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We Forum

To seek
and live
the truth
and share
a vision

VOL. 13 * NO. 36

(FRIDAY EDITION)

JULY 21-23, 1989

IN METRO MANILA

P 2 only

Plot to kill Fortich, 24 others bared

Page
16



BISHOP FORTICH: Anti-communist assassins' target?

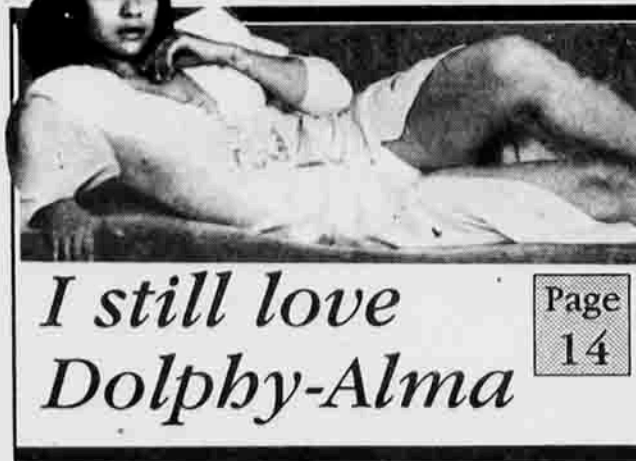
Rice
'flood':
No one's
drowning
Page 3

Giant
waves
hit Naic
barangay
Page 16



Catholic faithful sign a document condemning right-wing atrocities in various parts of the world. Story on page 2. (Roly Embile)

US actor
assailed
for ruining
Batangas
film site
Page 12



I still love
Dolphy-Alma
Page 14

Open manholes endanger Manilans- Page 16

Meet the new 'Economic Czar'

THERE is no formal position for "economic czar" in President Aquino's Cabinet. But a "de facto" position for it has been created with the resignation of planning secretary Solita Monsod and the expansion of the responsibilities of Philippine Aid Plan (PAP) chief Roberto Villanueva.

Villanueva, an industrialist tapped early this year by President Aquino to chair the Coordinating Council of PAP (CCPAP), has emerged as the economic czar of the country.

The new role of Villanueva became more apparent when Aquino appointed him chairman of the powerful Committee on Official Development Assistance (CODA) which supervises the billions of dollars in foreign aid the Philippines gets every year.

The appointment of a Philippine "economic czar" to coordinate government economic programs was proposed early this year to the Aquino Government by the American consultancy firm Sawyer Miller Group.

The consultancy firm said lack of coordination was the weakest point in the economic programs of the government. SMG observed that while the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), which was then headed by Monsod, was supposed to develop and monitor policy, it could not function properly because it was inefficient.

Economic departments do not function as one coher-

ent unit because policies often clash and disagreements over who has ultimate authority over what ensue, noted the foreign agency. As a result, interminable and publicly-debated arguments among Cabinet officials develop.

MONSOD PAVES THE WAY

The resignation of Monsod last June 23 in effect paved the way for the consolidation of the powers of the Philippine economic czar, who is now coordinating the economic programs of the Aquino Government.

Monsod left the Cabinet because of what she said were her "honest and irreconcilable differences" over government's policies with the other economic and financial managers of government.

The former NEDA head for instance favored the selective repudiation of Philippine debts. Then Finance Secretary Jaime Ongpin and Central Bank Governor Jose Fernandez did not.

Monsod also rejected an International Monetary Fund (IMF) demand to lower the government growth target from 6.5 percent to 6 percent during negotiations for a \$1.2 billion loan from the Fund. Philippine debt negotiators Finance Secretary Vicente Jayme and Fernandez favored the lowering.

Among Aquino's Cabinet members, only Monsod



Villanueva: Tough role

openly opposed the terms of the Letter of Intent (LOI) which she described as so onerous that they could fan political unrest.

Monsod's estimate that the economy slowed down during the first quarter of 1989 (NEDA said the gross national product grew by only 4.4 percent, below the 6.5 percent target) further alienated her from the conservative economic managers of Aquino, one of whom said the figure should have been "adjusted."

Donors to the Philippine Aid Plan (PAP) have stressed that availing of loans would depend on the country's ability to sustain its economic recovery efforts and improve its utilization.

It was the creation of CODA and the appointment of Villanueva as its chairman and Fernandez as member that led Monsod to resign.

SUPER ECONOMIC BODY

CODA is a super economic body whose members include the secretaries of economic departments such as Finance, Agriculture, Trade and Industry, Budget and Management, Agrarian Reform, Public Works, and Socio-Economic Planning. The Secretary of Foreign Affairs as well as the executive and cabinet secretaries are also CODA members.

Created by Administrative Order No. 128, CODA is authorized to program ODA

or PAP funds, coordinate project development, negotiate for foreign assistance, and supervise project implementation.

CODA was created because NEDA under Monsod, which handled bilateral assistance and grants from donors was "inefficient." Villanueva said donor countries wanted a much improved system of ODA management.

At the pledging session in Tokyo early this July, the Philippines got \$3.5 billion from the international financial community for the first year of PAP.

Villanueva said CODA would handle as much as \$14 billion in foreign funds over the next four years if the level of assistance committed by donors is sustained.

This would make CODA a government body with the biggest budget among government departments—ever bigger than the defense and education budgets.

NEDA employees claim that the World Bank was directly responsible for setting up a new mechanism to handle foreign aid. They say the IMF and World Bank agenda in PAP is to secure the Philippine debt service obligation to its creditors and continued commitment of the Philippines to trade liberalization to ensure donor-nation access to the Philippine market.

PAP CONDITIONALITIES

Villanueva denies that

PAP funds carry conditionalities. But the PAP framework submitted to donor countries by CCPAP last May mentioned "strings attached" to PAP funds. These include policy changes on school tuition increases, imposition of road users' taxes and equalizing the prices of domestic coal with those of imported coal.

NEDA Undersecretary Filologo Pante, a PAP council member, who later resigned following the resignation of Monsod, has admitted that these conditions were supposed to have been included in the LOI.

One business analyst said the resignation of Monsod "resolves the conflict between the free-market business bloc and those who desire affirmative action to improve the livelihood of the poor."

It also signals the entrenchment of Roberto Villanueva as the Philippine "economic czar" heading a super economic body holding billions of dollars in foreign funds and who believes that the successful implementation of PAP would make the Philippines Asia's next economic miracle.

The Monsod resignation could also be seen as part of an IMF coup in the Aquino Cabinet that practically places the Philippine economy under the supervision of technocrats who believe in the superiority of free enterprise over other economic systems. (PNF)

Use of Christianity to oppress condemned

By MA. ELENA ANG

AS the 5,000-delegate Lausanne II conference on world evangelization winds up today, July 20, Catholics and Protestants from seven different nations are presenting an alternative view of the role of Christians in a world of political conflict.

In a document called "The Road To Damascus," signatories from South Korea; Namibia, South Africa, El Salvador, Nicara-

gua, Guatemala and the Philippines lamented the use of Christianity to "oppress, exploit, persecute and kill people."

While deploring the situation of Christian division, the signatories called for unity and an affirmation of Christianity as the faith of the poor and the oppressed in their countries.

"The Road To Damascus: Kairos (Crisis) and Conver-

sion" was the product of a two-year effort involving hundreds of Christians and thousands of signatories. It was presented July 19 at the Sto. Nino Cathedral of the Philippine Independent Church.

Tracing the political and historical roots of present-day conflicts, the document said "conquest and evangelization, colonization and the building of the

churches advanced together" eventually meant millions of people being killed, the elimination of indigenous peoples, and the destruction of entire civilizations and cultures.

Today, while most Third World countries are no longer colonies, the document continued, "we are still dominated by one or more imperial power -- the United States, Japan and Western

Europe."

Their web of economic control, according to the document, includes an unfair international trade system, multinational companies that monopolize strategic sections of the economy, economic policies dictated by lending banks and governments together with the International Monetary Fund, and the World Bank and the use of technology as a

tool for domination. It added that the "staggering size of Third World debt" is but one "dramatic sign of (third world) subordination to imperialism."

Imperialism's tactic of divide and rule, the document added, has led to its seeking to unite ruling elites against the people and the establishment of what is

'Rice flood' is a dud!

By ERIC S. GIRON

THE "flood of rice" announced by the government last April turned out to be a dud. The rice imports have utterly failed to curb the escalation of retail prices of the staple in Metro Manila and, alarmingly, in the very sources of the grain in Western Visayas.

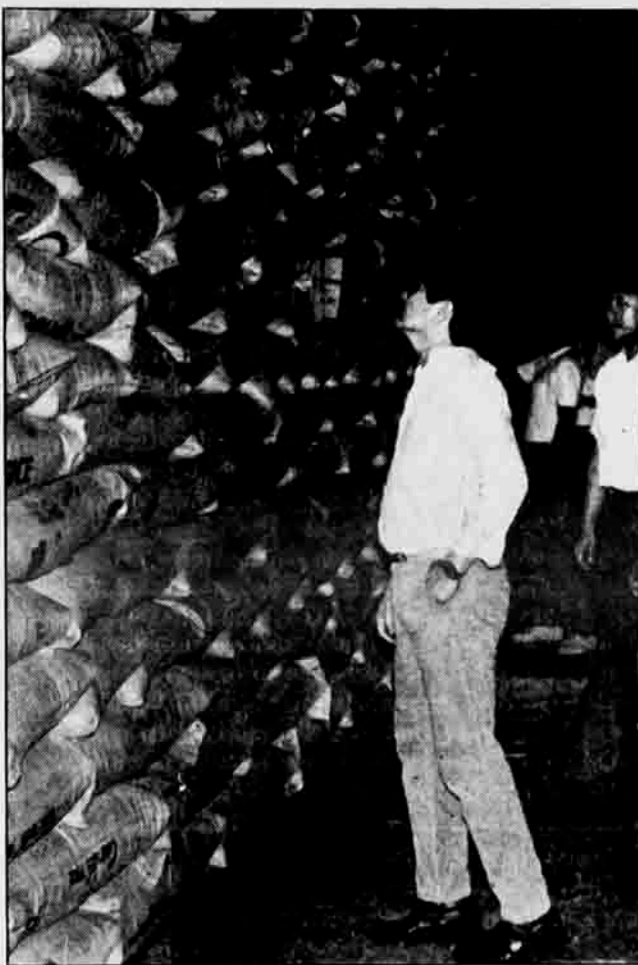
One-half of the rice import from Indonesia was found rotten or unfit to eat. The yellowish Thailand rice is offered at P6.50 per kilo in the markets but there are no takers. Metro Manilans would rather pay more for the white local staple at a minimum of P8.50 to a maximum of P20 when it used to cost them P8 last month and P6 until last March.

The importation of the basic Philippine agricultural products -- rice, corn and sugar -- since last year confirms the failure of the agricultural policies of the Aquino administration. Is there any concrete rice policy of the government?

The mishandling of rice has prompted Senator Ernesto Maceda to urge a "serious overhaul of the Ag-

riculture Department for lagging behind in growth targets for three years." During the Senate investigation of the rice situation, Senator Joey Lina said 152,000 tons of rice worth \$30 million are wasted through obsolete milling methods by the 12,000 rice mills in the country.

It is rather ironic that before last March the Philippines was exporting rice to Indonesia. Speculations that the government might comply with the International Monetary Fund dictate to abolish the P1.3 billion rice and palay subsidy program of the National Food Authority caused panic-buying by the public and hoarding by suppliers. Sources said the Letter of Intent to the IMF limited NFA operations to "paddy



Local rice stocks: Hoarders' delight.



Rice shortage due to wastage.

'Importation of staple crops confirms the failure of Cory's agricultural policies'

The NFA has to buy 200,000 to 250,000 metric tons of rice at \$70 million as buffer stocks for the lean months of July, August and September. Rice stocks had gone down by 40 percent last April. Gabaldon left for Thailand to look into the first shipment of rice to the Philippines. The import from the United States did not pull through.

EXPORT, IMPORT

People in Panay protested the export of their rice harvest to Indonesia for fear they might face a shortage of the grain. The Department of Agriculture said the government had to repay the rice it had imported from Indonesia and assured there was sufficient domestic rice supply.

And so the government has purchased rice from Indonesia to cope with the current local shortage. Suspicions were aired that Indonesia might merely be re-exporting the Panay rice to the Philippines, which was promptly denied.

Aklan province, reputed to be the country's major rice producer, is currently experiencing a steady decrease in rice prices since last March. Iloilo, which used to supply Binondo warehouses in Manila with rice, is itself facing inevitable price increases of the prime commodity.

The 28,000 sacks of rice and 45,000 sacks of palay in Iloilo's NFA bin are calculated to last only up to the end of August. Two NFA regional officials told Mayor Rodolfo Ganzon that rice producers are no longer selling their palay to the NFA which buys it at P3.50 a kilo

because private dealers pay P4.50 to P5 for their grain. The NFA sells rice at P300 per sack to accredited dealers.

Aklan retailers are mixing NFA and commercial rice stocks and are selling them at P7.90 to P9 a kilo. The NFA bins contain only 9,877.3 bags of rice or 3.5 percent of the total 150,966 50-kilogram bags. Officials are optimistic that this supply will last 53 days until the next harvest season. The bulk of 125,247.9 sacks are stocked in individual households. The rest are divided among millers, wholesalers and retailers.

