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# WE

FOR THE YOUNG FILIPINO

THE NATIONAL WEEKLY  
FORUM OF FREE EXPRESSION

FOR THE WEEK JAN. 13-19, 1979

VOL. 11 NO. 38 \* 50 CVOS. IN METRO MANILA

## DISTURBING

### CDCP 'controls' Metro projects

A weekly community newspaper in Quezon City has raised questions over the reported announcement by the First Lady and Human Settlements Minister Imelda Romualdez-Marcos that all funds for the repair and construction of roads and streets in Metro Manila will henceforth be consolidated and the work undertaken by a private firm, Construction Development Corporation of the Philippines.

Describing the announcement as "disturbing," the Metropolitan Mail, in its editorial, said that the "gigantic job will be awarded to the CDCP on a negotiated basis, without public bidding."

The construction firm

has been favored with several big infrastructure projects such as the Manila Bay reclamation area and the construction and operation of both the North and South expressways.

Mrs. Marcos's disclosure of the CDCP's entry into Metro Manila projects came on the heels of her announcement that she has set aside an aggregate P900 million a year for the "facelifting" of Metro Manila.

In its editorial, the Mail recalled that in the bidding for the construction of the Manila-Calocan-Malabon-Navotas road extension (R-10), the CDCP, out of seven bidders, sub-

(Page 8, please)

### RP's commitment to human rights

by SALVADOR P. LOPEZ

#### CONCLUSION

According to Article II, Sec. 3 of the Constitution, our country "adopts the generally accepted principles of international law as part of the law of the land." Therefore, the economic, social and cultural guarantees of the Constitution may be said to have been reinforced by the provisions of the Covenant. And that Covenant explicitly identifies the economic, social and cultural rights as rights which States Parties are obligated to recognize and respect.

Nevertheless, there is respectable legal opinion which holds that the economic, social and cultural rights are not rights at all in the strict juridical sense. A well-known legal maxim states that

where there is a right, there is a remedy. It logically follows that if there is no remedy, there is no right. Thus, a man who feels that he is illegally arrested and detained (in a democratic society, that is) can sue for a writ of habeas corpus and expect redress. But if a sick citizen is not admitted in a hospital, or if his child cannot enter school for lack of room, he has no recourse in law. The most he can do is write a letter to the newspapers, on the slim chance that it will be published, or better yet, write a letter to the First Lady, Mrs. Imelda Romualdez Marcos, in the virtual certainty (provided she gets it) that his need will be

(Page 2, please)

# RP foreign borrowings upped to \$7.78 billion

The Philippine's foreign borrowing has reached a staggering \$7.78 billion or roughly P58.35 billion as of December 31, 1978.

The figure increased by 19% over the 1977 level, or a specific hike of \$1.219 billion, according to an official Central Bank news release.

But even as the country's external debt is in the upswing, Central Bank was reported to be determined to step up further its borrowing activity this year. Already, an estimated \$1.0 billion has been programmed for new borrowings from commercial sources.

A breakdown of the total foreign debts at the end of 1978 show that the private sector accounted for 50 per cent or \$3.37 billion; the Central Bank 9 per cent or \$752 million and the government sector's share total, 41 per cent or \$3.16 billion.

The Central Bank said that loans amounting to \$663 million or 8% of to-

tal external debt, were relet by CB and government sector, for agricultural, manufacturing and export-oriented projects. They form part of private sector borrowings.

The CB report also said that by type of credits, the country's outstanding debt consisted of \$6.58 billion or 85% in fixed-term credits and \$1.2 billion in revolving credits.

Of the outstanding fixed-term credits, the private sector accounted for 46 per cent, the government sector, 44 per cent and the CB, 10

Page 7, please

## 1979 - Year of decision

By DIOSDADO MACAPAGAL  
Former President, Republic of the Philippines

### PART III

Based on its past cumulative performance, the outlook in the future under the dictatorship is bleak for the Filipino people. The dark prospect is gleaned from a worsened situation expected in 1979. Despite the soothing but begull-

ing words from those in power, the economic condition in the coming year bids to be worse than in the ending year. The adverse economic plight will generate consequent difficulties in various phases of the na-

(Page 6, please)

#### PHILIPPINE EXTERNAL DEBT (a)

As of Dates Indicated

(In Million \$) SOURCE: BULLETIN TODAY

Item	Amount Outstanding 12-31-77	TRANSACTIONS January-December 1978			Amount Outstanding 12-31-78 (p)
		Avail-ments	Repay-ments	Adjust-ments (d)	
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,562.7</b>	<b>4,561.9</b>	<b>3,411.3</b>	<b>68.2</b>	<b>7,781.5</b>
Central Bank	325.3	550.1	123.0	—	752.4
Revolving Credits	—	220.5	121.2	—	99.3
Fixed-Term Credits (b)	325.3	329.6	1.8	—	653.1
Government Sector	2,626.1	1,735.5	1,250.6	52.5	3,163.5
Revolving Credits	250.5	917.0	893.7	(20.4)	253.4
Fixed-Term Credits	2,375.6	818.5	356.9	72.9	2,910.1
IMF Drawings	172.9	—	81.5	—	91.4
IMF Oil Facility	176.0	51.1	—	—	227.1
IMF Extended Fund Facility	182.4	21.2	—	—	203.6
IMF Trust Fund Agreement	19.3	59.4	—	—	78.7
Buffer Stock Financing Facility	—	45.9	—	—	45.9
Others (c)	1,825.0	640.9	275.4	72.9	2,263.4
Private Sector	3,611.3	2,276.3	2,037.7	15.7	3,865.6
Revolving Credits	677.6	1,521.4	1,229.8	(122.2)	847.0
Fixed-Term Credits	2,933.7	754.9	807.9	137.9	3,018.6

- (a) Excludes IMF allocation of special drawing rights amounting to \$59.3 million.
- (b) Excludes Rural Bank/IBRD loans lent by the Central Bank to the private sector.
- (c) Excludes loans relet to the private sector.
- (d) Consist of prior years' availments and/or repayments.
- (e) Preliminary

### Bulletin hits bases accord

"Any reasonable observer would agree that about \$100 million a year is a pittance."

Thus did the Bulletin Today, the country's leading daily newspaper, express its publisher's dissatisfaction over the announced \$500 million military aid pledge, to be stretched within a five-year period, that went along with the six-point amendments to the Philippine-United States Military Bases Agreement signed last January 8.

In an editorial last January 10, the BT pointed out that the Philippines "certainly got much less" (Page 7, please)

### Drunk soldier in Project 6

A drunk man who claims to be a sergeant of the Metropolitan Police Command was denounced for threatening several

(Page 8, please)

#### SHORT STORY

## THE DICTATOR

By ANGEL ROMASANTA

### I. The Great Power's Visit

It is lunchtime and I sit before the dining table covered with a smelly oilcloth waiting for what ever my mother-in-law,

the matriarch of the house, would serve. She comes out of her black and fiery kitchen (Page 2, please)

#### SPEAK UP

### Should we hold polls?

Should local elections be held in 1979? This is the current question foremost in the minds of the people particularly in Metro Manila. Since the last local elections in 1971, all elective municipal, city and provincial officials have been "overstaying" in their respective offices. To feel the pulse of our readers, WE is again conducting an informal survey to find out how the public reacts to the immediate holding of elections. Respondents are requested to fill the coupon below and send it to us either through the mails or by personally dropping in our WE offices in Manila and Quezon City. Additional comments on the issue will be appreciated. Relevant comments will be subsequently published in our "Speak Up!" column.

#### WE SURVEY COUPON

- ..... I am in favor of the immediate holding of local elections, i.e., municipal, city and provincial levels.
- ..... I am not in favor of the immediate holding of local elections.

At a glance • At a glance

\* THE CHINESE  
ARE COMING

P. 5



VIVACIOUS — That's how friends describe Myra Montelibano, 20-year-old U.P. student and one of the Triumph girls.

**RP'S COMMITMENT** . . . (from page 1)

graciously attended to. But we're talking of rights, not charity.

The same legal opinion also holds that by treating the two categories of rights as if they are equal, the tendency is for the older, more strongly entrenched civil and political rights to be reduced to the level of the newer and relatively weaker economic, social and cultural rights. As the traditional individual rights lose their inalienable and imprescriptible character, they become less effective as a shield against arbitrary authority and oppressive rule.

Paradoxically, the fact that the economic, social and cultural rights hold a relatively weaker position in the hierarchy of human rights has created something of a backlash sympathy in favor of these "second-class" rights. This has resulted in a tendency to denigrate civil and political rights as a Western importation, not an integral part of the Asian or the Filipino tradition, and of importance only to the intelligentsia, the affluent class, the elite. Indeed there are those who ask the people to forego civil and political rights so that the country can develop faster and so that they can enjoy a better life.

I am certain that President Marcos would not agree with those who belittle civil and political rights. Indeed he has said that "there can be no trade-off between human rights and economic development." Nobody knows better than President Marcos that without the right to a fair and speedy trial, or the right to participate in government, especially the right to hold office, he would not be alive today, or if alive, would not be President.

In the matter of human rights, there are no

Europeans or Asians — only human beings. There are only two kinds of people in the world: those who love liberty and those who don't.

Civil and political rights are morally compelling universal rights which belong to all people, at all times, and in all situations. There is no valid excuse for any democratic society to refuse to recognize and enforce these rights at all times, subject only to the limitations specified in the Constitution. By contrast, as we have shown, the economic, social and cultural rights belong to the realm of desirable aspirations, being dependent for their satisfaction on the organization and resources of the state.

The relationship between these two sets of rights in a democratic society is not a disjunctive either/or relationship; it is rather a conjunctive relationship of mutual support. The true alternatives are not food or freedom, but food with freedom or food without freedom. For the chances are that a person who chooses food without freedom will end up without food as well as without freedom. There is really no reason to believe that death by starvation due to poverty is more dehumanizing and painful than death after slow torture, or death by firing squad, without due process of law.

