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Burgos, Jr., Jose, (1979). We Forum, vol iii No. 2 - May 5-11, 1979. *Archīum.ATENEO*.
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"But no, freedom cannot be substituted. We will never bargain efficiency for freedom, nor for comfort, nor riches, nor progress, nor what we refer to as economic development."

President Marcos, CAWP Awards ceremonies, June 12, 1970.



the national weekly FORUM of free expression

WHERE?

So, prices of beef and pork here in Pasig are being sold at P14-P16 a kilo (Bulletin Today, April 24).

Please show us where we can buy these meat with the prices mentioned in the newspaper.

(Mrs.) C. dela Cruz, Metro Manila

VOL. III NO. 2 * PCPM Certificate of Registration No. 387

FOR THE WEEK MAY 5-11, 1979

50 CVOS. IN METRO MANILA

'Should one man play the role of God?'

By JOSE J. BURGOS

In a speech before the Southeast Asian Banking and Finance Conference in Singapore last April 19, Minister of Labor Blas Ople said that President Marcos will not lift martial law unless all of three conditions are fulfilled, namely:

First, that the Mindanao conflict is finally settled;

second, that Philippine society is reformed at a satisfactory level; and, third, that the Communist insurgency is contained to a tolerable degree.

Mr. Ople did not say anything new. He merely mouthed what President Marcos has been saying to justify the continued imposition of martial law un-

til such time as only he and God know.

An analysis of these three conditions will readily show that the attainment of any one of them — let alone the three of them — is not possible in the foreseeable future. These three conditions have been with us for the last 50 years and more,

and there is no possibility that they could be solved in the next 50 years, if at all. In fact, the Muslim problem has been with us since the Spanish times.

What is the meaning of all this? Clear, plain and simple. For as long as he can help it, Mr. Marcos will not lift martial law. We will all continue to be un-

der his one-man rule. The political and civil liberties taken away from us that fateful day of Sept. 21, 1972 will not be returned to us, and we will continue to live in one veritable concentration camp which is the Philippines today.

I remember that when Proclamation 1081 was

first declared, many of Mr. Marcos' leaders told us that martial law would be temporary and would last only for four, five or, at most, six years. We are fast approaching the 7th anniversary of martial law but there is nothing to indicate that the end is in sight, nothing to show

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Case of 'overstaying incumbent President'

by FRANCISCO 'SOC' RODRIGO

PART IV

The President and his cohorts kept assuring the people and the rest of the world that the one-man rule or dictatorship was only temporary; that the Transitory Provisions were, as the appellation connotes only Transitory and that the Interim National Assembly would be convened in order to start the process of returning to democracy.

But it now appears that we were all taken for a ride in a boulevard of broken promises...

...one-man rule is still here, in a more permanent character; ...the Transitory Provisions, after more than six (6) years, is the portion of the Constitution that is being implemented most vigorously until now; and

...the Interim National Assembly was never convened; but was, in fact, interred before it

could even assemble.

And, in case you have forgotten, may I remind you of still another promise of Mr. Marcos.

In a trans-oceanic TV interview with Mr. Karl Rowan, a veteran American newsman, which was made during the early days of martial law, Mr. Marcos publicly declared that he hoped to be able to lift martial law "within the period of my term as President, that is, before the end of 1973."

Mr. Cowan asked him point-blank:

"Mr. President, under the present Constitution, you are not eligible to succeed yourself as President, will you state categorically that you will relinquish power at the end of your term?"

The answer of Mr. Marcos was categorical:

"It is my intention to do so and I so state categorically." (Daily (Page 7, please)

Ninoy's wife hits Palace's claims

The wife of detained opposition leader ex-Sen. Benigno Aquino, Jr., has belied claims of Malacanang regarding the living conditions of her husband in Fort Bonifacio.

Mrs. Cory C. Aquino issued the disclaimer in reaction to an earlier statement issued by Assistant Press Secretary Amante Bigornia which answered the charges aired by a Catholic nun on the detention of "political prisoners."

The Associated Press, an international news service, moved the story based on an interview in Washington, D.C. with the nun identified as Sister Marianni Dimaranan, said to be a leader of a group helping prisoners in the Philippines.

In his press brief answering the claims of Sister Marianni, Bigornia cited the living conditions of Aquino, saying that the ex-Tarlac senator's quarters is "air-conditioned and carpeted." Bigornia further claimed that "it is furnished with a color television set and

ROXAS

Liberal Party President Gerry Roxas last week warned the consuming public to brace themselves up for another round of price increases as he predicted that the country's inflation rate will reach an all-time high of 17% by the end of the year.

Speaking before members of the Manila Rotary (Page 8, please)

(Page 2, please)

Gov't policies harmful to low-income Filipinos

(Presented in a recent Public Forum sponsored by the U.P. Economics Society Alumni Association, U.P. Economics Society and the U.P. School of Economics Student Council, San Miguel Auditorium, Makati.)

By GONZALO M. JURADO

The new round of increases in the prices of commodities and services, coming on top of increases that have accumulated up to 1978, has once again focused attention on what the Philippine government is doing with regard to inflation, wages and income distribution.

An increase in the prices of commodities and services reduces the purchasing power of buy-

ers. Generally these buyers belong to the low income class whose incomes

(Page 2, please)

MISSING

Where's Fr. Raymundo Abadecio?

If, as claimed by military and police authorities he is not under their custody, where could the missing priest be? (Page 8, please)

SPEAK UP

Hindi ulol ang Pinoy!

by JOSE LANSANG, JR.
Diliman, Q.C.

Three years ago, there was a call to "self-reliance." But most people

had already learned to fend for themselves after five years of martial law. Recently, there is a warning not to criticize or blame the government for increasing difficulties. With the sword of the Prime Minister's "emergency powers" under martial law hanging over their heads, they (the people) are threatened with summary actions in spite of their increasing difficulties. Matlisin ang Pilipino. But many will speak because it is their Constitutional and Human Right, and

(Page 2, please)

JUSTICE DELAYED

MAKATI — If criminal cases are delayed, either in the preliminary investigation or in their being filed with the courts, don't blame the local office of Rizal's provincial fiscal.

There are only two assistant provincial fiscals (Page 6, please)



GRADUATE — Ma. Concepcion Garcia Roa of Malolos, Bulacan, is a recent high school graduate. Our 16-year-old coed for this week is "Cherry" to friends and relatives.

Stop nuclear plant

by DENG GENEROSO
University of the East

The recent nuclear accident in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania which nearly led to a "nuclear holocaust" that could cause cancer, if not outright death, to thousands of Americans should give us cause for reexamining the wisdom of setting up nuclear reactors.

For one thing, the incident gave us a taste of

the terrors that the nuclear age could bring. It showed that safety facilities in any nuclear plant could never be trusted, whether it be an American, Russian, or any European plant.

As a result, many countries, including the more advanced nations of Europe and Asia, have started

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At a glance • At a glance

* WHAT'S WRONG WITH THE POLICE

P. 5

NINOY'S WIFE

he (Aquino) has access to the camp's officers clubhouse, including the swimming pool. He gets all periodicals he wants and he is allowed a typewriter."

These claims, however,



NINOY AQUINO

were debunked last week by Aquino's wife. Following is Mrs. Aquino's statement which was published in only one major daily newspaper last week:

"It is not true that my husband's room is 'carpeted' as portrayed by Amante Bigornia. It has a cement floor.

"It is true an air-conditioning unit is now installed in the room. This came about after all the windows of the room were boarded with plywood. There would be no need for air-conditioning if natural ventilation is restored.

"It is not true my husband is allowed access to the 'Officers' Club.' My husband has yet to see an Officers' Club, much more to enjoy the amenities of one. His room is padlocked and guarded 24 hours a day. A log book is maintained to record all his movements. He is spot-checked by his guard every hour on the hour. And since Feb. 22, 1973 — or more than six years and two months ago — my husband has been held in solitary confinement.

"It is not true my hus-

(from page 1)

band has been 'furnished a color television set, also claimed by Minister Bigornia. The truth is: because of my husband's solitary confinement, I requested and obtained the approval of the Minister of National Defense to send my husband our own family television set. To this date, my husband is not allowed the use of an FM radio set, a privilege enjoyed by the inmates of the national penitentiary. And it was only after my husband was brought to the President in Malacanang in June 1977 that he has been allowed to read local newspapers and magazines.

"For health reasons, my husband is allowed to exercise one hour each day. He jogs around the MSU compound swimming pool, the exercise area designated for him under the eyes of his guards. During his almost seven years of detention, my husband has been allowed to swim in the Military Security Unit exactly three times!"

The press statement of Bigornia translated in Pilipino is published on Page 8 of this issue.

HINDI ULOL

(from page 1)

because they are not stupid or deaf and dumb. Ang Pilipino ay hindi ulol!

It is the consensus of concerned and thinking citizens, including members of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines, that the President and Prime Minister should lift martial law as soon as possible. Three years ago, U.P. President S. P. Lopez said in a televised interview with the foreign press that he thought "The President should lift martial law—tomorrow!" Everyone who will think about it and speak his mind will agree that there are no valid reasons for the continuance of martial law:

..... 8 years is twice as long as the Second World War

arise from the sale of their labor power. If their wages do not increase apace with the rise in prices, they become worse off than before, and will just have to go without the commodities or services since they are unable to pay for them.

On the other hand, an increase in the prices of commodities and services is generally favorable to suppliers and manufacturers. These persons usually belong to the high income class whose earnings stem from the use of their wealth in production. Higher prices normally mean to them higher profits, dividends, interests and rents.

Governments have a role to play in the formation of prices both of commodities and of labor, capital, land and other resources. Through policies they can control or stabilize these prices, raise them or lower them. Whatever they do governments can therefore affect neutrally, favorably or unfavorably, the various classes of society.

In this discussion we would like to ask the following question: Is current government policy relative to prices, wages and income distribution helpful to the low income class in Philippine society or is it harmful to it? For an answer, let's take a look, among others, at real wages, income distribution, taxes and expenditures, and general government policies toward labor. Let's start

in the Pacific. I think the Commission on Elections (Comelec) itself, sitting en banc, should ask, or petition, the President to lift martial law, if only to emphasize the integrity of the democratic electoral process in regions IX and XII this May. The Comelec argument should be: if the situation in the south makes it possible to hold free, honest, and peaceful elections — there is no need for martial law!

from the year 1966, the beginning year of the present government.

