

K O N O Broadcasting Station  
Monday, March 3, 1941  
9:15-9:35 P. M.

Chairman: Mr. Oswaldo V. Ramirez, Forum  
Counselor, Public Affairs Forum  
Guest Speaker: Hon. Alonso S. Perales,  
Nicaraguan Consul-General

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

Topic: "WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO GET THE PEOPLES  
OF THE AMERICAS TOGETHER?"

The Public Affairs Forum takes pleasure in bringing to you another cultural presentation in its series of weekly broadcasts designed generally to promote adult civic education among the various social and economic sectors of our community and particularly to cultivate a broader and a more understanding relationship between the Anglo- and the Latin-American elements of our citizenry. These radio broadcasts are presented alternately in Spanish and English and are mainly concerned with discussions of an inter-American character.

The Public Affairs Forum Program is sponsored by the U. S. Office of Education and it is locally directed by Mr. C. E. Troutz of the San Antonio Vocational and Technical School.

This evening we are privileged to interview a recognized authority on inter-American affairs and one of San Antonio's most prominent attorneys on a timely and, certainly, significant subject; namely, "WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO GET THE PEOPLES OF THE AMERICAS TOGETHER?". Our ~~guest~~ distinguished guest is Mr. Alonso S. Perales who has fulfilled thirteen diplomatic assignments in the Foreign Service of the United States, including service as an attorney on the staff of General John J. Pershing in connection with the Tacna-Arica arbitration in South America and as a legal adviser to the United States Electoral Missions in Nicaragua in 1928, 1930, and 1932. May I introduce Mr. Perales at this time--

MR. PERALES: Good evening, Ladies and Gentlemen.

CHAIRMAN: Mr. Perales, as a close observer of inter-American diplomacy, would you say that the relations between this country and the other American Republics are stronger and closer today than ever before?

MR. PERALES: Generally speaking, yes; especially the Governments of the American Republics. They are closer today than ever before in the history of the New World, and it is my belief that the day is not far when the peoples of the Americas, as distinguished from the Governments, will also be better friends than in the past.

Director of the Bureau of Economic Warfare  
Washington, D. C.  
Dear Sir:

Mr. Tolson  
Washington, D. C.

The following information is being furnished to you for your information and for the information of the various agencies and departments of the Government which are concerned with the activities of the Axis powers and their agents in the United States and in the territories under their control. This information is being furnished to you for your information and for the information of the various agencies and departments of the Government which are concerned with the activities of the Axis powers and their agents in the United States and in the territories under their control.

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Very truly yours,  
[Signature]

REMARKS: Good summary, but needs more detail.  
CONCLUSIONS: The Bureau should be kept advised of any developments in the Axis situation which may affect the activities of the Axis powers and their agents in the United States and in the territories under their control.

RECOMMENDATIONS: It is recommended that the Bureau be kept advised of any developments in the Axis situation which may affect the activities of the Axis powers and their agents in the United States and in the territories under their control. It is also recommended that the Bureau be kept advised of any developments in the Axis situation which may affect the activities of the Axis powers and their agents in the United States and in the territories under their control.

CHAIRMAN: Could you point out some of measures undertaken by the Governments of the American Republics in the interest of mutual cooperation and understanding?

MR. PERALES: Well, the principal measures have been the pacts entered into by the American Republics during the past eight years providing for non-intervention in the internal and external affairs of another, whereby each country agreed to mind its own business; the reciprocal trade agreements between the United States and the other American nations which made possible for said nations to sell us some of their products and in turn buy more goods from us than ever before in the history of our relations with them; the exchange of students and professors; the continental defense pact whereby all the American nations are pledged to defend the American continents against outside aggression; and the lending of money by the Export-Import Bank to other American countries in order that they might stabilize their currency, complete their respective sections of the Pan-American Highway, and otherwise to prepare themselves for the defense of the American continents.

CHAIRMAN: Mr. Perales, from what you say it appears that most of these contributions in the interest of Pan-American solidarity have been made by the United States. What, specifically, have the Latin-American nations done to cement relations with the United States?