FACTORS HIKING PRICES

In the Senate investigation of the rice situation initiated by a resolution of Senator Joey Lina, the government imposition of taxes and other factors were brought out which contributed to the soaring rice prices.

Rice millers from Tarlac and Palawan blamed high prices on fees collected by Finance Department representatives. In a meeting with Secretary Carlos Dominguez III and NFA officials, Tarlac millers said they were levied P100 per ten-wheeler truck, P50 for a six-wheeler truck, and P30 per jeepney and other four-wheeler shipments of rice.

Dominguez criticized the Finance Department's impounding of 70,000 metric tons of fertilizer imports for failure to pay taxes as demanded in the IMF Letter of Intent. He warned that if the finance department did

(Next page, please)

not allow deferred tax payment, rice prices would go up further.

Dominguez asked the National Power Corporation to reduce electricity charges for rice millers to assure continuous operations and supply of rice.

At the time California rice was retailed in Binondo at P6.50, Central Luzon millers assured the delivery of 200,000 sacks of rice to Metro Manila at P280 per sack or P5.60 a kilo for wholesalers. The price has gone up since then so that the P8 per kilo rice now being sold is of inferior quality.

In March the retail price for commercial rice rose to P7.75 a kilo. The NFA rice was selling at P6.50 but consumers complained of its poor quality. Today when ordinary rice sells at P8 per kilo and special rice at P9, consumers find NFA rice is not available in the market.

The importation of rice may stall the increase in prices but farmers will eventually suffer from the importation, Jaime Tadeo of the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas commented. He said whatever rice is imported from the United

States is excess rice. The US is using the Philippines as a dumping ground for its surplus food supplies.

If any rice shortage exists, it is only in the NFA granaries, but not in the private stocking centers, a government official said. Despite the obvious rice crisis, Dominguez claimed production figures this year have boosted supply by six percent over last year's level. He blamed the shortage of NFA stocks on the farmers' sale of palay at P4 a kilo when the NFA buys palay at only P3.50 a kilo.

In the wake of reports about the removal of rice subsidy, Secretary Dominguez assured that a directive of President Corazon C. Aquino is pushing through government intervention in the palay and rice markets to assure the people of adequate supply and reasonable prices of rice.

He explained that the Philippines' Letter of Intent to the IMF "does not mention that subsidies are going to be reduced or that budget support for the NFA is going to be reduced." He said Mrs. Aquino's stated government subsidy and stabilization efforts on rice will be contin-

ued to ensure adequate rice supply at prices the consumers can afford.

She asked a review of the rice subsidy program to determine if the farmers are enjoying a reasonable support price and the consumers a reasonable retail price. The NFA buys eight percent of the total rice produce in the country for the lean months.

THE CONSUMERS

Whether the rice shortage is artificial or unscrupulous businessmen are hoarding rice, consumers are still harassed by price rises in several areas of Metro Manila and now in the provinces.

They are looking to the National Food Authority and the Agriculture Department to fulfill their pledge to flood the market with adequate rice, flush out the hoarded stocks, and bring down rice prices to reasonable levels.

Even before the approval of the additional 25-peso labor wage hike, speculators in the market had been raising the prices of commodities. Food commodities have gone up tremendously and

since there are no price controls, the vendors are having a holiday setting their own prices.

The public fears that if the oil prices are hiked as projected this August, commodity prices may go beyond the reach of families with a modest income.

With regard to yellow corn, there is a supply of this staple in the inland towns of Mindanao. The problem is how to transport the corn to the markets without the feeder roads. Instead of finding means to convey the farmers' corn produce from the inland Mindanao areas, the government would rather have a ship bring the product from another country several thousand miles away.

The Aquino administration cannot remain complacent while rice prices are zooming and are tugging along the prices of other commodities. In the beginning there was a show of cracking down on rice hoarders and speculators. At least three rice bodegas were shut down by Manila Mayor Mel Lopez.

But then the millers and distributors complained against the padlocking of the



Sun-drying facilities: Inadequate.

establishments and threatened to withhold rice shipments to Manila.

If nobody will impose a price on rice sold in the market, how can a cheating vendor be penalized? Besides, there is collusion among rice vendors to increase the prices of their products uniformly and the consumer is at a loss on what to do about

it. It's time the government took the bull by its horns to prevent further profiteering, hoarding and scalping of the rice-buying public. But if there is indeed a rice shortage, what is the Agriculture Department doing about boosting rice production? The solution cannot rely solely on importation.

Gov't neglect dims future of scientists

By MARICRIS RODRIGUEZ

ONE of the most memorable sections in Jose Rizal's novel *Noli Me Tangere* is set inside a science class. Filipino students are looking at a microscope inside a glass cabinet. They are asked to describe its parts.

The students, Rizal said, were of course not expected to use the instrument, the very idea

being treason in the colonial scheme of things.

That was one century ago in Philippine history, but it is what comes to mind as Philippine science education marks a milestone.

Government's Philippine Science High School, where selected young scientists are nurtured and challenged to give

their best, celebrates its 25th year this year.

Only the very best have been able to graduate from this school, whose curriculum in science and mathematics can equal those of the best science high schools the world over. Government has spent at PSHS for books, laboratories, and other facilities most schools in

the Philippines can only dream of.

"PSHS' goals have remained constant through these years," the school's Chief of Curriculum, Mrs. Lilia Vergara, said. "We aim to train students towards careers in science and technology. We hope that by this, the school can help in the country's development."

Unfortunately, and PSHS' efforts notwithstanding, science still is very much the elite's enclave and is generally irrelevant to the Philippine poor.

The Philippines does not produce hammers and screwdrivers. Machines for production, vehicles, flashlights and even cigarette lighters come from abroad.

A Filipino senator used to complain that

Philippine sovereignty meant an independent Philippine Army, whereas the local armed forces, far from being technologically independent, had to import not only its tanks and airplanes, but even its knives and boots.

WHERE HAVE THEY GONE?

Filipinos do have their share of scientific brains, many in the field of medicine and its more specialized areas, such as microbiology, genetics and parasitology.

They abound in such practical areas as food and nutrition, agriculture, energy and environmental health. They excel in physics, chemistry and geology.

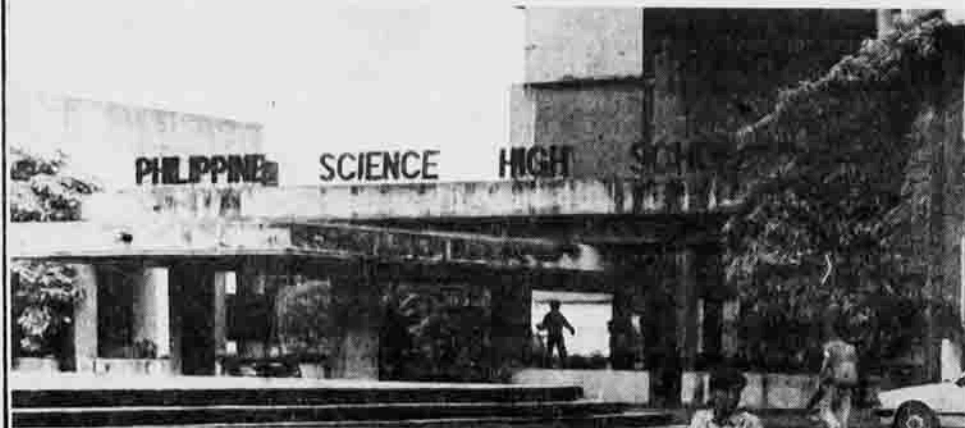
Filipinos are, in fact, generally quick at

science and mathematics, as is being found out today in American schools where migrant Filipino kids crowd deans' lists.

RICH COUNTRY, POOR COUNTRY

In the country itself, scientific inventions and researches — done individually, as academic pursuits, or with corporate funds — are going on. And yet, after a short boom in technological advancement in the 1950s, the Philippines has now become Asia's tail-end in industry.

"You know the difference between a rich and a poor country?" asks Dr. Serafin Talisayon, A Filipino biophysicist and futurist. "It's not money, (Page 14, please)



Philippine Science High School: Goals constant but...

Barriers in RP's economic recovery

By EMMANUEL S. DE DIOS

(CONCLUSION)

The problem with the ODA solution is that it is assistance on a government to government level. Much of financing gap, however, is private in nature, in the sense that the debt-burden actually penalises the private-sector in the undertaking of projects. This is because, save for a few, they cannot raise money directly from abroad, since the commercial banks have ceased voluntarily lending to the country. In addition, the government must borrow domestically in order to cover its budget deficits and to service public debts. In so doing, the government raises interest rates and "crowds out" private investors.

The inappropriateness of the ODA solution to the financing problem becomes apparent in several respects:

First, it is obvious in the well-known difficulty on the part of the government in presenting well-thought out public projects for financing. In the Philippines, local officials and the big business sector have typically blamed the recent "slow" rate of approval of feasibility projects on the planning agency, NEDA. Actually, what the NEDA does in this respect is merely to ensure that the conventional standards for feasibility studies are met. In fact the rate of availment for foreign-assisted projects as of December 1988 was 77.1 percent, e.g. for Japan, some \$1.6 bil-

lion loans is still unused.

Second, this "solution" generates a strong incentive for graft, corruption and rent-seeking. The recently installed set-up for ODA disbursement invites comparison with that existing during the Marcos regime, under which government also took out large loans and relented them to big private interests.

Even before the PAP pledging session, there was already a clear indication that the private nature of the financing gap was making itself felt, since even parts of current ODA are being relented to the private sector. That this trend will be a prominent part of the PAP may be seen in the internal dispute within the government over who should be in charge of ODA funds. As is probably well-known, the PAP Council formed by the Philippine government has sought to distinguish itself by forming tight links with the domestic big business.

The prominent presence of private sector interests in the Coordinating Council for PAP (CCPAP) was initially explained with the excuse that it was supposed to approve and oversee only loans over and above existing ODA commitments. It was understood that NEDA should continue to take charge of the bulk of ODA. This was changed radically when all ODA was removed from NEDA's responsibility and entrusted to the CCPAP.



Marginal vendors won't benefit from PAP?

This development provoked a serious division within the government's aid-disbursing institutions and was a significant factor in the recent resignation of the NEDA director-general, Solita Collas-Monsod.

Later in a purely cosmetic move, ODA was "returned" to NEDA under the Committee on Official Development Assistance, which is more permeable to private sector interests. This is evident from the fact that the same interest groups prominent in the CCPAP have now been given the cloak of legality in the CODA under NEDA.

The repercussions of this should not be underestimated. It was precisely such a strategy of public support for private big business which led to the Marcos debt crisis in the early part of the 1980s. At that time, large private projects were favoured with government money obtained from foreign loans. Many of these failed; their private owners made money, but the government was left holding the bag.

Since the financing gap is primarily a private one, the converse is true that the government sector itself can

maturity, and growth that compromises our sovereignty -- that is, if we have growth at all.

generate new projects only feebly. The government's capacity to absorb new money efficiently should be seriously questioned.

The most important long-term effect, however, is that, in underwriting the government, the PAP allows the elite and particularly the government of this country to become complacent and avoid undertaking seriously needed reforms. Among others these include avoiding serious agrarian reform; avoiding a serious tax effort, directed especially among the moneyed and the property owners; avoiding having to undertake well-thought out industrial and technological plans; avoiding a clearcut political decision on the presence of US bases and nuclear arms; and finally avoiding a debt strategy which squarely confronts the issue of reducing debt-payments.

In the end, at best, we will have merely had growth that provokes social conflict, growth without economic

Table 1. Real GNP and GNP Per Capita.

Year	Real GNP	GNP Per Capita
1980	92.5	1915
1981	95.7	1932
1982	97.5	1921
1983	98.6	1890
1984	91.6	1718
1985	87.8	1605
1986	89.1	1591
1987	94.2	1682
1988	100.5	1752
1989	107.0*	1821*
1990	113.9*	1893*
1991	121.4*	1970*

*Projected assuming an annual growth rate of 6.5 percent and a 2.5 percent growth rate of population.

Table 2. Real Growth Rates of Components of GNP (1986-1988)

	1986-87	1987-89
1. Consumption	5.72	6.02
2. Government		
Consumption	7.17	11.34
(Compensation	6.32	15.99)
(Others	8.67	3.32)
3. Investment	30.26	19.24
(Construction	15.31	7.69)
(Durable Equipment	16.06	29.04)
4. Exports	-1.34	14.76
5. Imports	26.48	36.98
6. GNP	5.91	9.72

Memo:

Inflation (CPI)	3.8	8.8
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Sources: National Income Accounts of the Philippines CY 1986-1988, NSCB, April 1989; Central Bank.



Monsod: Caught in PAP's grip.

PAGCOR: The Philippine Amusement & Gaming Corporation What it is all about.

An Economic Ally

As an official casino management arm directly under the Office of the President, PAGCOR commits itself to being a dependable economic ally by supporting our government's national economic recovery program. The government's share from casino earnings are then utilized as a major source of funds envisioned to finance the government's priority projects and programs.

