

Priest's Talk Is Similar To Speeches At U. of R. Sessions

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gives significance to their social activities, and brings light, courage, and the sweetest consolation to their domestic life. The history, ideals and spirit of our Latin American people will be better understood if the import of their religion be kept in mind.

Economic Side Studied

"Let us now turn to the economic side of our relationship with our Latin neighbors. It is of the highest importance. We as a nation are not altogether economically self sufficient. South America can supply this deficiency.

Lived There

"I spent a long time in the heart of the South American continent. I know of its hidden wealth and still buried treasure. A genuine spirit of neighborliness can make this hemisphere independent of the rest of the world. The wealth of their products induces us quite naturally to turn to them for material aid.

"They will naturally see North American interests taking possession of many of their industries, and exploiting their resources. They will rejoice in the prosperity this naturally brings them. But we must not let this chance so entice us as to form powerful syndicates which may some day have to be evicted, lest they acquire dominion over their lands and a power hard to control. They do not forget that even our Import Export Bank may some day try to devour them.

"What can we do to alleviate these fears and to promote a genuine good feeling? The first requisite is to inspire absolute confidence. Let us bear this point well in mind, that personally plays an important part in business relations in Latin America. They would far rather do business with a man who is 'sympatico' i. e. personally pleasant to deal with even though his prices are not the most attractive. The European has acquired this trait, whereas Americans are too intent on closing the deal and so are often open to suspicion.

"Unlike other foreigners who go to South America, the North American does not look upon the country as a new home. To him, once he has finished his business, he gets out and seeks a better post elsewhere. He lives in a tight community within the American Colony and mixes even less than the British with the people of the country. He is usually too busy to learn the language; why there are some Americans in Rio and in B. A. 10 years and more, and still they do not know how to speak Spanish or Portuguese. Europeans on the contrary, train young men in the language, send them on to live among the people, where they marry, and live, and learn the psychology of the people. Our selling policy all too often is: 'Take it or leave it.'

Misguided Missionaries

"Another, unfortunate influence is the presence of a large number of proselytizing U. S. missionaries, men and women who have been sent to the southern continent to save the heathen and bring Christianity to them. The activities of these missionaries are nullifying practically all our sincere efforts to win the friendship of the South American. We are dealing here with civilized countries, who have had a Christian foundation ever since their inception.

"These so called missionaries personify better than any other

Mission Bishop



Rt. Rev. Migr. Alonso Escalante, M. M. of New York, who has been named Bishop of the Vicariate Apostolic of the Pando in Bolivia. He was assigned by the Catholic Foreign Mission Society of America last April as superior of the new Maryknoll Mission in the Bolivian jungle. He is the first North American appointed Bishop of a South American post. (N.C.W.O.)

American activity that smug superiority, and holier than thou attitude which always has exasperated the South American people and made it impossible for us to establish friendly and mutual understanding. I have been told these things dozens of times by high officials and teachers, and have myself observed its disastrous influence. This is decisively not missionary work. Their so called converts, once having been won over by every known means, soon doubt their acquired believe and become free thinkers. This is the destruction sown by the proselytizers. The great damage done by these missionaries in the field of politics arouses even more enmity against the U. S. than did the activities of American Big Business in the old days of dollar diplomacy.

"So friendship between countries must include the friendship and understanding of the people as well as of the government.

"We find that south of the border the general average of culture and good manners is considerably higher than in the U. S. The Argentinian as well as the Brazilian do certainly not like the hard drinking and rowdy behavior of Americans in their public places. I do not blame them one bit for detesting these periodical 'Good Will Junkets' that go south occasionally to 'discover' the South Americans and leave in their wake a dark brown taste.

"We must therefore approach these people with a sincere desire and purpose of understanding them from their angle of life. We have by no means a corner on all the fine things.

"Dr. Gomez of Columbia, a prominent leader of the Conservative Party of Columbia says: 'The fundamental pillar of our culture is religion and Catholics in Columbia as elsewhere fear the anti-Catholic influence of the United States. The only evidence of such influence are the American missionaries who always are ready to lend support to anti-clerical politicians thus involving themselves in the internal politics of the countries in which they are supposed to be preaching the Gospel of Love.'

A person of fine character shows it in many ways, by his habit of speech, by his reverence in mentioning holy things, by his silence when to be silent is to be charitable.



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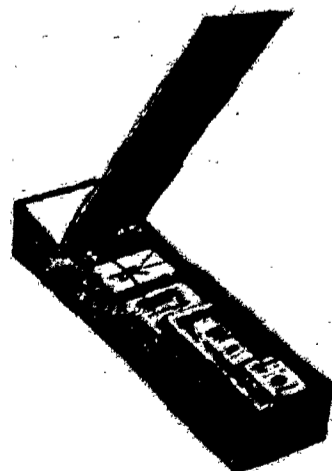
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