REAL WAGES

Data from the Central Bank indicate that the real wage of skilled laborers in Metro Manila declined from 100 index points in 1966 to approximately 63 index points in 1978. The decline occurred despite an increase in the money wage from 100 to 211 index points, because of a jump in consumer prices from 100 to 332 points. In money terms, the wage rate of skilled laborers in Metro Manila increased from about P7.30 in 1966 to approximately P15.40 in 1978 but the real value of this wage rate fell from P7.30 to P4.70, a decline of more than 35 per cent, because of price increases. The wage of P15.40 for 1978 already includes the increase in the minimum wage to P11.00 and, beginning in 1977, the grant of a P60 a month living allowance for workers receiving P600 a month or less, a 13th month bonus, the payment of 12 legal holidays and, in order to avoid a possible understatement, our own addition of a payment for another 16 assorted days.

These data do not of course represent with exactitude the condition of all workers and laborers in the national society. For one thing, there are workers employed in establishments smaller than those covered in the Metro Manila sample and, for another, there are the so-called self-employed. But from the literature on small scale enterprises and the informal sector, we know that the earnings of people engaged in small scale enterprises and in informal sector activities approach nowhere near the earnings of skilled laborers in Metro Manila. For instance, of all enterprises sampled in the informal sector in Metro-Manila in 1976, some 73 per cent and 83 per cent paid a maximum wage of only P5.00 or less a day for male and female workers, respectively. This maximum daily wage is only one-half of the statutory minimum at that time. In the circumstances, we can use the Metro-Manila data for skilled laborers as a rough index to the fall in real wages of workers in the rest of the economy who had been working since 1966 and as a rough index to the level of real wages for workers employed as of 1978.

What could P15.40 a day buy in Metro Manila in 1978? Studies by Alcestis Abrera, Mahar Mangahas, and Edita Tan and Virginia Holazo provide us with an idea. These authors estimated the so-called poverty line for the country as a whole and for various regions. Using only Tan and Holazo, the poverty line for a family of six in Metro Manila in 1975 was P4,984. If we adjust this line to 1978 prices on the assumption of a

constant basket of commodities, it will be P8,423. In other words, the skilled worker earned only about 55 per cent — slightly more than one half — of what it took to support a family of six right at the poverty line in Metro Manila in 1978. To enable him to maintain a family of six right at the poverty threshold in Metro Manila in 1978, the skilled worker needed to have a wage of P26.18 per day, or 69 per cent more than his actual wage.

It is necessary to say something about the poverty line in order to concretize its meaning. Incomes below this line are incomes "which cannot buy for the family its recommended nutrient requirements; (cannot permit) two changes in garment for each family, cannot afford Grade 6 schooling for the children, (cannot) cover the minimal cost of medical care assumed to be equal to that amount spent by families whose incomes can just satisfy the minimum requirement, (and cannot afford to pay) a roughly imputed rent and fuel costs for families who meet the food standard."

To meet this poverty basket in 1978, each member of the household still needed P4.40 a day, or 69 per cent more than he actually had. If we have difficulty conceptualizing the life condition implied by this, it is because we are too far removed from it.

Income distribution has understandably worsened. Tan and Holazo found that the percentage of families that fell on and below the poverty line increased from 41 per cent of all households in 1965 to 43.78 per cent in 1971 and 51.49 per cent in 1975. Even worse are the findings of Mangahas who saw that some 56.9 per cent of Filipino households were below the poverty line in 1971, some 68.0 per cent were below it in 1975.

TAXES

Things become worse when taxes are taken into consideration. Sales taxes are imbedded in the prices of commodities and services, raising these prices once-for-all. Without these taxes, prices will be lower, quantities produced of relevant commodities will be greater, and the real incomes of both the low and high income classes will be higher. Harder hit by these taxes is the low income class because of its absolutely smaller money income.

There are income taxes, too. Income taxes are imposed on higher money incomes because of the movement of these incomes to higher tax brackets. The fact that these higher money incomes are lower in purchasing power than smaller money incomes in past years does not matter, they must pay income taxes just the same. The worker receiving P15.40 a day may end up paying an income tax, despite the fact that his

wage represents only 65 per cent of his wage in 1966, when he was not paying any such tax.

Still and all, this double squeeze applied by the government on all income classes can be justified if the taxes collected are spent judiciously and on socially beneficial and necessary projects and activities. From what I see with my own eyes, not to mention inferences made from newspapers identified with the government, taxes are dissipated on projects and activities of an inflationary character, — and I am not referring to roads, school houses and hospitals which, even if inflationary, are socially important. By cutting out these projects and activities we can reduce inflation.

In addition, much taxes are being channelled into projects and programs that have doubtful social value. It is my judgment that if we cut down on appropriations that now go under the name of, among others, general public service, defense, and other community and social services, cut out overpricing of purchases and commissions to individuals and entities, and cut down on foreign travel, we can reduce the budget by a total of at least 30 per cent. In terms of the 1978 budget that would have meant a reduction of some P10 billion in Philippine currency and in foreign exchange. That amount would have given some degree of relief to our embattled population. In addition, the saving in foreign exchange would have also made possible an increase in foreign exchange available for vital imports and thus a reduction of our dependence on foreign loans and foreign investments.

INCREASES

For the current year prices have already begun increasing, and if at all the government is responsible for the phenomenon. It began lifting controls on the prices of plywood, canned fish, animal feeds, selected cuts of meat and poultry and eggs early in the year. When labor begun demanding an upward adjustment in wages, the government granted an increase of P2 to the minimum daily wage and an additional P60 a month for all workers receiving less than P600 a month but even before the increases could take effect, it announced the removal of the brakes on the prices of milk, sugar, textile products and school supplies. From the newspapers we now hear that some suppliers have doubled their prices.

POLICIES

This brings us to the last point in this discussion: the policies of the government with regard to labor. Since 1972 the policies of the government towards labor have come to progressively resemble those of South Korea, Taiwan and Singapore, countries whose oppression of workers is

(Page 7, please)

In every living thing,
There is a spirit
to be free



METRO MANILA NEWS



15 0/o salary hike in MM

Employees of the four cities and 13 towns of Metro Manila are authorized by the Metro Manila Commission a 15 percent across-the-board salary increase effective May 1, 1979, provided funds are available.

This decision was made by Metro Manila Gov. Imelda R. Marcos to help Metro Manila workers meet the increased costs of livelihood and in pursuance of the policy announced by President Marcos early this month, according to MMC Assistant to the Governor Ismael A. Mathay, Jr.

Under the decision of



Gov. IMELDA MARCOS

the Metro Manila governor, however, the 15 percent pay hike is the minimum. Should the various cities and towns be able to afford a higher increase for their workers during the rest of the year, the MMC will approve such increase.

The pay hike is limited in the meantime to 15 percent because a number of the local governments cannot pay more. During the conference the other week with MMC officials, a number of the treasurer's reported their respective communities cannot give more than 15 percent in the meantime.

This new benefit will be given to employees starting tomorrow, May 1. A number of the local units, however, have yet to submit their supplemental budgets appropriating the money for the increase to the MMC.

DIALOGUES IN QUEZON CITY

QUEZON CITY — The city government has intensified its public dialogues in order to "bring the government closer to the people," said Community Relations Officer Melencio Castelo.

He made the statement in a speech before barangay leaders during the regular monthly meeting of the 2nd district of the Kapitpunan ng mga Barangay

held recently at the Project 6 barangay hall. Some 28 barangay captains and 90 executive officers of the barangay community brigades attended the meeting.

Castelo cited Mayor Rodriguez's Palangiang Paglingap ng Pamahalaan sa Mamamayan program in consonance with the government's program of bringing the government to the people.

The Paglingap, Castelo explained, is a twice a week dialogue wherein a team of city officials, headed by Mayor Rodriguez herself, goes to the barangays, discuss their problems and give immediate solutions.

According to Castelo, 17 barangays have already been visited by the team and several projects were put up as a result of these dialogues.

Another speaker was Gregorio Ladra, chief, Field Services of the GSIS, who explained Presidential Decree 1232 recognizing the Barangay Community Brigades in Metropolitan Manila and granting them certain privileges.

Ladra said PD 1232 gives the barangay officers insurance coverage. All members of the BCB who are duly appointed and qualified are automatically covered by life, disability and accident insurance.

Ladra explained that the annual premiums will be shouldered by the MMC broken down as follows: For executive officers — P15.00 for P5,000 coverage; team leaders — P12.50 for P4,000; and rank and file — P10.00 for P3,000.

The insurance coverage took effect since January 1, 1979 or on the date they assumed office through valid appointment provided that the premium is first paid to the GSIS, he added. — ROD O. FRANCIA

FINANCIAL CENTER IN PC

PASAY CITY — A financial center in the Manila Bay reclamation area is going up. Work on the first building, located at the corner of Buendia Extension and Roxas Boulevard will soon start.

According to a report received by WE, the building to be erected will house the Manila Stock Exchange.

Three other structures will follow. These will be put up by the Government Service Insurance System, the Philippine National

Bank and the Construction and Development Corporation of the Philippines, Manila Bay reclaimers.

According to CDCP Vice President Salvador Hizon, the financial center will house government and private financial institutions. It will have an area of 23.2 hectares and the work of developing it including the building of paved roads, installation of power and water facilities and construction of drainage systems, will cost P32-million.

Aside from the GSIS and the PNB, three other government financing institutions will erect their own buildings in the financial center. These are the Development Bank of the Philippines, Social Security System and the Land Bank of the Philippines.

All buildings to be built in the area will be limited in height because of civil aviation requirements. The Civil Aeronautics Administration will prescribe the height of the structures, it was learned.

CLEANLINESS CAMPAIGN

A metro-wide intensive cleanliness campaign got off to a start last Tuesday, May 1, in all cities and towns of Metro Manila as the people's gift to the First Couple on the occasion of their silver wedding anniversary.

