**LA PrensA CONFIRMS ITS OPINION ON THE FREEDOM OF THE PRESS AND THE CIRCULATION OF NEWSPAPERS**

At a meeting held yesterday in the Secretariat of Labor and Social Welfare, our newspaper reaffirmed its views on this subject.

A further meeting was held yesterday in the Secretariat of Labor and Social Welfare for the purpose of discussing matters relating to the circulation of La Prensa.

On March 18 last the assistant administrator of La Prensa presented himself before the aforementioned Secretariat, where he was informed of a communication from the Syndicate of Newspaper Vendors, Magazines, and other Publications, submitted on March 8 to the Secretariat, for the purpose of requesting "that it obtain the suppression of subscribers of La Prensa and that it compel that newspaper to fix a price for the sale of its issues." At the meeting held that day, attended by representatives of the aforementioned Syndicate and of the Association of Distributors of Newspapers, Magazines and other Publications, La Prensa rejected that communication in so far as it concerns the basic problem in question and the terms thereof. Another meeting was subsequently held on Friday, last week, at the Secretariat of Labor and Social Welfare, in which the representatives of the Syndicate and of the Association mentioned above declared that they would consider the remarks contained in their note of March 8 as not having been written, the text of which was as follows:

"In our opinion this method—referring to the existence of subscribers—is due to two reasons: to obtain for itself profits collected by the vendor, and to eliminate the latter because he is known to be fully identified with the principles of social justice that inspire the Government acts of His Excellency, the President of the Nation, Brigadier General Juan B. Peron. This fact leads the newspaper in question to fear that our Syndicate, reacting against the melevolent criticism and systematic opposition reflected in its daily writing, may assume an attitude which might succeed in silencing its voice."

Furthermore on that same occasion, the Syndicate insisted in "requiring" the suppression of subscribers to that newspaper and "asking" that other sale prices be fixed.

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Upon being informed of the facts and statements referred to above, our representative declares that he was taking note of the new situation and placed on record that "the members of the Syndicate of Vendors and of the Association of Distributors of Newspapers, are not a part of the personnel of La Prensa."

The official of the Secretariat of Labor and Social Welfare who took action in that meeting, then resolved to adjourn and to summon those present to a new meeting, which took place yesterday. The minutes of this meeting and its results were duly drawn up and signed.

**STATEMENTS OF LA PRENSA**

After the customary heading of the act of proceedings drawn up yesterday, it is stated that the representative of our newspaper made the following declaration upon being allowed to speak:

"The newspaper La Prensa has taken cognizance of the minutes drawn up 'in the office of the Secretary of Labor and Social Welfare, on March 28 last, in the presence of a representative of the newspaper and representatives of a Syndicate of Vendors of Newspapers, Magazines and Other Publications, and of an Association of Distributors of Newspapers, Magazines and Other Publications, and with respect to the text of these minutes and the respective antecedents, it declares that:

"I.- In a previous act of proceedings drawn up on March 18 last 'in the office of the Secretary of Conciliation—Secretariat of Labor and Social Welfare, Bureau of Trade Union Affairs—' it is stated that La Prensa rejected the terms of the communication which is 'discussed' again in the act of proceedings dated the 28th.

"II.- In rejecting the communication, La Prensa affirmed 'that it is notoriously offensive' and 'based on inaccurate facts' and it also declared that 'it affects constitutional and legal precepts relative to the freedom of the press, which not only guarantee the printing of newspapers but their free circulation as well'.

"III.- The minutes of the 28th state that 'the labor representative declares that it considers as not having been written the remarks contained in its note of March 8', and 'in so doing, it believes that the road is open to enter into discussion of the basic object of the petition'. This statement modified in no way whatsoever the constitutional and legal aspects contemplated in the reply of La Prensa.

"IV.-
"IV.- The representatives of the Syndicate who attended the meeting of the 28th., and the persons who may be affiliated to those associations, are not a part of the personnel of La Frense— as has already been stated by the representative of this newspaper—nor do they maintain any kind of dependence on the newspaper, as is well known. Such persons obtain copies of La Frense for purposes of sale or resale without any kind of obligation, just as they obtain for similar purposes—and always at uniform prices—any other kind of journalistic publications.

"V.- Ever since its recent formation, the Syndicate of Vendors of Newspapers, Magazines and Other Publications, has never addressed to this administration of this newspaper any kind of petition regarding the manner in which La Frense attends to its direct subscribers or to the price at which newspaper sellers buy its issues.

"VI.- There is therefore no conflict of any nature whatsoever to which La Frense is a party, which could explain the intervention of the Secretariat of Labor and Social Welfare, not even on the basis of conciliation. It was therefore not appropriate that, at the hearing of the 28th., the labor representatives should be invited—as they actually were—to set forth their 'claims'.

"VII.- The communication presented on March 8 by the Syndicate of Vendors of Newspapers, Magazines and Other Publications, is absolutely inseparable from the posters which that Syndicate, on that same date, caused to be posted on the walls of the streets of this city, the title of which is 'the newspaper La Frense enemy number one of newspaper vendors and workers in general'. The so-called explanatory clauses of the communication in question are proof of this action and the fact of the statement now made to the effect that they are considered 'as not having been written' does not alter the situation: a few words were erased, but the attitude itself remains unchanged.

"VIII.- To oppose the existence of subscribers of La Frense attended to by distributors—as is done by Argentine newspapers and newspapers all over the world—is as illogical and illegal as it is to require that newspapers be not forwarded by mail to the subscribers or that journalistic administrations do not sell issues directly to the interested parties.

"IX.- To present a request for the reduction of the price of copies of a journalistic publication directly to the Secretariat of Labor and Social Welfare, is tantamount to illegally pretending that the latter Secretariat is the authority that can finally determine the price in question.
"X.- These facts compel La Prensa to confirm its refusal of the 16th., its attitude being founded on the fact that by methods incompatible with constitutional and legal precepts, it is endeavor to restrict the free circulation of the newspaper, this openly violating the freedom of the press."

Upon being allowed to speak, the representatives of the Syndicate of Vendors and of the Association of Distribution of Newspapers, Magazines and Other Publications, then spoke as follows, as was recorded in the pertinent minute:

"Cognizance has been taken of the reply of the newspaper La Prensa and the desire is expressed of hearing directly the reply of Señor Gainza Paz, Director of the newspaper La Prensa."

The preceding statements were followed by the action then taken by the official of the Secretariat of Labor and Social Welfare who attended the meeting. In this connection, the following is added in the minutes:

"At this point the acting official places on record that, in his opinion, after the statement made in the act of the 26th. last, there remain as non-written the considerations and facts that the newspaper La Prensa qualifies as offensive and inaccurate. That the intervention of the Secretariat of Labor and Social Welfare has limited itself to bringing into contact the interested parties in its character as an organization supervising relations between employers and workers, and that such intervention cannot be interpreted as having any other significance. That the petition made by the Syndicate and by the Association is in no way prejudicial to constitutional and legal precepts relating to the freedom of the press, and that the term 'claims' used in the act of the 26th. was understood in its meaning of 'petition'.

The meeting was immediately closed.

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