We are sometimes told that we can't eat the Constitution. True, but without the Constitution our chance of eating may be greatly reduced. Either there is nothing to eat, or we are dead.

We are also asked to endure the loss of some of our basic civil and political rights under martial law because the purpose is to correct the evils of democracy and

to reform society. But a martial ruler faces the same dilemma as the surgeon who said: "The operation was successful, but the patient died."

Development can be achieved without freedom or with only a modicum of freedom. But the production of enough food, clothing and shelter for the people, and the building of roads, bridges, and temples of art and culture, are only half — and the less important half — of the story of development; the other half — the more important half — has to do with building of a better man, the improvement of the interior human being. And you cannot make a better human being without freedom, for the simple reason that freedom is of the very essence of being human.

It is a great and good thing to produce enough food, houses and roads for the people, but it is infinitely better that these be produced by the labor of men who are free.

Freedom is both the means and the end of national development. If you try to achieve development without freedom, you will of course develop, but you will get something like the State of Oceania in Orwell's frightening novel "1984" — a nation of robots and slaves who are reasonably well nourished, clothed, housed, educated and healthy.

The sole purpose of social and cultural rights is to improve the quality of life. Where economic rights are intended to help a person make a living, the social and cultural rights are meant to assure to him the fullness of living. But to enjoy a better quality of life we must first respect life itself, and respect for life cannot exist without civil and political rights. The essence of respect for is recognition of the integrity of the person and the dignity of man.

**THE DICTATOR** . . . (from page 1)

chen and plunks before me a plateful of stewed ampalaya, the bitter fruit which she knows I don't eat — hence the vindictive and triumphant air with which she sets it before me. I look up and meet hatred in its quintessence in the pupils of her eyes — hatred for me, a woman who cherishes a defiant stance towards her own husband, an important man of the province. My eyes would never glint with the light of submission and affection for him, my thoughts, my feelings, never vibrate harmoniously with his — a calamity in martial life. Prime example is: the Great Power of the Land has issued an edict commanding every citizen of the land to wear the pair of eyeglasses distributed to them by His government through authorized outlets; for — the edict explains — through exhaustive surveys, it has been found that many citizens are suffering from a certain kind of mental aberration that causes devilish hallucinations impelling the sufferers to shake their fists and shout and manifest other violent demonstrations of anger against the Great Power's government. The eyeglasses must be worn to correct or else prevent this criminal distortion of the mind that is spreading in epidemic proportions. But I, wife of one of the Great Power's officials, refuse to do so even when disobedience means imprisonment or eventually execution or mysterious disappearance. However, being the wife of one of the Great Power's devoted officials, I seem to be immune to these calamities for a time. And yet I have grown almost used to the feeling of living on borrowed time; I have also resigned myself to the surety that it is the person who is supposed to be the closest to me who'd happily act as my executioner when the opportune moment comes.

There is nothing sweeter to me at this moment than to sweep the bitter dish from off the table, but because I am supposed to be a mature woman, educated and well-bred, I throttle my anger, disregard my pride and merely sit there with a bowed and smouldering head. I have always suf-

Thus, these three categories of rights constitute an indivisible trinity. Together they guarantee the individual's right to live in the dignity of freedom, his right to make a decent living, and his right to share in the beauty and the joy of life.



**No 10 percent pay hike, report**

Unless there is a change of mind in the thinking of the Metro Manila Commission, officials and employees of the four cities and 13 municipalities of the National Capital Region will not be given their 10 percent salary increase this 1979.

The MMC's decision to this effect has already been made known to some of the 17 local government units. Caloocan City's Acting Mayor Virgilio P. Robles told WE last week that he has already been told unofficially about the matter.

Except for Quezon City, the three cities (Manila, Caloocan and Pasay) and the 13 towns had provided in their 1979 budgets for the grant of the 10 percent pay hike to their personnel starting Jan. 1.

It was said that the 13th month's pay which has been authorized by Metro Manila Gov. Imelda R. Marcos and which is now being paid out by the cities and towns takes the place of the 10 percent salary hike.

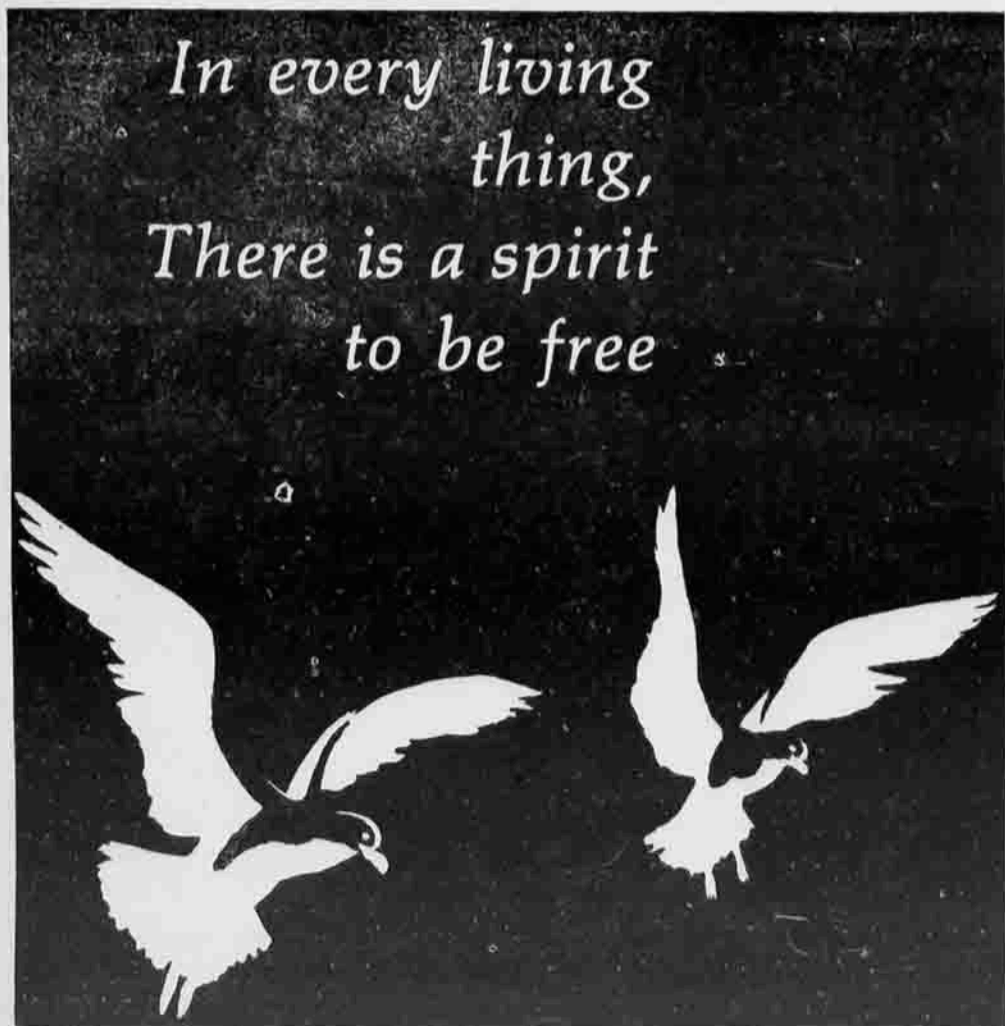
ferred my mother-in-law's malice with a great cool and arrogance that utterly humiliates her. And she makes snide remarks to people about my defunct grandfather, the subversive from whom she presumes I got my rebel streak. She says, too, that I am ludicrously proud of those "Maharlikas" from whom I am descended — those noble warriors, who five centuries ago, came sailing, big multicolored boats from far-away seas and glided into the river of my hometown to find a new kingdom of tall, bronzen people with brooding dark eyes and aquiline noses.

I project my mind's eye to the town plaza. From the azure heaven, the chariot with madly whirling propeller would be coming down, stirring a cyclone below it: trees, palms, bushes and weeds — all bow under the tempest of the descending god, shedding much of their leaves as tribute; dust, pieces of sticks and paper, all sorts of refuse would eddy around while the gaping, long-awaiting people clutch each other in panic or else scurry away from the path of the awful chariot. And when the chariot touches ground, its propeller would stop whirling and the Great Power would descend. To the people wearing the prescribed spectacles, he is as glorious as an H-bomb blasting in the sun. From their lips would rise a murmured cacophony of hosannas: He is all-wise and so has become the richest man on earth; he is our pride and joy. Hail our own, our wise, our powerful one, our Great Power who has amassed not only a bottomless pit of wealth but enormous powers as well. And in the eyes of the skeletal women nursing at their ampalaya breasts freak babies — all docile with spectacles perched on their noses — would gleam pride and gratitude over the privilege of beholding in person this Great Power come from heaven to demonstrate the respect he feels for

the dead patriots who lie buried in this valley. They delight in the resplendent vision that is his wife, her face rendered waterproof by the layers of make-up plastered on it. Then seeing the bemedalled generals trailing him, the army of soldiers alert and omniscient, they are stricken with even greater awe and respect. He is indeed the Great Power of the Land. He holds life and death in his hands; he has had executed many of those who had refused to wear the spectacles and declared him rotten and fake. It is really beyond comprehension that there are those who should hate him. Because of him, big fortunes have been made. Just look at the man flanking him, precious stones glinting on their eyeglasses. Men second to him in fortune and power. Ay, what an honor, a once-in-a-lifetime-glory to be visited by the Great Power and his entourage.