The drive was also intended to spruce up the metropolis for the UNCTAD conference starting May 7 which will draw an estimated 5,000 delegates and visitors from all over the world.

In his memorandum to all mayors, Assistant to the Governor Ismael A. Mathay, Jr. wrote that to celebrate the two events falling on May 1 — Labor Day and silver wedding anniversary of President and Mrs. Marcos — municipal and city employees and barangay officials should attend a mass at their respective halls. "after which the mayors shall launch before the people so gathered the revitalization of the cleanliness program in Metro Manila area, preparatory to the UNCTAD Conference."

In launching the drive, the MMC official said that "the basic practice of keeping our premises and surroundings clean and sanitary (must) be kept alive and not forgotten in our everyday existence."

POLICE MATTERS

Mayors should have a hand

MAKATI — Mayor Nemesis I. Yabut, asked to comment on the disclosure of Defense Minister Carmelo Barbero that a study on the possible return of police control to the local government, is being made said that such a move would be in the proper direction.

According to him, allowing the mayors to share in the responsibility of police control and supervision will result in the improvement of the peace and order situation throughout the country.

Yabut said that there need not be a total return of police management to local executives. He explained that the responsibility could be shared with the military and the Integrated National Police, constituting a triumvirate among the mayors, the AFP commanders and the INP or PC authorities.

It does not matter who, among the triumvirate, will be the chairman, the Makati mayor said.

"All that is necessary, for the present, is for the mayor to have a say in police matters because, after all, the police exist to serve the community and



Mayor YABUT

the mayor is the representative of the people in the community," Yabut explained.

The disclosure of Barbero was published in last Wednesday's issue of the Times Journal. The DND official also stated that the First Lady and Metro Manila Governor is one of those strongly recommending the return of police jurisdiction to the mayors of the municipalities and cities.

"This is one of the greatest gifts we can give to the First Couple, and at the same time a great service we can render to the community while, at the same time benefiting ourselves," he said.

Mathay, Jr. told this newspaper that sprucing

up for the UNCTAD meeting, which will start on May 7 and last until June 1, will also be a part of the Filipinos' tradition of bidding welcome to the foreign visitors and extending to them the hospitality for which they have become well known all over the world.

Property assessment protests increase

QUEZON CITY — As more property owners get copies of their new tax declarations from the office of the city assessor, the number of appeals against excessive assessments keep on increasing.

Under the Real Property Tax Code, a property owner is given 60 days within which to question the assessment of his property.

The appeal must be filed with the Board of Tax (Assessment) Appeals at the office of Register of Deeds Nestor N. Peña at the City Hall. Peña is chairman of the board, with City Engineer Pantaleon Tabora and City Auditor Celso Ferreras as members. The board has supervision over all property assessment protests in the second treasury and assessment district composed of Quezon City, San Juan, Marikina, Mandaluyong and Pasig.

As of last April 17, a total of 304 appeals had been received from the entire district by the board. These cases are from the various communities as follows: Quezon City, 177; San Juan, 37; Marikina, 50; Mandaluyong, 32; and Pasig, 8.

Board Chairman Peña advised prospective appellants to file only meritorious appeals in which the property owners have evidence to show that the assessments of their properties are erroneous.

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AND EARN ALONG THE WAY.



Editorial

BEDAZZLING UNCTAD DELEGATES

Some 7,000 delegates and observers from all over the world are expected to attend the fifth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) which starts on Monday, May 7, and ends on June 1.

While here, our foreign visitors will be treated to the best the Philippines can offer in the traditions of Filipino hospitality — from mind-boggling and glittering social parties to "guided" tours of glossy projects showcasing social and economic development.

Surely, they will be dazzled by the stupendous display of such plush buildings as the Philippine International Convention Center, the Cultural Arts Center, the Philcote, the Folks Art Theatre, the Heart Center for Asia, and naturally, the five-star hotels built through loans from the taxpayers' money.

It would do well for them, too, however, to go beyond the glowing facade and peep into the "cost of these developments" in relation to the actual living conditions of the majority of the Filipino people. Only then will they know the real, painful score.

To the UNCTAD delegates we offer our hand in friendship with the hope that they refrain from judging a book by its cover.

National Shrines

LILIA RAMOS-DE LEON

On Mactan Island, Lapu-Lapu City, Cebu, a monument to Ferdinand Magellan, put up during the Spanish Regime, stands on the site of the battle between his forces and that of Chieftain Lapu-Lapu, a chieftain of Mactan.

That the monument on the historic site should commemorate the invader instead of the defender, has long been a thorn in Filipino sensitivity; and on June 21, 1969, Republic Act No. 5695 was approved. This act provided for the establishment on Mactan Island of a national shrine to be known as "The Liberty Shrine" to evoke the spirit of Lapu-Lapu and his men.

On April 27 of this year, which will be the 458th anniversary of the Battle of Mactan, a sculpted representation of the valiant chieftain, looming 30 meters tall opposite the Magellan obelisk, will be unveiled.

Lapu-Lapu would not accept the sovereignty of Spain or of Datu Humabon whom Magellan tried to establish as the Christian King of the Archipelago de San Lazarus (the name Magellan initially gave the Philippines). He declared he would not abandon his old religion and that he would wage war on any chief who would do so.

Magellan decided to make an example of the re-

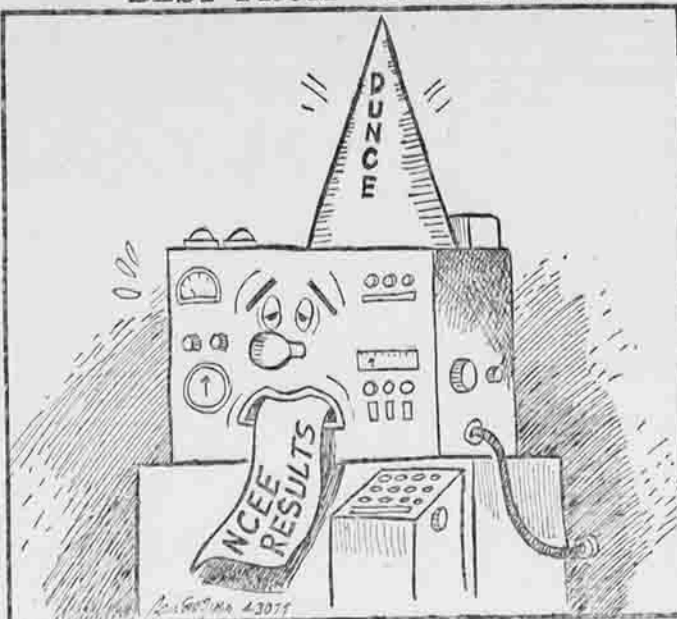
WE is published weekly by the J. BURGOS MEDIA SERVICES with editorial and business offices at Mezzanine, National Press Club Bldg., Magallanes Drive, Intramuros, Manila, Tel. No. 4745-33; Reentered as a second class mail matter at the Manila Central Post Office on Nov. 27, 1973. PCPM Certificate of Registration No. 287.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES: P24.00 one year; P12.00 6 months. Home delivered subscription: P50.00 one year (for Metro Manila residents only).

JOSE G. BURGOS, JR.
Publisher-Editor

TO SEEK AND LIVE THE TRUTH AND SHARE
A VISION.

BEST FROM THE DAILIES



Times Journal

PUBLISHER'S NOTES



THE NPC AND PRESS FREEDOM

by JOSE G. BURGOS, JR.

By the time this issue comes out, the members of the National Press Club shall have elected a new 15 man board of directors to manage the affairs of the "Club by the Pasig".

Also, they shall have approved or rejected a vital resolution which should have been an issue raised by the NPC when the martial law regime started to muzzle the press. The issue, of course, is freedom of the press.

As one of the aspirants for a seat in the board of directors, I sponsored a resolution which I hope and at the time of this writing that my colleagues would find time to study and pass judgment upon. The resolution reads in full:

"WHEREAS, every human being has an inherent right to know, seek and live the truth;

"WHEREAS, the mass media, particularly the press, play a vital role in the development of a nation and her people;

"WHEREAS, the Constitution of the Philippines specifically guarantees the individual's right to know the truth as provided for by Article IV, Section 9 which states that "No law shall be passed abridging the freedom of the press";

"WHEREAS, under the I rest my case.

bellious chief and announced he was going to head a punitive expedition himself. Filled with religious exaltation, he scorned the veteran fighters of his crew and called upon volunteers to form his force. He declared he depended upon divine aid to defeat Lapu-Lapu.

In the untrained hands of Magellan's volunteers, the firearms and crossbows were ineffective; their shots only passed through the wooden shields of the natives who nimbly leaped here and there. The latter shot their arrows and spears with adroitness, picking up the same spear several times and hurling it again and again at the enemy who could hardly defend themselves. No miracle happened and Magellan had to order a retreat to the boats. Still fighting off the fierce pursuers, Magellan was struck down and killed by their spears and blades.

present regime, all major institutions of mass communication are under the control and ownership of a few favored individuals who are either relatives or associates of martial law authorities;

"WHEREAS, the President of the Philippines has irrevocably committed himself to the promotion of human rights and press freedom as evidenced by his various public pronouncements;

"THEREFORE, be it resolved, as it is hereby resolved, that the National Press Club of the Philippines:

"1. oppose any further attempt that would restrict legitimate members of the press from exercising their avowed rights and duties under the principle of "freedom with responsibility";

"2. DEMAND the abolition of the system of registration of any publication or any form of censorship as currently being practised by the Philippine Council for Print Media; and

"3. actively and relentlessly work for the advancement of press freedom so that every Filipino would be enlightened on the actual state of affairs of the nation."



VIEWPOINT

UNWRITTEN RULE OF SUCCESSION

by RAUL M. GONZALEZ

The near shoot-out between Rasay City policemen and Metrocom soldiers last Friday, April 27, in connection with an alleged extortion syndicate in Rasay City, illustrates that martial law or not, criminality, corruption, vices and other nefarious activities go on unabated. Even with the curtailed news reporting today, newspaper readers still cannot miss reading all kinds of stories about abuses by law enforcement officers, corruption in high places and all forms of illegal activities which are traced to people in government. How often do we find stories about soldiers abusing civilians in the provinces, soldiers maltreating detainees, soldiers drunk, policemen giving protection to vice syndicates, barangay tanods and barangay officials acting like lords and masters in their localities? How often do we find stories about smuggling in the customs zone, anomalies in the BIR and corruption in the Ministry of Public Highways? Just the other day there was an item about smuggling cases in the Export Processing Zone.

