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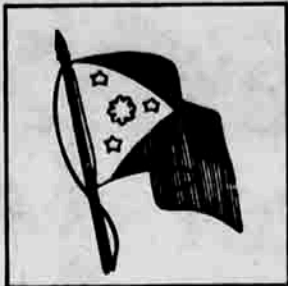


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We Forum

To seek
and live
the truth
and share
a vision

VOL 13 * NO. NO.70

FRIDAY * SEPTEMBER 29, 1989

₱2 only

IN METRO MANILA

*SC justice
is worth
P102-M*

Page 6

**Senators
want RP
venue for
bases talks**

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MARCOS IS DEAD!

*Remains won't
be allowed
back to RP,
Cory insists*

By JOSE G. BURGOS, JR.

DEPOSED President Ferdinand Edralin Marcos is dead and the entire Filipino nation awaits whatever repercussions his death may unleash.

The 72-year-old ousted chief executive, whose 14-year martial law regime had earned him the title "dictator", expired at 12:40 a.m. (Honolulu time) yesterday at the St. Francis Medical Center in Honolulu (7:15 p.m., Sept. 29, Manila time).

An official statement on Marcos' demise said that he succumbed to a cardiac arrest. A day before, an external pacemaker was fitted on him after doctors discovered his heartbeat had become erratic.

But Buddy Gomez, Philippine consul-general in Honolulu, told radio station DZRH at about 8:30 p.m. (Manila time) that Marcos' family had decided to cut off the life-support system after he suffered a cardiac arrest. Death came an hour later, according to Gomez.

Marcos had been at the St. Francis Medical Center since January 5 and confined at the intensive care

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BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Death anniversary rites for 'Chino' Roces

THE JOAQUIN "Chino" P. Roces Foundation, Inc., will tender a dinner to commemorate the first death anniversary of "Chino" Roces tomorrow (Sept. 30) during which the ANG FILIPINO AWARD will be conferred on the late Congresswoman Estelita G. Juco.

The Board of Trustees of the foundation announced that scholarships will also be awarded to selected newsboys.

In the morning at 9:00 o'clock, mass will be celebrated at the Shrine of Our Lady of Mount Carmel in Quezon City.

The foundation was formed by friends and admirers of the late publisher and freedom fighter to push "the promotion and advancement of a moral order" as envisioned by the late "Chino" Roces.

The Ang Filipino Award recognizes the exemplary life of a Filipino both evidenced by an outstand-

ing performance and an unblemished moral character.

Esty Juco who represented the disabled sector and the women in Congress is the first



CHINO ROCES: Death Anniversary.

Ang Filipino awardee. The award recognizes among other things her consistently "high and uncompromising moral character; her courageous advocacy on human rights and freedoms, democratic principles and international understanding through her written work and the example of her own life and her concern for and deep commitment to the welfare of the deprived, underprivileged and disadvantaged in society."

5 NPA rebels die in Quezon encounter

FIVE NEW People's Army (NPA) members were killed yesterday in firefight with government troopers in Quezon.

The encounter involved the group of Leopoldo Mabilangan, alias Ka Hector of the Melito Glor Command and elements of the Scout Rangers of the Philippine Army led by Maj. Crestituto Balauing in Bgy. Valencia, Tayabas, Quezon.

The slain rebels, identified only by their aliases, were: Ka Doris, Ka Dennis, Ka Susan, Ka Jet and Ka Banong, the last reported to be nephews of Mabilangan.

According to military reports, the clash lasted for 45 minutes and no casualties

were reported on the side of the military.

The bodies of the slain NPAs were later brought to Bgy. Ilasan in Tayabas, where the troops are based.

Tension grips Metro due to brownout

A MASSIVE brownout hit Metro Manila yesterday afternoon, triggering off a tense atmosphere and paralyzing all operations in residential, commercial and industrial areas.

The metro-wide brownout was said to have been caused by a trip-off at the Binangkalaka and Macban-Binan power lines in Laguna and Quezon provinces.

Thousands of commuters lined the streets as classes were suspended and office workers were ordered to leave early.

Power was restored to commercial and residential areas at 5:00 p.m. while that in the industrial area was restored at midnight.

In a press conference yesterday, Napocor president Ernesto Aboitiz ex-

plained the cause of the brownout.

"I would like to explain what occurred this afternoon. The series of brownouts that occurred... was caused by the hydraulic tripping of the lines, a fault in the lines. This occurred first between Binan and Kalaka coal plant and then occurred between the Binan and Macban transmission lines.

Now with these faults by which the lines were tripped off... the Metro Manila area was affected and power to the Metro Manila areas had to be cut off because these series of plants within the Metro Manila area also went off the line. This resulted in the entire Metro Manila area being out of power. Restoration was started at 3 p.m. in the afternoon. (M. Molina)

Rural health workers are endangered species

By MA. ELENA ANG

DOCTORS, NURSES, and other health workers are not just a rare breed in the Philippines, they are becoming an endangered species as well.

The few who dare provide health care to people in the rural areas are often caught in the maelstrom of armed conflict, according to the non-government Medical Action Group (MAG).

Dr. Aurora Parong, MAG executive director, said that efforts of non-governmental organizations to alleviate the sufferings of the sick should not be discouraged through continued harassment by the military. Government must instead provide support and help propagate the universally-accepted concept of medical neutrality.