**Parillo, the Usurer**

My husband is one of those who trail him, his eyes like those of a tamed wolf, a snarl on his lips that he would pass for a smile to hide the pique in his heart for the wife who wouldn't wear the eyeglasses and wears instead a far-away, brooding look in her eyes, dangerous for others to see and must therefore be left at home to be tortured by a mean and malicious mother-in-law. He is thinking with sadness of his loving and sexy mistress even as he curses me in his throat. If only she were his legal wife, then he could take her and present her wherever and to whom-ever he pleases. Now, if there were a divorce law in the land — but the Great Power's lady, wary of her husband's many inamoratas, is dead-set against the passing of any such law. And so my husband has to bear staying married to me while his beloved gripes over the second-rate position she holds. Her misery pains him, and I know



# METRO MANILA NEWS



## Relief for property owners?

To lessen the effects on all property owners in Metro Manila, starting in 1979, of the new realty assessments, Minister of Finance Cesar A. E. Virata is set to recommend to President Marcos a system of tax discounts.

The finance minister first took up the matter during a conference with officials of his ministry and City Treasurers Jesus I. Calleja of Manila and Anselmo O. Regis of Quezon City at his Central Bank suite. At that meeting, Virata asked his advisers to be ready with a presidential order giving a measure of relief to Metro Manila property owners, saying that he expected a lot of complaining in 1979 when the revised assessments take effect.

The finance minister



Minister Cesar VIRATA

then declared that considering that President Marcos is very sensitive to public complaints against steep tax increases, the President will feel obliged to issue a form of tax relief.

Deputy Minister of Finance Pedro Almanzor since then has told a number of Metro Manila treasurers that President Marcos will promulgate a decree providing for a system of descending tax discounts as was done in 1974, when another real property assessments revision was conducted by local government assessors throughout the country. Under the Real Property Tax Code, assessments are revised every five years.

It is expected that the new presidential decree will provide for tax discounts as follows: 20 percent in the first year (1979), 15 percent in the second year, 10 percent in the third year, and five percent in the fourth year. Discounts are only given

when the property taxpayer pays his obligation in full and his property has no tax delinquency.

The new revised assessments will begin to take effect in 1979. The assessments for both lands and buildings are based on schedules prepared by the local assessor and approved by the Ministry of Finance.

On the basis of the revisions already completed in the three Metro Manila cities and 13 towns (Quezon City is still on the job), assessments have increased by an average of 60 percent over and above the previous (1978) assessments. As a result, property taxpayers will be paying an average of 60 percent more in real property taxes starting this year (1979).

There is still a presidential decree giving a special 10 percent discount to property owners which will continue until Dec. 31 this year.

### METRO UNITS SANS BUDGET

With the 1979 budgets of the four cities and 13 towns of Metro Manila still pending consideration in the Metro Manila Commission, these 17 local government units have started to operate, since Jan. 1, start of the fiscal year, on the basis of their last year's budgets.

It is expected that Director Silvestre D. Sarmiento, action officer for finance of the commission, will issue letters of authority to the 17 cities and municipalities for them to operate on last year's appropriation measures.

Sarmiento, however, will delimit the authority of the local governments to spend only for regular maintenance and operations, such as for salaries and wages and sundry expenditures. The undertaking of new projects will not be allowed until their new budgets are finally approved.

There is no word as to when the 1979 budgets of the four cities and 13 towns will be officially approved by the Metro Manila Commission. It is expected, however, that approval may come by the end of next month. Last year, MMC okay was given by the middle of the year.

Director Sarmiento previously announced that the budgets of the

MMC and the 17 cities and towns this year will total P1-billion, as compared to last year's budgetary appropriations of P800-million.

## Allowances for national officials stopped

Beginning last Jan. 1, 1979, local government units throughout the country are prohibited from paying allowance and additional compensation to national government officials and employees assigned to such local governments.

This prohibition is contained in Letter of Instructions No. 779 promulgated by President Marcos last December 6, 1978.

Affected by the order are judges of the courts of first instance and city and municipal courts, provincial and city fiscals, provincial and city auditors, provincial and city school superintendents, provincial and city registrars of deeds, and similar officials who fall under the category of "national officials."

As a result of the LOI, the four cities and some towns of Metro Manila will be saving millions of pesos which they are now paying in the form of representation and transportation allowances to the national officials assigned to them.

The city of Manila will be the biggest beneficiary of the presidential order. According to City Treasurer Jesus I. Calleja, the city will save some P1-million in allowances paid to all CFI and city courts, the city auditor and his assistant, the city fiscal and his assistants, the city school superintendent and her assistants, the registrar of deeds, and other national personnel.

Quezon City will be saving some P600,000, while Caloocan City and Pasay City will be benefited to the amount of P300,000 and P100,000, respectively.

Under LOI No. 779, however, the chairman of the Commission on Audit is empowered to "issue such rules and regulations as will ensure compliance."

# Robles reports on 78 accomplishments

CALOOCAN CITY — A report on the state of the city was made by Acting Mayor Virgilio P. Robles on the first working day of 1979 last Jan. 2, during the flag-raising ceremony held at the city plaza.

Speaking before city officials and employees, barangay leaders and the general public, Robles cited the achievements of the city government for the entire year of 1978, with emphasis on what his

administration was able to do since he assumed office in the middle of June, 1978.

The rendering of a report on the state of the city has become traditional in Caloocan City on the part of the city executive, the report being made on the first working day of the new year.

In his extemporaneous report, Robles cited the following:

(1) Increase of the city's income by 20 percent

as a result of the drive against unlicensed business establishments and delinquent property owners, thereby affording more revenue to the city with which to expand essential public services and construct new infrastructure projects.

(2) Revision of property assessments in accordance with actual market values, resulting in the increase of such assessments from P725-million to P1.2-billion;

(3) Infusion of a new spirit of public service among city personnel as a result of a campaign against employees who either do not do much work or who falsify their time records (70 administrative charges have been filed and are now under investigation);

(4) Establishment of a barangay trust fund for all leaders of the city's 200 barangays (this is the only organization of its kind in the country);

(5) Making local businessmen more careful in their dealings with the public as a result of the drive against short-selling gasoline dealers (this drive has given rise to a complaint for misconduct and ignorance of the law against the city fiscal and four of his assistants);

(6) Improving the morale of all city government workers by giving them a 13th month pay and providing for a 10 percent salary increase effective in 1979;

(7) Start of the construction of a bigger city general hospital to increase its capacity from 25 beds to 95 beds, the enlarged hospital to be inaugurated on Feb. 16, 1979;

(8) Completion of the following infrastructure projects: cementing of 4-1/2 kilometers of roads; nine basketball courts; two school buildings; a library and administration building for the Caloocan City High School; construction of the north wing of the city hall; enlargement of the building of the division of city schools; and construction of one multi-purpose health center and three Bagong Lipunan health centers.

## Self-help project for Pasay KBs

PASAY CITY — Mayor Pablo Cuneta has come out with a plan to help this city's Federation of Kabataang Barangays, particularly its members who have dropped out of school.

The plan: establish sandwich and soft drinks stands in parks, playgrounds and other public places, to be manned by KB members.

With the mayor financing the project, the Kabataang Barangay federation will manage the business operation. After de-

fraying the expenses, including the salaries of the KB members who will run the stands, the net proceeds will go to the federation.

The KB, however, has to set aside a certain percentage of the income to pay back the money advanced by the mayor in capitalizing the project.

The project will be of particular help to jobless and out-of-school youth who would, otherwise, be forced to join "barkadas" or to spend their time in idle occupations.

## Pasay abattoir is leased out

PASAY CITY — The city-owned slaughterhouse, since Nov. 16 of last year, has been under the management and control of a

The employees belong to both the office of the city treasurer, and the office of the city health officer.

The lease contract has been approved by the Metro Manila Commission

According to City Treasurer Pablo Samonte, the city used to collect an income of P360,000 to P400,000 a year from slaughterhouse fees. However, expenses amounted to over P300,000 a year, the major item of which went to the salaries, allowances and insurance and medicare benefits of the slaughterhouse personnel.

It was learned that for the time being, he Integrated Livestock and Allied Services, Inc. is collecting the same amount of fees from owners of animals and fowl slaughtered at the abattoir. However, with prices going up, it is expected that the lesser will increase the fees starting this year.



Mayor CUNETETA

private firm, the Integrated Livestock and Allied Services, Inc.

A contract of lease over the facility has been signed by Mayor Pablo Cuneta, for the city government, and Alfredo Opinion, president of the private company.

Under the contract, the Integrated Livestock and Allied Services, Inc. (ILASI) pays the city P150,000 a year. In addition, it takes care of the salaries, living allowances and insurance and medicare premiums of all employees in the slaughterhouse.

LET'S GIVE  
FREEDOM  
A CHANCE!

# Pulse



## Editorials

### MGA ANAK NG UTANG

The Central Bank has officially disclosed that we have increased our foreign borrowings by 19% or a total of \$7.78 billion over 1977.

To the layman, this is disturbing. How do we expect to pay back the debt? is one question. Another is: Isn't there any other way we could speed up real and honest development without necessarily falling back on external borrowings?

A more relevant issue that has to be articulated is how wise the borrowed money is being spent by the Marcos government. Considering that most of the projects being undertaken are impact projects aimed at image-building, there is every reason to demand that a detailed accounting of every peso appropriated by the present dispensation be made — including the millions of pesos lost due to graft and corruption, mismanagement and the frivolous spending of some of our top personages in the bureaucracy.

As the opposition would say: "Pati ang mga anak ng anak ng anak natin ay magbabayad pa rin sa mga inutang natin ngayon." Kawawa naman ang mga magiging Pinoy. Mga Anak ng Utang.

### DRAG RACING MUST STOP

The authorities should put to a stop, once and for all, the dangerous game of drag racing being played by scions of wealthy and influential families.

Every one of these young punks engaged in this nocturnal activity should be meted out a stiffer penalty, not just a fine. The ordinance prohibiting drag racing calls for an imprisonment of "not more than six months" as penalty for the guilty but apparently, because of the influence of the racers' families, most of whom are well-entrenched in either the business or government circles, not one of those previously arrested had been jailed.