PAGCOR continues to demonstrate its reliability as a major source of income for the Philippine government by allocating 5% of its monthly income to the Bureau of Internal Revenue as Franchise Tax and 47.5% of its gross monthly revenues to our National Treasury.

A Socio-Civic Partner

PAGCOR aims to help fight and fund the war declared by President Corazon C. Aquino against poverty, malnutrition and other social deprivation.

A series of social consciousness projects and assistance programs have been launched in an effort to share 27.5% of its monthly income with the sick, malnourished and indigent sector of Philippine society.

Along the lines of its declared corporate objectives to uplift, upgrade and alleviate the plight of the less fortunate Filipinos, PAGCOR commits itself as a socio-civic partner by being the government agency responsible for bridging the gap between the haves and the have-nots.

A Tourist Attraction

PAGCOR provides that revenues generated by casino operations would create recreation and integrated facilities which would expand and further improve the country's existing tourist attractions by establishing alternative venues for gaming amusement and entertainment.

With its revitalized and goal-oriented marketing efforts, PAGCOR envisions the influx of more foreign tourist arrivals into the country as well as the increase of much needed foreign currency into our monetary system.

Joining hands with the tourism sector, PAGCOR commits itself to being a major tourist attraction by maintaining world-class gaming outlets in several key cities nationwide. Both the domestic and international travelling markets are ultimately enticed to visit the country's various exotic provinces as major areas of destination especially within the Asean region.



Philippine Amusement & Gaming Corporation
PAGCOR HOUSE 1330 ROXAS BOULEVARD MANILA

Unending strikes

THIS early, Congress should take note of a strike being planned by government employees next week to protest a projected increase in their pay, which they deem insufficient. Led by a group called Public Sector Labor Integrative Center which has affiliation with known labor unions and memberships in at least 42 state agencies, the planned strike will involve thousands of government workers and partially paralyze the bureaucracy if it goes through this coming Tuesday, its target date.

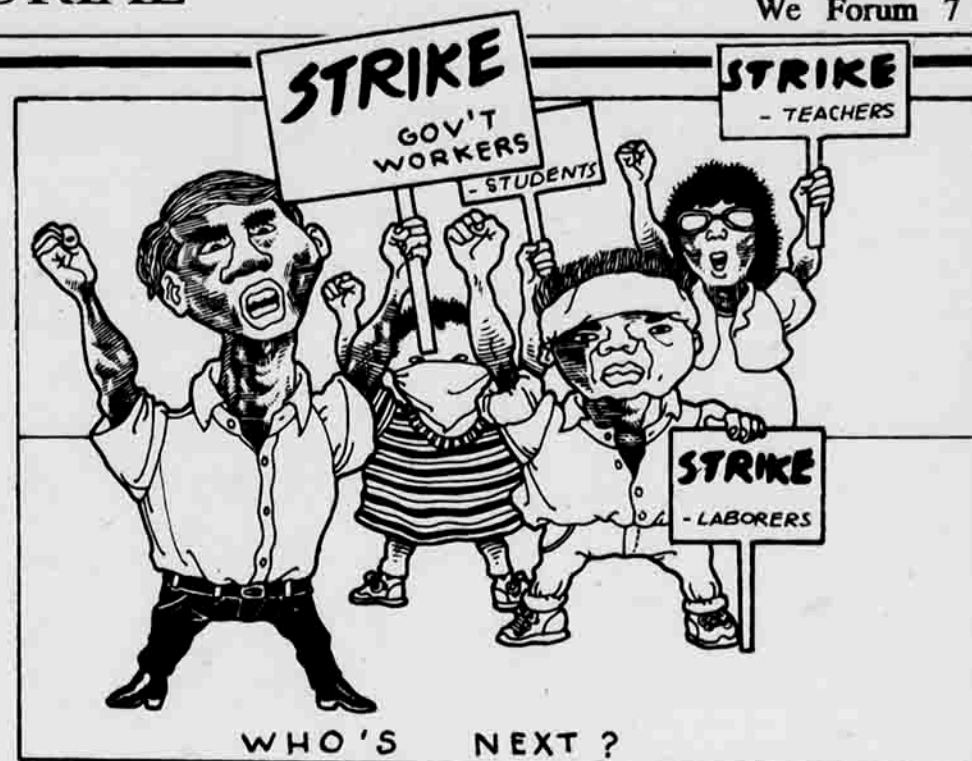
The Center has a valid reason to gripe against the proposal of Congress. Before it adjourned, it reported on the floor Senate Bill No. 862 and House Bill No. 10054 which recommended a minimum monthly salary of P2,200 and P1,700 respectively for all civil servants. "Considering the current high costs of prime commodities, which are expected to further escalate even before the year ends, the minimum monthly salary proposed in the two bills are grossly insufficient to enable the lowest-ranked government workers to satisfy the basic needs of their families," the Center said.

The two measures presently awaiting final action when Congress resumes session on July 24 are seen by state workers as indicative of lack of concern by the lawmakers over their plight. They feel that to do justice to their present situation, a minimum salary of P3,000 is necessary to cope with obtaining realities in price escalation. No one will dispute their point; even the most judicious housewife feels the pinch of rising prices as her budgeting goes haywire a little bit each day. For a family of three, even the amount of P3,000 may just be enough for the daily necessities; when sickness strikes, she has to borrow from a kindly neighbor or a loan shark if need be.

But what gets the gall of civil servants is the practice of some government entities, especially corporations, to hide the payroll of their top officials from scrutiny. In the years of the dictatorship, this was a rampant swindle. In the Food Terminal, for instance, the payroll of top management officials were kept strictly secret and some forms of large allowances were drawn surreptitiously from the Philippine National Bank. The malpractice seems to be in vogue again. The biggest corporation in the country, the Social Security System, has reportedly given hefty increases to its top echelon personnel and a car-purchasing scheme that may yet put other corporations' car-plans to shame. At a time when its lowest-paid employe receives only a basic minimum wage of P1,200, for the SSS to implement such a pay scheme for its officials smacks of criminal discrimination and provokes unsavory questions on the sense of proportion of its administrator, Jose Cuisia. If the reports are true, something must be wrong with the man.

The Center has links with the PNB, UP, SSS, Postal Bureau, National Manpower and Youth Council, Technological University of the Philippines, and seven other state colleges and universities. With the planned mass leave of Pasay City school teachers next week and the continuing student demonstrations against tuition fee increases, this month may prove volatile enough for the inefficient government to adequately handle.

The strike syndrome stabs deeply at the heart of the Aquino administration with walkouts and mass leaves becoming almost a weekly affair in the labor sector since the lady President took over the reins of government. It betrays a fundamental weakness in the Presidency that has consistently failed to address the legitimate demands of labor and elevate it to the ennobling height it so eminently deserves. It is easily predictable that the strikes will always be with us considering the colossal inadequacy of this government in dealing with labor.



Note to our letter writers

OUR mailbag last week yielded a type-written letter purportedly from the "Brotherhood of Jailguards and Policemen" at the Manila City Jail which, among other things, denounced Police Maj. Rufino Torrenueva, city jail warden, for his alleged propensity for mauling his erring subordinates.

The letter was typed on an official stationery of the Western Police District and dated July 10, 1989.

The so-called "Brotherhood" urged me to "leave no stone unturned to investigate the veracity of our accusation."

The letter writer(s) cited the case of a certain Pfc. Benito Sarria whom Torrenueva allegedly manhandled at gunpoint.

Since the letter was not signed and we had no way of verifying the complaint, we instructed our staffmember Roly Embile to interview WPD Deputy Superintendent Ernesto "Totoy" Diokno who was also the head of a similar probe body which investigated Col. Romeo Maganto, the student protestors' nemesis.

Here's Roly's report:

"Western Police District Deputy Superintendent Ernesto L. Diokno yesterday dismissed allegations of abuse towards subordinates leveled against Manila City jail warden P/Maj. Rufino Torrenueva.

"P/Col. Diokno said that said accusation amounts to nothing but a smear campaign against the jail warden who happens to be one of the best officers of the WPD.

"Diokno said that Torrenueva's strict adherence to the rules since he assumed his position at the Manila City Jail two months ago might have caught abusive jailguards who wanted to be accorded full privileges enjoyed

PUBLISHER'S NOTES



by JOSE G. BURGOS, JR.

only by policemen flat-footed.

"Diokno also said that the matter has been discussed with WPD Superintendent P/Brig. Gen. Alfredo Lim in a very recent meeting but found it to be without substance."

We are bringing this out to remind our readers that We Forum prides itself for its fairness and its past record for accuracy and responsible journalism. We resolutely adhere to these principles and we urge our readers to help us carry them out. Please refrain from character assassination and stick to your opinions and views on issues.

Also, always sign your letters and include your verifiable address or telephone number in case we want to clarify the contents of your letter. Of course, if you want to remain anonymous, just say so and we'll honor your request.

While you can course through any complaint or request for investigation against any government office or official, please furnish us with documents to back up your charges. We will treat them with the strictest confidentiality.

Finally, please don't use We Forum for your personal ends. We can always see through your designs.

Now that this is clear, let's have your letters.

We Forum



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Will Teroy Laurel take the job offered to him?

AT this writing, I wish to quote from an item which appears in today's (July 20th) issue of the *Philippine Daily Inquirer*. It is from a PNA dispatch, datelined BACOLOD CITY, and reads in part:

"People swooped down on a suspected communist rebel hideout in Himamaylan, Negros Occidental Tuesday morning and arrested 13 suspected members of the underground movement.

"Lt. Camelo (sic) Guillen, Himamaylan police chief, said several firearms were seized in the raid.

"Guillen identified those arrested as Dioscoro Balaloya y Tabio, alias 'Ka Cruz,' 28; Rodolfo Tapic y Ralo, alias (Ka 'Rudy,' 32 (etc.)...all residents of Hacienda Paco, Barangay Aguisan, Himamaylan.

"They allegedly belong to the CPP-NPA propaganda and political organizing teams..."

I was stunned by this news report. Hacienda Paco is owned by the children of the late Don Francisco T. Ramos, former municipal president of Himamaylan and the only brother of my mother. It was in this hacienda where I grew up, which is a legacy from my grandfather, and until I reached the age of 12 I knew no other home. I also resided in Hacienda Paco, in the beautiful mansion of my first cousin Luis G. Ramos, for more than one year during my incumbency as acting municipal mayor of Himamaylan, that is from 1986-1987.

The names of those reportedly arrested as communist rebels do not ring a bell for me. No such families are what might be called *duma-ans* (oldtimers) in the hacienda, and the Ramoses do not employ *sacadas* at all. So, they must either be transients or are nearby residents. The farm workers in Hacienda Paco, and there are hundreds of them, have no reason to complain about the treatment accorded to them by the owners. That is why I find this report hard to believe. This fact probably only goes to show that the rebels in Negros are not sneezed at. They are resourceful and well organized, that's for sure.

According to the papers, the legendary Saudi Arabian financier Adnan Khashoggi was last Wednesday extradited from Switzerland to face fraud charges in the United States. Arrested in Berne at the request of US authorities on April 18, he agreed to the extradition and left Switzerland accompanied by two Swiss police officers. He has been indicted for allegedly aiding former President Marcos in illicit real estate deals.

The Swiss department of justice said it had agreed on the Saudi Arabian's extradition to face charges of fraud and falsifying documents but had rejected the US request he be turned over to be tried on racketeering and conspiracy charges. The latter charges do not exist in Switzerland and extradition would not lie because of the "lack of criminality."

In my June 1989 copy of *Life* magazine, Khashoggi's story appears, illustrated by two frontal and profile full-page photographs, also with pictures of his 72-square foot cell, of Princess Gloria von Thurn und Taxi sitting on his lap, of former President and Mrs. Marcos in a lovey pose, of Lt. Col. Oliver North whom he helped finance the sale of US arms to the late Ayatullah, and of the voluptuous Pamela Singh Bordes, the Miss India of 1982 whom he used as a sexual gift in deals. The magazine says that Khashoggi "submitted backdated deeds concealing the Marcoses' ownership of four New York buildings purchased with \$165 million defrauded from US banks and that he sold paintings they allegedly took from a museum in Manila when they fled in 1986."

Life introduces Khashoggi as "a billion-dollar jailbird" who has "cash problems like you and wouldn't believe. His Iran-contra scam soured when Ollie North's cohorts refused to pony up. The yacht (with golden fixtures) went to Donald Trump, the palaces were hocked to the hilt, the three-bedroom plane was impounded, the US company went bankrupt. Friends say that he's down to his last \$40 MILLION. Meanwhile, the tabloids are full of exposes about AK's recruitment of PARTY GIRLS like Pamela Bordes, once MISS INDIA. And now the arms dealer is in the joint, charged with helping his chum MARCOS salvage a few hundred million."

The son of a physician to the Saudi Arabian king, he used his connections

to broker trade between his country and American companies. It is said that at his zenith, he had collected \$106 million in commissions from Lockheed alone. He spent as much as \$3 million a month on 12 homes, more than a hundred automobiles, three private jets and two helicopters. He once remarked: "If you have to count your money, you are not rich." Now, *Life* concludes "He faces penalties totalling 65 years. It looks as if the party is over." Indeed, it is.

