

6 Months to Think it Over

Marciano May Retire

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil, Mar. 30 (AP).—Heavyweight champion Rocky Marciano acknowledged today that he was considering retirement from the ring but said he would give himself six months to "think it over."

"It's a tough decision to make," the champion added, "and I won't make it here. There's no time limit. I've got six months or more. When and if I decide, the announcement will come from my manager, Al Weill."

In this way, Marciano sought to smother rumors that there was a rift between him and his longtime manager.

"Weill and I are still on good terms," said Marciano. "A lot of people would like to see us break up, but we are not about to do it."

Talks to Weill on Phone

Marciano said he talked by telephone with Weill today.

In New York, Weill said he had talked to the fighter by telephone March 20 and that Marciano hadn't mentioned quitting.

"I knew Rocky was thinking about retiring and I'd never stand in his way if that's what he wants," said Weill. "I'd never tell anybody to box if they don't want to or if they figure their career is finished."

Last Sept. 21 after Marciano had scored a ninth-round knockout over lightweight champion, Archie Moore, the champion startled interviewers in the dressing room with the comment:

"There is a lot of pressure from my family for me to retire. My mother wants me to quit. So does my dad, and so does my wife. It has been a pretty bad ordeal for them. I don't know what I should do."

Later Marciano said he didn't plan to retire but wished to fight two more years.

Mother Grieving

Rocky's mother always has grieved that her stout young offspring turned to a career of violence. She never watches or listens by radio to any of his fights. Instead she goes to a near-by church to pray.

The father, a mild-mannered Italian immigrant now retired from his shoe-factory job, earlier had encouraged Rocky's ring career. But lately he has felt his son has achieved enough.

Rocky, a devoted husband and father of a four-year-old girl, repeatedly has expressed concern over neglect of his wife and family forced on him by rigid training routines.

Marciano has been taking it easy on his South American jaunt. "I have been on the beach every day with my wife and having a fine time without a fight ahead of me," he commented.