And if the death of a Quezon City woman-employee, Lizamyl Lara, last month, can be proven to have been caused by her being hit by one of the drag racer's souped up car, then, by all means, the police should go after the suspect and charge him accordingly.

Or will the "Malalakas" prevail once again?

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Publisher-Editor

TO SEEK AND LIVE THE TRUTH AND  
SHARE A VISION.

## BEST FROM THE DAILIES



Evening Express

## PUBLISHER'S NOTES



### IN-FIGHTING IN PUBLISHERS' ROW

by JOSE G. BURGOS, JR.

All's not well among the country's major daily newspaper publishers and from the looks of the in-fighting among them, someone's bound to give in somehow.

The rift broke into the open recently with the suspension of the publication of the People's Journal, the 15-centavo bilingual daily newspaper published by the moneyed and influential Times-Journal whom everybody knows is owned by Governor Benjamin "Kokoy" Romualdez, brother-in-law of President Marcos.

It took a conference between Romualdez, Gen. Hans Menzi, Bulletin Today publisher and chairman of the Print Media Council, and President Marcos himself, to thresh out the Journal-Bulletin differences over People's. But not for long.

It was reported that the hulky, silver-haired Leyte Governor, has vowed to "put down" the Bulletin which is today the country's leading daily periodical. Of course, Menzi isn't taking all this laying down.

The frenzy that is going on in the Journal offices is all geared at out-circulating the Bulletin but observers say it's going to be a long shot. After all, the Bulletin has established itself as a credible newspaper, placing itself within an earshot of the

prestige of the "sequestered" Manila Times.

That Romualdez is bent on achieving his goal can be gleaned from his "infiltration" to some top-notch Bulletin staffers to jump over the fence and try their luck with the Journal. It's plain and simple "sabotage", a BT man was quoted as saying.

What's good about the publishers' row if it deteriorates any further is that we'll be witnessing the spectacle of two giants washing their dirty linens in public and that should be a very, very interesting chapter in Philippine Journalism, martial-law style.

Local journalism once again lost a member with the demise of a colleague, Turing Santiago, photographer, of a sports paper who succumbed to a heart attack after having been reportedly mauled by his own publisher. The Press Photographers of the Philippines headed by Ikong Santos has requested police authorities to probe Turing's death. I urge the men of Gen. Jimmy Barbers to conduct an immediate and thorough investigation. Turing was a good man, a great friend and one of the better photographers I've had the privilege of knowing. May you rest in peace, dear friend.

## Sometime Ago...

- 13 January —  
1834—The Queen of Spain confirms the decision of the Supreme Council of the Indies declaring the residents of Misamis, Iligan, and Dapitan forever exempted from the payment of tribute and from personal services. These privileges were granted their ancestors, who had been among the first Mindanao Filipinos to aid the Spaniards in the pacification of the islands.
- 14 January —  
1899—Mabini writes Emilio Aguinaldo recommending changes in the proposed constitution. He is afraid that Negros and Panay will refuse to accept the form of government it prescribes.
- 15 January —  
1890—The article of Dr. Jose Rizal entitled "Ingratitud" is published in LA SOLIDARIDAD.
- 16 January —  
1901—Apolinario Mabini, together with General Artemio Ricarte, General Maxdmino Ilzon, General Pio del Pilar and Pablo Ocampo, is exiled to

## VIEWPOINT

### POLITICAL PRISONERS MUST BE RELEASED

by RAUL M. GONZALEZ



The question until now is still whether Mr. Marcos will call for local elections or not. Some quarters opine that local elections will be forthcoming but Minister Rono of the Local Government Ministry says otherwise. What is certain according to knowledgeable sources in the high places of the martial law regime is that there will be elections only in the Mindanao region in keeping with the Tripoli Agreement.

Imagine holding elections in Mindanao — supposed to be the area of the nation where peace and order conditions are still abnormal? The argument being advanced time and again by Malacañang against the holding of local elections notwithstanding the overstaying governors and mayors in many parts of the country is that peace and order conditions do not yet warrant such democratic exercise. If this is the reason, then this government must be thinking exactly the opposite of what it preaches because while it refuses to hold elections in localities — provinces and cities where there are no Moro Bangsa Army nor Muslim secessionist movements, it will hold elections precisely in the very Muslim heartland where fighting continues until today. Indeed, what is the name of the game?

Minister Juan Ponce Enrile, on the other hand was profusely quoted in the papers as saying that martial law is really on the way out and all martial law restrictions, except the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus have all been removed. Is this so? But why do we still have thousands of political prisoners in military concentration camps all over the land? Why are prisoners of conscience still being tried by Military courts and there are still full-time military commissions functioning until now? When will these courts be phased out? If martial law should be phased out soon as Minister Ponce Enrile indicates, perhaps it would do well for the government to immediately allow political prisoners — whether their cases have already been started by military courts to be allowed bail and their cases immediately transferred

to civil courts, I do not buy the argument that only new cases affecting political prisoners should be, henceforth, referred to civil courts while those already started in military commissions remain in the jurisdiction of said courts. As I have already explained in previous commentaries, an accused before military courts does not enjoy the same constitutional privileges as those tried in civil courts, especially on the matter of release on bail pending trial. In fact in cases tried before civil courts, the right to bail continues even after conviction when the case is on appeal. But in military courts this right is denied the accused so much so that we are witnesses to the plight of countless of political prisoners who have been in detention for years without their trials being terminated and some without their cases having even been heard at all. These, to me, is the height of man's inhumanity to man because the government becomes the instrument in the violation of a human right which its very Constitution guarantees.

It is accepted doctrine in law that in criminal cases the law is always tilted in favor of the accused because of the time-honored principle of presumption of innocence. In other words, criminal cases are always construed strictly against the state for in the language of Alfonso El Sabio: "mas vale que quedan sin castigar diez reos presuntos, que se castigue uno inocente". So that if Mr. Marcos has seen it fit to now give all cases to civil courts, including subversion cases, then it is only logical and constitutionally correct to refer all such cases — whether already started or not to civil courts so that the accused in such cases could avail of their right to bail. There is no question that this latest order of Mr. Marcos transferring all cases to civil courts is more favorable to the accused; if so, then its effects must be retroactive since the same is mandated by law that laws do not have retroactive effect except only when favorable to the accused.

Guam. He leaves Manila on the U.S. transport ROSECRANS.

17 January —  
1873—Birth in Pandacan, Manila of Librada Avelino. She later founded the "Centro Escolar de Señoritas" now Centro Escolar University. Died on November 9, 1934.

18 January —  
1899—The civilian members of the first Philippine Commission assembled at Washington are urged by the U.S. President to cooperate with the naval and military authorities at Manila in effecting the extension of the American sovereignty over the archipelago.

19 January —  
1812—A Royal decree is issued by King Ferdinand VIII prohibiting Masonry in the Philippines.

# SO WHAT ELSE IS NEW?

## PUTTING UP A FRONT

by P. M. GOMEZ

In the January 8 issue of the Times Journal, the headline read: "US to give RP \$500M arms aid." In the same front page, it had an editorial stating that "the President make his story."

But in the inside story, it quoted the letter of President Jimmy Carter to President Marcos whereby the US proxy stated: "... the Executive Branch of the United States Government will, during the next five fiscal years, make its best effort to obtain appropriations for the Philippines of the following amounts of security assistance: Military Assistance — \$50M; Foreign Military Sales Credits — \$250M; Security Supporting Assistance — \$200M."

The editor of this newspaper must have forgotten that the \$500M will have to be approved by the US Congress and that President Carter did not, much as he wants to, make a firm commitment that the Philippines will surely get this US aid. This is a simple case of counting the chicks before the eggs are hatched.

Also recently, the First Lady announced an appropriation of P900M for the face lifting of Metro Manila for the forthcoming international conferences to be held here. Maybe the First Lady and Minister of Human Settlements can set aside a reasonable sum of this appropriation in giving more assistance to depressed areas. This corner will never forget how make-shift wooden panels were constructed to cover the squatter areas along the airport and the south superhighway for visiting foreigners not to see or even get a glimpse of the poverty that really exists. This again is another case of putting up a front which the foreign press is very much aware of and publishing at will. When will we ever learn?

There is no denying that since the proclamation of martial law, concrete changes for the better have been accomplished. Infrastructure projects went on smoothly without the old red tape of congress approving a project's budget for some reason or another. There was really action and results. But the most glaring of all these accomplishments is the creation of the Metro Manila aides who were given employment and at the same time keeping our streets clean. Nothing can really beat cleanliness and it is a sight for sore eyes to see these aides working and cleaning up the streets even at nights.

No amount of sprucing up and beautifying at a cost of P900M can defeat a clean metropolis.

The TV show of Kahapon Lamang last January 1 should go down the an-

als of tasteful if not immoral television dialogue. The story was about an estranged couple. The man had a complex and as his relative-doctor said it on the air: "malilit ang kangyang pag-aari."

The time slot of the show is at 7:30 in the evening where children are still wide awake. How does a parent explain to his child what that Tagalog statement really means.

Our Board of Censors have tried (?) to be vigilant in matters of cinema. Who will take this responsibility of screening and if possible, cutting this vulgar statements on television where an adult viewer can never anticipate the lines of the actors and actresses to shut off the set on time for dialogues not meant for children to be heard?

Assemblyman Eddie Ilarde, who is the host of the show, should be made to answer for their fiasco so that the show can really have a bearing. ("Kahapon Lamang") — after the TV network completely scraps it off.

More on the youth: The most common scenario about professional basketball in an exclusive boy's school goes something like this: A timeout has been called by Preston Brake Fluid (Dante Silverio), approaching him at the bench are Cerveza Negra (Sonny Jaworski), Blenda Margarine (Francis Arnaiz) and Manila Rum (Abe King).