Even at the very moment as we go to press, it is probable that Senate President Jovito R. Salonga must have already made up his mind as to who would succeed Sen. Orlando Mercado as both majority leader and chairman of the committee on rules of the Senate. If he could only manage to get the nod of Sen. Sotero H. Laurel then all his worries would be over. For, by the unanimous desire of his peers, Teroy Laurel is it. The only obstacle in the way is the Brothers Laurel. They appear to be also unanimous in their decision that the No. 3 Son of the late President Jose P. Laurel should decline with thanks the request of his fellow senators.

The point of the Brothers Laurel is well taken. The political situation has come to a point where one has to stand up and be counted. This means that while Teroy has previously said that he is "technically a member of the ruling coalition," he has always been, as he emphasizes "an NP." He is the elder brother of Vice President Salvador H.

POLITICS & POLITICOS



by ERNESTO R. RODRIGUEZ, JR.

Laurel, the president of the Nacionalista Party, the dominant party of the opposition. Actually there are three NPs in the Senate, Minority Leader Juan Ponce Enrile, the NP secretary general, Sen. Mamintal Tamano and Senator Laurel.

The Brothers Laurel, namely the vice president, former House Speaker Jose B. Laurel Jr. and former Ambassador Jose S. Laurel III (along with the senator) move as one on vital political matters. They cannot be faulted for not wanting their brother Teroy to be embroiled in the purely political decisions that the majority in the Senate may arrive at, and this includes, of course, legislation. For, if it should come to pass that the Administration could go wrong in the laws it would enact, then the Opposition would have part of the blame because the Senate majority leader happens to be an opposition man too.

The reason has been advanced that Teroy is the best man for the job because he is the least controversial member of the Senate and he could not therefore be charged with partisanship or whatever in the delibera-

(Page 11, please)

Pelaez vs Gonzalez in N.Y.-1

Q. I HEARD, Professor, that Ambassador Emmanuel Pelaez went to New York on June 24, Saturday, and gave an after-lunch talk to the members and guests of the Philippine-American Breakfast Club. What did Pelaez say?

A. He said nothing much.

Q. But he talked for two hours, didn't he?

A. Yes, he talked much.

Q. I don't get it, what's the difference?

A. Well, one is what came out of his head, the other is what came out of his mouth.

Q. Whatever it is, what is it?

A. He said Cory knows what she's doing.

Q. I see! What else?

A. That the IMF and WB will lend us more money.

Q. Is that good or bad?

A. If I follow him, it's good. If you follow me, it's bad. The IMF and WB lend the Philippines and other poor countries money like loan sharks and tell them how to spend the money so that they will always remain poor and continue owing them money as economic colonizers if not political colonizers.

Q. Why "loan sharks"?

A. He said that the Philippines owes the IMF and WB about \$30 BILLION and is paying them about \$3 BILLION on yearly interest alone, he repeated this on my questioning. If this is so, then in 10 years the Philippines would have paid them already

\$30 BILLION in interest and still owe them \$30 BILLION in the principal, when will the whole amount be paid? Is that not how loan sharks work? They've got the Philippines and the helpless countries who got lured on borrowing money, and spending them on useless things, by the throat.

Q. And why "economic colonizers"?

A. Because the IMF and WB not only have the poor indebted countries by the throat, but they also tell them to spend the money to buy imported goods from the investors who are mostly industrialized nations, tell the poor countries to spend the money only on agrarian reform and elementary education, not on industrialization and the education of top level scientists and technical men, so that the poor countries will forever be dumping ground or market for the goods of the industrialized nations, a form of economic colonization.

Q. Did Pelaez tell you that?

A. Yes, in front of everybody. I asked him whether there are other lending institutions where the Philippines may borrow money without those tyrannical conditions.

Q. What did he say?

A. He said the IMF and WB control all the banks in the world. Except perhaps, those of the Communist banks.

Q. My gosh! This is immoral. What can the Philippines do?

VIEWS & INTERVIEWS



by SALVADOR ROXAS GONZALEZ

A. Not pay. Or pay the principal, \$30 BILLION gradually and then extend the payment to cover \$3 BILLION for ten percent interest. Not more.

Q. What if the IMF and WB do not agree?

A. Tell them that they are a bunch of crooks and raise the moral issue in the United Nations or International Court of Justice.

Q. But the IMF and WB will fight back by not giving the Philippines loans, won't they?

A. You mean that in the eyes of the world the IMF and WB will show their true color when all the time they have been proclaiming that they are the saviors of the poor nations by giving them "financial assistance"? You mean that the world is helpless as if threatened by such gross and brazen immoral conduct, worse than robbing the poor?

Q. But the members of the boards of those institutions are bankers and economists and business leaders, aren't they?

A. And if all this is true - heartless men!

(TO BE CONTINUED)

Fiscals in Metro Manila up in arms

THE recent ambush killing in broad daylight, right near a market place of Makati Police Chief Taylo is a glaring proof that crime in the Metropolis has remained unchecked, all assurances from the military and police authorities, notwithstanding. In a span of less than two weeks, three colonels were gunned down and the killers have escaped. If we add to this score the numerous lower level soldiers and policemen who have been killed by unknown elements -- probably NPA "Sparrows," the scoreboard of casualties is very high. This is scary, indeed.

No wonder President Cory has reacted by saying that she wants the security for government officials "beefed up." I agree with the President because I have experienced dangerous moments myself. Precisely the job of the PC and police is security and people who are under threats and the threats are established, should deserve protection. It is funny and ridiculous when one time, a mayor narrated to me that he had been receiving death threats and I sent him to the PC. All he got was to be told to report the incident to the police and have the same entered in the blotter. How can the blotter records save a mayor from threats coming from people he may not even know?

This was the reason why I raised objections when the PC in Zambales withdrew security escorts from the mayors, especially in the northern municipalities where insurgency is evident. When I and my wife were fired at last June 24 and 28, these incidents could not be dismissed as the work of pranksters and must be taken seriously. Last June 26 when my two-car convoy was fired at near Bgy. Bulawen in Palauig at around 9:00 p.m., three shots were heard and according to the soldiers, some were from an M-14, thus forcing my escorts to fire back. Five men were actually seen fleeing from the scene. When I reached Iba, I asked

AT a conference in Sevilla, Spain, some weeks ago, 180 writers from Hispanic countries all over the world assessed the state of Spanish language today.

The delegates, including novelists, poets, journalists, expressed the consensus that Spanish is the most vibrant medium of communication, the most energetic, alive and radiant of all languages.

It is a very healthy and forceful language. Writer Manuel Vasquez Montalban, one of the leading speakers in the gathering, said Spanish is expanding most dramatically in international finance and commerce. This view was affirmed by another leading delegate, Felix Grande, from South America. He said "It is most active and rapidly expanding... The 21st century is very fertile for the growth of the language.

Horacio Velasquez Rial asserted that Spanish "is a major channel of international information and understanding." He went on to say: "Both the First World and the underdeveloped countries cannot now ignore the unifying effect of Spanish."

The same views were expressed enthusiastically by Mario Onaindia and Jose Caballero Bonald.

Delegate Jorge Enriquez Adoum dwelt on

IN MY CORNER...



by RAUL M. GONZALEZ

the PC command to send some men to investigate the incident and when they returned, they had found some slippers left by the fleeing group. The soldiers told me, they also discovered what appeared like a "foxhole" where the slippers were found together with some empty shells. The presence of the "foxhole" indicated that the firing towards my convoy was premeditated. The only question is: Who instigated it? NPAs or political enemies?

Fiscals in Metro Manila and in the rest of the country are up in arms because of the order of Justice Secretary Ordonez not to pay their salaries "if they have pending unresolved cases within 60 days."

I think the order of Ordonez is unrealistic, if he will reckon the 60-day period to the time the fiscal receives the case for investigation. I believe that the 60-day period should be counted from the time the parties submit the cases for resolution, just as in the courts, the judges have 90 days to decide cases from the date of submission by the parties. Mr. Ordonez was a practitioner until he became Solicitor General in 1986 and he should know that it is next to impossible for a fiscal to dispose of a case, unless the parties settle, within 60 days from date the case is assigned to

him. There are many factors which must be considered, especially for trial fiscals. How does one expect a trial fiscal who must appear in court day after day, prepare for his court duties, be expected to resolve cases assigned to him for investigation within 60 days from receipt of assignment? What about the lack of stenographers who transcribe proceedings? I know the fiscals in Manila lack qualified stenographers to work efficiently. How about legitimate motions to postpone, how about failure of parties to be notified? I know that even in courts, cases get postponed because there is no "return" for the summons or subpoenas sent. Secretary Ordonez should be lauded for his desire to expedite work in the fiscals' offices but he should make his orders realistic. What I am afraid of now is that the fiscals, so as to beat this unrealistic deadline, will either just keep on filing cases or dismiss them indiscriminately. Then the loser will be the rule of law.

In fact this practice may be counter-productive. Why? Because if the fiscals will indiscriminately file cases in court, the net result will be the flood of cases in courts which will clog court dockets. If you ask me, I would rather clog the fiscals' dockets than clog court dockets. I hope at this writing Secretary Ordonez has readjusted his time frame for the fiscals and let them have their pay. Otherwise, *baka* he might even be liable under Article 221 of the Revised Penal Code "failure to make delivery of public funds or property in his possession..."

Undersecretary of Health Rhais Gamboa
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Jewel in a junk heap

the sparkling beauty and resonance of Spanish language both in its spoken usage or convention. It is basic and vital to the world of culture, particularly literature.

Here in the Philippines, what have President Cory Aquino and DECS Secretary Lourdes Quisumbing done to Spanish? They have consigned the language to the nearest wastebasket. It is an act like throwing a jewel into a junk heap.

Both women are now called "murderers" of Spanish in the Philippines. Both are numbed to the world of culture. Both cannot see the meaning of heritage and the rich value of tradition.

Perhaps one reason why Cory Aquino omitted a visit to Madrid during her dollar scavenging excursion in Europe, was that she would have felt ill at ease being with the Madrilenos for what she has done to the Spaniards in Manila last January when she deliberately ignored the International Congress of Hispanistas in Manila. It was attended by 280 delegates from all over the world, and ambassadors of Spanish speak-

ing countries attending as observers, including diplomats of the United States where Columbus Day, or Dia de la Raza, is celebrated officially in many states of the Union.

Revival of the Parent-Teacher Associations throughout the Philippines is advocated by Magdaleno L. Petrasanta. The public and private school administration of President Aquino and Secretary Quisumbing has gone haywire on the problems of financing, of school curriculum, cultural and sports promotion, teachers' salaries, among others. "Philippine school standards have deteriorated in fact," said Mr. Petrasanta, who has served as president of the Federation of Parent-Teacher Associations, Inc. of Manila, from 1964 to 1972 when the non-sectarian, non-stock, and non-political civil organization was prostituted by Marcos as a political instrument.

Petrasanta is also president of the Fernando Ma. Guerrero Memorial Foundation, Inc. which conducts an annual declamation contest in Spanish poetry among colleges

BEYOND HYPOCRISY



by PLACIDO P. DIAZ

Fraternal correction

WE sincerely thank Bishop Ted Buhain for pointing out the mistakes of the Editorial Report (WF June 21-22). We really need fraternal correction in our constant search for the truth and striving for perfection. And we acknowledge our weakness in remembering names and keeping abreast with current events. We are not making excuses since accuracy in reporting is basic in journalism. We'll be working hard at it from now on. But our apologies to Msgr. Bruno Torpigiani for forgetting that he's the present Vatican watchdog in our country and to Philtrust for our ignorance that it has already unloaded its ecclesiastical burden.

When we essayed into this line of work, we were fully aware of the dictum that those who live in glass houses should not throw stones. And frankly we are very much disappointed with the feeble and stale reaction to our article. And we can only shake our head in dismay at the realization that our church authorities are good only at punitive action against critics and heretics: expulsion (as in the UST row), suspension and excommunication, and the Inquisition. They are very far from the stature of Jesus Christ whom they avow to represent: His enemies were amazed at the wisdom of His answers.

So we stand pat on our "gratuitous"

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TOWN CRIER



by VIC BARRANCO

and universities in Metro Manila, jointly with the Cultural Center of the Embassy of Spain. The contest in September every year reels off the Columbus Day, or Dia de la Raza celebration in October all over the Hispanic world, including the USA.

Petrasanta said that recent events concerning the school administration, including the student and youth, in general, demonstrations in Manila streets, chiefly at the office of DECS Secretary Quisumbing, make the need of reviving and energizing the PTAs.

"School affairs may even find the PTAs necessary to be expanded to cover colleges and universities," said Petrasanta. "The troubles in the UST, for example, make the PTA's existence and revitalization urgent," he said.

Preparation for and conduct of trial-(29)

5.10.21. Conceited, flippant or blustering witness

A CONCEITED witness sometimes acts as if he knows everything. He believes he has an impressive and convincing answer to any question you can ask. Encourage his egotistical attitude. Let him think you are very much impressed with his intelligence. Meanwhile, try to lead him unobtrusively into a trap. Keep your real purpose hidden at all times. Once you have him trapped, attack him fiercely.