Parong's group has recorded the killing of 19 health workers since 1987. Two of the more recent killings involved doctors based in the rural areas killed by government troopers or right-wing extremist groups.

(Dr. Emmanuel James Mabanag, municipal health officer of Sta. Maria, Ilocos Sur was gunned down last June 14 allegedly by Constable Jose Caldellero of the Philippine Constabulary whose wife and grandmother he had been treating. Government doctor Patricio Santiago was gunned down inside his clinic in Angles City by armed men believed to be right-wing extremists on June 30, 1988.)

MAG has also monitored several cases of harassments, arrests and the torture of health workers by either military or vigilante groups, and raids on three rural-based health programs (the Huntington Beach Clinic in Negros Oriental, St. Michael's Health Training Center in Iligan City and the Katilingbanon Nga Programa ha Panlawas Han Samar Center for Community Based Health Development Inc. [KAPPS-CCBHD] in Calbayog City) in a period of one and a half years.

Such incidents have severely affected the operations and morale of non-governmental and civic- and religious-supported programs.

Health programs affecting 267 barangays have stopped while operations in 205 other barangays have been disrupted. MAG also acknowledged that some 101 health workers have resigned from their jobs while nearly 700 other health worker-trainees dropped out in the same period.

These health workers are widely acknowledged to have worked for meager wages and long hours and are willing to work in hinterland and medically deprived areas.

Lack of protection for these health workers could gravely affect the delivery of health care sorely lacking in the country. The private Community Medicine Development Foundation (COM-



RURAL HEALTH WORKERS: Dangerous life.

MED) noted that three out of five Filipinos who die don't receive any form of medical treatment while only 8,000 of the 42,000 barangays in the country are served by barangay health stations. Most rural health units have no medical and

nursing staff.

There is only one health worker for every 20,000 Filipinos, but health personnel from non-governmental and civic-religious organizations who could help fill this gap are themselves in danger. (PNF)

'Seize properties of drug lords'

WESTERN POLICE District (WPD) Superintendent Brig. Gen. Alfredo Lim yesterday recommended the confiscation of the properties of illegal drug traffickers the minute they are apprehended.

Appearing before the Senate ad hoc committee on illegal drugs headed by Sen. Ernesto Herrera, Lim said that the Philippines should also adopt the Racketeering Influence of Corrupt Organizations (RICO) law being implemented in the

United States wherein properties of arrested drug lords are seized so that these could not be sold while their cases are being tried.

The WPD chief's recommendation was endorsed by the committee and will be incorporated in the Herrera bill which seeks to impose the death penalty on anyone found to be involved in the promotion, distribution and manufacture of illegal drugs.

Lim also said that the WPD narcotics section had actively launched an anti-drug campaign from March 7 to Sept. 6 this year that saw several violent encounters between the WPD operatives and drug syndicates that resulted in the death of three foreigners from Taiwan, Hongkong and New Guinea. This confirmed that the local drug lords have connections with the international syndicates, Lim added.

The WPD was also able to arrest 365 drug pushers, Lim said. (Maricar Molina)

Movie star for President?

By ERIC S. GIRON

THERE is a time in an actor's career when he may assume the role of a politician—a small-town mayor, a governor, congressman or senator. An actor who believes he fits well in a politico's role turns fantasy into reality by gunning for an elective position.

Thus, in the local elections of 1970, Johnny Wilson became vice mayor of Makati under Mayor Nemesio Yabut, the producer of Zultana Films International. Augusto V. Pangan, the comedian Chiquito, was voted councilor of Makati under Mayor Yabut's ticket. Former basketball forward Freddie Webb, who became an actor on film and video, was elected councilor of Pasay City.

The Quezon City council acquired three actors: Ronald Remy, Fred Montilla, and Mario Montenegro and a movie producer's scion, Pepito Vera Perez.

Actor-producer Joseph Estrada, who had occupied the mayor's seat of San Juan (Metro Manila) on August 5, 1969 for only about a year, after winning his election protest against Dr. Braulio Sto. Domingo, was reelected in 1970.

Since then Yabut and

Montenegro have passed away. Estrada has been elevated to senator and Freddie Webb to congressman. Ronald Remy is now a Bible interpreter in a late television show. Wilson and Montilla have returned to acting.

Two cinema idols who have attained the highest political posts are Rogelio de la Rosa and Joseph Estrada.

Rogelio was not only the foremost movie idol in over 200 pictures for 27 years; he was a symbol of the dashing celluloid hero clad in **camisa de chino** and neckerchief during the Golden Age of Philippine Cinema in the 1930s up to the postwar 1950s. He romanced all the beautiful actresses, many of whom made their film debuts with him.

And now comes Joseph Ejercito, with the adopted screen name Estrada, who is familiarly known as Erap. A college dropout, Joseph



ERAP AND CORY: Will a movie actor take the lady's place in Malacanang?

gambled his father's P20,000 by investing it in his movie about the Tondo hoodlum Asiong Salonga. The role of Salonga catapulted Joseph to stardom. His next film,

Markang Rehas, in 1962 gave Joseph his first Famas best actor trophy and his partner, Perla Bautista, the best actress award.

Joseph and his predecessor, Rogelio, were destined for politics. It is interesting to draw a parallel between the two actors, one who could have been President, the other who is aspiring to be President.

