

TRIBUTE TO DR. PHILIP L. WHITE
FROM THE
LATIN AMERICAN NUTRITION SOCIETY (SLAN)

In this VI Western Hemisphere Nutrition Congress (WHNC) there are participating three Presidents of the Latin American Nutrition Society, Dr. José Dutra de Oliveira, from Brazil, Dr. Fernando Mönckeberg, from Chile, and myself. In addition, the present President, Dr. Héctor Bourges from Mexico, and the President-elect, Dr. Juan Claudio Sanabuja from Argentina, are also here with us, as well as an important number of members and colleagues from essentially every Latin American country.

While standing here in front of all of you, I am sure that what I will express is the consensus of the Latin American scientists who constitute the membership of SLAN. We are grateful for this opportunity to publicly express what PHIL WHITE means to us.

We all know that there are many nutrition meetings held either annually or periodically. But it is not difficult for us to identify the uniqueness of the Western Hemisphere Nutrition Congress. Since its beginnings in 1967 in the City of Chicago, there is no doubt that it has provided the most effective mechanism for a North-South connection and intellectual exchange among nutrition scientists in this Hemisphere. We cannot forget that the real germ of the Latin American Nutrition Society was planted there, in Chicago, where a group of some 30 colleagues constituted the first ad hoc Directive Council, with Dr. Conrado Asenjo, from Puerto Rico, presiding. Since then, SLAN has developed and matured; and since then also, our Society has been honored, by invitation, to co-sponsor the Western Hemisphere Nutrition Congresses, contributing also to program formula-

tion. This fruitful as well as rewarding relation has been inspired and implemented by Phil White. Perhaps we can trace back the origin of this special friendship to Phil's stay and valuable work performed in Peru. It is likely, however, that his feeling for Latin America was already there even before.

But it is Phil's rare combination of scholarship, organizational competence, interest in the young scientist, human relations, friendship to Latin America, and sense of humor that make my task tonight a very pleasant one. This task is to pay tribute to Dr. Phil White, Director, Department of Nutrition of the American Medical Association, for his contribution —through the WHNC— to bringing together the food and nutrition scientists from Latin America and those from the United States and Canada, and for the support and stimulus that he has offered always to our young Society.

In the name of all of us, thanks again, PHIL.

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