerted resistance to it.

Defends U. S. Imperialism.

"What is needed most of all," he said, "is confidence, trust and faith among the peoples of Latin America and the people of the United States. A large percentage of Latin-Americans have a suspicion and distrust of the United States. That distrust, that

suspicion should be removed. If we are to develop commerce, trade, understanding and confidence among the peoples of the American continent, it must be removed. The Pan-American Federation of Labor can serve in a wonderful way in removing this suspicion, in creating a common understanding. The influence of the A. F. of L. in the United States will be directed toward influencing an administration of government so that the friendship and good will of the Latin-American peoples may be won. This can be accomplished thru a policy recognizing justice, fair dealing and friendship between nations. It is the desire of the working people of the United States, the membership of more than 5,000,000 of the A. F. of L., that such a policy should be pursued.

"May I suggest that on your return home you remember the sentiments expressed here and, inspired by those sentiments, you become ambassadors to promote this spirit of co-operation to which I have referred in these remarks. Raise the standard of citizenship in all the nations on the American continent. For all this we can unite, laying aside our prejudices and our suspicions."

Attacks Argentine Labor.

The committee on officers' report announced its conclusions in the closing session. In addition to commending the officers "for their intelligent and untiring efforts," it denounced the labor conscription law in Guatemala, said some unkind things about the dictatorship in Venezuela (the Venezuelan dictator having no delegates at this congress), and then launched into a subtle attack upon the organized labor movement of the Argentine Republic, the impression being conveyed that it is necessary to destroy the present relatively powerful Argentine unions because of their radicalism, and replace them by "a legitimate federation affiliated to the Pan-American Federation of Labor." None of the Argentine federations

Reactionary Mexican Generals Confer



General Francisco E. Serrano, above, in a pre-election stunt. He is distributing prizes to athletes. Serrano has just announced his candidacy on a platform of "peace with the United States" on a basis of yielding to American oil barons, and of "protection of capital, both foreign and Mexican." He therefore rivals General Arnulfo Gomez, who some time ago announced himself as candidate against the liberal, Obregon. Below is a photo of Serrano, right, conferring with Gomez, left, in an attempt at a united front of all reactionary forces in Mexico.

sent delegates to the convention, even the new conservative-socialist body finally refusing to succumb to the blandishments of Green and Santiago Iglesias.

Criticism of the Guatemala labor conscription law was not allowed to stand, and a special committee was instructed to draw up something "more suitable." Delegate Tribollet of Guatemala objected to the criticism most strenuously and he had his way.

Lackey States Views.

"I don't know if the reporting committee is well informed on the subject," he told the delegates. "We believe in Guatemala that we are very free now. Laws are sometimes imperfect when they are promulgated but time and experience round them out. We already have a Labor Bureau in Guatemala. This is a great stride forward, and we are now working to have it made a department of full cabinet rank. Against what are we going to protest if everything is free for the workers in Guatemala? Only one labor organization did not get the support of the government—and it was Communist. The government is assisting all peaceful and law-abiding organizations."

Imagine a labor congress in which the delegates say that everything is fine and they have nothing to protest against!

The committee on officers' report also furnished the convention with its daily attack against "the reds."

Perhaps the most significant part of the committee's report was that relating to Mexican-U. S. relations. It read as follows:

Defend Mexican Policy of U. S.

"Relations between the United States and Mexico have been such as to promote the welfare of the masses of the people of both countries and such as to exert a powerful influence upon the governmental and diplomatic relations between the two countries."

That was all, except for a brief reference to the termination of the treaty

against smuggling, a platonic statement on immigration and commendation of the Mexican Federation of Labor (C. R. O. M.) for its stand "in defending itself against the insidious activities of Communist propagandists." Not a word against the bullying attitude of the United States government in connection with Mexico's oil and land laws. No criticism of the insidious efforts of Wall Street magnates to create counter-revolution in Mexico. No mention of the desertion of the C. R. O. M. by the Pan-American Federation of Labor (which means the A. F. of L. officialdom) during the height of the conflict against subsidized Catholic reaction.

Members Will Ask Questions.

Unlike the other Latin-American delegations at the convention, the Mexican delegation represents a bona fide national labor federation, having hundreds of thousands of members. Those members will want to know, when the delegates get back home, how it was that not a single one of the outstanding and overshadowing U. S.-Mexican issues was brought forward for discussion. They will want to know, furthermore, why the Mexican delegation did not present to the convention a single resolution of any significance, except one asking the Pan-American Federation of Labor to send a cablegram of greetings to the congress of the Amsterdam International (carried, like nearly all others, unanimously).

I have a theory regarding this unprecedented attitude of the Mexican delegation which I intend to make the subject of an article in The DAILY WORKER.

The Mexican delegates, led by Morones, departed for home last night, the election of Pan-American Federation of officers being pushed forward to enable them to participate. Of course all the officers were reelected, unanimously. Martinez of Venezuela suggested Morones for president in place of Green but the Mexican leader

Poles Evasively Reply To Soviet Union Note About Voikoff Murder

MOSCOW, July 25.—It is reported that the Polish government has answered the government of the Soviet Union in regard to the assassination of Ambassador Voykoff. The answer has not been officially received here, but it is understood to deny Polish governmental complicity in the murder, by permitting white-guard organizations to organize for that purpose, as charged by the Soviet Union. It is not known what excuse is given for the ineffective prosecution of Kowarda, the monarchist, who admitted that he was "ordered" to kill Voykoff.

declined. Morones took his leave of the convention with a parting speech, inviting all the delegates to be present at the eighth convention of the C. R. O. M., which takes place in Mexico City on August 22.

It was yesterday's discussion on imperialism that brought about the big clash between Martinez and Green, and which exposed other Latin-Americans. Martinez had introduced a general resolution recting all the crimes of American imperialism against Latin America, attacking the Monroe Doctrine, repudiating dictators such as Leguia of Peru who serve as instruments of Wall Street and Washington, and proposing a number of concrete measures. Matthew Woll's resolutions committee had used all sorts of stratagems to get Martinez to withdraw this resolution, but he refused to be budged and the resolution finally came before the convention on the day before adjournment. The committee of course refused to endorse it, offering a substitute which made no charges whatsoever against the United States government, which did not mention imperialism and which merely stated that the Monroe Doctrine had been sometimes used wrongly. The substitute was adopted, Martinez being the only one to vote against it.

Green's Apologetic Speech.

In reply to a bitter indictment of Monroe Doctrine imperialism by Martinez, Green delivered a speech which was an apology of the doctrine.

More eager to answer than Green were the Peruvian delegates, both of whom protested indignantly against the characterization of President Leguia of Peru as a dictator.

"There is no tyranny of any kind in Peru," said delegate Benavides. "We who have just come from a land where labor has the greatest freedom of action will not consent to the statement that the president of Peru is a tyrant. No one who has ever striven to do anything for the people there has been persecuted under Leguia's beneficent regime except those new anarchists, the Communists."

Another Imperialist Defender.

One of the Panaman delegates had something to say also. He defended the United States from the charge, contained in Martinez's resolution, that it had detached Panama from Colombia and made her an American dependency.

"I say (he said) that Panama is just as free and sovereign today as any country on earth."

Next came a Cuban delegate who defended the Monroe Doctrine, Platt Amendment and all, declaring that "as a result of this doctrine, we have today such a sterling President in Cuba as Gerardo Machado." (N. B. Machado is known thruout Cuba as the assassin of Cuban labor).

The next convention of the Pan-American Federation of Labor is to be held (Machado and the American sugar trust being willing) at Havana, Cuba.

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