STAR FROM LUBAO

The Rogelio de la Rosa story began in rustic San Nicolas barrio of Lubao in Pampanga where he was born Regidor de la Rosa on Nov. 12, 1916. The family of Feliciano de la Rosa and Rosario Lim had eight siblings and was affluent

enough to own the first car in town. When the family fortune fell, Regidor had to fend for himself, feeding the pigs and raising vegetables.

Somehow, Regidor was able to complete his schooling with honors. As a teenager, the six-footer appeared in zarzuelas, usually as a villain while his neighbor, Diosdado Macapagal, was the hero. Regidor's uncle, Gregorio Fernandez, who was an actor, later director, introduced the lad to moviemaker Jose Nepomuceno one day in 1929.

Nepomuceno baptized him Rogelio de la Rosa and his 13-year-old partner, Rose Stagner, in the 1930 film **Ligaw na Bulaklak**, Rosa del Rosario. They became the king and queen of Philippine movies. A Phil-

ippines Free Press poll in 1941 voted Rogelio and Rosa del Rosario the most popular love team after their teamup in **Ang Maestra**, a blockbuster scripted by Eddie Romero and directed by Gerardo de Leon.

However, a **Graphic** poll chose Rogelio and his partner in seven movie hits, Carmen Rosales, as the top romantic screen duo. The love songs sung by Rogelio and Carmen in those memorable films, composed by Constancio de Guzman, are still sung and played today.

In postwar films, Rogelio's first film, **Garrison 13**, was with Mila del Sol, then **Tagumpay**, with Arsenia Francisco. In the delightful comedy, **Victory Joe**, Rogelio as an Army officer kissed sweet-faced Norma Blancaflor twice on the lips, which was tabooed in prewar films. He reunited with his first film partner, Rosa del Rosario, in **Ang Himala ng Birhen sa Antipolo**, and with Carmen Rosales in **Kampanang Ginto** and three other movies.

The film **Higit sa Lahat** gave Roger the best actor title in the Third Asian Film Festival held in Hong Kong and the Famas award on March 17, 1956. Emma Alegre was his partner in that picture. He also appeared with his wife, Lota Delgado, Lilia Dizon, Corazon Noble, Leila Morena, Celia Flor, Tessie Quintana, newcomers Rosa Rosal and Delia Razon (Lucy May Grytz), Nida Blanca, and others.

He was rushing his movie **Veronica** with Paraluman in 1957 after he had entered the senatorial race in 1957. Roger took his oath of office as senator on Jan. 1, 1958

(Next page, please)



The late Senator Rogelio dela Rosa, Makati Vice Mayor Augusto "Chiquito" Pangan, and ex-US President Ronald Reagan: Movie actors all.

Before the judge in barrio San Pablo of his hometown Lubao. The senator was some sort of Don Quixote fighting windmills of corruption and abuse. For this the Congressional Press Club voted him outstanding senator for 1959-'60.

With his millions of fans, who knows, he might have been President in the 1964 election had he not given way to his brother-in-law, Diosdado Macapagal, who had married his sister Purita. In 1965, Rogelio entered the third phase of his life as career diplomat. He presented his credentials as ambassador to the Royal Kingdom of Cambodia and became dean of the diplomatic corps in 1969 to 1971.

From Phnom Penh, the ambassador went to The Hague in 1971, was concurrent ambassador to Bulgaria and Poland. He became dean of the diplomatic corps and chairman of the Afro-Asian Group. In November 1978, he became envoy to Sri Lanka (Ceylon), a post he held until his retirement.

The National Press Club paid tribute to Rogelio de la Rosa on the evening of April 13, 1982 at the Manila Hotel Fiesta Pavilion. On hand were LVN producer Manuel de Leon and director Lamharito V. Avellana, and actresses Lilia Dizon, Delia Razon, Paraluman and Rita Gomez.

Bert Avellana referred to Rogelio as "actor, politician, diplomat and— best of all—a gentleman." He said there were two Philippine movie kings: "One white (Rogelio) and the other black (Leopoldo Salcedo)."

The noblest tribute came from the "black" king, Pol, who unselfishly described Rogelio as "napakagaling na artista (exceptional actor)."

On his retirement from the foreign service, Rogelio tried a political comeback in 1984 by running for the Pataasang Pambansa. He lost. In the afternoon of his life, Roger appeared with Norma Lisa for Coney on Camera on TV.

I cherish those happy moments shared with Roger, his ambitious wife Lota, and brother Tommy (Jaime) at home parties and at the National Press Club. We used to sing with that fine voice which had charmed millions of Filipino women—

and men too. The new generation appreciated his effort.

When Roger's heart stopped beating that morning of Nov. 26, 1986, only 14 days after his 72nd birthday, at San Juan, the dominant figure of that fondly remembered Golden Era of Philippine Movies flamed out.

JOSEPH ESTRADA

In the Roaring '60s, guns blazed in western shootouts, karate chops and dropkicks flew fast in action films glamorizing secret agents and imported "blue-seal" beauties in deshabelle. Fernando (Ronnie)Poe Jr. and Zaldy Zshornack were the heroes in the westerns.

Then Joseph Estrada, Jun Aristorenas and Jess Lapid emerged as the tough hombres in the westerns. However, bang-bang and bakkaban were not the only forte of Joseph. In 1964, Joseph won his second best actor award in Geron Busabos. Joseph put up his own Emar Productions in 1965 and JE Productions in 1966. While Ronnie Poe was making a name for himself as the action king, Joseph's triumvirate with Jun Aristorenas and Jess Lapid in Soliman Brothers and Vendetta Brothers were raking in.