This may sound corny but it only proves one thing — the children of today bury themselves on their TV sets that they notice even the characters of TV commercials.

Dialogue between Father and son.

Boy age 12: Papa, when we have visitors, why do they pass the front door?

Father: They really should, why?

Boy: Because Pilita receives her visitor in the kitchen.

This is an offshoot of a TV commercial about a refrigerator. Need we say more about how children diligently watch and observe television?

It seems that there is a trend among the weekly magazines to come out with cover girls that can be classified as pin-ups. The worst that came out between the period December 31 to January 7 was that of People magazine. The model had her blouse unbuttoned and all that was needed was to expose her nipples. It certainly was a tease, considering the fact that at one time, Print Diffusion of the Phil. Inc. was not allowed to bring in imported magazines like Playboy, Penthouse, Playgirl, etc.

## comments

### DISTURBING ANNOUNCEMENT

In a meeting with the 17 Metro Manila mayors last Jan. 5, Metro Manila Gov. Imelda R. Marcos disclosed that all funds for the repair and construction of roads and streets in the area, aggregating P900-million a year, will henceforth be consolidated and the work undertaken by the Construction Development Corporation of the Philippines, a private firm which has been favored with several big infrastructure projects, such as the Manila Bay reclamation and the construction and operation of both the North and the South Express-ways.

What is disturbing about the announcement is that the gigantic job will be awarded to the CDCP on a negotiated basis, without public bidding.

It will be recalled that in the bidding for the construction of a vital road artery in Metro Manila, the Manila-Calooan-Malabon-Navotas road extension, called R-10, the CDCP, out of seven bidders, submitted the highest tenders for the project's two phases. For Phase I, VP Eusebio Construction, Inc. submitted the lowest offer of P33.3-million; and for Phase II, the Philippine Infrastructure, Inc. offered the lowest price of P60.5-million.

Will the arrangement announced by the Metro Manila governor mean that even these two road projects, where the CDCP lost in the bidding, will be undertaken by the private firm?

Another question: What will be the price basis on which the CDCP will undertake all road projects in the entire Metro Manila?

A third question: Why cannot all these projects be done through public bidding since there are many other competent and qualified contractors and considering that public bidding is the best guarantee of doing any job in the most expeditious, economical and graft-free manner?

And the fourth and final question: If the CDCP is to be given all the road projects in Metro Manila, what will happen to the road construction crews in the engineering departments of the four cities and 13 towns as well as to the district and regional offices of the Ministry of Public Highways? Will all of the engineers and workers be laid off?

This decision to give all the road projects to one single private entity without public bidding should be given a second look. It is possible that Metro Manila Gov. Imelda R. Marcos was not given all the facts on which to base a correct decision.

## Press freedom

by H. Q. BORRAMEO

When Foreign Minister Carlos P. Romulo was editor of the pre-war Manila Tribune and, later, of the Philippines Herald, he used to admonish the reporters to "Get it first, but first, get it right!" He was referring to the news. The admonition is even more valid now because, in addition to the print media, news is disseminated almost as soon as it happens, by means of radio and television.

As one who has been in journalism for more than 30 years, I can only deplore the carelessness of some media reporters who, in their eagerness to be first with the news, sometimes neglect to check their facts. Not that they are to be blamed for it entirely. It must be stated in fairness to them that

the pressures of the deadline — the time by which all news stories must be turned in if they are to make the front page — are often to blame.

Sometimes, the fault may be traced to the source of the story. Two weeks ago, a PAL plane from Singapore was reported to have landed at the Manila International Airport with one set of flat tires but that, fortunately no one was hurt. The news was denied the next day; the landing was perfectly normal. Now, where did the original story come from? Why wasn't it verified by the airport reporters?

At other times, the source of news deliberately distorts the story that is passed on to reporters. Perhaps the source

# The Chinese are coming

by ERNIE R. RODRIGUEZ, JR.

"The editor has serious obligations to society. The question is when our governments will begin to understand that he can only discharge them if he is able to operate in a climate of freedom."

— MOCHTAR LUBIS  
an Indonesian editor,  
in Newsweek, Jan. 1, 1977

A MATTER OF CREDIBILITY. Assemblyman Antonio V. Raquiza, a former governor of Ilocos Norte and secretary of public works and communications, was emphatic in telling his audience last Friday morning at the New Selecta Restaurant on Roxas Boulevard, Manila, that "members of the President's official family have every obligation to help maintain the New Society's credibility by resigning from their jobs the moment the public loses confidence in their integrity."

The occasion was the annual awards ceremonies of the Philippine Transition Government association (Philtranga), where the Metropolitan Mail won a citation as "the fearless and daring newsweekly of the year." The veteran lawmaker from the President's home province reminded his hearers of what happened to him when he was a member of the cabinet during the first years of the Marcos Administration. He said he was fired by the President because the press had cast doubts on his honesty in connection with a multi-million dollar loan that he had negotiated then with Wall Street for public works projects in the country.

There was no doubt in the minds of those who heard him that his snide remarks were intended to drive home the point that Public Highways Minister Baltazar Aquino has no business staying in office any longer, considering the implications of the recent highways scandal that rocked the nation. But, of course, Minister Aquino does not give a damn what the people think. And he does not care what happens to the President too. Mr. Aquino's actions and statements have destroyed whatever credibility Mr. Marcos has built up in the matter of honesty in the disbursement of public funds.

Aquino does not know the meaning of delicadeza. Period.

THE GIANT MOVES. Last Friday, my editor and I were dinner guests of Fred Mendoza at the Barrio Fiesta on EDSA. Fred, of course, is our

distinguished friend from Marinduque, the educator and newsman extraordinary whose encyclopedic knowledge of Far Eastern affairs amazes us no end, and upon whose generosity we have learned to lean on during these critical times. JJB had advised me before dinner that I should not expect a group of more than four at this social affair and I was therefore kind of surprised to find upon our arrival at the Barrio Fiesta that there were almost a dozen guests that Fred had invited to the table, many of them Ilocano balikbayans from Hawaii.

It turned out that they were all Metropolitan Mail fans, and some of them had been for sometime regular readers of this column. Col. Aurelio Lucero, a very kind and interesting personality who had been close to Fred during the early liberation years, told me that he had never missed to get his copies of The Mail and We for sometime already, and that he had been mailing to his own children in the US clippings of "Dateline: Metro Manila." He said his relatives and friends were worried about my predictions for 1979. I told him I could be wrong, and I certainly hoped things would prove to be better than I had predicted. Gene Cabrera, the old Free Press's ace columnist, was there with his wife and he drew sketches of all of us, which were all flattering. (Thank you, Gene!)

Fred made one statement during the evening that struck me as very perceptive. It was about China and, because Fred is what you may call an old China hand, I felt that here indeed was the best analysis of what we are to expect in the future, on the basis of current events. He said that China would be "the wave of the future." I think he had hit the nail on the head with that prediction.

It was Napoleon Bonaparte who had once said: "China? There lies a sleeping giant. Let him sleep, for when he wakes, he will move the world." Recent developments in world politics indicate that the sleeping giant has indeed

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is biased. Or is deliberately selling the public a bill of goods. Or trying to utilize the press for its own private ends. A reporter can only pray upon wa-

king up every morning that he is not taken in by such unscrupulous news "sources" too often. There is hardly a report-

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## WE Classified Ads

### LEGAL NOTICES \* BUSINESS DIRECTORY

Republic of the Philippines  
JUVENILE & DOMESTIC  
RELATIONS COURT  
Manila

PETITION FOR CHANGE  
OF NAME FROM CATA-  
LINA RICAFORT TO  
CECILIA ALCABAO  
RICAFORT

SP. PROC. NO: H-00693

CATALINA RICAFORT,  
also known as CATALINA  
ALCABAO RICAFORT;  
as CATALINA A. RICA-  
FORT; as CATALINA RI-  
FORT y ALCABAO; as  
CATALINA ALCABAO  
RICAFORT-MENESES;  
as CATALINA RICA-  
FORT-MENESES; as  
CECILIA RICAFORT;  
as CECILIA A. RICA-  
FORT-MENESES; and  
as CECILIA R. MENESES,  
Petitioner.

x - - - - - x

#### ORDER

The above-named peti-  
tioner has filed a verified peti-  
tion praying that after due  
notice, publication and hear-  
ing; her name be changed to  
Cecilia Alcabao Ricafort.

It is alleged that peti-  
tioner is a Filipino, of legal  
age, married to Gavino A.  
Meneses, and a bona-fide  
resident of 1310 Tayabas St.,  
Sta. Cruz, Manila, for more  
than three (3) years prior  
to the date of filing of this  
petition; that she was born  
on November 25, 1943; and  
her birth was registered  
with the Office of the Local  
Civil Registrar of San Juan;  
del Monte, Rizal, under the  
name, Catalina Ricafort,  
as the child of Victorino  
Ricafort and Adela Alcabao;  
that she was baptized as Ce-

cialia Ricafort at the Sta.  
Cruz Catholic Church, Ma-  
nila; that she has been using  
the first name, Cecilia, and  
has been known by said  
name from her childhood up  
to the present; that she has  
filed this petition to correct  
the discrepancy between her  
registered name and the  
name she has been using,  
and to avoid trouble and  
inconvenience caused by  
said discrepancy.

It is hereby ordered that  
the petition be set for hear-  
ing on May 25, 1979 at 8:30  
o'clock in the morning, be-  
fore this Court sitting at 1101  
Galicano Apacible St., Paco,  
Manila, and notice is hereby  
given that anyone who has  
objection to the petition  
should file on or before the  
date of hearing his opposi-  
tion thereto with a statement  
of the grounds therefor.

