

FORUM

In LARR III:3 a communication on university reform by Professor Jesús Chavarría of the University of California, Santa Barbara, was published. The following is a rejoinder to that communication.

October 25, 1968

Professor Richard P. Schaedel
Managing Editor
Latin American Research Review
University of Texas
Austin, Texas

Dear Professor Schaedel:

I was somewhat startled at the "honor" accorded me by Professor Jesús Chavarría in his "Communication on University Reform" (LARR, vol. III, no. 3, Summer, 1968, pp. 192–195). Professor Chavarría makes the point that a number of writers on Latin American student politics have assumed in recently published articles that the student movement began in Córdoba in 1918. He then proceeds to show that university reform also took place in Peru—much earlier, in the late 19th century, to be exact.

The point I wish to make is that Professor Chavarría attributes this initial assumption to me—an honor which I am loathe to accept. He writes: "Still earlier, and possibly the man who started it all, Solomon Lipp, made the same assumption." (p. 195, fn. 1).

Professor Chavarría is referring to my doctoral thesis, written in 1949. If he had taken the trouble to peruse it a bit more thoroughly, he would have read that in 1872 Juan María Gutiérrez had introduced a bill in Congress in which he advocated the student's freedom to study under any teacher of his choice (one of the original planks of University Reform), and, furthermore, that in 1903 trouble was brewing at the University of Buenos Aires in connection with university reform (pp. 160–161).

It is regrettable that Professor Chavarría quotes from my thesis abstract when he writes: "University Reform did not *begin* (his italics) in Córdoba and then 'spread from Córdoba, Argentina to the rest of Hispanic America'" (p. 192). The quote within his quote is attributed to me. But this is entirely inaccurate. The complete quote on p. v. of the thesis reads: "Chapters III and IV deal exclusively with the genesis, development and highlights of the Reform, as it spread from Córdoba, Argentina, to the rest of Hispanic America."

If the two versions are compared, it will readily be seen that I make no mention at all about the *beginning* of the University Reform—which Professor Chavarría seems to imply. The first part of his quote does not even appear in my thesis.

Nevertheless, in view of the current university situation in Latin America (as well as in this country—and there are striking parallels indeed!), I am delighted with the plethora of articles dealing with the subject, now being published in English. This is especially so in view of the fact that Professor Chavarría indirectly acknowledges that I was possibly the first to undertake a detailed study—twenty years ago! And for this I thank him.

Sincerely yours,
Solomon Lipp
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