Joseph beamed as he clutched his third best actor trophy in 1966 at the Nile for his heroic role in *Ito ang Pilipino*. "Having won it thrice, I could not ask for more," Joseph said. With his third award tucked under his belt, Joseph ran for the mayoralty in his hometown San Juan and lost in the initial counting of ballots. He filed a protest against Dr. Braulio (Boyong) Sto. Domingo, who was seated.

Meantime, Joseph's gun-slugging effort with Jun, Jess and Jing Abalos in *Cuadro de Jack* (Emar) made the film the top grosser of the Manila Film Festival in 1967. Joseph garnered his fourth best actor statuette in *Patria Adorada* in 1969, when he won his election protest and was seated for about a year until the local elections of 1970.

Reelected as mayor in 1970, he confessed, "I can't run a town alone." So he consulted the Philippines Local Government Center of the University of the Philip-

pinas which gave him a study of the need to pave streets, collect garbage, preserve peace and order. He also worked in close coordination with the Citizens Committee of San Juan and other civic groups.

In 1974, Joseph Estrada founded the Movie Workers' Welfare Foundation, or Mowelfund, which grants benefits to movie industry personnel. Started at a small office at Burke building on the Escolta, the Mowelfund moved to the Cultural Center building, then the Film Center and is now at the Mowelfund Plaza on Rosario Drive, Quezon City. The secretary-general is Rolfe Velasco.

As San Juan mayor, Joseph had 30 streets cement-paved; had the ancient market torn down and replaced with a modern Agora shopping complex of shops, wet market, *karihan* and stores downstairs, two moviehouses, a bowling alley, business offices and a shopping mall with recreation areas upstairs. After his term, the Agora has gone to seed.

Multistoried barangay schools were erected, along with puericulture centers and playgrounds in each barangay. For his ambitious plan to erect a municipal complex around the Pinaglabanan Shrine, he had to resettle the squatters in the area at Napindan, Taytay. Already, a new post-office servicing San Juan and Mandaluyong and a police headquarters have been realized.

The second batch of squatters from Corazon de Jesus, Halo-Halo, Pasadena and the *tubo* at Batis were due for relocation at Napindan in May 1986. But since March, the San Juan municipal building was barricaded with barbed wire and zealously guarded for 24 hours by adherents of Mayor Joseph Estrada.

The sweeping axe of the new administration did not spare elective mayors and governors who invoked a law specifying that they remain in office until June 30, 1986. It was only when Estrada received President Corazon Aquino's order seeking his resignation on Wednesday, April 9, when he turned over the symbolic town key to the Citizens' Committee who turned it over to acting

Mayor Reynaldo San Pascual at the fire station, where he held office.

Although Estrada had quit, his followers refused to lift the barricade from the town hall. On his birthday on April 15, San Pascual's resolve to celebrate at the mayor's office "at all cost" resulted in an assault on the barricade by 50 uniformed policemen of San Juan and 12 from Calocan in crash helmets, armed with truncheons, shields, handguns and long arms and backed up by two firetrucks. As the police started firing bullets, the defenders replied only with stones.

A bullet penetrated the head of Manuel Dimiao, 47, and was embedded in his brain. Shot and wounded were four women and Ricardo Guademor, who was later reported missing from Cardinal Santos Hospital with four other injured persons. A woman and three men were hit by pillbox shrapnel; 23 were hospitalized; and 30 others treated for injuries and bruises.

The people of San Juan believed they had the right to choose their own municipal officer, not the Aquino government. This was the reason they staked their lives in fighting for the retention of Estrada. No justice was ever given the dead man Dimiao nor all the wounded in that encounter.

Joseph was vindicated when he ran for senator against the highly favored Cory Aquino candidates and won by a safe margin. The only other oppositionist, Juan Ponce Enrile, was bordering on the losing edge. Joseph affiliated with the Liberal Party of Senate President Jovito Salonga, who is groomed as a presidential candidate in 1992. Rumors say Joseph Estrada might be his running mate. But Estrada, who is opposed to the retention of US bases in the Philippines, may yet be drafted for the presidency.

CHIQUITO

On the Avenue stage during the Japanese wartime occupation, a little tyke would hunch his shoulders, tilt his head to one side, and walk with tiny, bouncy steps in the style of shaved-head comedian Togo (Andres Solomon), the zany partner of Pugo (Mariano Contreras). Nobody called the tyke by his name, Augusto V. Pangan. He was plain Chiquito who regaled the stage-show audiences with his unique boogie-woogie shuffle until he grew up to become a comic.

Like a truetrouper, Chiquito went through the gamut of stage, radio, television and the silver screen. Besides being a comic, he became a professional jockey who mounted mostly his own horses in races of the early 1960s; and a Makati motorcycle cop.

When Chiquito's buffoonery was paying off in the movies and enabled him to produce his own films under the aegis of Sotang Bastos, his popularity got him the councilor's post in Makati in 1970. His movies, however, went on the decline. His film *Praybet Detektib Akademy* in which he, Roderick Paulate, Pia Moran and Debbie Miller starred, and *Rocky Four-Ma* with Nova Villa were excluded from the entries to the Manila Film Festival of 1985.