Why do I make mention of these instances? Simply to show that the so-called new or reformed society under martial law has failed to stem the tide of criminality and corruption and low moral tone, both in public as well as in the private sectors. Thus, if the supposed reformation of society is being used as a convenient excuse to continue martial law in our country, I am afraid we may have martial law forever. For it is clear that if after 7 years of martial law, society has not been reformed to the image and likeness of Mr. Marcos, if after 7 years of one man rule, the Mindanao rebellion has not been quelled, martial law is not the answer to these ills. It is time now, as it has been the clamor of many right thinking citizens in the country to lift martial law and restore the full exercise of democracy in the Philippines.

Imagine a backward country like Bangladesh has already lifted martial law and called for honest to goodness elections. In Uganda, even while the battle for the full control of the country against Idi Amin's dictatorship continues, the new regime in Kampala was able to hold free elections in those areas already liberated. Egypt has dissolved its Parliament to call for new elections. Even Rhodesia succeeded in holding elections notwithstanding grave and continuing threats from the guerrillas. Why can the Philippines not have free elections now? Imagine the ridiculous situation of holding

elections in Mindanao — supposedly the troubled region of the country and yet the peaceful areas like Luzon and the Visayas cannot have elections?

This continued one man rule has spawned so many abuses against the consent of the governed. Look at what happened in Nueva Ecija. They fired the mayors then suddenly reinstated them. The citizens cannot even voice out their free choices of local leaders because everything begins and ends in Malacañang. In Iloilo City, for instance, they just appointed a new City Mayor who is not even from there but who comes from Guimaras Island. With so many qualified people in Iloilo City, Mr. Marcos has to get one from the mountains of Guimaras to run the affairs of such a premier city like Iloilo City. What a calamity.

I hope Mr. Marcos will not violate the unwritten rule of succession in the country in the choice of successor to the late Chief Justice Fred Ruiz Castro. It is only logical and morally right that Acting Chief Justice Enrique M. Fernando should be appointed to the position of Chief Justice since he is the next in line and the most senior in the court. I cannot imagine the demoralization in the judiciary if Mr. Marcos breaks this tradition and appoints an outsider as Chief Justice. Not only that, I believe that the credibility of the Supreme Court and the faith of the citizens in the court will be irreparably damaged if an outsider is appointed.

Of course under one man rule, everything begins and ends with Mr. Marcos, the people's sentiments being secondary. Under the present dispensation, it has become the truism that "truth is what is good for the state". Still, it is my hope that exercise of power — absolute powers even under martial law must be tempered with the sentiments of the governed. It is in that spirit, in fact, that Manila IV Chapter of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines, which I humbly represent, has passed a resolution endorsing and recommending to Mr. Marcos the permanent appointment of Senior Associate Justice Enrique M. Fernando to the vacant position of Chief Justice. So let us wait and see. Indeed, "el hombre propone, el Dios dispone".



Public's faith in the police

by H. Q. BORROMELO

In Quezon City three policemen were ordered dismissed from the service for discourtesy, according to one newspaper story, and for operating a "police trap," according to another version. The person victimized was Gen. Prospero Olivas, head of the Metrocom and chief of the Metropolitan Police Force.

The incident occurred on M. Hemady street, somewhere between Aurora Boulevard and N. Domingo. It seems that the general's car entered Hemady from N. Domingo against a supposedly one-way street running in the opposite direction. The policemen, who were not at the corner but rather inside Hemady, flagged the general's car to a stop. But apparently one of them recognized the general — their boss — and made no effort to approach the vehicle until, after five minutes, the general himself accosted the trio to inquire why his vehicle was stopped.

They lamely explained that they were only trying to warn the driver that he was going against a one-way street. This happened at 8 p.m. on a Sunday evening and everybody knows that there are hardly any traffic policemen directing traffic in this neighborhood on Sundays. Let alone 8 p.m. in the evening. It doesn't take a very smart motorist to figure out what traffic policemen could be doing in the middle of a one-way street on a dark night and on a Sunday, at that.

To make the long story short, the cops have been dismissed by Brig. Gen. Tomas Karingal, chief of the Northern police command, after properly investigating the case. Like anyone familiar with the antics of some traffic policemen, Karingal reached the same conclusion as General Olivas as to what those three cops — including one from the San Juan precinct — were doing there.

I live around this neighborhood and I must confess that even the residents are confused about the traffic rules here. The policemen assure me that Hemady is a one-way street going from North to South, as is Dna. Juana Rodriguez (Broadway). Gilmore is one-way in the opposite direction, that is, South to North. The rule applies to the entire length of the three streets, from N. Domingo to E. Rodriguez (España Ext.).

But one notices that there are very few signboards to indicate that the streets are one-way. "Ninanakaw po," explained one policeman to me. And nobody seems interested enough to make sure that motorists get enough warning. Some of the signs are so placed that they are not clearly visible to the ordinary motorist traveling at a moderate speed.

One can suspect that this may even have been done on purpose, for the benefit of policemen with itchy fingers eager to write out VRS.

Meanwhile, two other policemen from Makati were observed stopping vehicles with S plates near the entrance to Bel-Air Subdivision on Mercedes. One of the drivers told me that, according to the policemen, service vehicles are prohibited from entering Bel Air. That was the first time I heard of that prohibition. How does one make deliveries to Bel Air residents? What about repairmen responding to calls from inside the subdivision? Are they supposed to park their vehicles outside and walk to their customers' houses? Anyway the driver told me he was let off after he handed a five-peso bill to one of the cops.

Many readers will now ask me, so what else is new? I admit these incidents no longer surprise anyone. In fact, some may even laugh when I tell them that for the past year I had been wondering why my neighbors had been raising the height of their walls and installing barbed wiring on top. Last week I found out why, after burglars entered my garage, removed the rear windshield of my car obviously to steal my car stereo. They must have been purely disappointed to find that there was no stereo in the car — it had been stolen last year. In the same garage. Then I learned that all my neighbors' houses, without exception, had been burgled already, hence the raising of walls.

No wonder President Marcos has decided to act by increasing the penalty for the possession of stolen goods. But as long as the people do not have confidence in their police, they will not bother to even report cases of burglaries. What for? they ask. The thieves never get caught. And some policemen have only exposed themselves to suspicion by asking victims for "transportation and other expenses" so they can track down "hot leads" in the provinces.

When even the police department cannot be trusted, like the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, to catch their man, the only practical answer may lie in the barangay tano's. Or in installing private security guards to man checkpoints at street intersections. The mere presence of these checkpoints should be deterrent enough to the casual burglar or house-breaker. But then, there is a legal problem: would the city authorities allow private security guards to man outposts in city streets and to accost private citizens entering or leaving through public thoroughfares? Could these guards — even barangay

SOMETHING WRONG WITH POLICE

In a brief period of two weeks, a series of disturbing incidents involving the police in various sectors of Metro Manila has caused no little apprehension in the public mind. These events are:

Item: The discovery of the operations of an extortion syndicate in the Pasay Police Station allegedly led by the head of the intelligence division no less, which syndicate disarmed a Metrocom unit sent to the Pasay police headquarters to arrest the syndicate members;

Item: The shocking case of the superintendent of the Eastern Police District in whose house in Pasig an illegal bookie had been in existence, operated by no other than the police superintendent's son who, in turn, is a policeman with the Western Police District in Manila;

Item: The apprehension, by Metrocom and Metropolitan Police Force commander, Brig. Gen. Prospero Olivas, of three traffic cops, two from Quezon City and one from San Juan, found operating a traffic trap for mulcting money from unsuspecting motorists; and

Item: The existence of a racket by some Caloocan traffic policemen involving the collection of a P1 tong from each jeepney driver plying the Valenzuela-Monumento route for said driver to turn right from Rizal Ave. Ext. to Samson Road which is a violation of an ordinance.

In the light of all these disclosures, one may ask: What is happening in the various police stations in Metro Manila? How effective — or ineffective — is the supervision and control over these police forces by the Metropolitan Police Force of the Integrated National Police? Are these events indicative of the state of discipline which is the most important ingredient in the proper functioning of a quasi-military organization like the police?

There is no evidence to show that these separate incidents are related but they are indicative of something wrong with the police set-up in Metro Manila. They are symptoms of a disease which has apparently infected the entire law-and-order agency and which is bound to grow more serious unless drastic remedial measures are instituted by higher authorities. These higher authorities must act without delay.

tano's — search suspicious characters for possible stolen goods?

I would appreciate a reply from the Quezon City fiscal because that is exactly what the taxpayers in our neighborhood are now planning to do — en-

gage private security agencies in the face of the apparent helplessness of the police. Surely citizens have a right to protect themselves when the government has proven that it is unable or lacks the resources to do so.

LET'S GIVE

FREEDOM

A CHANCE!

BUKAS NA

(mula sa pahina 8)

hin ang aming pinaghahabol. Maging sa ang usapin ay nakarating ng Malacanang ay ganito pa rin ang ginawa sa aming tuwing kinukumusta namin ang nasabing usapin. Maari pong sa dalas ng aming pagpunta sa Malacanang ay hindi minamabuti ng mga taong humawak ng aming usapin. Ang hindi po namin maintindihan ay kung bakit ang iba sa aming mga kasapi na may kaso laban sa Luzon Stevedoring ay nakatanggap ng liham mula sa Legal Office ng Malacanang na ang kanilang mga kaso ay ibinalik sa Kagawaran ng Paggawa upang ipatupad gayong ang mga taong ito ay mga kasama namin sa isang kaso. Sa ngayon ay napasama sila sa kaso ng UOEF Committee 35.

Amin pong nararamdaman na hindi na magtatagal ang aming buhay at ang tanging hangarin namin ay makita ang aming tagumpay sa aming usapin at mapakinabangan ang mga biyayang aming pinaghahabol na nauukol sa aming bilang mga matapat na manggagawa sa mahabang panahon ng Luzon Stevedoring. Tanging kayo po lamang mahal na Pangulo ang makalulutas sa aming paghihirap.