The flippant or smart-aleck witness destroys himself. His manner antagonizes the court. Be patient with him. Do not lose your temper. Give him enough rope and he will hang himself. If he becomes particularly obnoxious, have the court admonish him to answer your questions.

The blusterer will exaggerate the simplest facts as well as the most important ones. You can point up his exaggeration by goading him. Lead him into ridiculous exaggerations.

5.10.22. Witness who avoided pre-trial interrogation

The witness who earlier refused to talk to you or your representative can be handled in the following manner. Call to his attention the occasion when you or your representative attempted to speak to him. Ask whether or not it was true that he refused to answer any questions: "Why did you refuse to tell your story? Did the police or prosecutor advise you that it was wrong to tell the truth? Is that why you refused to talk to us? If that isn't the reason, were you afraid

you would testify differently when you got into court? Are you angry at the defendant or are you a friend of the complainant?"

One word of caution with regard to this line of questioning. **Use it only on a witness who appears to have something to hide and one whom you have well under control** (e.g. the evasive witness, the biased witness, the false or lying witness). If you use such questions indiscriminately, you may receive some surprising answers.

5.11. "Apparent" cross-examination

While cross-examination is not required, under most circumstances the judge will expect some type of cross. This is particularly so when the witness is a significant one for your opponent. In such a case, some sort of cross-examination is obligatory, and you should always consider using any of the standard techniques discussed earlier.

Sometimes, however, you will have neither a realistic expectation of eliciting favorable admissions nor any seal ammunition for conducting an effective, discrediting cross-examination. In short, you have nothing that has a chance of succeeding, yet the judge will expect some kind of cross-examination. In these situations your best approach may be to conduct an "apparent" cross-examination. Consider examining the witness on the following collateral points:

1. Who asked him to be a witness?
2. Was he subpoenaed?
3. Who has he talked to about the case?
4. Discussed testimony with lawyer?

5. Attend any meetings with other witnesses present?

6. Read other materials to prepare his testimony?

7. Make any notes on the incident?

8. Read depositions and prior statements?

9. Any financial or business interest in outcome of case?

10. Any personal interest in outcome of case?

11. Know any of the parties or witnesses?

12. Compensation as a witness?

None of these topics directly attempts to attack the testimony. However, pursuing the appropriate ones can plant a seed of doubt so that the judge will at least think about the testimony rather than blindly accept it.

Another technique that can sometimes be effectively used when you have no ammunition for cross-examination, is to use the cross-examination to get your version of the facts before the judge, even though the witness will deny it. At least it tells the judge that there's a second side to the lawsuit he will hear. This technique can work well for the defendant, since he presents his evidence second, and suggests to the court that it should keep an open mind and hear all the evidence before deciding who is right. Keep in mind, however, that using this technique will probably obligate you to actually produce evidence of your version during your case in chief.

5.12. The problem of opposing counsel

Although regrettable, it is nonetheless a

LAW AND (DIS)ORDER



by ANTONIO P. CORONEL

fact of life that some lawyers will step beyond the bounds of proper evidentiary objections and make objections solely to help or coach a witness who is being cross-examined. While it is always proper to make, it is improper to make an objection solely to warn or coach the witness so that he gives a safer or better answer.

There are three basic problems. First, lawyers will constantly interject "if he knows" objections after a proper question has been posed. Invariably the witness will then answer the question: "I don't know." This kind of interjection is improper and is an obvious attempt to coach the witness. You should object forcefully if your opponent constantly resorts to such tactic and, if necessary, ask the court to direct your opponent to desist. The judge will quickly realize what the lawyer is doing.

Another tactic is the "clarification" request. When the witness has given an answer on cross that the lawyer does not like, he will interrupt your examination and say: "Your Honor, could the witness tell what he means by the term 'transfer' in his answer? I'm not sure that was clear to the court" or some similar interjection. The effect, of course, is to interrupt the flow of your cross-

(Page 15, please)

Passion is becoming a fashion

AT the rate rumors are spreading about the sexual indiscretions of our senators, a bill should be filed in the Upper House changing the title of senator to "sexnator."

Or from lawmaker to "common-law-wife-maker."

According to Rumorville, a senator separated from his wife has been dating another senator's daughter.

The senator's daughter is young, beautiful and a virgin, hopefully.

A senator who is allegedly homosexual is said to be maintaining an apartment for his boyfriend.

It is also being bruited that the brute is not only homosexual but "homosensual."

A senator is also said to be having an affair with a female teevee host.

This senator hit two birds with one stone - free publicity na, free sex pa.

A pretty young athlete is also rumored to be the girlfriend of another senator.

Let us hope that the pretty athlete will not be dubbed "Landy Player."

The "People's Journal" reports that another senator has six common-law-wives or mistresses and has children with all six women.

The senator should protest of inaccurate reporting because he has only five mistresses and a wife.

Another senator is also rumored to have had a one-night stand with his sexy "sexretary,"

From "Good morning, Sir" to "It's morning, Sir."

If all these sexcapades are true, this corner recommends that the honorable gentlemen from the Senate should adopt a very appropriate slogan.

"Kapwa Ko, Mahal Ko."

Item: "Teroy refuses Orly's posts." Better than Laurel refusing Mercado's "pasts?"

Teroy Laurel at 71 is the oldest senator. If Jovie Salonga will not file a protest.

Orly Mercado before his resignation was the majority floor leader in the senate.

Today, our friend Orly is the

majority floored leader.

Tita Cory: "Doon sa aking pagdalaw sa Alemanya at Pransiya, maliwanag na may kahulugan ang ating information campaign, kaya ang gagawin natin at katulong ang mga embahada na ipapalaganap natin kung ano ang talagang nangyayari sa ating bansa."

Her statement is correct but her conjugation is wrong. There is no Tagalog word "ipapalaganap." It's "palalaganapin."

Use "palalaganapin" in a sentence.

Palalaganapin ng mga senador ang kanilang lahi sa pamamagitan ng kanilang palala na gana sa sex.

"Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's wife" is one of the Lord's 10 Commandments.

"She is not my neighbor and she is not yet a wife," protested a philandering "sexnator."

Why is the Chinese government fragile?

Because it is made of China.

According to Rep. Rplando Andaya of Camarines Sur, the government would be violating the Constitution if it released funds

PUNNY LINES



by FUNDADOR SORIANO

for the salaries of over 30 thousand positions created without congressional approval.

"Andaya" nila Congressman?

There is no truth to the rumor that the committee on appropriations in the Lower House headed by Andaya will be renamed committee on "mis-appropriations."

Tita Cory: "Price controls have not been a successful weapon against rising prices."

Because Macoy failed to prosecute the overpricers and hoarders who are collectively known as "Crooked Crows."

Speaker Monching Mitra: "Price controls would do more harm than good to the people."

We prefer more harm Moses.

The statements of Tita Cory and Moses

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Raid on KMP offices condemned

THE military is at it again! Their infamous and notorious red-baiting, red-smearing campaign against militant cause oriented groups is in full swing again with the recent raid they launched on the offices of the KMP and the FRC. Their vivid imagination is working overtime again, producing falsities and lies to smear the names of legal and cause oriented groups and hinder their valid work.

As expected, the raid did not produce anything of value for the military's cause. They did not see the "4 suspected subversive elements" which their surveillance team allegedly saw arrive at the KMP offices (thus, the reason for the raid, according to Brig. Gen. Biazon) nor did they find any material or evidence that will give credence to their claim that these offices were harboring communist elements. To cover up their shame over the boo-boo they committed, they now make the most malicious of accusations that an aide of Ka Jimmy Tadeo, KMP chairperson, is one of the killers of Col. Rowe, the Jusmag chief that was killed recently.

The raid and this recent accusation brings into mind the November declaration of Defense Undersecretary Fortunato Abat, that in their three year counterinsurgency plan, they also plan to "dislodge legal organizations" which they believe are communist fronts. It also brings into mind the numerous harassments and violations of human rights made by the military, under the cover of President Aquino's total war policy, against militant and cause oriented groups critical of the present government and its policies. The unsolved massacres of Mendiola and Lupao,

the raid of Balay and the attacks against student activists of the LFS, the continuous bombings and forced evacuations in the countryside. All these are the results of the bigotry, the injustice and the paranoia prevalent in the government and its fascist machinery.

Therefore, we in AMIHAN, the National Federation of Peasant Women, and GABRIELA, a women's coalition of militant women's groups and individuals, strongly condemn the KMP/FRC raid by the military. We state that this is just another part of their deliberate scheme to harass the said

Cory's junket

THE plain and unvarnished truth is that the Western European trip of President Aquino was a junket as usual. The ballyhooed series of huge loans, aids, grants and similar financial help were mere pledges good only on paper.

The pledged financial assistance packages bristle with conditionalities, yet administration officials have the temerity to jump in glee over the alleged "success" of the Aquino foreign trip, no thanks to certain sectors of media which chose to see the jaunt through rose-colored glasses.

Certain sectors of media failed or deliberately did not report that the:

1. West Germans made known their desire that their investors in the Philippines be allowed by law to acquire lands in sizes to make their businesses and industries operate more effectively and profitably;

offices as they continue to unearth truths regarding the bankruptcy of government officials and of CARP itself. We abhor in no uncertain terms the false accusations the military resorts to in their ala-Rambo campaign to "discredit" militant cause oriented groups. And we would like to reiterate our pledge that we will join hands with the KMP in our struggle to fight for what is just and what is free.

LITA MARIANO
Secretary-General
AMIHAN

2. French subtly hinted they want their investors' equity increased vis-a-vis their Filipino counterparts from 40 percent up;

3. Financial assistance pledged be first approved by the lawmaking bodies of West Germany and France;

4. Human rights violations be first stamped out in the country; and

5. Graft and corruption must not characterize the management, control, and disposition of the donated funds.

Why did some media sectors omit these conditionalities attached to the "altruism" of the West Germans and the French? Why were the reporters and editors concerned afraid to expose them?

Media is an indispensable partner of government and people in nation-building; it should bear in mind that subservience is an abdication of such an indispensable role.

FELINOR M. YERRO
303 R. Aquino Street
Mandaluyong, Metro Manila (7/15)



On divorce

HERE'S the viewpoint of a Born-Again Christian with regard to divorce dated July 8, 1989. It is addressed to Mr. Eric S. Giron, c/o We Forum:

Sir:

Wanted to comment on your article, "Absence of Divorce Abets Promiscuity." The Lord Jesus spoke out against divorce. This, however, applies only to those who are truly His children. I will explain.

I was married twice in the United States. My first marriage took place in the Catholic Church. I was legally divorced five and a half years later. My second marriage was performed in front of a judge. It lasted eight years.

My present wife and I have been married four and a half years. But we are both Born-Again true Christians. If we divorced, we would be in God's disfavor as He wrote the first two marriages were outside the realm of Christ's teachings, but not that of true converts, the Born-Again. Therefore, in His eyes, we were living in adultery as non-believers as far as he was concerned. Sounds far-fetched?

(Here the writer goes into unintelligible passages.)

No Christian since Christ came to Earth was ever allowed to have more than one wife at a time. But in the Old Testament, it was allowed. So we know that a man who is a true Christian can only be married once. But what if he is a widower?

(The writer suggests reading on divorce in Matthew 5:31 and 32 and Mark 10: verses 1 to 12; also about lust in Matthew 5:27 and 28.)

When you divorce and remarry, this is adultery in the eyes of the Lord. Your only chance to "erase" the past is to repeat your life to the Lord. He washes away all past sins and they are forgiven and forgotten (Isaiah 1: verse 18).

Any marriage entered into by a person who undergoes Born-Again baptism in water and in spirit becomes pure, clean and brand new in Christ--like a baby. So you are Born-Again to a new life. Your old life is gone! Anything you now do regarding marriage, etc. is from zero (fresh).

Any true minister of a Born-Again faith can explain this to you if you are still confused. Until somebody repents to the Lord, he is a sinner and unrighteous in His eyes. So whether Catholics get married once or 30 times, it's the same to Jesus, when they come to Him and repent their lives to Him, as he told everyone to do. Then you become new persons and your former vices, sins, and problems are resolved 100 percent.

Praise the Lord!

Ernesto RODRIGUEZ

(From page 8)

tions in the Senate. Many still remember the fact that he was the only senator who had not participated in the scandalous purchase of luxury cars. Teroy has kept his shirt clean all the way and in this sense he is the ideal lawmaker. Indeed, this is a case of a man looking for the job.

Teroy is a doctor of laws from Harvard. During the war he served as clerk-researcher-stenographer of Vice President Sergio Osmena in the Philippine government-in-exile in Washington. When his father was inaugurated as President of the Republic during the Japanese occupation, on October 14, 1943, he resigned his position but President Manuel L. Quezon had written: "...I am not convinced that your father is a traitor either to the United States or to the Philippines. I know him personally and have been closely connected with him officially for many years. I believe he is doing what he honestly believes is in the best interest of the Filipino people for the time being, and not because he has become a tool of the Japanese." To the Laurels, it has always been "ang bayan muna."