Rocky Four-Ma was screened when the real McCoy, *Rocky IV*, of Sylvester Stallone, was raking in Manila's theaters. "Nakatapat," as they say in film parlance. The local rocky went on the rocks. So did Chiquito's movie career.

But when he ran for councilor under the opposition Move Makati Coalition party in the 1987 election, he topped the victors' list. So when Vice Mayor Conchitina Sevilla-Bernardo tendered her resignation for "health reasons" last August 7, Chiquito was tapped to take her place. The legality of Bernardo's resignation was questioned, being an elective official. But after President Aquino met with Mayor Jejomar Binay and Bernardo at Malacanang, she was given leave.

Binay had recommended Col. Armando San Miguel as "best choice for the vacancy," being a PDP-Laban Party member like the resigned Bernardo. But since Chiquito obtained the highest votes, he was sworn in by Local Governments Secretary Luis Santos as acting vice mayor. Binay warned Chiquito against "certain elements who will exact utmost efforts to use him for their personal ends through the cleverest and subtlest

forms of intrigue."

How Chiquito will comport himself in his new position, the public is watching closely.

Johnny Wilson, who served as Makati vice mayor for a long time, is now devoting more time to TV and movie roles as a gang boss, corrupt official, or father of a spoiled brat. Miguel Rodriguez is taking his job as Bataan provincial board member seriously although he keeps his public image in *Iskul Bukol*, musicals and sitcoms on TV, and in the movies.

Erstwhile expert bowler Tito Sotto was once a member of the popular Electro-maniacs rock band with his brothers Vic and Val during which he met singer Helen Gamboa, who became his wife.

Tito is also a restaurateur who owns the restaurant overlooking Arayat in Dau, Pampanga and others. As a vice mayor of Quezon City, he harmonizes with Mayor Brigido (Jun) Simon in launching commendable civic projects like campaigns against drugs and smoking, and promoting wholesome sports.

The councilor who was responsible for the smoking ban in Quezon City is Cielito del Mundo (her real name is Echevarria). Cielito is a woman on the move. She has been a nightclub singer, has appeared in TV melodrama and in one or two movies. It was her TV show with Orly Mercado (now a senator) which aired complaints of poor and suffering people who were given referrals for free treatment of their ailments that put her in the public limelight. She has also attended women's international conferences. Her next target is the Quezon City mayoralty.

There are movie people who make it into politics and others who don't. But actors like Rogelio de la Rosa and Joseph Estrada have certainly left their imprints. As far as Estrada is concerned, he has not yet begun to fight.

A movie star for President? Ronald Reagan made it to the governorship of California and the presidency of the United States. Anything is possible.

By SALVADOR H. LAUREL

Vice President, Republic of the Philippines

LET me greet the incoming officers and the members of the Philippine Bar Association under the leadership of your new President, Atty. Manuel A. Barcelona, Jr., who bears the illustrious name of a great judge, Justice Manuel Barcelona, Sr., one of the most respected names ever to grace the Philippine Bench. I am confident he will follow his father's footsteps and strive to add a brighter luster to the legal profession.

Because today is Law Day, let me talk of the present state of law and justice in our land.

Essentially, law is supposed to be the instrument of order without which there can be no justice.

But to the simple citizen, law is supposed to protect his life, liberty and property -- against anyone -- even against the government.

There is therefore a breakdown of the law when the life, liberty and property of citizens are easily violated. It is utter lawlessness when they are violated at will. Worse, when the violators are not caught and punished. And oppressive, when the violators are government agents and high officials and the shield of protection is converted into a bludgeon of oppression.

This is the sad state of law and justice in our country today. Murder, robbery, rape, graft, smuggling (not only guns but all sorts), all crimes, serious and petty, all are being committed with impunity. Government is not only helpless. Not only impotent. Not only tolerant. But a cohort. The people now feel that their lives, liberty and property are simply in God's Hands.

This is not the kind of government that was promised to our people and accepted by them in the social contract that is now the Constitution of this nation. Section 4, Article II of that Constitution guarantees that the government will "serve" and "protect" the people. Section 5 of the same Article guarantees "the maintenance of peace and order" and "the protection of life, liberty and property" because these are "the blessings of democracy".

But we do not have "peace and order", and the government cannot protect "life, liberty and property", so where are the "blessings

of democracy"? The Aquino government keeps claiming that the restoration of democracy in the country is its main achievement. It should stop making that boast. For how can there be democracy when there is no peace and order, and life, liberty and property are not safe and secure?

Order is not only Heaven's first law. It is freedom's first condition. That is why order is the first function of all governments on earth since the beginning of civilization.

As God created man so man may serve God and work for His greater glory, so man created government so government may serve man. Government is supposed to protect man, protect his life, liberty and property, and deliver to him all basic services. In exchange for such services, man has agreed to obey the laws, pay taxes and be punished for violating such laws. That is the social contract now embodied in the Constitution.

When that contract is violated by the citizen, he is punished, he is fined, imprisoned, divested of property, even executed. But when it is the government that violates that contract, as when government fails to protect the citizen, fails to maintain peace and order, fails to enforce the law, then the citizens have the residual sovereign power not only to withhold obedience but to change that government peacefully through the electoral process, or coercively, as a last recourse, through the superior right of revolution.

The oppressive and inept government as well as the oppressed and unprotected citizen must be constantly reminded of that omnipresent residual power of the people.