Matagal na po naming ninais na maidaing sa inyo ang aming kalagayan ngunit hindi po kami binigyan ng pagkakataon na makausap kayo ng harapan upang ipadama sa inyo ang kahambal-hambal na kalagayan at makita ng inyong mga mata ang aming kaapi-aping anyo.

Ito na po lamang ang tanging paraan na aming naisip upang paratingin sa inyong kaalaman ang aming kahabag-habag na katayuan at mabigyan ninyo ng karampatang lunas bilang isang Pangulong nagmamahal sa maliliit na mga manggagawa.

Umaasa po kami na bago kami bawian ng buhay ay maibibigay ninyo sa aming mga karapatan bilang mga manggagawa ng Luzon Stevedoring na malaon nang nuyurakan ng mga nasa kapangyarihan.

Lubos na gumagalang,

| | |
|------------------------|-------------------|
| ROMAN MACLANG | BENJAMIN SAMONTE |
| ROBERTO SIMON | SILVERIO VASQUEZ |
| NARCISO BATOC | PABLO DE UMANIA |
| MACARIO ANDRADE | SALVADOR CASTILLO |
| HERMENEGILDO HERNANDEZ | |
| | ALBERTO ABAYON |
| TEODORO MANIKAN | ERNESTO TENOSO |

SAGOT NG

(mula sa pahina 8)

POVs o CCVs.

Sa pahayag ni Sister Marianni na may mga bilanggo nasa hindi makataong kalagayan, dapat lamang makita kung pano ang kilalang-kilalang bilanggo, si dating Senador Benigno Aquino Jr., na naninirahan sa Fort Bonifacio.

Ang mga mamamahayag at peryodista ay nakikita ang kinalalagayan ni Aquino, al-mentioned, may alpombra, may color television set, nakapupunta siya sa camp's officer clubhouse, at sa swimming pool. Nakakabasa siya ng lahat ng babasahing kaniyang naisin, at pinapayagan siyang gumamit ng makinilya.

Sa Bicutan Rehabilitation Center, ang mga bilanggo ay may kooperatiba na nagpapatakbo ng dry goods store. Gumagawa din silang mga cottage industry products na kanilang itinitinda sa labas.

Ang butihing Sister ay nakapagbitiw din ng salitang masakit sa kaniyang mga kabaro na dapat sanang bumuo ng katanungan sa kalsipan ng AP sa Washington ukol sa kaniyang motibo at credibilidad.

Sangayon sa kaniya, 12 obispo na hindi niya bi-

nanggit ang pangalan ang nagpabili kay Presidente Marcos, na para bagang ang mga obispong ito ay mga mersinariyo. Ito ay napakasa-akit.

Naniniwala kami na kung mayroon mang mga obispo na hindi sumasangayon sa lagay ng pulitika sa Pilipinas ngayon, ito ay dahilan sa sarili nilang paniniwala. Ganoon din ang ilang obispo na sa salita ni Sister Marianni ay "binasbasan ang martial law". Sila ay naniniwala na ang batas militar ay mabuti para sa bansa at hindi dahilan sa sila ay tumanggap ng pabuya o pabor sa Pangulo.

Ikinalungkot ni Sister Marianni na ang pamamahalaan ay mapamigil (repressive). Ngunit inamin niya na siya ay may pahintulot pumaroon at pumarito sa detention center at siya ay babalik na muli sa Pilipinas upang ipagpatuloy ang kaniyang gawain.

Anong mapamigil na pamamahalaan ang nagpahintulot sa isang tao na nagpapahayag ng kaniyang pakikiramay at pakikilisa sa mga sandatahang tumutulong tulad ng New People's Army na bumalik sa kaniyang pinanggalingan.

WE Classified Ads

LEGAL NOTICES • BUSINESS DIRECTORY

Republika ng Pilipinas
HUKUMANG PANGKA-
BATAAN AT PAGSASA-
MAHANG PANTAHANAN
(Juvenile and Domestic
Relations Court)
Lungsod Quezon

IN THE MATTER OF
THE ADOPTION OF
THE MINOR JENNIFER
D. CABILANGAN,

SP. PROC. NO.
QG-00863

GAUDENCIO A. TURQUIO
and LUCRECIA DALIDA,
Petitioners.

— — — — —
ORDER

The spouses Gaudencio A. Turquio and Lucricia Dalida-Turquio filed herein verified petition on March 28, 1979 praying that, after due notice, publication and hearing, the minor Jennifer D. Cabilangan be declared their child by adoption.

It is alleged that the minor sought to be adopted was born in Muntinlupa, Metro-Manila on March 27, 1977 to Ricardo C. Cabilangan and Delia C. Dalida; that her natural parents have given their consent to herein proposed adoption; that she has no property of her own; and that petitioners have all the qualifications and none of the disqualifications to adopt.

WHEREFORE, it is hereby ordered that herein petition be set for hearing on May 28, 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 this Order be published at petitioner's expense once a week for three (3) consecutive weeks such that the last publication is made not later than May 13, 1979, or at least two (2) weeks before the hearing, in the "WE" (For the Young Filipino), a newspaper of general circulation in Quezon City, in accordance with Presidential Decree No. 1079.

Let copies of the Order, the petition and its annexes be served on the Office of the Solicitor General and the Director, Bureau of Family and Child Welfare, Ministry of Social Services and Development. The latter is hereby directed to conduct a social case study on petitioners and the minor sought to be adopted, including her natural parents, within thirty (30) days from receipt hereof; to submit a report

Republic of the Philippine
JUVENILE & DOMESTIC
RELATIONS COURT
Manila

IN RE: PETITION FOR
DISSOLUTION OF THE
CONJUGAL PARTNER-
SHIP OF GAINS AND
FOR COMPLETE SEPA-
RATION OF PROPERTY

CIVIL CASE NO. E-02552

FLORO JAYME and
CAYETANA B. TABAR-
JAYME,

— — — — —
Petitioners.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

The spouses, Floro Jayme and Cayetana B. Tabar-Jayme, residents of 130 Rizal, Ormoc City and 2186 Road 3, San Jose, Sta. Ana, Metro Manila, respectively, were married on October 17, 1959 under a regime of conjugal partnership.

A hearing in this case has been set on May 25, 1979 at 8:30 o'clock in the morning before this Court sitting at 1101 Galicano Apacible Street, Paco, Manila, and notice is hereby given to all creditors of the above-named spouses, as well as of their conjugal partnership, to appear at the above-scheduled hearing in order that their interests may be safeguarded.

This Notice shall be published at the expense of the spouses, share and share alike, once a week for three (3) consecutive weeks such that the last publication shall not be later than May 18, 1979 or one (1) week 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 Presidential Decree No. 1079, dated January 28, 1977.

WITNESS THE HONORABLE REGINA O. ORDONEZ-BENITEZ, Judge of the Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court, Manila, this 16th day of April, 1979.

DOROTEA A. CUARTERO,
Clerk of Court

April 28, May 5-12, 1979

thereon at least one (1) week before the hearing; and to be present on the date and time hereof.

SO ORDERED.
Quezon City, Metro-Manila, Philippines, March 30, 1979.

LEONOR INES LUCIANO
Presiding Judge
April 21, 28, May 5; 1979

SHOULD ONE MAN

(from page 1)

that the long, dark night is about to give way to the break of day.

Former Vice President Emmanuel Pelaez, now an assemblyman and a leading stalwart of the KBL, said in a speech before the Quezon chapter of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines last Friday that while the Interim Bataasang Pambansa has been constituted to undertake the attainment of the transitory steps leading to political normalization and the full restoration of our liberties, nothing has yet been done by the Batasan in fulfillment of its constitutional mandate. True it has enacted 30 bills, according to Mr. Pelaez, but all these are measures of local application.

The meaning of Mr. Pelaez' speech is clear. The term of the Interim Bataasang Pambansa will be stretched for as long as possible in order to retain the present dispensation. Its work of laying the foundation for a parliamentary system of government will be delayed to give more time for the present authoritarian government to take root.

Please note that the former Vice President is not an uncommitted observer of current events. The fact that he is with the establishment — that he is one of the pillars of the Kilusang Bagong Lipunan — should make us take his warning more seriously.

Let us be realistic about the present state of affairs. Martial law will stay with us for the duration of our lifetime... for as long as Mr. Marcos can see that some of our people are indifferent to the status quo and are reluctant to do anything about it.

"Power corrupts and absolute power corrupts absolutely" is a saying the validity of which has been borne out by history of dictatorships all over the world. It is a saying which is inexorably true because it goes with the grain of human nature.

Mr. Marcos may have, in the beginning, intended martial law to last only for a few years. But when he saw that there was not much organized opposition to it, when he saw how easy it is to manipulate the results of referenda and plebiscites, when he saw that an election, even in Metro Manila, could be rigged so easily, when he realized that the strongest guardian of public opinion — the press — could be intimidated into giving up its sacred duty of informing the people on all sides of any issue, and not only the favorable, the pro-administration side... then the idea must have entered his mind that he can continue with martial law under the specious and self-serving reasoning that what he is doing is for the good of the people.

Has it been really for the good of the people or for the good of Mr. Marcos himself, including his family, his golf cronies, his friends, and all the sycophants hanging around

in Malacañang?

But let us not be too harsh on Mr. Marcos. He is only human... tao lamang... subject to the weaknesses and frailties to which the flesh has been heir since Adam succumbed to the Snake and the First Couple was driven out of Paradise.

And to be fair, we must admit that there has been some good to what Mr. Marcos has done since he assumed the awesome powers of martial law in 1972.

However, we must not be fooled into looking only at these improvements... these advantages. We must also look at the disadvantages, especially the dangers inherent in a situation no matter how compassionate, where only one man decides what is good and what is bad for the entire people, and the people are denied the right to say what is good and what is not good for them, perhaps on the theory that they do not know one from the other.