MR. PERALES: They have signed the agreements I mentioned a while ago and have demonstrated their willingness to cooperate with the United States in every possible way, not only to improve commercial and cultural relations, but to prepare to defend the New World <sup>OUTSIDE</sup> against aggression. Furthermore, they are learning the English language in order <sup>BETTER</sup> to understand their English-speaking neighbors.

CHAIRMAN: Let's bring this matter a little closer home. Is the State of Texas doing anything to foster a better understanding with the peoples of the other American nations?

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... understanding

... Well, the principal measures have been the years entered  
... into by the American Republic during the last half century providing for non-  
... intervention in the internal and external affairs of another, whereby each  
... country is free to mind its own business; the reciprocal free trade agreements  
... between the United States and the other American nations which made possible  
... the world market to which we have access in the same way that we have  
... been in the past in the history of our relations with them; the an-  
... nouncement of the American Republic; the continental defense pact which all  
... the American nations are pledged to defend the American continent against  
... outside aggression; and the signing of many by the great-labor-bank to  
... other American countries in order that they may stabilize their currency,  
... complete their respective sections of the Pan-American highway, and otherwise  
... to promote themselves or the defense of the American continent.

... Mr. ... from what you say it appears that most of these  
... contributions in the interest of Pan-American solidarity have been made by  
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... towards relations with the United States?

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... every possible way, not only to improve commercial and cultural relations,  
... but to prepare to defend the hemisphere against aggression. Further on, they  
... are forming the English language in order to understand their English-speaking  
... neighbors.

... Let's bring this matter a little closer home. In the case  
... of Latin America, would it be fair to say that a better understanding with the people of  
... the other American Republics?

MR. PERALES: Yes, thd movement started recently in the Texas Legislature providing for compulsory teaching of the Spanish language in the primary grades of the public school of Texas, and the bill approved by the Texas Senate on February 11th authorizing a total of 100 students from other Pan-American nations to attend state-supported colleges tuition free, are two decided steps in that direction.

CHAIRMAN: Can you think of any other measures that the State of Texas might take further to strengthen the bonds of friendship with the peoples of our sister republics to the south?

MR. PERALES: Yes, I do, Mr. Ramirez. There is something that, in my judgment, and, in fact, in the judgment of all persons of Mexican extraction, is extremely important if the efforts of our Federal Government to strengthen the bonds of friendship between the people of the United States and the peoples of the Hispanic-American Republics are to be really effective and successful. We believe that one thing that will go a long ways toward accomplishing this end is by the Anglo-American people ( here I include those of teutonic, celtic, and other Caucasian extractions) of the United States resolving to cease to consider and to treat the inhabitants of the United States of Hispanic descent as their inferiors. There is too much discrimination going on now, and has been for years, against persons of Mexican descent. In many towns and cities of our State children of Mexican extraction are denied adequate school facilities, workmen of Mexican descent are not employed when an Anglo-American can be found to do the work, and when workmen of Mexican extraction are employed they do not receive the same wages that would be paid to an Anglo-American worker. Persons of Mexican lineage are denied service in various public places such as restaurants, theaters, barber shops, etc., operated by Anglo-Americans. I could cite many concrete cases covering a wide field of activities in which persons of Mexican descent are discriminated against. Naturally, such ~~handicaps~~ discrimination handicaps our people and renders it impossible for them to progress and to be happy as our fellow-citizens and friends of ~~Mexican~~ Anglo-American descent.

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CHAIRMAN: Do you suppose that the peoples south of the border are aware of this situation here in Texas?

MR. PERALES: I should say they are! Citizens from those countries are now travelling in Texas. Besides, students from those nations are perfecting their knowledge of aviation in Randolph and Kelly Fields. Naturally, they have eyes and ears the same as we have. I will give you an illustration; a few weeks ago an aviator from one of the Central American Republics was denied service at a barber shop in Harlandale. A lady, wife of one of the aviators from South America was denied service at a beauty parlor in the northern section of this city. In both instances they were evidently mistaken for Mexicans. American soldiers of Mexican Descent, attired in United States Army uniform, have been denied service in two barber shops on Broadway in this city merely because of their racial extraction.