With that in mind, I am

The many faces of the Law (under the Aquino regime)

(Speech delivered before the Philippine Bar Association, September 20, 1989)



VICE PRESIDENT LAUREL, PRES. AQUINO: On the campaign trail; now, at odds.

saddened that the President of the Republic, the highest official sworn "to faithfully execute the law", instead of sternly and strictly enforcing the law, has seen fit to simply put the blame on others. She has placed her Secretary of Justice "on probation". She has blamed the entire judiciary. She forgets that the President of the Republic is the one principally responsible for the maintenance of law and order. That is the reason why the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the entire law enforcement agencies have been placed under her

command. That is also the reason why the prosecution service is placed under her control. And so she cannot "pass the buck" to anybody else. The buck ends with the President.

Now what about the administration of justice?

I find two basic areas where our system of justice has faltered miserably. One is in the very nature of our adversarial system and the other is in the area of implementation.

The inherent defect of the adversarial system is that it favors the privileged who can hire good lawyers and it

works against the poor who cannot afford the high cost of litigation including the fee of competent counsel.

It is true that the Constitution provides "free access to the courts", but that right is empty and meaningless without a good lawyer who does not usually serve for free. Considering that 70% of our people are poor and there are not enough lawyers involved in free legal aid, it follows that despite the Constitutional guarantee, the great majority of our people still do not have access to our courts of law and therefore are being denied justice.

The adversarial system is also a major cause of delay in court proceedings. One of the most common causes of delay is non-payment of lawyers' fees, sheer incompetence or poor preparation on the part of the lawyers. The result is justice delayed which is justice denied.

There is therefore a need to re-examine the adversarial system based on our own experience with it. To maintain the system without correction is to invite disaster. The danger is that people will enforce and inflict their own alternative justice when they can no longer expect it from the courts. A good example is the justice of the New People's Army. It is swift and cheap and yet effective and therefore appreciated by the ag-

grieved poor.

Unless we evolve a system that can favorably compare with the swift and cheap justice of the NPA, our expensive and protracted adversarial system of justice may soon be swept away together with all irrelevant government institutions as the faith and confidence of our people disappear.

So what can be done?

In the case of the Executive, the response has been all words -- beautiful words -- but only words. No action. It is action, not words, that will bring about change -- change that will restore the dwindling faith of the people in the justice of our laws and in the validity of our way of life.

The Supreme Court has responded promptly and positively. And so, we now have a Revised Rules on Criminal Procedure and Evidence, a new Code of Judicial Ethics and the Chief Justice has ordered daily trials of cases. All these should be welcomed because they will ease some of the backlog. But they do not address the more basic problems involving denial of justice which is actually plaguing our system of justice.

Three things I believe should be considered.

First, we should consider abandoning or modifying the adversarial system

(Next page, please)

as we practise it today in the civil and criminal cases. Cases need not all go through full-blown and protracted trials and involve lawyers in every case. As much as possible, the lawyers' intervention should be at the level of preparation of pleadings under oath to which are attached pertinent evidence.

Second, we should revise the rules of procedure and tailor them to the modified system.

Third, fix a definite, mandatory and non-extendible period within which all courts must render their decision. Similarly, mandatory fixed periods should be laid down for all investigative agencies within which to investigate, submit reports, or file cases.

These proposed changes should of course be the sub-

being practised in scandalous proportions, but of the two, political intervention appears to be the more apparent.

Because of political intervention, justice has been sporting many faces these past three and a half years.

One face is the pleasant, smiling and forgiving face when the persons involved are relatives and friends.

Take the case of a presidential brother-in-law who had been publicly accused of illegally acquiring 39 corporations from the brother-in-law of the previous President. Without waiting for any investigation, the President immediately and personally exonerated her brother-in-law.

A presidential sister-in-law had been suspected of having illegally carted away the jewels of the former First

ment of more than P60 million was not fired or prosecuted. He was allowed to resign while the President extolled his virtues. Now the erring Cabinet member is in the Development Academy of the Philippines, the principal mentor of the President's exemplary bureaucrats. Remember the NFA Administrator who could not explain why millions of pesos worth of rice "suddenly drowned"? He is now the "Presidential Adviser on Regional Affairs".

In sharp contrast to the smiling and forgiving face reserved for relatives and favorites, justice has an angry and vengeful face for all those who had opposed the President. For them, justice has a double standard. They are presumed guilty. They must prove their innocence before "hold and freeze or-

produced a conviction of most of the accused. Between February 25, 1986 and September 20, 1989, a good three years and seven months, justice for Ninoy Aquino, under the administration of Ms. Aquino, is still nowhere in sight.

People are now asking: If Ms. Aquino cannot give justice to her own husband, how can she give justice to the ordinary citizen? What if her term ends without any decision? What if the case is dismissed for lack of evidence? Will it mean that Ninoy was killed by Galman and not by the soldiers? And if Ninoy was killed by Galman and not by the soldiers, will he still be our national hero? If not, what will we do with all the statues and all the streets and plazas and buildings that have been named after him? I hope Ms.



SUPREME COURT JUSTICES: Own interpretation of the law.

ject of more thorough and detailed legal studies. It is time that we spend more time and allocate resources for this purpose. In our budget, there is an appropriation for every office, no matter how inconsequential, but there is not a single centavo for research and studies on how we can improve our system of justice. I propose that a thorough study be undertaken, perhaps under the leadership of the Supreme Court, on how we can improve our system of justice to make it cheaper, quicker and just. For this purpose, we should tap the best minds in the legal profession.