The greatest danger in such a set-up is that if this dictatorship... let's call a spade a spade... will be allowed by the people to continue, Mr. Marcos may be self-deluded, even against his better judgment, in believing that he is a Messiah with the divine mission of "saving" the Filipino people from the sins of the Old Society. We must remember that the tolerance by the German people of Hitler when he first came to power was a fatal mistake — a mistake which led to the most destructive war in history and to the defeat and annihilation of Germany.

The comparison between Mr. Marcos and Hitler is certainly too far-fetched, but why should we take a chance? Why should we take so great a risk by placing totally our lives and fortunes in the hands of one man who, after all, is not infallible and could commit an error like anyone of us? Why let one person play the role of God over our present and future as well as those of our children, even if this person has the best intentions in the world, when we know very well that such a dangerous situation may let loose forces and circumstances which will prevent him from undoing what has already been done?

I submit that martial law has lost its effectiveness, that it has exhausted whatever good it used to have, and that it is no longer a useful instrument in reforming our society and in disciplining our people. The thing has gone far enough. It cannot go any farther. The pendulum is swinging back, the reaction is setting in.

There are many indications that martial law is no longer the effective catalyst that it used to be during the first two or three years. The strongest and most irrefutable of these indications is that crime has surged forward to unprecedented heights: an ironical development, indeed, since martial law was originally imposed to

restore peace and order. This present distressing development leads one to ask: "To bring back peace and order, is there a need to declare another martial law within the on-going martial law?"

Another evidence is that public discipline, which was noticeable during the early stages of martial law, has worn off as shown by the way people behave towards constituted authority. There is a growing attitude of cynicism towards government words and programs. Victims of crime do not make any report to the authorities.

Graft and corruption in the government are never more widespread than now as proven by the incessant flow in the daily press of reports about the wrongdoings of officials and employees, even in the highest places. If those in the government cannot follow the strictures of the New Society on integrity and honesty, whom can we expect to obey such commandments?

More and more, people are now talking — not only whispering — about how difficult life has become, not only from abuses and excesses committed by those sworn to serve and defend us, like the military and the police, but also from economic hardships — an indication that disillusionment has set in.

Indeed, the time has come to put an end to martial law. The time has come to give back to our people their cherished freedoms to talk, to write, to get together in peaceful assembly, to vote for their officials, to criticize their government officials... In short, the freedom to act as free and proud citizens in a free and democratic country.

How can we put a stop to this state of affairs?

We cannot, of course, resort to violence, not only because to talk of revolution would be to play into the hands of Mr. Marcos, giving him added reason to tighten the noose around our neck, but because revolution will do more harm than good.

What we can do is to start a campaign against the continued existence of martial law, to convince our friends, our neighbors and all those with whom we come in contact that martial law has ceased to promote the public good, to talk whenever we can, in favor of holding early local and national elections, to speak for the return of all those precious freedoms guaranteed in our Constitution but denied to us under the suppressive and oppressive limitations of martial law.

We have to stop being afraid to talk. There is too much fear around us; we are always apprehensive about saying anything against martial law because of the fear that we may be picked up and brought to Bicutan, Crame or Aguineldo.

Let us, in the Thursday Club, singly and collectively, create an atmosphere where freedom will thrive, each of us contributing what he can to

bring about a psychological change among our people for them to come out, courageously and forthrightly, that they have had enough of martial law and that their lost freedoms must be restored to them.

Mr. Marcos is not stupid. He has a keen and discerning mind, a man possessed of the qualities of great leadership. He knows that he cannot go against the will of the people all the time. He has a sense of history; he would not want to go down as a leader who put his people in chains and who did not have the wisdom to remove those chains when it was no longer necessary. Let us help Mr. Marcos realize that those chains are no longer necessary.

To get back our birthright of freedom, to return to the processes of democracy under which we have been tutored all throughout our lives, we must work together, each in his own way, to bring about the conditions which will spell, finally and irrevocably, the death of martial law in our country.

May God bless us all!

JUSTICE

(from page 1)

assigned to prosecute cases in the two CFI branches and in the four municipal court salas, and no matter how hard they work, the cases keep on accumulating, resulting in a bigger and bigger backlog.

As of last week, the prosecution office had a total of 2,000 unresolved cases.

The load of the two assistant fiscals is so heavy that they have to work on Saturdays even if this should be their day off.

Assistant Provincial Fiscal Rodolfo Mateo is officer-in-charge of the office. Assisting him is Assistant Fiscal Corazon Chavez. They attend trials of cases in the CFI and municipal courts in the morning and attend to preliminary investigations in the afternoon.

Office insiders say that to take care of all the cases piling up in Makati, there should be not less than five or six fiscals. According to these informants, 20 new cases are added every day to the 2,000-cases backlog.

A big number of the cases arise from vehicular accidents. An average of such cases are brought to the prosecution office by the Makati police every day, the same insiders revealed.

WE Outlet

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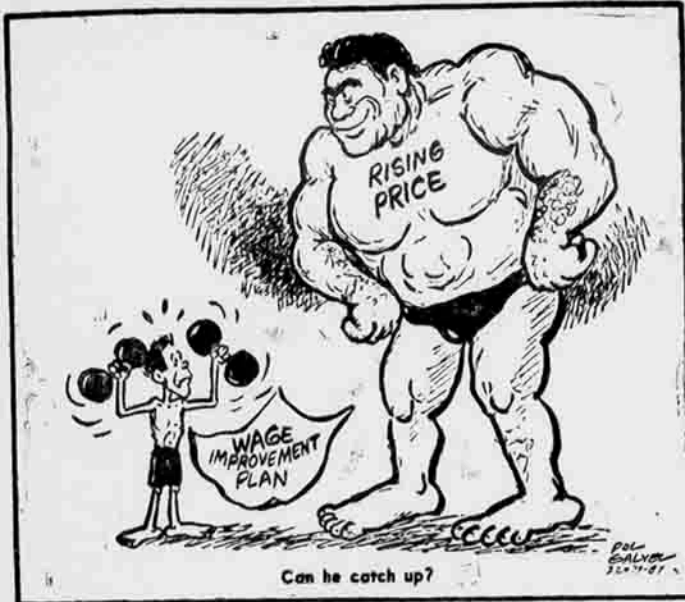


unequalled anywhere in the world except, until recently, in Iran. The 10-year Development Plan 1978-1987 reflects this prejudice although in a manner so well concealed that it can be missed by a trusting population. The Plan calls for labor productivity to increase over the 10-year period from 4.0 per cent per year in 1978-1982 to 4.6 per cent per year in 1982-87, but elsewhere, the Plan declares: "Workers will be accorded just compensation that will ensure the maintenance of a minimum standard of living without prejudice to the efforts to promote a high employment level in the economy (underscoring mine)." Here, in typical economic jargon, is the heart and soul of government policies towards labor. These policies want labor to exert itself to the boundaries of human endurance in order to increase output but never to raise a whimper with respect to the sharing of that output. The objective of

control prices of commodities and services. It has tried to make adjustments in the wage rate in the last 3 or 4 years but these adjustments have been extremely inadequate. The result is that the real wages of the low income class have fallen (for the skilled worker in Metro Manila, from P7.30 in 1977 to P4.70 in 1978). As a measure of the deterioration of the real incomes of workers, the skilled worker in Metro Manila needed P26.18 per day to support a family of six at the poverty threshold in 1978, whereas he earned only P15.40, or 65 per cent of what was needed.

The year 1979 offers no prospect for relief. Already, price increases have started eroding the wage increases that have been promised the workers. The year may turn out to be as bad as the nightmare of 1973.

Government policies not only have failed to



these policies is to see to it that the share that goes to capital is not diminished, to enable capital to "promote a high level of employment." This is not only an acceptance of the existing distribution of income as between labor and capital but a contribution to the preservation and reinforcement of that distribution. In this scheme, the share of labor is so small that it disappears in consumption whereas that of capital is so big that it becomes the sole source of saving and investment.

Can it be that the government is unaware of the anti-labor character of its policies? After all, of all the governments we have had this one has made the loudest protestations in favor of equity, justice, compassion, etc. But if the government is unaware that its policies come into direct conflict with the interests of workers, laborers, and other members of the low income class in this country, why does it buttress itself with such orders as General Order No. 5, PD 823 — orders and decrees enforceable only under martial law?

CONCLUSIONS

To summarize, government policies have failed to stabilize much less

improve income distribution, they have in fact contributed to its deterioration. More households fell below the poverty threshold between 1965 and 1975 and there is reason for believing that more fell by 1978.

Moreover, government tax policies have placed a heavy burden on the shoulders of the two great classes in Philippine society but especially on those of the low income class. Taxes squeeze the money incomes of the low income class from two directions. Also, much taxes have been used to finance projects and programs of a questionable nature. It seems possible to cut down budgetary expenses by at least 30 per cent without diminishing the quantity and quality of public services.

Last but not least, government policies are anti-labor. They curtail labor's rights to act decisively on its own behalf. In sum, government policy has been harmful to the low income class in Philippine society.



STOP NUCLEAR . . .

(from page 1)

ed re-examining and re-considering their plans of building nuclear facilities. Rallies and demonstrations protesting further construction of nuclear plants are being held the world over, including in the United States.

What is noteworthy, however, is that of the European nations, Russia, the United States' closest rival in nuclear development, and the Philippines, the United States' first line of defense in Southeast Asia where its military bases are still installed, are going full-blast and full speed with their nuclear research and development. The Russians believe that the Three Mile Island accident was caused by the evils of capitalism and not by any inherent defects of a nuclear plant. (We refuse to believe the Russians in this regard because we are a capitalist state.)

But let us not bother ourselves much with the Russians and instead concentrate on our own nuclear development plans.

The government is currently rushing the construction of the \$1.1 billion nuclear power plant in Morong, Bataan, racing for time (or should I say racing for hell?) to make it operational by 1981 incredibly without meeting opposition from the people. To be sure, the Philippine Atomic Energy Commission has assured the public that the nuclear plant would contain all the safety facilities required of all atomic power installations the world over. Of course, it will, and it must! But how safe are these safety facilities? Didn't the Three Mile power plant contain the same, if not more sophisticated, safety devices? Can the PAEC and the government guarantee an accident-proof nuclear installation? Would such a guarantee be credible in the light of the Pennsylvania incident, especially when we consider the fact that the Americans have long experience and higher expertise in thermo-nuclear technology?