I first met Teroy in 1949. He, the late Rep. Roberto H. Sabido of Albay, and I

Placido DIAZ

(From page 9)

assertion due to our "uncritical" reading of history that the Catholic Church is the number one cause of the poverty and misery of the Filipino people. Because our church leadership has identified itself with the concerns and interests of the rich and powerful elite, and are promoting only the cult of Mary the Queen of Heaven and not the image and example of the Good Samaritan. Oh yes,

were in charge of the Laurel-Briones headquarters on R. Hidalgo, in Quiapo. We held office in a ramshackle building facing the San Sebastian Church. He impressed me as a perfect gentleman, a conscientious worker, very friendly, sincere, generous and talented. He is an outstanding educator, being the President of the Lyceum of the Philippines. He was vice president of the Constitutional Convention that drafted the Philippine Constitution of 1973.

Sotero H. Laurel would make an ideal majority leader of the Senate. There is no question about that. But then there are the so-called imponderables that have to be considered. In any case, for the sake our people, let's hope for the best.

we are very much aware of the heroism of individual Catholics who on their own initiative are creating oases of love and mercy. What we are denouncing is the official apathy and indifference of our hierarchy as a whole to the plight of God's flock.

Speaking of current events, the Archdiocese of Manila brewed recently "love your pastors" rallies in which a participant witnessed the moving spectacle of a parishioner plucking the wedding ring from a finger and donating it for the support of the beloved parish priest. But the narrator of this story was not touched enough to put in her own envelope (provided by the organizers) into the collection. Their parish priest refused to bless the cadaver of a dead relative. She argued priests should be the first to love their parishioners who will in turn reciprocate by loving and caring for them. But the anomaly here and immorality is that the flock is being taught to sacrifice for the shepherds when the doctrine and example of Jesus the Good Shepherd is the exact opposite.

We are always willing to give and take fraternal correction. Coercion, no more. But Bishop Buhain and the rest of our "supervisors" must learn also to shed their self-righteousness and aura of infallibility. After all, the biggest room in the world is the room for improvement and Heaven knows our Catholic Church needs plenty of that.

Chuck Norris group leaves Batangas film site in ruins

By MARY BESSIE LEE

A GROUP of mountaineers from the University of the Philippines making their way up to Mt. Maculot in Batangas recently didn't see anything unusual -- until they saw their planned campsite.

A few weeks earlier, two UP climbers who had gone to inspect the mountain had sent word that an entire team was needed to collect the trash left by Caron Films and its local counterpart, Philippine Motion Pictures, Inc., when they filmed "Delta Force II," starring Chuck Norris, from March to May this year.

Thinking it would just be one of the clean-up climbs undertaken by the organization, during which members just picked up the trash left by reckless campers, the UP Mountaineers had planned the "fun" climb to Mt. Maculot last June.

The "one weekend" became several. The clean-up proceeded very slowly the first weekend because the mountaineers had not brought any tools (hammers, pliers, and scissors), thinking no permanent structures had to be dismantled. They were mistaken. The film company had built ladders and railings, which could have remained for years on the mountain slope.

The ladders were built even more solidly than those in most houses at the foot of the mountain. Aside from being nailed together, these were also reinforced with metal wire.

In addition to the ladders, however, was the damage that couldn't be repaired -- like the defacement of one of the slopes, which had been carved out by the filmmakers.

What happened on Mt. Maculot was not an isolated case. More than two years ago, for example, mountaineers also chanced upon the filming of a movie starring Fernando Poe, Jr. at the foothills of Mt. Makiling at Los Banos, Laguna.

The damage was less and not permanent, but the indifference to the environment was as obvious -- plastic cups, sandwich bags, plates, utensils, and bottles littered the grounds of what is, after all, a well-kept national park. Movie companies leave huge volumes of debris when they shoot their films. But so do individual campers with neither knowledge of, nor respect for, the environment.

That weekend, in fact, the climbers were able to collect more than 30 sacks of trash -- plus a bus door and a cracked toilet bowl! -- from the foothills of Makiling

alone.

Cleaning up debris from our mountains may seem petty, but it is something the ordinary citizen usually takes for granted. In Manila, for example, in spite of the presence of Metro Manila aides -- or maybe because of them -- the average person seems to feel no remorse in throwing cups, candy wrappers, or cigarette butts onto the streets.

The situation is worse on the mountains, primarily because there is no one to see, and no one to clean up afterward. When the wind blows, the trash is eventually covered by the shifting soil, and 15 years will have to pass before the softest plastic disintegrates.

The eight mountaineers who went up Mt. Maculot were not able to accomplish much that first weekend. Two more trips, extending into July were necessary to tear Chuck Norris' ladders down, dismantle the railings, and collect the trash scattered all over by the wind.

The environmental movement in the Philippines is not a monolithic movement. The battle to preserve nature is being fought on many levels: from non-stop tree planting by the World Ecologists Foundation, to legislative bills pending in

Congress, to barricades by communities trying to protect their turfs.

Mountaineers have added another dimension to the movement. The climber's motto "Take nothing but pictures, leave

nothing but footprints, kill nothing but time" has been modified to include taking debris down, and restoring the mountains to what they were before careless campers and irresponsible filmmakers came to foul them. (PNF)



Actor Chuck Norris in a locally-shot movie.



Fernando Poe, Jr. Like Chuck, too.

'Baguio 14' want speedy trial

By JUN DOMINGO

BAGUIO CITY -- Fourteen farmers who have been under military custody in this resort city for over a year have appealed to authorities for a speedy resolution of their cases. They have also petitioned for the immediate transfer of their detention area and trial to another venue -- to Nueva Ecija where ten of them come from.

The farmers, who are either officers, employees or

members of the Alyansa ng mga Magsasaka sa Gitnang Luzon -- Nueva Ecija chapter (AMGL-NE) were arrested June 21 last year while preparing to attend the People's Congress for Genuine Agrarian Reform scheduled here.

They were then staying in a house along Legarda Street, this city.

Cases of subversion and illegal possession of firearms

have since been filed against them in civilian courts.

Heading the detainees is AMGL-NE chairman Bartolome Gamboa, 62, of Aliaga town. The other detained AMGL-NE officers are second vice president Rodrigo Gonzales, 45, San Isidro, Lupao; secretary Leo Medina, 25, Sto. Tomas, Penaranda; and auditor Severino Juliano, 50, Polilio, Cabanatuan City.

Also under military custody are Florida Barcelo, 22, of San Jose City; and Rosalie Tactay, 27, of Umingan, Pangasinan. Both were office employees of AMGL-NE.

The other Ecijano detainees are Antonio Borlon-

gan, 38, and Joseph Ramos, 32, both from Talavera; Ernesto Villanuan, 34, Pantabangan; Laurito Sta. Ines, 24, San Nicolas, Gapan; and Roy Manuzon, 22, Bitas, Cabanatuan City.

Manuzon was a student of Central Luzon State University (CLSU) in Munoz at the time of his arrest.

Also detained are David Pastor Jr., 51, of Valenzuela, Metro Manila; Florentino Inigo, 25, of Diliman, Quezon City; and Alanel Guinan, 28, of Tarlac, Tarlac.

To facilitate their petition, the detainees have sought the assistance of Roman Catholic bishop Leo Drona of the diocese of San

Jose City and Fr. Rudy Abao, CLSU parish priest. Abao is chairman of the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan in Nueva Ecija (BAYAN-NE).

Abao said the hearings have dragged on due to frequent postponements requested by the prosecution. Moreover, the prosecutors find difficulty presenting witnesses against the 14 accused.

"Halos hindi umusad ang aming kaso," Bartolome lamented.

It was learned that the sanction of the Supreme Court was necessary for the trial venue to be changed.

Task Force Detainees Nueva Ecija (TFD-NE), has

expressed support for the farmer-detainees. In a press statement, TFD-NE denounced "the sluggishness of justice especially when cases of political prisoners are concerned."

The statement also claimed that the 14 were arrested without any warrant and that members of the arresting team were not in military uniform while some even had masks on.

The detainees also said they want to know the whereabouts of some P10,000 in cash and P15,000 worth of valuables and personal belongings taken from them when they were arrested. (PNF)

Cebu resorts deprive fishermen of livelihood

CEBU CITY -- It is now open season for waves of tourists visiting Cebu's Mactan island.

From July to September each year, the island, considered a prime tourist destination, is flooded with European, American and Japanese visitors.

But the government's and private sector's efforts to please tourists by building

beach resorts and luxury hotels in the hope of earning much-needed foreign exchange and generating employment are now being challenged by small fishermen in Mactan.

These fishermen accuse resort owners of depriving them access to fishing grounds and areas of shelter from storms.

In the village of Agus, a

number of beach resorts have mushroomed since 1986. While the fishers did not object to the construction of cottages and other structures on publicly-owned foreshore, they protested when several owners fenced off their properties and another built a 200-meter causeway across a creek leading to his beach house.

The causeway, owned by

businessman Benjamin Ebrada, is now the subject of a petition for demolition by villagers.

In a letter to the city government, residents said the road deprives them of the right to freely use the beach where they gather shellfish for food and beach their bancas.

Construction of Ebrada's causeway was ordered

stopped in 1986 by the local office of the Department of Public Works and Highways. The city government also said Ebrada violated provisions of the National Building Code because he failed to get approval from the city government.

Also in that year, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources rejected Ebrada's application

for foreshore-lease. Ebrada, however, went on building his causeway and seawall until it was completed this year.

Pedro Lim of the Lapulapu City Engineer's Office said he has been sending notices to owners of newly-built cottages and tourist facilities, among them big-time hotels in Mactan, which were violating the building code by constructing seawalls, causeways and fences on foreshore. However, the notices have been ignored by owners.

Despite the complaints of local fishers, DENR said it cannot demolish the illegal structures or compel their owners to tear down the walls because it has no police power.

This was in the wake of complaints that government agencies failed to respond to letters of villagers in Mactan who said they would be deprived of their livelihood should more structures be built in Mactan.

The local Department of Tourism said that while it is aware of the fishermen's clamor for access to their fishing grounds, it cannot help them. The DOT instead told them to visit other government agencies and their elected local officials.

Mactan island has been advertised by DOT to foreigners as a "paradise of sea and sun" because of its fine beaches and areas for deep-sea fishing and scuba diving. (PNF)

Iloilo's Ganzon wins court case vs military

By PAT MELLIZA

ILOILO CITY -- Mayor Rodolfo Ganzon said this week that the country has been "liberated from the clutches of the military" after the Court of Appeals issued a resolution July 13 barring PC Region 6 commander Brig. Gen. Romeo Zulueta and Metropolitan District Command (Metrodiscom) chief Col. Romeo Sua from "interfering, disturbing and/or obstructing petitioner Rodolfo Ganzon in the performance of the latter's duty as city mayor."

The PC, however, had a different interpretation of the court resolution. While Ganzon told reporters July 18 that the resolution was a restraining order, Major Rene Golez, information officer of PC Region 6 here, disputed Ganzon's claims. "Nowhere in the court (resolution) was there any hint of any restraining order," he said in a radio interview.

A photo copy of the court decision signed by Associate Justice Felipe Kalalo, was indeed titled "Resolution" and not "Restraining Order." Golez claimed that the document did not prevent the PC from supervising the police. "Control, direction, deployment and supervision of the INP is still with the military," he said.

Major Golez said the order for the military to desist from "interfering, disturbing and/or obstructing" mayor Ganzon's performance of duties "does not refer to police matters."

Ganzon, however, claimed that the CA's resolution included "control, supervision and deployment of the INP (Integrated

National Police)." Commonwealth Act 158 or the City Charter Act categorically states that "control of police forces in cities should be under local chief executives," he said. "Police control is included in the mayor's duty under Commonwealth Act 158," said Ganzon.

"The (CA's) order has a nationwide impact," Ganzon insisted. "With this ruling, all 61 cities, 73 provinces and 1,540 towns are liberated from the clutches of the military who until now think we are still under martial law," declared Ganzon.

Since assuming office last February 1988, Ganzon, 66, has attempted to wrestle control of the police from the PC, invoking the Constitutional proviso on "civilian supremacy over the military."

He has recruited some 30 policemen, deployed two police mobile cars in his service, and maneuvered to appoint his protegee Major Rex Liboon as Iloilo chief of police.

But General Zulueta blocked the mayor's moves by ordering the recall of all but five of his security detail. He also pulled out the patrol cars, and relieved Liboon and had him replaced by PC Major Felicitio Flores.

Ganzon's conflict with the military worsened when Ganzon last November ordered members of the police force to report to him for "personnel inventory." Zulueta reacted against it by issuing a memorandum directing all PC/INP men to "ignore Ganzon's orders." In the same month, Zulueta



Mayor Ganzon: Triumphant.

formed a Metrodiscom, whose members are recruited from the PC and INP.

Although Ganzon ignored Zulueta's request that he turn over the police cars, the PC last December towed them out of a repair shop to their headquarters. Ganzon recorded the incident in the police blotter as a "carnapping" (car theft).

Last year, again invoking "civilian supremacy over the military," Ganzon sued Zulueta over the police issue. Regional Trial Court judge Severino Aguilar, however, ruled in the PC's favor.

"I disagree with the court's decision but I will abide by it. It was wrong. We

are no longer under martial law; the military should go back to the barracks," Ganzon said of judge Aguilar's ruling.