Let a copy of this Order  
be published at the expense  
of the petitioner once a week  
for three (3) consecutive  
weeks so that the last publi-  
cation shall not be later than  
January 29, 1979 or four  
(4) months before the date  
of hearing in a newspaper  
of general circulation in the  
City of Manila, to which the  
same shall be distributed by  
the Clerk of Court, pursuant  
to the provisions of Presi-  
dential Decree No. 1079, dat-  
ed January 28, 1977.

Let copies of the verified  
petition with its annexes and  
of this Order be served upon  
the Office of the Solicitor  
General.

SO ORDERED.

Manila; December 7, 1978:

REGINA G. ORDONEZ,  
BENITEZ  
Judge

Dec: 30, 1978, Jan. 6-13, 1979

### PRESS FREEDOM

(from page 5)

er worth his salt today  
who, at one time or another,  
has not been thus  
misled or exploited.

This is one reason why  
I feel so much more com-  
fortable, as a journalist,  
to be connected with a  
weekly and several month-  
ly publications, rather  
than a daily. There is al-  
ways time to check one's  
facts. Or get "the other  
side" of a story that is  
about to be published. And  
to be able to publish both  
sides at the same time.  
This would then give the  
reader a chance to judge  
for himself.

The press claims to have  
a mission. To tell the  
truth, some newspaper-  
men assert. To tell it as it  
is. And thus expose the  
sick on the steps of the  
temple. To serve as a ve-  
hicle for the free and open  
discussion of ideas. Or  
simply to inform. Thus to  
preserve and nurture our  
free way of life.

The press probably has  
as many missions as there  
are publishers and writers,  
and as many people who  
care to express them-  
selves. And it is up to the  
readers to watch out for  
themselves.

Under certain circum-  
stances, that may well be  
good enough. In a commu-  
nity or society where the

IQ is more or less the  
same level — and fairly  
high — that would probab-  
ly hold true. But unless  
one is writing for a univer-  
sity paper with a limited  
circulation, where does  
one find such a commu-  
nity of readers?

I submit that in any  
community of different in-  
tellectual, economic and  
social levels, the role of  
the press is to guide as  
much as to inform or en-  
tertain. And that is why  
the responsibility of the  
press cannot be evaded.  
The press has a very so-  
lemn responsibility to the  
reading public. And since  
that responsibility cannot  
be entrusted to those who  
are not competent enough  
to assume it, there is a  
need to regulate not only  
the newspaper publishing  
industry but also the prac-  
tice of the profession of  
journalism.

Some will say that this  
might be an abridgement  
of the freedom of expres-  
sion. I do not think so. It  
will not curtail that free-  
dom abridge the right of  
individuals to the pursuit  
of happiness.

Others will argue that  
our libel laws are suffi-  
cient to protect the public  
against irresponsible jour-

### THE CHINESE

(from page 5)

awakened and he is out  
to move the world. We all  
know that the United  
States, reputedly the most  
powerful nation in the  
world, has no love for Chi-  
na but it has little choice  
between the Soviet Union  
and the People's Republic  
of China, and between the  
two evils, it is apparent  
that China is the lesser  
evil.

China is more open than  
the Soviet Union. It has  
vast resources and it is a  
virgin field for trade.  
Since the American dollar  
is wobbling now and the US  
is looking for more mar-  
kets for its products, the  
promise of China is a  
tempting morsel. A US-  
China-Japan combination  
in Asia would be most  
formidable; actually it's  
only Vietnam that cannot  
be counted upon to sup-  
port this entente. Readers  
of American magazines  
and newspapers these  
days cannot fail to notice  
the fact that the western  
press is taking great pains  
in playing up Teng Hsiao-  
ping and his visions of a  
new China. As I said in  
my last column, Russia  
has discovered that she is  
now hemmed in on all  
sides by enemies of her  
own choosing.

While in the Middle  
East, outside of Egypt  
and Israel, the United  
States is a lost cause, in  
the Far East it is a differ-  
ent story. If war breaks  
out late this year, or early  
next year, as we had pre-  
dicted, the battleground  
will be either the Middle  
East or the Pacific. And  
the Russian bear will  
surely have a hard time  
coping with a giant that  
has awakened up and left  
his cave of old. The fact  
that the Philippines and  
the United States have  
recently come to an agree-  
ment on the military and  
naval bases in this coun-  
try, it is safe to assume  
that we have already  
made our choice of part-  
ners in the event of a glo-  
bal holocaust.

Th way I see it, the  
People's Republic of China  
has been appointed to cov-  
er us with the umbrella  
of her protection. And  
that goes for Japan too,  
Malaysia, Indonesia, Aus-  
tralia, Singapore, Thai-  
land, New Zealand, the  
two Koreas and Kampu-  
chea. The United States  
is playing Peking against  
Moscow, and if the Ameri-  
cans play their cards well,  
they could come out with  
a royal straight flush. In  
1957, Mao Tse-tung, the  
revered Great Helmsman,  
had said: "There are two  
winds in the world today,  
the East Wind and the  
West Wind. . . I believe  
it is characteristic of the  
situation today that the  
East Wind is prevailing  
over the West Wind." How  
true this is, remains  
to be seen.

Will being under the  
crimial negligence have  
not stopped us from requir-  
ing doctors to pass rigid  
requirements before being  
licensed to practice. And  
the pen, to paraphrase an  
old saying, can be more  
dangerous, in the wrong  
hands, than a surgeon's  
scalpel.

### 1979—YEAR

(from page 1)

tional life.

What could be worse,  
the deterioration will  
heighten the impatience  
of the people who have  
gotten tired of martial  
law and its never-ending  
but unrealized promises.  
As 1979 starts, discontent  
has become widespread,  
more and more people  
are discarding their fear,  
and grumbling is heard  
even in the Armed For-  
ces. There is danger that  
being convinced that  
there is no peaceful way  
of terminating the over-  
staying dictatorship, the  
people may turn to more  
vigorous ways of persua-  
ding the martial rulers  
to restore their rights  
and freedoms.

#### Opposition

The formation of the  
National Union for De-  
mocracy and Freedom  
last September, 1978 is a  
meaningful development.  
Its leaders include Benig-  
no Aquino Jr., Jose W.  
Diokno, Eva Estrada Ka-  
law, Salvador P. Lopez,  
Diosdado Macapagal, Ro-  
gacion M. Mercado,  
Francisco Soc Rodrigo,  
Gerardo L. Roxas, Jovito  
R. Salonga, Abraham F.  
Sarmiento, and Lorenzo  
M. Tanada. That these  
active dissenters to mar-  
tial law should be able  
to unite now after futile  
attempts for six years to  
bring this about is a re-  
flection of the people's  
changing mood and re-  
solve to see the end of  
despotic rule.

The year 1979 is a time  
of decision and opportu-  
nity for the leading dis-  
senter to dictatorial  
rule. With their new-  
found solidarity, they  
should be able to accom-  
plish their mission for  
if they cannot succeed  
with unity there is no

Chinese be a new thing  
for us? Of course, not.  
The Chinese are no stran-  
gers in this country. They  
have been living off the  
fat of this land since the  
days of our ancestors.  
And, in an economic sense,  
we are the hewers of  
wood and drawers of wa-  
ter for the Chinese since  
time immemorial. There  
are very few families in  
the Philippines which do  
not have a drop of Chi-  
nese blood in their veins.  
We have to deal with the  
Chinese every five yards  
from where we are in ev-  
ery part of Metro Manila.  
That's how close they are  
to us. But the Chinese  
that we know here are  
not the Chinese from the  
mainland, who may come  
and tell us what to do ev-  
ery hour on the hour when  
they invade our country.  
The Japanese that we  
knew before Pearl Harbor  
were so unlike the Japa-  
nese that we encountered  
after the Fall of Manila.  
The Chinese of old made  
a living on mani, suka  
and siopao. It is our fel-  
low Filipinos who are en-  
gaged in that kind of busi-  
ness now. The Chinese are  
today riding in limousines,  
strolling on the Luneta  
and running for the board  
of San Miguel.

I think you're damn  
right, Fred.  
The Chinese are coming!

reason for the people to  
ever put their faith in  
them.

#### Fateful Decision

It is also a year of fate-  
ful decision for Mr. Mar-  
cos.

As long as there was  
no unity among the dis-  
senting leaders, the au-  
thoritarian regime could  
safely depend on the dic-  
tators' strategem of di-  
vide and rule. It requires  
unity among the dissent-  
ers to authoritarian rule  
to succeed in their endea-  
vor. This has been con-  
clusively demonstrated in  
ancient history as well as  
in contemporary cases  
like India, Pakistan, and  
Portugal. With the unsa-  
tisfactory performance of  
his regime which has  
now led to a unified op-  
position, Mr. Marcos  
would do well in his own  
interest to decipher the  
handwriting on the wall.

President Marcos him-  
self has indicated the  
right thing for him to do  
when he said that he  
would not like to go down  
in history as having es-  
tablished a martial law  
government without  
knowing how to return  
to democracy and nor-  
malcy. His acts, however,  
have been to perpetuate  
a hereditary dictatorship.  
This is exemplified by  
the Interim **Batasang  
Pambansa** (IBP) which  
was dangled as a deci-  
sive step towards the lift-  
ing of martial law and  
return to democracy and  
normalcy. During the  
election of its members,  
the President undertook  
to transfer to it his legis-  
lative power under the  
1976 "amendments" to  
the 1973 Constitution. He  
has not done this, how-  
ever, and has continued  
to issue numerous legis-  
lative decrees. As origi-  
nally feared, the IBP has  
become a mere legisla-  
tive front, with no real  
powers other than doing  
what Mr. Marcos allows  
it to do whenever it is  
convenient for him to  
disclaim full responsi-  
bility for certain decisions  
of his or to simulate the  
existence of a legislature  
to foreign eyes.