In the area of implementation, a serious infirmity seems incurable because of at least two extraneous causes: political intervention and bribery. Both are

Lady in Malacanang right after EDSA. Yet up to this day, no investigation has been conducted. The same sister-in-law was publicly accused as having received a one-million dollar bribe from an Australian. The President, through her spokesmen, immediately claimed that the recipient was a "double" of the sister-in-law and that the "double" would be produced in a week's time. More than 50 weeks have elapsed, yet no double has been produced.

The smiling and forgiving face of justice is not, however, reserved exclusively for relatives. It is also vouchsafed to friends and favorites. The erring Cabinet member who was responsible for the scandalous acquisition of a huge estate in Bicolandia which would have deprived the govern-

ders" can be lifted or cases withdrawn. They cannot come home. And they cannot be tried by Philippine Courts.

But there is yet a third face -- the pretentious and unconcerned face -- or mask -- of justice. For the victims of human rights violations, for the urban and the rural poor, for the laboring class in the private and public sector, there is only the pretentious and unconcerned face of justice.

People are asking: how can there be justice for millions of aggrieved Filipinos when the President cannot even give justice to her own murdered husband? The President is always blaming the past regime for having denied justice to Ninoy Aquino. But between August 21, 1983 and February 25, 1986, the old regime

Aquino will answer these questions tomorrow when she addresses our three bar associations.

Let me conclude by urging all the officers and members of this Bar Association to take an active part in the burning issues of our time, particularly issues related to law and justice. Be the activists in the legal profession. See to it that justice is swiftly administered because only then will justice be a living reality. Denounce injustice in any form whenever and wherever you see it. And take up the cudgels for the poor so they may not suffer in the hands of the powerful and the well-connected. And I know that, ultimately, with unity, courage and determination, "justice will be done, though the heavens fall!"

Supreme Court justice wealthiest among gov't officials

WORTH P102-M

By JUAN V. SARMIENTO

WHO IS the wealthiest official of the Aquino Government?

He is neither a Cabinet member, a Senator nor a Representative.

He is a member of the highest judicial body of the Philippines.

Supreme Court Justice Teodoro Padilla, with a declared net worth of P102.59 million, is probably the richest among the 1.6 million employees of the government of the Republic of the Philippines.

Padilla's net worth is equivalent to the annual budget of the government-run Philippine General Hospital (PGH), the poor man's hospital, just across the Supreme Court building in Manila.

Padilla's net worth of P0.102 billion raised the average net worth of the 15 Supreme Court justices to P13.207 million. The total net worth of Supreme Court justices is P198.108 million.

This makes the justices wealthier than Cabinet members, Senators and Representatives.

The average net worth of the 21 members of the Aquino Cabinet is P11.215 million. Their total net worth amounts to P235.52 million.

Members of the Philippine Senate have an average net worth of P6.581 million. The total net worth of the 23 Senators is P151.369 million.

Based on the latest statements of assets and liabilities filed by 152 Representatives, the average net worth of the country's Congressmen is P6.016 million. Their total net worth is P914.418 million or almost a billion pesos.

Republic Act 6713 implements a provision in the 1987 Constitution which requires full public disclosure of the statements of assets, liabilities, net worth, financial interest and business connections of all public officials.

This is in line with the so-called "policy of transparency" of President Aquino.

Based on the statements filed by the officers of the judiciary, legislature and the executive branch of government, the ten richest government officials include two Supreme Court justices, two Cabinet members, a Senator and five representatives.

The ten are Teodoro Padilla, Philippine Aid Plan (PAP) chief Roberto Villanueva with a net worth of P75.9 million, Trade and Industry Secretary Jose Concepcion Jr. with P29.5 million, Senator Juan Ponce Enrile with P45.6 million, representatives N. Monfort (P38.8 million), D. Plaza (P31.7 million), V. Chaves (27.2 million), J. Cojuangco (P23.2 million) and J. de Venecia (P21.7 million).

Supreme Court Justice Florentino Feliciano is the tenth richest government official with a declared net worth of P21.5 million.

Of the 211 Supreme Court Justices, Cabinet members, Senators and Representatives who declared their assets and liabilities only three had negative net worth.

Local Governments Secretary Luis Santos has the biggest negative net worth at P523,887, followed by Senator Rene Saguisag with P300,000. Press Secretary Adolfo Azcuna has a negative net worth of P33,097.

The statements of assets and liabilities of government officials clearly show that the country is governed by millionaires and members of the Philippine elite. (PNF)

Letter from Gringo?

IT may or not be the real thing, but the supposed letter of rebel Col. Gregorio B. Honasan to his Commander-in-Chief is as timely and relevant a commentary on the state of the nation as the visit of the American Vice President.

Mrs. Aquino would most probably ignore the letter entirely, dismissing it as mere propaganda, timed as it was during the Quayle visit. Her bum advisers would tell her it was not worth the paper it was written on, that the charges it contained are but figments of Honasan's vivid imagination, that she is doing excellently and just on the way to being the greatest President this country ever produced. And the naive lady President will smile and bestow her blessing on the lapdogs who paint for her a rosy picture of the country while everything around us is disintegrating.