Although he lost his case last January, Ganzon continued to use local media in criticizing the military. He called the PC names and accused them of involvement "in all criminal syndicates."

In an interview with reporters July 18, Ganzon demanded that the Constitutional provision on civilian supremacy over the military be implemented. He claimed that Major Flores' appointment as chief of police was "illegal" because the Constitution clearly says that "no military officer should ever be appointed head of any civilian institution."

"The military is ignorant of the law. All that generals and colonels know is to kill and kil-kill (extortion)," he said.

Ganzon and Zulueta are scheduled to meet in court July 26. (PNF)

Republic of the Philippines
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
National Capital Judicial Region
Branch 107 - Quezon City

IN THE MATTER OF THE ADOPTION OF
MINOR MELANIE BELA,

SP. PROC. NO. Q-89-2788

SPOUSES JOSE O. INUMERABLE
and LILIA R. INUMERABLE,
Petitioners,

X ----- X

ORDER

A verified petition was filed by petitioner-spouses through counsel on June 23, 1989 praying that after due notice, publication and hearing, judgment be rendered declaring them to be the adoptive parents of the minor MELANIE BELA; that said child be freed from all legal obligations of obedience and maintenance with respect to her natural parents; that she be declared for all legal intents and purposes the child of the herein petitioners; and that her surname be legally changed to that of the petitioners.

The petition being sufficient in form and substance, the same is set for hearing on September 21, 1989 at 10:00 in the morning at which date and time and interested person may appear and show cause, if any they have, why the petition should not be granted.

Let a copy of this Order be published at the expense of the petitioners in WE FORUM, a newspaper of general circulation in Quezon City and in Metro Manila before the hearing once a week for three (3) successive weeks.

The Department of Social Welfare and Development is hereby ordered to conduct a social case study on the minor to be adopted, her natural parents and to submit its report and recommendations to this Court at least one (1) week before the date of hearing.

Let a copy of this Order be furnished the Office of the Solicitor General together with a copy of the petition, the petitioners as well as their counsel.

SO ORDERED.

Quezon City, Metro Manila, June 26, 1989.

(Sgd.) DELILAH VIDALLON MAGTOLIS
Judge

WE FORUM
July 7, 14 and 21, 1989

Republic of the Philippines
Office of the President
Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council
Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that KEY ESTATE, INC. has filed with the Housing & Land Use Regulatory Board a sworn registration statement for the sale of lots/units at CRYSTAL COURT II TOWNHOMES located at Loyola Heights, Quezon City, Metro Manila specifically identified/described as Lot 9, Block 16 (LRC) Pcs-6818. That the titles covering said units are currently undergoing judicial reconstitution; that the registration statement and all papers attached thereto are available for inspection during business hours by any person having legal interest thereon and upon proper application; and that copies thereof shall be furnished to such person upon payment of the proper fee.

Any person with valid objection to the registration of the project may file his objection in writing with the Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board, 393 Goodwill Bldg., Sen. Gil J. Puyat Avenue, Makati, Metro Manila, telephone nos. 87-83-90 or 85-98-11 to 26 local 383, not later than two (2) weeks from the date of the last publication.

Makati, Metro Manila, Philippines, July 10, 1989.

WILLIAM L. JASARINO
Director, Development Control
Enforcement Office

WE FORUM
July 21, 24, 1989

'I'm willing to take Dolphy back'-Alma

HOW does Alma Moreno feel now that Dolphy and Zsa Zsa Padilla have come back? Many people are asking. Well, it's really no joke for Alma to be able to put up a good front as if nothing happened, although deep inside, her heart continues to bleed. She admitted to me the other day during one of the most intimate talks, that it's even more painful this time.

"Sabi ko nga, 'yung medyo nagagamot na 'yung pain, heto na naman. Medyo nakakatawa na sana ako ng malakas. Iniisip ko nga, kaya ko na siguro. Pinaghandaan ko na ang feelings ko pag dumating sila. When they arrived, some friends called me up, 'tatagan mo ang loob mo, nandito na sila,' sabi nila. Ok lang sa akin. Pero iba pa rin talaga. Bumalik na naman ngayon ang pain, nararamdaman ko na naman. I will be a hypocrite kung sasabihin kong hindi ako nasasaktan," said Alma.

The actress-host during an earlier press conference for the movie "The Rape of Virginia P." was bombarded with questions about Zsa Zsa but she did not talk. She just said she does not know that much about the singer-actress so she could not say anything. In our talk however, she poured her heart out. Well, I promised her it was a talk between friends so I would not write about it.

But I tell you, she's mad at Zsa Zsa.

Alma admits she's still in love with Dolphy that if ever the "Comedy king" decides to come back to her, she would accept him with open arms. "Hindi ganu'n kadalang kalimutan ang isang tao na nakasama mo sa buhay for eight years. Until now, I love him and I respect him. He is the father of my son, kaibigan ko pa rin siya, basta mahal ko pa rin siya."

Because she still loves Dolphy, Alma would not accept any suitor yet. Besides, she says what happened to her two past loves (Rudy Fernandez and Dolphy) has taught her a lesson. "The endings of my two relationships were traumatic. For now, I have no time for love. Nagbibiruan nga kami ng ibang friends ko. We formed a group called WKU meaning Walang Karapatang Umibig. Tama na muna ang love kung ganito lang ng ganito ang mangyayari. Magko-concentrate na lang ako sa career ko and prepare for my children's future. There are those who are sending me flowers, hindi naman nanliligaw pero parang ganu'n. Hanggang pakikipagkaibigan na lang muna ako ngayon," she said.

Dolphy's birthday is fast approaching. For the past seven years, Alma has been very busy whenever the comedian's birthday comes. Now, she says, she is not even pushing

FIZZ BIZZ



by LHAR SANTIAGO

through with her plan of showing the Dolphy Special on TV. "Ayokong may masabi ang ibang tao saka may mga masasaktan. Tahimik na lang tayo," she said.

Will she allow her son Van Dolph to go with Dolphy on July 25 (Dolphy's birthday)? "Why not? Pero dapat silang dalawa lang. Ayoko nung may kasamang iba. Igalang naman nila ang anak ko," she said.

So what's the real score between Jestoni Alarcon and Sh-boom girl Rachel Lobangco? The rumor mill has been coming out with so many romantic reports about the two of them.

Jestoni and Rachel are both denying that they are on. They are saying that they are just very good friends. Both however have nothing but good words



Alma: Loves Dolphy; hates Zsa.

for each other and both admit that they often see each other and that they go out a lot. I talked to them on separate occasions. I asked them almost the same set of questions and they gave me the same (rehearsed?) answers like, "we're just very good friends, we like each other's company" and stuff like that.

It was Jestoni, however, who admitted that they go out and that he cannot say where their present friendship is leading to and that he finds Rachel very pretty and sweet and intelligent. Oh yes, he also said it's not hard to fall in love with Rachel.

Gov't

(From page 4)

but technology. Poor countries don't have technology. And for as long as we buy foreign technology, we will always be poor." Talisayon points out two ways of acquiring technology. One may buy expensive foreign technology or one may develop it from within.

Talisayon says government is a key factor in the latter option. Government must give importance to inventors. It must put up research

institutions and help fund researches. Government's Department of Science and Technology (DOST) must be given more support than it is being given now, he said.

Science scholarships must be widened, and scholars must be supported beyond high school, Talisayon said.

Talisayon criticized the system of Philippine education in science, which he described as unchallenging and not invention- or creativity-oriented.

Engineering students

in most Philippine universities, he said, end up becoming managers, or even salesmen in corporations. In the University of the Philippines, only a few engineering professors are patent-holders. This means that too few are involved in the inventing process.

Thus, physics, chemistry, and computer experts here eventually seek opportunities abroad, where R & D (research and development) is more advanced. "There is no future for scientists here," Dr. Talisayon says

regretfully.

STRUGGLING SCIENTISTS

Promising future or not, Filipino scientists in various fields have been keeping vigil.

Some are in academic centers. Drs. Rogelio Posadas (University of the Philippines) and Achilles del Callar (University of the East) are two known nuclear physicists struggling it out in their respective universities.

Dr. Burton Onate, also of UP, is an agricultural

expert who has been fighting an uphill battle for the country's autonomy in rice research and the protection of local rice strains, superior in many ways to newly-introduced strains.

Dr. Purificacion Verzosa is a doctor in orthomolecular medicine pioneering in the treatment of ailments via mega-vitamins.

Dr. Vicenta Mendoza-Escobar of Centro Escolar University is the latest in a line of doctors that have been pioneering in the research in herbal

medicine.

A 1981 directory of "prominent scientists, outstanding researchers, and budding scientists and technologists" lists some 600 persons, while a 1964 book entitled "Philippine Men of Science" reviews the lives of over 100 men and women of science.

The said listings are incomplete. For each one named, there would be a hundred, perhaps a thousand more, whose efforts may have or may not have won public recognition. (PNF)

Christianity

(From page 2)

today called the national security state.

Colonial and imperial powers have reacted to a new historical subject -- an organized and conscious people -- by devising different counterinsurgency programmes variously called low-intensity conflict (LIC), low intensity war, total war, total strategy or total security, said the document.

The document referred to another document, the Santa Fe document, as high-

lighting the tactic of "cultural war" as part of this total war strategy and which tries to discredit all "those who work for change by calling them communists, while trying to present the government as democratic, or promoting reformist alternatives or a "third force."

Christianity today, declared the document, is being used as a tool against the people and has seen the division of Christians caught on each side of the political

conflict over supporting the status quo or fighting for change.

The group said it cannot remain neutral because "neutrality is an indirect way of supporting the status quo."

It condemned as heretical all forms of right-wing Christianity. Regarding heresy as a form of belief that selects some parts of the Christian message and rejects other parts, in such a way that those doctrines which are selected for belief become themselves distorted, the document characterized right-wing Chris-

tianity as supportive of the "ideology of the national security state," which insists upon blind obedience to authority, submits to the yoke of slavery, and tends to divide the body and soul, the material and spiritual, contrary to the life and teachings of Jesus Christ.

Such fundamentalism, the document noted, is being vigorously advocated in all countries through almost all Christian traditions such as Catholic, Reformed, Lutheran, Anglican, Evangelical and Pentecostal.

While condemning the

idolatry, heresy, apostasy, hypocrisy and blasphemy of right-wing Christianity, the document ended on a note of hope.

It said that while the world is faced with crises, the kairos or moment of truth and decision is also a time for grace, conversion and hope.

Like Saul who persecuted the Jews and Christians who were with the poor and was converted on his way to Damascus, the document called for a serious conversion. This conversion should recognize false prophets, abandon the practice of

making individuals or groups such as the present-day communists into "scapegoats for the sins which we ourselves commit," and abandon hypocrisy in the guise of professing neutrality while people are being persecuted, exploited or killed.

The document reiterated that the "continuous need for conversion" must also apply to exponents of change who may themselves have the "same remnants of sin, and exhibit signs of triumphalism, self-righteousness, dogmatism, rigidity, intolerance and sectarianism." (PNF)

Mushroom 'factory' in Cavite

THERE are many people who want to grow mushroom because of this edible fungi's excellent commercial prospects but they are discouraged due to the lack of mushroom spawns. However, agribusinessman Rudi S. Ancheta is helping a lot in solving this problem.

"The problem in mushroom growing is the procurement of spawns. The existing mushroom projects in Cavite, Laguna and Rizal provinces have very limited spawns for sale," says Ancheta, a jovial Ilocano. "Most of their spawns are used for their own operation, because they produce very limited mushroom spawns. But it's different with us at the ABC Mushroom Farm," he says.

Ancheta operates the ABC Mushroom Farm or "Kabutehan sa Kabite" in a three-hectare lot in Barangay Bangkal, Carmona, Cavite right along the highway connecting the South Luzon Expressway to the old Manila-Tagaytay Road in Dasmariñas, Cavite.

Five buildings comprise the mushroom operation -- composting and bagging, laboratory, sterilizing chamber, incubating house and growing house. The farm produces the oyster mushroom sometimes called tropical mushroom because it thrives well at a temperature of 25 to 27 degrees celsius.

"We have the biggest production of mushroom spawns in the country" says Ancheta. "Our equipment enables us to process 4,200 spawn bags with growing medium in eight hours. We sell complete starting materials to mushroom growers at P7.50 per bag."

Ancheta, his son, Benny and Benny's wife, Elizabeth Tolentino Ancheta give technical assistance to beginning growers. They help set up growing houses, teach the management methods and even help sell the mushroom produced by the growers.

According to Ancheta, with proper care, a spawn of mushrooms will net P40 on the average for the whole three months. He said, "10,000 spawn bags is an ideal number to start a commercial mushroom project."

His daughter-in-law, Beth, who is the laboratory technician and production in-charge shares the farm technology with anyone interested in growing oyster mushrooms.

"Actually our mushroom technology came from Taiwan," says Beth. "It's no longer such a secret to grow mushroom. It's good management and proper production technique of caring for the spawn that spells the success of mushroom growing."

