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Peru Names Red Judge in U.S. Oil Dispute; He Has Strong Ties With Cuba and Peking

WASHINGTON—A true measure of the Peru military government's position in the oil dispute with the United States may be the appointment of a known Communist to judge a major aspect of the case.

Judge Luis Beltran Pena Fiol, who maintains close ties with Fidel Castro's Cuba, has been assigned to assess the value of the Talara Refinery of the U.S.-owned International Petroleum Corp. —one of the properties seized by the new Peruvian junta.

A member of the Communist party since his student days, Pena Fiol joined the more revolutionary Peking faction when the Peruvian party split into Chinese and Russian wings in 1964. He spent the last six months of 1964 in Cuba (addressing a Communist rally in Bolivia, then being targeted for revolution, on his way from Peru to Cuba).

His appointment buttresses suspicions here that the Peruvian court proceedings to fix the value of the expropriated IPC property are a masquerade and that an artificially low value will be set. That value will then be subtracted from the extravagantly high \$690.5 million that the junta claims IPC owes for "unjust enrichment" over the past 44 years.

A footnote: A key figure in the Peruvian junta's oil policy has been Ruiz Eldredge, head of the Lima Bar Association and one of Peru's leading Marxists.

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The Young Republicans have showed again how they enjoy being an inbred little conservative clique by refusing to join a broad-based youth movement to lower the voting age.

Actually, national YR chairman Jack McDonald had tentatively agreed to join the Youth Franchise Coalition (an alliance of some 16 groups advocating the vote at age 18) — pending approval by the YR executive committee.

But when the executive committee met behind closed doors at Washington's Shoreham Hotel March 15, McDonald was cool. He suggested some youth organizations were buying their way into the coalition, a reference to a donation of \$1,000 by the Young Democrats.

Paul Minarchenko, a YMCA staffer who heads the coalition and was presenting its case to the YRs, protested that no money is needed for membership.



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But YR leaders strongly opposed any attempt at a national law, rather than just state laws, lowering the voting age. And trouble really erupted when Minarchenko recited the coalition's membership.

There were snickers when he mentioned the NAACP and the Southern Christian Leadership conference. Then, one young lady rose to say it was highly improper for the YRs to join any group containing the National Student Association and the Americans for Democratic Action.

Overlooking nonideological organizations such as the National Education Association and the student caucus of the YMCA in the coalition, YRs acted.

They voted (with only one or two dissents audible) against joining the coalition while professing to support the 18-year voting age.

Ironically, the executive committee voted immediately after hearing Sen. Hugh Scott of Pennsylvania, an old critic of the YRs, urge them to observe President Nixon's conciliatory motto of "Forward Together."

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Tycoon Jeremiah Milbank, an original financier of the draft-Goldwater movement, will become chief Republican money-raiser — a clear victory for the party's right wing.

The national finance chairman's post, vacant since the fabulously successful reign of Secretary of Commerce Maurice Stans, was originally slated for a moderate: Walter Thayer, chief lieutenant of John Hay Whitney and president of Whitney Communications Corp.

(Dist. 1969, by Publishers-Hall Syndicate)