The greatest danger that every nuclear plant poses is the radiation coming either from leakages or from the plant's waste materials. Defenders of nuclear development have time and again sought to comfort the public with the assurance that it takes a large dose of radiation to harm people. But no less than Nobel Prize winning biochemist George Wald has this to say: "Every dose of radiation is an overdose."

Why then does the government continue with the construction of the Bataan nuclear power plant despite all these risks and hazards? It is the answer to our energy problem, they say. But what percentage of our energy needs can we get from that plant? The United States has 72 plants, but these supply

CASE OF

(from page 1)

Express, October 10, 1972)

We all know what happened to that categorical promise. Mr. Marcos held on to Malacanang even after December 30, 1973... the terminal date set by the Constitution for him to continue as president. He held on... not only as prime minister and president under the 1973 Constitution but as president under the 1935 Constitution. He overstayed as "incumbent president", with dictatorial powers.

This is the basis of my reference to him, in the title of this speech, as the "overstaying 'incumbent president'". And this is the reason why, in the formula which our group evolved, which I will explain presently, we ask that Mr. Marcos give our people a chance to decide the national leadership by submitting himself to a national election for president with contending candidates. But, more on this later.

Meanwhile, let me point to still another mystifying tangle in the Gordian Knot.

After a few years of martial law, the illegitimacy of Mr. Marcos' position was beginning to become apparent to the people. This was becoming uncomfortably embarrassing, even for Mr. Marcos... who, being a lawyer, seeks at least some semblance of legitimacy.

Aside from being an "overstaying 'incumbent president'", he was also a "misbegotten-prime minister"... for he was a prime minister without a parliament. He became prime minister before there was a parliament to elect him. This is akin to a child pre-existing its parents. We have a term for this in Pilipino: "putok sa buho".

Further, the world was beginning to censure the fact that, among all countries in the world... including those ruled by dictators... the Philippines was the only one that did not have a legis-

only 12.5 per cent of her electrical needs.

We are spending P1.1 billion for that plant in Bataan alone. Can't we channel that amount to the development of other energy sources that would not pose great dangers to the lives of the people? No less than the government knows that geothermal energy sources in Tiwi, if fully tapped, can supply electricity to the whole of Luzon. Construction of the nuclear power plant should be abandoned and the amount should be used for the development of geothermal energy in Tiwi and fossil-fuel reserves in Palawan, if energy is all that the government wants from the Bataan nuclear power plant.

Only by doing this, can our people be assured of safety from nuclear hazards. As American protesters cry: "Stop nuclear power before it stops you!"

lative body.

So, Mr. Marcos made another crafty move. In 1976, he made our people go through a sham and expensive exercise of amending the 1973 Constitution, in order to give his dictatorship a semblance of legitimacy.

But, he just fouled up even more the tangle of illegalities in the Gordian Knot.

He violated his own 1973 Constitution which provides that amendments may be proposed only by either the Regular National Assembly (Art. XVI, Sec. 1, par. 1) or by the Interim National Assembly (Art. XVII, Sec. 15). Mr. Marcos himself proposed the 1976 amendments, thereby arrogating unto himself a power not vested in him by even the Transitory Provisions.

Then, he framed the proposed amendments in such manner that his position as dictator was completely insulated from any possible challenge.

One of the amendments (Amendment No. 1) abolished the Interim National Assembly. In lieu thereof, an Interim Batasang Pambansa was created.

It is not difficult to surmise the motivation behind this move. Mr. Marcos wants a legislature that is completely beholden and subservient to him. He could not fully count on the Interim National Assembly to play such role... considering that the senators, congressmen and Con-Con delegates who would compose it were elected before martial law, when Mr. Marcos could not completely regiment the voting.

On the other hand, the members of the newly created Interim Batasang Pambansa would be elected under martial law... when he could manipulate the election to suit his purposes.

Further, he made provisions so that the Interim Batasang Pambansa from the moment of its creation, would be an innocuous body which cannot challenge, dispute, or even diminish his powers as one-man ruler.

... Amendment No. 3 provides that "the incumbent President of the Philippines shall be the Prime Minister x x x and likewise he shall continue to exercise his powers and prerogatives under the nineteen hundred and thirty five constitution and the powers vested in the President and Prime Minister under this (1973) Constitution."

... Amendment No. 5 ordains that "the incumbent president shall continue to exercise legislative powers until Martial Law shall have been lifted."

... Amendment No. 6 provides that "when-ever in the judgment of the president (Prime Minister) x x x the Interim Batasang Pambansa or the regular National Assembly

Republika ng Pilipinas
HUKUMANG PANGKABATAAN AT PAGSASAMA-HANG PANTAHANAN
(Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court)
Lungsod Quezon

IN THE MATTER OF
THE ADOPTION OF
THE MINOR

ROLANDO ESPINAS
SP. PROC. NO. QG-00871

ABRAHAM M. ANONAS
and JOSEFINA STA.
INES ANONAS;
Petitioners.

ORDER
The spouses Abraham M. Anonas and Josema Sta. Ines Anonas filed this verified petition praying that after due notice; publication and hearing, the minor, Rolando Espinas, be declared their child by adoption.

It is alleged that the minor sought to be adopted was born on November 25, 1962, in Bo, Baoy, Ragay, Camarines Sur, to Socorro Santu-yo and Jesus Espinas without the benefit of clergy; that the latter died on September 3, 1977 (Annex "A") that said minor has no property of his own; that the surviving parent has given her consent to the proposed adoption; and that petitioners have all the qualifications and none of the disqualification to adopt.

WHEREFORE, it is hereby ordered that herein petition be set for hearing on June 8, 1979 at 8:30 o'clock in the morning, before this Court sitting at the 41 Floor, New City Hall, Diliman, Quezon City. Notice is hereby given that anyone who has objection to the petition should file, on or before the date of hearing, his opposition with a statement of the grounds therefor.

Let a copy of this Order be published at the expense of the petitioners once a week for three (3) consecutive weeks with the last publication being made not later than May 24, 1979 or at least two weeks before the hearing, in the "WE (For the Young Filipino)" in accordance with Presidential Decree No. 1079.

Let copies of this Order, the petition and its annexes be served on the Office of the Solicitor General and the Director, Bureau of Family and Child Welfare, Ministry of Social Services and Development. The latter is hereby ordered to conduct a social case study on petitioners and the minor sought to be adopted, including her natural parents; to submit a report thereon one week before the hearing; and in the event of a negative finding to appear on the date and hour thereof.

SO ORDERED.
Quezon City, Metro-Manila, Philippines, April 24, 1979.

LEONOR INES LUCIANO
Presiding Judge
May 5, 12 19: 1979

fails or is unable to act adequately on any matter for any reason that in his judgment requires immediate action, he may, in order to meet the exigency, issue the necessary decrees, orders or letters of instructions, which shall form part of the law of the land." (TO BE CONCLUDED)

Malaya at malinis na pambansang halalan

ni JOVITO R. SALONGA

(Salin sa Wikang Pilipino ng talumpati ni dating Senador Jovito R. Salonga sa Manila Bay Breakfast Club noong Marso 2, 1979)

HULING LABAS

4. Ang caretaker government ay siyang tatawag ng pambansang halalan para sa Presidente at Bise-Presidente na hindi lalagpas sa anim na buwan simula sa kaniyang pagkakaluklok. Siya ang mangangasiwa sa halalan at maglalathala ng resulta pagkatapos na pagkatapos ng eleksiyon. Sa sandaling manungkulan na ang bagong halal na Presidente at Bise-Presidente, ang caretaker government ay ituturing na wala na.

5. Pagkatapos na pagkatapos na ipahayag ang resulta ng eleksiyon, ang bagong halal na Presidente at Bise-Presidente ay manunungkulan na. Sapagkat ang pamamaraan ng eleksiyon ay matapat, malinis at tunay, mayroon mabuting dahilan upang maniwalang sila ay ipagbubuyi bilang lilitimong pinuno ng bansa sa lahat ng bahagi ng lipunan.

6. Sa loob ng 120 araw simula sa kanilang panunungkulan, ang bagong halal na Pangulo ay tatawag ng konbensiyon upang bumalantok ng bagong konstitusyon na ihaharap sa mamamayan sa isang malayang plebisito sa loob ng isang taon mula sa araw na nanungkulan ang Pangulo.

7. Samantala, ang bagong halal na Pangulo ay siyang mangangasiwa at magpapalabas ng mga gawain sa pamahalaan hanggang ang isang bagong konstitusyon ay pagtibayin, sa panahong iyon, siya at ang bagong halal na pangalawang-pangulo ay gagana sa kapangyarihan at katungkulan na ipinagkaloob ng bagong konstitusyon.

8. Pagkatapos na pagtibayin ang konstitusyon, halatang panglokal naman ang idaraos ng alinsunod sa batas.

Maaaring pagtalanun na yaong mga nanungkulan sa mataas na puwesto ng kapangyarihan at pribilehiyo ay hindi sasangayon sa pormalang aking binanggit. Subalit ang argumentong ito, sa pagsusuri, ay hindi magbibigay ng magandang larawan para sa Pangulo at sa kaniyang pamilya. Ipakakahulugan dito na sasangayon lamang sila sa isang sulusiyong lutong makaw. Ngunit sino ang makapagsasabi? ang Pangulo

kung ihahambing sa mga taong masiglang tumatangkilik sa kaniya, ay may mabuting pagpapahalaga sa kasaysayan, na may napakalaking pagtiwala sa kaniyang kakayahang magwagi sa malayang kagustuhan ng mga botante, at ang mabubuhay na pagmanana na makita ang napakahalagang suliranin ukol sa ligalidad na malutas sa lalong madaling panahon, alang-alang sa mga maliwanag na. Sa ano at ano man, kung ang mga tao ay maliwanag at tiyakang ipahihiwatig ang kanilang hangad na ilagay sa kanilang kamay ang tadhana at ipahayag na muli ang kanilang kapangyarihan sa pamamagitan ng pumili ng pamahalaan at mga pinuno na kanilang nais, Ano man ang nais ng iba dito o ano man ang ibig ng mga nasa ibang bansa ay talagang walang halaga. Ito ang ibig sabihin ng mga bagong pangyayari sa Iran.