As a consequence of  
the tightening dictat-  
orship, the people at large  
have virtually given up  
hope of peacefully res-  
toring democracy. In this  
situation, the year 1979  
may be Mr. Marcos' last  
chance to avoid the tra-  
gic fate of dictators by  
restoring genuine demo-  
cratic processes.

He can do this by hold-  
ing local elections early  
in 1979 and for members  
of a regular National As-  
sembly later in the year.  
It is essential that the  
latter especially be gen-  
uinely free and honest,  
elections, with martial  
law definitely lifted. Even  
if he disagrees with an  
unfavorable assessment  
of his record, it would  
still be logical for him  
to hold a free and gen-  
uine election so as to  
prove his contention that  
the people approve of his  
performance.

#### Opportunity

Year 1979 is also a time

of decision for US Pres-  
ident Jimmy Carter vis a  
vis the Marcos dictat-  
orship.

The new year offers  
the best chance for the  
American President to  
redeem himself and his hu-  
man rights policy to the  
Filipino people who feel  
disillusioned over his ac-  
tuations towards the  
Marcos dictatorial re-  
gime. It is apparent that  
he has treated the dicta-  
torial regime in the Phil-  
ippines with the same  
support that he gave to  
the dictatorships in South  
Korea and Iran. This is  
a short-sighted approach  
and grave error because  
he has ignored two mate-  
rial circumstances.

The first is that the  
Philippines is the only  
sovereign nation in the  
world which was an  
American colony and to  
which the United States  
committed democracy  
and freedom.

The second is that the  
Philippines does not have  
the same strategic secu-  
rity importance to the  
United States as South  
Korea and Iran which  
face grave threats. South  
Korea shields Japan and  
Iran protects the oil-rich  
Persian Gulf countries.  
With the US-China rap-  
prochement, there is now  
no threat through the  
Philippines. President  
Carter has, therefore, ap-  
parently sacrificed his  
human rights policy in  
the Philippines for the  
sheer convenience of  
keeping the useful but  
non-essential military  
bases in the Philippines.

The simplistic error is  
that even if Mr. Carter  
desires to keep American  
bases in the Philippines,  
this can be done without  
the Marcos dictatorial  
regime. The irony is that  
in keeping both the bases  
and the Marcos dictat-  
orship at the sacrifice of  
democracy and freedom  
in the former American  
colony, the United States  
stands to lose the confi-  
dence and friendship of  
the Filipino people them-  
selves, which would be a  
loss that Americans are  
bound to regret.

Year 1979 offers an op-  
portunity to Mr. Carter  
to do the right thing and  
at the same time safe-  
guard American inter-  
ests. Since Mr. Marcos  
seeks more economic and  
military aid, including  
rentals, for the bases,  
which he will use to pro-  
long his dictatorship and  
oppression of the Filip-  
ino people, it is feasible  
for Carter to grant rea-  
sonable aid to Marcos un-  
der an arrangement that  
the latter will restore de-  
mocratic processes that  
assure human rights.  
The most important de-  
mocratic process is to  
hold a free and honest  
election, without martial  
law, in which the Filipino  
people will choose freely  
their national leader. If  
Mr. Marcos refuses this,  
it should be obvious to  
Mr. Carter that the Mar-  
cos dictatorial regime is  
not worth humoring and  
saving, especially at the  
sacrifice of the American  
human rights policy  
which is Mr. Carter's best  
contribution to the his-  
tory of mankind.

(Page 7, please)

that he would do anything and everything to give her what both of them crave for.

And suddenly, sitting before the plate of ampalaya, a lump of yearning rises to my throat, a yearning to borrow in the understanding and love of my only surviving relative, my father's sister, who lives alone in the big house by the gloomy river of our hometown. How many years have I been married? Seven years. Why have I let myself be cowed by my husband into staying that long from my own hometown? Seven years have I failed to light a candle, lay a blossom each on my ancestors' tombs. Today is the Day of the Dead. I should go and honor them even as the Great Power is doing to the dead patriots interred in this province.

And so even while knowing this can well precipitate the fate I have long been expecting, I take the car and drive the long, rutted highways leading to Daraloy.

It is a poor and slumbering town clinging to the feet of misty mountains and seemingly in perpetual danger of being swallowed on the other side by a raging sea. After several hours of steady driving, the mesmeric mountains appear against the sky and soon my car is crawling on the narrow road that tongues its way through an aperture between the mountains and goes on to join the baroque bridge **Puente de la Muerte**. I stop the car for a moment on the bridge which despite its gory name and history is much beloved by me in its beautiful grotesqueness of ponderous cement balustrades and wild-eyed gargoyles eternally poised for soaring. Almost everyone of the hundreds of nights that I have stayed away from Daraloy have I dreamed of it: its olive-green river flowing with serene melancholy, luminescent in some parts and in others as under the bridge, dark and grim-looking. In my dreams as in reality, the silver leaves of the bamboo trees lining the shores hang sullenly as if in reproach, so that in the mornings, waking up, filled with angry yearning, I would approach my canvas and with brush and oil splatter on

them my frustrated longing, using amber and crimson abundantly in recreating the river and the bridge.

Most often too had the shreds of Parillo's cries lingered even to my waking moments. But tonight, I shall really hear once more the clanking of his chains across this bridge and exult in his tormented cry of "**Soy Parillo, Parillo... dale una, volve dos...**" Parillo, doomed for eternity to clank his chains over **Puente de la Muerte** night after night in expiation of his avarice that became a crime against his people. A cunning businessman and usurer, he had grown to be a man rich enough to be known throughout the whole province. In the process, the people had learned to affix after his name as identifying tag the phrase "**dale-una-volve-dos**" — I give you one, you pay me two. Hordes of people, including distinguished personages, pressed by the need for money, had gone up his mean-looking house.

Up to the present, the house stands, and as ever it stands alone, set far back from the road in an expanse barren of any growing thing. Pass it on any moonless night, and you will see it standing solitary and black against the lighter darkness of the sky, its windows malignant eyes of luminescent green staring at you.

**1979—YEAR OF** (from page 6)

In Mr. Carter's handling of the situation in the Philippines, wherein his Ambassador had reportedly instructed his staff to avoid the opposition leaders in apparent fear of Mr. Marcos, a lesson may be learned from the assessment that in Iran, America's ally the Shah had been pushed to the verge of downfall because American officials in charge had ignored the views of the opposition.

**The People**

Above all, 1979 is a year of decision for the Filipino people. This is a time for the Filipinos to reassert their sovereign power in order to end their humiliation of cowering in fear of haughty officials who should be treated as public servants rather than as

Republika ng Pilipinas  
**HUKUMANG PANGKATAHANAN AT PAGSASAMANG PANTAHANAN**  
(Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court)  
Lungsod Quezon

**IN RE PETITION TO DECLARE ESTRELLA ADUAN LEGALLY DEAD,**

SP. PROC. NO: QD—00773

**ALEJANDRO L. ORPIANO,**  
Petitioner.

x — — — — — x

**ORDER**

On September 19, 1978, Alejandro L. Orpiano of No. 87 Mindanao Avenue, Pagasa, Quezon City, Metro Manila, filed this verified Amended Petition, praying that after due notice and hearing, his wife Estrella Aduan be declared an absentee.

It is alleged that herein petitioner and Estrella Aduan were married on January 25, 1947, in Caba; La Union; that two (2) children were born to them; namely, Bernardo and Elpidio who are now both emancipated; that they have not acquired any property; that sometime in February, 1949, Estrella left their conjugal home to live with her mother Fortunata Aduan in Bo. San Antonio, Aringay, La Union;

**RP FOREIGN** (from page 1)

per cent.

A cautious stand, however, is being adopted by the CB to keep the debt level within the capacity of the economy to pay and that the debt service ratio is confined within the statutory limit of 20 per cent of foreign exchange earnings for the past year, according to a daily newspaper.

The country's increasing foreign debt has been an issue of the opposition, saying that the Philippines has become the "biggest borrower in Asia, its foreign indebtedness rising from \$600 million to the present official CB figures from the time President Marcos assumed the presidency.

masters, to terminate the denial of their freedoms, and to protect their rights and interests from further jeopardy. This can be done by demanding a free and genuine election through which they can freely choose the national leader and insuring that their will prevail in such poll.

In human society, the rulers and officials derive their authority from the people. It is time that the Filipino people act to regain their authority, lest their timidity and fear become permanent and their subjection to dictatorial rule be perpetuated as a system not only for themselves but also for their hapless children and posterity. If the Filipinos living to-day are to feel that it was worthwhile to be born and live in this land, it behooves them to act like men and women with honor and not like dumb creatures fit only to be terrified.

that months later, she abandoned her mother to live with Francisco Cubacub, with whom she begot four (4) children; that since 1958 he lost tract of Estrella's whereabouts despite searches and inquiries he conducted with relatives and friends; that he had then wanted to file a case of legal separation against her but in view of his failure to determine her correct address for service purposes, he was prevented from filing the case; that sometime in 1968, or long after Estrella left petitioner, the latter acquired a piece of land under T.C.T. No. 134261 of Quezon City, which he now wants to dispose of; that in view of Estrella's absence since 1958, or a period of 20 years, petitioner filed this case, asking that his wife, Estrella; be declared as absentee so that her martial consent which he could not secure may be dispensed with.

WHEREFORE, let this case be set for hearing on February 14, 1979, at 8:30 o'clock in the morning, before this Court sitting at the 4th Floor, New City Hall, Diliman; Quezon City, Metro Manila. Notice is hereby given that anyone who has objection to the petition should file, on or before the date of hearing, his opposition thereto with a statement of the grounds therefor.

Let a copy of this Order be published at the expense of petitioner once a week for three (3) consecutive weeks with the last publication being made not later than February 6, 1979, or at least one week before the hearing, in the WE (For the Young Filipino), a newspaper of general circulation

**Hiked pay plan fizzles**

CALOOCAN CITY—The issuance of LOI 779 has stopped a plan of the city government to appropriate local funds for upgrading the salaries of national officials assigned to Caloocan.

