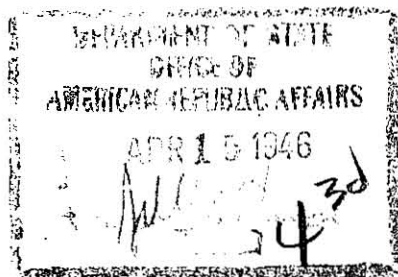


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FROM

2204 //

Habana

Dated April 10, 1946

Rec'd 8:57 a.m., Apr. 15

RESTRICTED

Secretary of State,
Washington.

A-584, April 10

Press reports that early this morning Minister of Education, Senator Diego Vicente TEJERA and Minister of Labor, Carlos AZCARATE fought a duel with swords at the country place near Habana of Senator Jose Manuel CASANOVA. One paper reported no casualties, another that Dr. Azcarate, while "examining the weapons", as the local euphemism has it, received "a wound in the abdomen". It may be considered unlikely that there was any great loss of blood.

Press about week ago reported rumors that these two gentlemen had had a difference variously described as a) connected with the hegemony over the Institute of Planning and Social Reforms (Previsión y Reformas Sociales) presided over by Dr. Tejera, b) a question respecting the technical commission studying the creation of maritime schools, and, c) a complaint made by one or the other party to President GRAU.

It was reported April 6 that Senators Jose Manuel GUTIERREZ and Emilio OCHOA (Autenticos) who were acting as seconds for Dr. Tejera, had declared, on what bases it is not known, that the duelists, if they persisted on their road to the field of honor, would have to resign from their respective ministries since their request for "leave" to duel would not be sufficient. Azcarate, whose "Autenticidad" is not thought to be Simon-pure, had as seconds Messrs. Miguel Antonio DE LA RIVA and Osvaldo MORALES PATIÑO, who are not even Representatives. They apparently said nothing.

There

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no deal

A-584 from Habana

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There have been no reports that either of the Ministers either requested leave or resigned.

What, if anything, Grau will do about these spirited goings on in his innermost Autentico circles has not yet been indicated.

WOODWARD

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