CHAIRMAN: The situation is rather unfortunate, no doubt. But now, what could be done to put an end to it, Mr. Perales?

MR. PERALES: There is only one practical remedy and that is to change public opinion; that is, to create a sympathetic understanding in the minds and hearts of our Anglo-American citizens of Texas toward the Mexican people. And here is, precisely, where our Federal and State Governments can render a great service, inasmuch as Pan American organizations and service clubs with Pan American leanings have failed to do anything about it. The Congress of the United States and the Texas Legislature should each pass an Anti-Race Hatred Law similar to the one now in force in the State of New Jersey, making it unlawful for any person to incite racial prejudice, by word or deed, against members of the Caucasian Race. When we do that we shall have contributed greatly toward the unity and solidarity which we need for common defense, thus insuring the safety of our Republic and of the Western Hemisphere; and moreover, we shall have taken a decided step toward promoting the general welfare of our people. Another very constructive measure our <sup>Federal and State</sup> Governments could take would be to send us a corps of Anglo-American lecturers and writers to wage a vigorous campaign among our

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Anglo-American friends and fellow-citizens in Texas designed to form in the minds of their listeners a sympathetic attitude toward the Mexican people.

CHAIRMAN: I can see how your proposed Anti-Race Hatred Law is fundamentally sound and undoubtedly would be in keeping with American principles of justice and equality. Don't you think, however, that a more effective way to solve the problem is to approach it first through our social, civic, and educational institutions?

MR. PERALES: In normal times, yes; but just now we are facing a national emergency which requires the wholehearted, unflinching cooperation of every American citizen and every inhabitant of our land, and there is not sufficient time to follow the persuasive, tactful method which you have just suggested any more than there is for the national defense industries to close their doors until striking employees have settled their wage and hour disputes with their employers. As you know, there are now before our National Congress two or three bills intended to outlaw strikes in national defense industries during our present emergency. If our national defense program cannot wait until strikers have adjusted their differences<sup>v</sup> with their employers, it goes without saying that neither can it wait for our narrow-minded citizens to stop inciting racial prejudices that handicap our nation's preparedness program as much, if not more, as do labor disputes, inasmuch as our enemies can avail themselves of both weapons to very good advantage. Furthermore, the enactment of an Anti-Race Hatred law would in no way prevent us from approaching the problems through our social, civic, and educational institutions as a secondary method to be used jointly with the first one,; namely, the legislative method. That is why I have also suggested that a corps of cultured Anglo-American lecturers and writers be sent to Texas to initiate and conduct a vigorous campaign among our Anglo-American friends designed to end all racial prejudices in so far as members of the Caucasian Race are concerned.

CHAIRMAN: Will the situation you have just described affect in any way the loyalty and devotion of our American citizens of Mexican descent toward the United States of America?

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MR. PERALES: Not in the least, we proved our loyalty and devotion to our country during the last war, and we are ready to do it again. We have but one heart and that belongs not to Hitler, Mussolini or Stalin, but to the United States of America. We can distinguish the stupid type from the real American type of citizen, and, therefore, we look upon the situation as a purely national problem to be settled by us among ourselves in the American way. And I would not bring the matter up now were it not for the fact that it is my honest and considered opinion that the racial prejudice which unfortunately exists against the Mexican people in Texas is hurting our country in more ways than one, and I believe we ought to put an end to it right now, if we really want to get the peoples of the Americas together.

Chairman: Mr. Perales, we appreciate your kindness in accepting to cooperate with us this evening, and shall be looking forward to your continued cooperation in the future.

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to our country during the last war, and we are ready to do it again, we  
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but to our United States of America. We have distinguished ourselves here  
from the real American type of citizen, and therefore, we look upon the  
-the- as a purely national problem to be solved by our own  
people in the American way. And I would not bring the matter up here  
if it did not for the fact that it is a honest and reasonable demand  
that a racial justice which wherever it exists against the Mexican  
people in Texas is bringing our country in worse than any, and I  
believe we ought to put an end to it right now, if we really want to  
set the people of the American Republic.