Acting City Legal Officer Juan Bañaga said that on instructions of Acting Mayor Virgilio P. Robles, he had started to study means by which to equalize the salaries of these national officials to those received by department heads of the city government.

He said that under a provision of the Caloocan City charter, national officials assigned to the city and having the rank of department heads are supported.

City department heads are presently getting a pay of P26,338 per annum, while their assistants receive P22,728.

National officials, however, working in the city get less. The city fiscal receive only P21,596; the

city schools superintendent, P19,584; the city auditor, P19,574; the police chief, P19,704; and the fire chief, P17,136.

With the issuance by President Marcos of LOI 779 prohibiting local governments from giving allowances and additional pay to national officials assigned in such local government units, the plan of Acting Mayor Robles has fizzled out.

**BULLETIN HITS** (from page 1)

as it recalled the rejection by the RP panel of a \$1 billion offer, which then US Secretary of State Henry Kissinger proposed way back in December, 1976.

The editorial further stated that there is no guarantee that the \$500 million, representing security assistance to the Philippines by the US, "will ultimately be given to the Philippine government in the next five years."

It added: "The comedown seems to suggest that the bases have lost much value, in the opinion of US policymakers. In fact, last April a report of the US Senate Foreign Relations subcommittee said in effect that American military bases in the Philippines are of questionable value unless the administration intends to maintain a major military capability in Southeast Asia."

"The buildup of the US facilities in Guam and the Marianas, the rapport established between China and the US, and the Vietnam experience tend to support the theory that the US bases in the Philippines may be on the way out."

in Quezon City, in accordance with Presidential Decree No. 1079.

SO ORDERED,  
Quezon City, Metro Manila, Philippines, January 2; 1979.

LEONOR INES LUCIANO  
Presiding Judge

Jan. 13, 20 & 27, 1979

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8 \* For the week Jan. 13-19, 1979

## QC abattoir is illegal?

QUEZON CITY — The San Antonio slaughterhouse, closed on July 30, 1976 for violations of health and sanitation rules on orders of the Ministry of Health, has been discovered to be in operation.

This was the claim of Market Superintendent Teodoro R. Paulino in a letter which he sent to the City Treasurer, Anselmo O. Regis and which was, in turn, endorsed to Mayor Adelina S. Rodriguez. The operation of the abattoir is apparently legal because inspectors of the City Veterinary Services are on hand to issue

### CDCP CONTROLS

(from page 1)

mitted the highest tenders for the project's two phases. For Phase I, VP Eusebio Construction, Inc., submitted the lowest offer of P33.3 million; and for Phase II, the Philippine Infrastructure, Inc., offered the lowest price of P60.5 million.

The editorial asked: "Will the arrangement announced by the First Lady and Metro Manila governor mean that even these two road projects, where the CDCP lost in the bidding, will be undertaken by the private firm?"

Another query said: "Why cannot all these projects be done through public bidding since there are many other competent and qualified contractors and considering that public bidding is the best guarantee of doing any job in the most expeditious, economical and graft-free manner?"

The editorial then urged the Metro Manila Commission to "take a second look" at the proposal. It said that "it is possible that Mrs. Marcos was not given all the facts on which to base a correct decision."

The Mail editorial is published in full on page 5 of this issue.

## Ang suliranin ng political detainees

KATAPUSANG LABAS

(Salin sa wikang Pilipino ng panayam na Ibinigay ni Jose W. Diokno sa Pandaigdig na Pagpupulong ng Kunsheho ng Amnesty International sa Cambridge, England noong Ika-21 ng Setyembre, 1978. Ang nagsalin ay si Manny Cervantes Qullon.)

Sila ang nagbigay sa akin ng pag-asa tulad din naman ng pagtulong ng ibang mga tao sa bawat sulok ng daigdig sa pakikibaka laban sa pagmamalabis ng aming pamahalaan. Ang ganitong pagmamalaskit ay nag-iwan ng malaking bahagi sa adhikain ng mga Pilipinong makalaya.

Dapat na akong magwakas ngunit sa aking puso ay may isang ala-alang hindi ko maaaring hindi ibahagi. Ito ay ang ala-ang isang mag-asawang nasa kabataan pa ang gulang (wala pang treinta anyos ang kanilang edad) na nakita ko ilang buwan na ang nakalilipas sa isang malaking silid na naging silid-litisan pang-militar, naghihintay sa kahihinatnan ng kasong sila'y akusado kasama ng may siyamnapu pang kataong kasangkot.

Ang lalaki ay akin ng nakadaupang-palad bago umiral ang Batas-Militar. Siya ay isang mag-aaral sa isang kilalang Paman-tasan, isang tagapanguna: matalino, may angking kakayahan sa pagsasalit at marunong makibahagi. Nang sandaling iyon sa silid-litisan, siya'y nanatili sa kanyang kinauupang silyang yantok, halos hindi gumagalaw, nakatana sa kawalan, bahagyang nakabukas ang mga labi, hindi alintana ang maraming mga taong sa kanya'y nakapaligid; sa dahilang siya'y napilit bu-

nga ng Batas-Militar; pa-ulit-ulit na nakaranas ng di makataong pagpaparus; tinurukan ng labis na "truth serum" (isang uri ng gamot na itinuturok sa isang akusado upang magtapat o mapaamin) kung kaya nga nasiraan na siya ng pag-isis. Siya ngayon ay nasa isang ospital na pangmilitar para sa mga nasisiraan ng bait.

Sa kanyang likuran ay

naroon ang kanyang asawa, nakatayo ng tuwid, waring nagmamalaki. Ang kanyang isang kamay ay nakapatong sa ulo ng kanyang asawa. Ang isa ay nasa balikat, nakahanda sa gino mang sasaklit sa kanyang asawa.

Sa aking pagmalas sa mag-asawang ito, nakita ko sa kanila ang larawan ng bawat Pilipino; napagtanto ko na ang Batas-Militar ay maaaring magwasak sa ating mga katawan; sumira sa ating mga pag-isis; NGUNIT hindi nito magagahis ang ating mga damdamin. Maaaring mapatahimik nito ang ating mga tinig, matak-

pan ang ating mga mata, ngunit hindi nito maaaring patayin ang ating mga pag-asa at pananaw sa buhay, ami ay magpatuloy sa pakikibaka, gano man ito katagal at ano man ang maging katumbas o kapalit. Hindi kami tutugot hangga't hindi namin napagtatagumpayang itatag ang isang lipunan ng mga lalaki at babaling malaya, sama-samang nagpapasiya, sama-samang gumagawa at nagsisikap, sama-samang umaawit, sumasayaw, tumatawa, at higit sa lahat, sama-samang nagmamahal. Ito ang pinakamabuting aral.

## QC barangay chairmen hold meet on youth

QUEZON CITY — Some 147 barangay chairmen from representative districts here are expected to attend a seminar-workshop on youth welfare and child development today, Saturday, at the Philippine International Convention Center.

The whole-day affair is being sponsored by the Quezon City Youth Welfare and Development Council in cooperation with the QC Barangay Operation Center and the National Council for the Welfare of Children.

Scheduled to speak before the barangay chairmen are Judge Leonor Ines Luciano, presiding judge of the QC Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court and chairman of the QCYWDC; Peter de Jesus Amor, executive di-

rector, Council for the Welfare of Children; and Braulio Arriola, president of the Pambansang Katipunan ng mga Barangay, QC chapter.

The chairmen during the workshop are expected to draw up their respective

plans of action for youth and child welfare.

Workshop committee chairman is Barangay Captain Alberto Arce with Jorge Banal, Director Marcelo P. Angeles, Jr., Virgilio Hernandez, and J. G. Burgos, Jr., as members.

### DRUNK SOLDIER

residents of Project 6, Quezon city last Thursday afternoon, January 11.

Witnesses said that the man who was in uniform, identified as a certain Sgt. Laguna, barged into a restaurant along Road 1, near Visayas avenue and, with a gun, threatened to arrest everybody inside the eatery owned by a Mrs. Manabat. The suspect even reportedly dashed inside the house of Manabat, saying that he was raiding a gambling joint. When

(from page 1)

the houseowner insisted that there was no gambling den in her house and that it was a private residence, the "sergeant" wobbled outside the street with his gun on hand.

The incident was reported to the Northern Police district headquarters but the desk officer referred the complainants to the Military Police. When the MP authorities, however, rushed to the scene, the suspect was no longer around.

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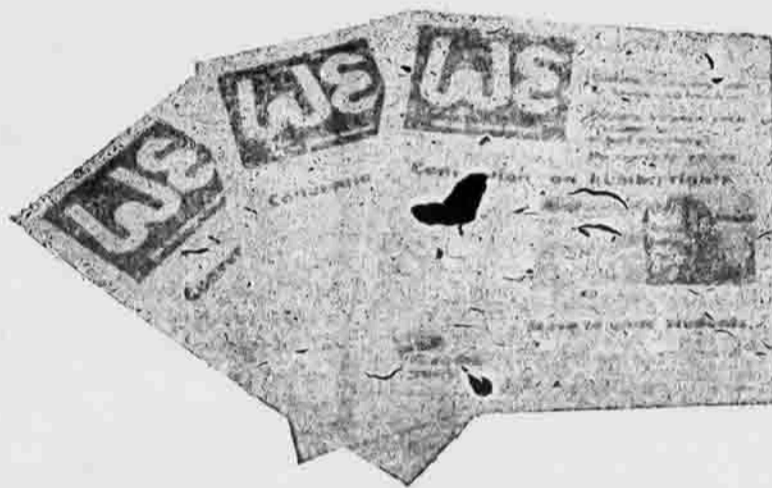
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