Sa lahat ng lugar, ang mga tao ay nagsasabi ng: Sobra na! Kailangan ay makagawa tayo ng isang bagay upang makawala sa mabigat na suliraning ating hinaharap ngayon.

Ang suliranin ukol sa ligalidad o pagkakalihitmo ay kailangang malutas ng maaga at mapayapa — o ito ay malulutas sa pamamagitan ng dahas, na katulad ng dahas sa ibang lugar. Tanging isang malaya at

malinis na pambansang halalan ang maaaring magbigay ng matapat at palaging sulusiyon at tuloy bigyan daan ang kalutasan ng mga mabibigat na suliranin na kinakaharap ng bansa ngayon.

Ito ay para sa kabutihan ng lahat, kasama na si Presidente Marcos, na ang kalutasang ito, na udyok ng paulit-ulit na pahayag na siya ay takbo sa pangpanguluhang halalan, ay dapat sundan sa lalong madaling panahon. Ang mapayapang sulusiyon ay hindi magtatagumpay kung walang tangkilik o suporta ang Pangulo. Ang ibang sulusiyon ay kailangan pa ring makita. Sa panahong iyon, ang mahinahong kalutasan ay maaaring wala ng halaga — ang sukdulang sulusiyon ay ididiktang iba pang darating na pangyayari. Ang mabuting bahagi ng karunungan para sa isang pinuno ay mababid niya na ang mapayapa, mahinahong sulusiyon ay may hangganan ang buhay, at dapat niyang malaman kung kailan niya ito dapat samantalain — para sa kaniyang sariling kapakanan, para sa kaniyang sariling kalalagayan sa kasaysayan, at para sa malawakang kabutihan ng bansa. Sa tangkilik o suporta ng Pangulo, sino man ang magwagi — maging si Ginoong Marcos o ang kaniyang kalaban — ang kalutasang ito ay may mabuting pagkakataon upang maibalik ang bansa, ng walang karahasan, sa daan ng kalayaan, demokrasya at katarungan.

ROXAS (from page 1)

Club last Thursday, May 3, the former senator said that the ordinary Filipino will continue to suffer a



ROXAS

new series of hiked prices of prime commodities by June and July when Meralco will impose its new

MISSING (from page 1)

sing priest be?

Fr. Abadecio, who is chairman of the Social Action for Justice and Peace of the Catholic Bishop Conference of the Philippines for Central Luzon, was reportedly picked up by two unidentified men in a taxi at his sister's house at 73 Times St., East Triangle, Quezon City sometime last April 19.

The disappearance of the priest has prompted his colleagues and other members of the clergy to

rate of an additional two centavos per kilowatt hour.

He said that students will bear the brunt of the new "pinch" when schools will raise their tuition fees and the rates for board and lodging will likewise be increased.

Sagot ng Malacanang ukol sa 'detainees'

(Ang sumusunod ay ang pahayag ni Assistant Press Secretary Amante Bigornia bilang tugon sa lathalang pinalabas ng Associated Press ukol sa Pilipinas kamakailan.)

Nakalulungkot na ang Associated Press na kilala sa kaniyang kapanipaniwala at kawastuan sa paglalahad ay bigyang halaga ang paratang na ginawa ng isang Sister Marianni Dimaranan ukol sa libu-libong Pilipinong nakakulong dahil sa kanilang paniniwala sa pulitika at ang sinasabing pagmamalupit at ang kung minsan ay pagpatay sa mga nasabing bilangong politikal.

Sa pakikipagpanayam sa Associated Press ni Sister Marianni, isang katolikong madre na kung saan siya ay namumuno sa isang kilusang tumutulong sa mga bilangong sa Pilipinas, nagpahayag si Sister Marianni sa harap ng mga mamamahayag sa Washington DC na:

1. "Libu-libong Pilipino ang nakabilanggo sa kadahilananang politikal sa mahigit na 80 pilitan."

2. "Ang mga kawal Pilipino ay pinapatay ang mga tao upang itago ang ibidensiyala sa pagpapahirap."

3. "Ang ilan sa mga bilanggo ay nasa hindi-makataong kalagayan."

4. "Sa 87 na obispo, 12 ang nabili ng pamahalaan ni Presidente Marcos."

Ang bumabagabag sa amin ay ang paglalahad at pagtanggap ng pahayag na ito na hindi man lamang binigyan ng kaangkupan, at lumalabas tuloy sa paningin ng hindi nakabababid na ang mga ito ay totoo, lalo na kung isasaalang-alang na ito ay dala ng kilala at may reputasyong Associated Press.

Hindi masasabing ang AP ay kapos sa pamamaraan upang mapag-aralan muna ang pahayag na ito ni Sister Marianni, lalo na kung itatipin na ang AP ay may mga mahuhusay na manunulat na Pilipino at Amerikano. Ang isang walang kinikilingan at sapat na lathala ukol sa panayam kay Sister Marianni ay dapat isinama ang mga bagay-bagay, katanayan

inquire from the ministry of defense on his whereabouts and if he is under detention to demand for his immediate release.

However, Defense Deputy Minister Carmelo Z. Barbero in a statement denied that Abadecio was under military or police custody. He said there was no reason for the military and the police to arrest Abadecio because "he was not a subject of an investigation."

The defense minister also said that there had been conflicting reports as to the priest's disappearance.

na kinalap ng kawanihan ng AP sa Maynila.

Ang unang pahayag ni Sister Marianni, na kung saan mayroong "libu-libong" bilangong politikal, kahit hindi niya binanggit kung ilan libo, ay nakatatawa. Dapat ay nag-usisa muna ang AP sa Washington sa tanggapan ng AP sa Maynila.

Sang-ayon sa talaan ng Bicutan detention center, na kung saan dinadala ang mga akusado matapos maimbistigahan ng constabulary o army command na nakadapik sa kanila, mayroon na ngayon, Abril 29, na kabuuang 435 bilanggo, 140 lamang ang "national security detainees" o "public order violators" (POVs), ang iba ay karaniwang kriminal.

Totoong may POVs na nakakulong sa iba't-ibang military command, subalit sila ay tumatagal lamang doon ng isa o mahigit sa isang linggo lamang para sa preliminary investigation bago sila dalhin sa Bicutan detention center sa Taguig.

Hanggang noong Enero 5, mayroong humigit kumulang sa 2,000 tao ang nasa pag-iingat ng militar, 1976 ang nakaharap sa mga sakdal dahil sa pagsasagawa ng karaniwang krimen, at ang natitirang 461 ay nasa kategoriya ng POVs o mga

nasasakdal sa kasalananang paghihimagsik, panunulsol laban sa pamahalaan, pagbabagsak sa pamahalaan (rebellion, sedition, subversion) at paglabag laban sa pambansang kaligtasan (national security) na pinarurusahan sa ilalim ng "penal laws."

Dapat liwanagin na walang taong nakabilanggo dahil sa kaniyang paniniwala sa pulitika, samakatuwid ay wala ang tinatawag na "political prisoners."

Higit pa ryan, sa ilalim ng Letter of Instruction No. 772, na pinalabas ng Pangulo noong nakaraang Nobyembre 27, lahat ng usaping hinahawakan ng military ay kailangang iharap sa "court of first instance."

Ang ikalawang katawatawang pahayag ni Sister Marianni ay ang tungkol sa pagpatay sa mga bilanggo upang itago ang ibidensiya sa pagpapahirap. Wala itong katotohanan. Mayroong mga maliliit at kaunting kaso ng pagmamalupit, subalit ang mga nagkasalang tauhan ay kaagad pinarurusahan.

Napakahigpit ni Presidente Marcos sa bagay na ito. Inatasan niya ang madaliang pagpaparus sa sino mang nasa military na mapatunayan na nagmamalupit upang makakuha lamang ng pag-amin sa mga bilanggo maging sila man ay

(Sundan sa pahina 5)

Bukas na liham kay Pres. Marcos

Kami pong mga nakalagda sa liham na ito ay naglakas loob na lumihap sa inyo matapos na madinig namin ang inyong talumpati nuong araw ng paggawa na siyang nagpapatunay sa inyong walang pag-iimbong na pagmamahal sa mga maliliit na manggagawa.

Kami po ay pawang matatanda na at hindi na kaya pang maglingkod sa anumang pagawaan at dahil dito ay paghihirap ang aming dinaranas sa kasalukuyan sapagka't hindi namin mapakinabangan ang mga biyayang aming pinaghabol laban sa Luzon Stevedoring na siya naming pinaglingkurang ng mahabang panahon ng kami ay malulusog at malalakas pa.

Kami po ay naghain ng usapin laban sa Luzon Stevedoring upang habulin ang aming separation pay at iba pang pabuya na nauukol sa amin bilang mga manggagawa ng nasabing kompaniya mahigit ng limang taon ang nakararaan at mahigit na pong isang taon na nabibimbis sa Malacanang ang nasabing usapin ngunit magpahanggang ngayon ay wala pang nakikitang linaw sa aming paghahabol. Marami na po ang binawian ng buhay sa aming mga kasamahan at hindi na nila pinakinabangan ang mga pabuyang dapat nilang tanggapin sa Luzon Stevedoring.

Ang amin pong paghahabol sa aming mga karapatan ay sinimulan namin mahigit ng limang taon ngayon bilang mga kasapi ng UOEF Comite 2 laban sa Luzon Stevedoring at ito ay dininig ng dating Kagawaran ng Paggawa sa kaso bilang R04-4518, etc. (O.P. Case No. 0657). Sa amin pong pagsubaybay sa kasong ito, kami ay pinagpasapasahan ng mga kinatawan ng Kagawaan ng Paggawa hanggang sa ang kasong ito ay isinama sa ibang mga kaso laban sa Luzon Stevedoring. Isa ito sa mga dahilan na siyang nakabalam sa maagang paglutas ng aming usapin. Ang pagkakahalal ng aming kaso sa iba pang mga usapin ang siyang nagpalabo at nagpahirap intindi-

(Sundan sa pahina 5)