Says Beth: "Our spawns, if properly taken care of, will produce over a kilo of mushrooms in three months. However, ordinarily, a bag of spawn produces an average of 500 grams of mushroom. To produce more mushroom, the temperature must be maintained at 25-27 degrees celsius at all times. Mushrooms, especially the oyster variety, will not properly develop over 30 degrees celsius. When the temperature in the growing house exceeds 30 degrees celsius, the flooring made of feeble size volcanic cinders is sprinkled with water. It is efficient in retaining the moisture in the growing house."

Beth adds: "When they deliver the spawns in bags, these are all fully matured -- which means the white molds or mycelium, is already all over the bags."

These bags of spawns is 18 cms. long, 10 cms. in diameter, cylindrical in form and are properly arranged over each other in the growing stand. There is now a new method which they call the rope swing arrangement where the spawn bags are arranged in file with ropes to hold on the bags. Then both ends of the bags are opened by cutting the plastic bag with a sharp knife or blade.

In three to four days, pinheads appear at both ends of the bags that were opened. In another two days, the pinheads mature into harvestable mushroom size.

"To produce new pinheads after harvesting the first fruit, you scrape the open portion and cut again 1/2 centimeter of the plastic on both ends," advises Beth. "After four days, pinheads appear and mature in two days' time. The pinheads will mature into mushroom size of 2-4 inches in diameter."

The process of scraping, watering and harvesting continues up to three months when the bags scraped off have only 3 inches left. These are discarded and changed for new bags of spawn.

Beth explains how to make spawns for the production of mushroom. The principal medium for the spawn culture is sawdust. Any kind of sawdust filling from any wood can be used except narra. "We prefer old decomposed sawdust because we can bag them right away. However, because of the scarcity of old decomposed sawdust, we are forced to use newly cut sawdust," she says.

The new sawdust is processed by mixing 78% sawdust, 20% rice bran, 1% lime and 1% refined sugar. These ingredients are properly and evenly mixed by putting water to moisten the mixture.

The mixture is piled and covered with plastic to attain the right temperature for decomposing. The compost is turned over every other day for five days. On the sixth day the mixture is spread out to allow gases that were formed during composting, to escape. After aerating the mixture, bagging the compost material is done.

During the bagging, a little water is sprinkled to the compost because during the aeration, moisture evaporates. During this period 2% of complete fertilizer is added to the bag.

The plastic bags filled up with compost are then placed in the chamber for sterilization for 8 hours. The sterilized bags are allowed to cool for another 24 hours. Then planting of the mushroom spawns is done.

Planting the spawn is made in a sterilized closed chamber. The spawns are individually planted by sanitized technicians in each plastic bag. These bags planted with spawns are placed in the incubation room as soon as they are brought out from the laboratory.



MUSHROOM SPAWNS: Rudi Ancheta (right) with Univet man Jonathan Florendo in the ABC mushroom factory. (A. S. Soliven)

FARM WHISPERS



by MAX E. SOLIVEN

Every other day, the bags are checked by a technician for possible contamination. Contamination can be detected through color. The color of mycelium is white. Contaminant colors are green, orange, yellow and black. The bags that show contaminations are isolated and removed, burned or buried. Beth explains, "Our sterilizing chamber is very efficient that we get rarely 1% contaminated bags."

The bags planted with spawns stay in the incubation house for 45 days. During the period, the mycelium has fully spread inside the plastic bag. The bag is already all white. Another week is allowed for maturation of the mycelium.

The bags with completely developed mycelium are transferred to the growing house. The mycelium will not develop into mushroom if it remains in the incubator house because the temperature is not suited for fruiting. Fruiting of mushroom is the development of the mycelium into pinheads and ultimately to harvestable size mushroom. The temperature needed to grow mushroom is 25-27 degrees celsius. However, Beth says, "26 is the best." The mushrooms are big at this temperature. She adds that if the temperature is below 25 and higher than 30 degrees celsius, mushrooms will not grow.

From the time the gills appear, in 24 hours, you can harvest the mushrooms. Harvesting is done in the morning and afternoon. Beth advises not to use sharp instruments in gathering the matured mushroom. This will injure the pinheads that will develop into mushroom. She demonstrates that a slight grip of the mushroom and a little twist detaches it from the rest of the pinheads.

If the bags are dry, it is advisable to water with sprayer and not to scrape the portion where the pinheads are growing. Beth discourages the use of sprinkler since the pinheads might be injured. Ordinary water can be used for watering the plastic bags of spawns.

Beth reveals that their sterilizing chamber can sterilize 4,200 bags of spawn in 8 hours. Other mushroom farms use the broiler type of sterilizer which has a very limited capacity to produce spawns. That's the reason why there are few available spawns for sale.

Fundador SORIANO

(From page 10)

only prove one thing, the government is continuously crucifying the starving masses by not controlling the dreaded, greedy crucifiers also known as businessmen.

The only positive side of our leader's refusal to reimpose price controls is population control.

Thousands will die of starvation, ergo the housing and employment problems that beset the government will not reach the critical level.

If we reimpose price controls, more people will be able to eat.

This is a bad omen for funeral parlors.

At the rate prices of basic commodities are rising, a nationwide hunger strike is in the offing.

Hunger is now striking at every poor man's door.

Raul GONZALEZ

(From page 9)

who is one of the most hardworking public men I know, lamented that "there is not enough money for hospitals". He says that there are pitiful resources for "378 hospitals and barangay health centers". I cannot agree more. I know the pitiful support government gives to rural health units and many hospitals in the provinces, Zambales being one of them. I have seen hospitals with not enough facilities, not even beds. In the Zambales Provincial Hospital it is common sight to see patients in corridors, bed after bed for lack of space. Worse, there is always lack of medicine so that families of indigent patients have to come to us for assistance. In Bgy. Poonbato, in Botolan, my wife established a 10-bed emergency hospital which started quite auspiciously and people were happy. Now there is no doctor there and the place may become useless. Situations like these give false hopes to our sick and needy and destroy the credibility of government.

Antonio CORONEL

(From page 10)

examination and, at the same time, cue the witness that the last answer wasn't very good. When this happens, you should again object to the lawyer's conduct and point out that these "clarifications" can properly be made during the redirect examination.

Probably the most common problem the cross-examiner faces is the lawyer who

And yet, as I mentioned before, P8 million is being spent in Zambales to build an imposing "Hall of Justice" for just three RTC judges, one sala being, in fact unfilled, plus four fiscals and one CLAO lawyer who does not even need an office because he holds court in my compound. I tell you, a hall of justice is the least needed in Zambales because the judges and fiscals have comfortable offices in the capitol. The P8 million for the court building could have gone to better use if the money went to repair dilapidated schools and improve rural hospitals.

constantly makes speeches in conjunction with the objections. (e.g., "Objection, Your Honor, I don't see how the witness can possibly answer the question in light of the other evidence which has clearly shown that...") Objection, of course, should only state the legal basis for the objection. The lawyer who constantly objects is trying to disrupt your examination. Pointing this out to the judge promptly and forcefully will usually cure the problem.

In the succeeding columns, we will divert from the serious character of this series on Preparation and Conduct of Trial, and regale our readers with anecdotes and jokes on cross-examination. As Judge Felix V. Barbers, Executive Judge of the Regional Trial Court of Manila, would say, LAWYERS CAN ALSO LAUGH. This is the title of a compilation of lawyers' jokes that Judge Barbers patiently caused to be book-bound several years ago and distributed to his friends. I was lucky to have been one of the recipients.

We Forum

16 NEWSBREAKS *

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p 2 only

IN METRO MANILA

Fortich in 'hit list' of anti-Red group

EMERITUS Bishop Antonio Y. Fortich of Bacolod heads a "hit list" of 25 people reportedly being distributed by a paramilitary group in Negros Occidental.

The "hit list," the international human rights group Amnesty International said, includes, aside from the retired Bacolod bishop and recent Nobel Peace Prize nominee, the names of the Social Action Director and the Mass Media Director of the Diocese of Bacolod, five Columban fathers, three Presentation Sisters, two parish priests of the Kabankalan diocese and three lay church workers.

Also mentioned by name are three radio broadcasters, three labor leaders and three lawyers.

The London-based AI, which obtained copies of the two "hit lists," said the lists name the 25 as "Christian communists," "traitors," "followers of Mao Tse Tung" and "communist dogs," and incite the people of Negros to "kill them."

The retired bishop, accused by the military of having links with the communist underground, has survived at least two bombing attacks.

The list alleges that an organization of radio broadcasters and several labor unions are front organizations of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) and its armed component, the New People's Army (NPA).

The distribution of such "hit lists", and similar acts such as the issuing of death threats and the targeting of alleged communist sympathizers by broadcasting their names on radio have frequently been followed by the "disappearance," or extrajudicial execution, of the per-

sons named, AI also said.

In recent months, at least five church workers have been summarily killed, apparently by military and paramilitary forces. That is why, AI said, the 25 people named in the lists "may be in grave danger."

On the other hand, AI said, the labelling of legal cause-oriented organizations as CPP or NPA

"fronts" has become a trend in the military's efforts to weaken the communist-led guerrilla movement.

In a 1987 military report, then Brig. Gen. Ramon Montano (current chief of the Philippine Constabulary-Integrated National Police) noted that the Army's strategy of using the "citizenry" to eliminate the NPA mass base involved

"isolating above-ground front organizations in the labor, student, urban poor, religious and other cause-oriented sectors."

Last November, then Defense Undersecretary Fortunato Abat also announced that government would increase its surveillance on several "front" organizations. (PNF)



MISSING: Manhole covers in a portion of busy Loyola St., Sampaloc, Manila, have been reportedly stolen by enterprising thieves, leaving the holes a hazard to both pedestrians and motorists. (Roly Embile).

Stolen manholes endanger lives of Manila residents

By ROLY EMBILE

A CERTAIN Mr. San Jose might have made a world record of sorts when he reported yesterday to radio station DZMM about six open manholes along flooded Forbes St. in Sampaloc, Metro Manila and -- believe it or not -- falling into three of them.

The rest of Metro Manilans had better be careful before they step on the city's inundated streets because the city engineer's office re-

ported that as of June 30, there are 377 manhole covers and drainage grills missing.

The Manila City Council has passed a resolution recently ordering the city engineer's office to cover catch basins and open manholes temporarily until they are installed with permanent covers.

The Western Police District was likewise directed to investigate the disappear-

ances and to increase vigilance in watching and safeguarding all manholes and catch basins, to prevent further losses.

At P810 per cover the city would have to spend an estimated P324,000 to replace the missing covers.

The city council said that the abnormally high incidence of loss throughout the city indicates the strong possibility that those are the handiwork of an organized

Giant waves hit Cavite

GIANT waves spawned by a tropical depression off the Bicol Region and the after-effects of typhoon "Goring" lashed at a coastal village in Naic, Cavite, destroying totally at least 50 houses.

No one was reported killed in the incident that happened in Barangay De la Paz, Naic Mayor Elvira Nazarena said.

As this developed, relief agencies reported yesterday that the death toll from typhoon "Goring" has

6 killed in ambush

UNIDENTIFIED armed men killed six people and wounded 11 others in two separate ambushes in Naga City and Quezon the past two days.

Army Sgt. Danilo Riopa and Jaime Ebro, members of the civil security unit of Camarines Sur Gov. Luis Villafuerte, were walking to their car from a drinking session near the San Francisco church along Penafrancia Ave. when a group of armed men in an owner-type jeep peppered them with bullets.

Four other people were hit by stray bullets. They were identified as Frank Aleman, Abdon Imperial, Carmelo Putong and Hermi Bunga.

In Quezon, Rodrigo Claros of Camella Homes in Paranaque and Juliano Villalon of Malabon were killed when armed men fired at the bus they were riding along the Diversion Road of the Maharlika Highway in Barangay Malikbay, Pagbilao town.

Wounded critically were Victor Saramonte, Carmen Penaverde, Benjamin Javier, Lilian Hidalgo and Leon Abella, all of Catanauan town, also in Quezon.

Reports said the armed men identified themselves as guerrillas of the New People's Army before fleeing the scene.

group.

Some city residents claim that catch basin and manhole covers are being sold to scrap dealers and "kawali" makers in Quezon City.

reached 40 with 31 other people reported missing.

'Big Bird'

JUSTICE Secretary Sedfrey Ordenez yesterday justified the termination of project "Big Bird", saying that the government has lost its trust in banker Michael



SEC. ORDONEZ

de Guzman and Economic Intelligence and Investigation Bureau chief Jose Almonte.

Speaking before the House Committee on Public Accountability, Ordenez also said the government did not push through the plan to recover deposited President Marcos' hidden wealth stashed in Switzerland banks because it "might be dragged in a breach of international protocol."

He said that government authorities feared that De Guzman might still be loyal to Marcos during the negotiations in 1986.

US plane crashes: 200 die

ABOUT 200 passengers, some of them feared to be Filipinos, were believed to have died when a DC-10 jet of the United Airlines crashed in Sioux City, Iowa Wednesday afternoon.

The plane, which came from Denver, Colorado and was bound for Chicago, reportedly developed "hydraulic problems" and exploded and crashed in a ball of fire while trying to make an emergency landing.

Initial reports said that of the plane's 287 passengers and 11 crew members, only 81 people survived.