

Transcribed Excerpt from Interview with Dr. M. Santos, a Cuban Immigrant, between 1936 and 1939

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The business of optics nowadays is like a corpse with life, as the competition, so great and destructive that the “chain stores” make, selling cheap classes, and in many cases harmful and injurious to the sight, is the principal cause why this profession is so extremely fallen. At the houses of the “chain stores” the glasses that they sell are usually spherical, and it is proven by the last statistics that more than 50% of the people suffer from astigmatism, and, therefore, these individuals need special cylindrical crystals, which the “chain stores” do not sell.

As to the New Deal, I believe that it has been a failure as it has protected the trusts more than the American people. Today, the poor are poorer, and the trusts are richer. Another reason: this is a country that is controlled by the trusts. When one stands on the street, and closes his eyes for a moment, and then opens them and looks: everything absolutely all that one sees is made by the trusts. The automobile that passes by, the street car, the trucks, everything that one wears: shoes, clothes, etc. When one enters a restaurant, he sees the plates, the tables, the spoons, all is made by the trusts. 95% of what one eats is controlled by the trusts. The trusts for more than 200 years have been controlling all the industries, and killing the small business men. We have reached a state in which the trusts dominate all, as they are the owners of the money, or nearly all the money that there is in the United States.

The war has already begun between one trust and others; the strongest will dominate the weaker trusts, and the capital will be focused to a few men who will control everything.

In my particular opinion, all is not lost. A few men are necessary, who would have sufficient energy and intelligence to make social laws; as for example, all machines which displace ten men, should give the salary to those ten men. For example, one machine can, manipulated by the number of individuals which it displaces, taking turns by hour. The Capitalist will have the right to a certain equitable percentage, and there cannot be a Capitalist who can have as capital more than one million dollars. All that passes this amount the federal government will confiscate it for the betterment of the community.

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The utility companies should be the property of the communities. All poor men who passes 50 years should be pensioned of the government, with a modest pension, but at the same time sufficient for the necessities of each one.

The system of voting in this county should be reformed, as the system that exists nowadays is very antiquated as it is frustrated in nearly all the country. One of the principal things that should be done is the [“carnet?”] (identification card) with the picture and finger prints to avoid fraud.

This country gives more salary to the government employees, as a general rule, than all the countries in the world. And from the President down, the salaries should be out.

It is my firm opinion that if the President does not change his imperialist and anti-democratic systems with the people, not many years will pass in which the blood will run here as in France when the revolution; and in Russia not many years ago. For the same reason that the machine cannot be detained because it is the progress, neither can the right of justice be detained which is demanded by all who produce.

History shows us that every step towards justice and liberty has been 7 bathed in blood. The American people are a people well disciplined and docile, but the American people if some day they should determine to shed their blood against this imperialistic and antedemocratic system, all that passed in France, and in Russia, will be a drop of water compared with what will happen here.

We must take into consideration that the American people have more progress and civilization than the rest of the world, who know their rights; who are accustomed to eat and dress, and that today they do not eat nor dress.