Addressing Mrs. Aquino, Honasan concluded, after reciting a litany of administration sins: "We (soldiers of the Filipino people and allied organizations) are convinced that you have lost the moral and constitutional authority to govern the country, and it's time for you to step down immediately." On this plea, he stands on clear ground; a majority of Filipinos are of the opinion that only her resignation could save the country from the tragedy that awaits it should Mrs. Aquino continue to rule.

There's nothing in Honasan's lament that the people do not know nor have not suffered from. But it serves to focus once more the shortcomings and inadequacies that spell the failure of this administration in a short span of three and a half years, from the euphoria and shining hopes of EDSA. His accusations unerringly find the target, not unlike the homing pigeon whose route is clear and true. Consider the following:

Item: "You have repeated, in many ways even surpassed, the evils some of your predecessors have committed. Worse, you even called us enemies of the state while at the same time you treated as martyrs the real enemies of the people... consequently crime, terrorism and rebellion have become daily occurrences throughout the land. There is breakdown of leadership in every part of the bureaucracy because you have distributed the norm of incompetence by removing qualified officials and employes and replacing them with your own proteges. You destroyed the military by creating your own power base with barnacles, misfits and the corrupt.

Item: "You have continuously violated the Constitution and turned our democratic institutions into self-serving instruments of many of your own relatives, friends and political followers to commit graft and corruption, organize private armies, to allow hard-core leftists to join the government, to allow all kinds of smuggling, to abuse the media and to play around the lives of the majority of our citizens who are wallowing in poverty.

Item: "Our people are no longer safe because it is only in your administration where men in uniform who were sworn to uphold the law have themselves become criminals, robbing banks, killing innocent civilians, protecting illegal gambling, engaging in gun smuggling and serving as members of your yellow army."

The letter is "pure fiction" according to Camp Crame after comparing the signature specimen in the letter from the usual signature of Honasan, and even a close Honasan associate said it was not his style, referring to the sentence construction.

But whatever the motive of the sender, granting it was not Honasan himself, does not detract from the general contents of the epistle. It may not be as comprehensive as many would want it to be but it summarizes a popular lamentation of the people under the rule of Mrs. Aquino and therefore, should serve some purpose.

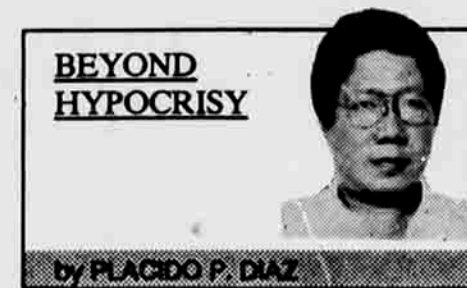


Coup and recoup

WE ARE becoming so fed up with tales and rumors of coups we are ready to blow. Especially after reading ex-Governor of Sorsogon Juan Frivaldo's *Let There Be Light* column in *WE FORUM*. It is indeed becoming clear that behind the smokescreen provided by the failed coups, Marcos and his cronies have succeeded in recouping their lost billions. To recoup is to recover. So what economic recovery are we talking about under the Aquino administration? Or more precisely: whose economic recovery?

Cory Aquino's financiers have already recouped their investment in her candidacy and are still happily lapping up her largesse. No cause for complaint there: to the victors the spoils. But for Ali Baba and the sixty thieves to recoup much of their hoard and for some of them to end up snugly in the cabinet of the Our Lady Puro Viaje, why, that's coup par excellence. The IMF-WB is also busy recouping what they loaned to their partner in crime Marcos, euphemistically termed our foreign debt. What a coup, also!

The military are likewise recouping through the criminal syndicates they have established and are protecting and through their takes from illegal gambling, and are keeping critics at bay with threats of coups. What a way to recoup! Foolproof! What intelligence! We are shamefaced after



BEYOND HYPOCRISY

by FLACIDO P. DIAZ

denigrating military tactics. They are really winning the war on all fronts. Nowhere do they stand to lose!

It is only we, the ordinary citizens of this so-called restored democracy who have not recouped anything except to rant and rave the way we are doing here as much as we dare. But we can be silenced anytime, and for good. That is, for their good. One raid, and we insects will be exterminated. But we have one ace up our sleeve: let's play it now and stage our own coup. They have to keep us alive, for with us dead or in prison, who will pay the IMF-WB? Ha, ha, ha! Without us, they cannot continue to recoup.

Is that any consolation? You damned Flips? Hey, Larry Henares, why don't you run yourself against Cory in 1992 instead of campaigning for Fidel Ramos so we can at least have some fun, coups and recoups notwithstanding?

We Forum

MEMBER

PII

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FERDINAND EDRALIN MARCOS

Ferdinand Edralin Marcos is dead. But no matter how one knew him and perceived him, or how one hated or loved him, memories of the former dictator will long linger. And when the final chapter of Philippine history is written, he had secured for

himself a niche. How kindly or fondly history will treat him will depend not only on the writer but the reader, as well.

Here, in this spread, are file photos of *We Forum* depicting the Ilocano leader's rise and fall, his beginning and his end.



Marcos as a young soldier: Medals galore.



Marcos family portrait: Ferdinand (10-years-old) at right, beside father, Mariano, and younger sister, Elizabeth (then 6). Brother, Pacifico, (then 8) stands near mother, Dona Josefa.



Senate Speaker Marcos: On the way to the Presidency.



Typical stance of a grizzled politician.



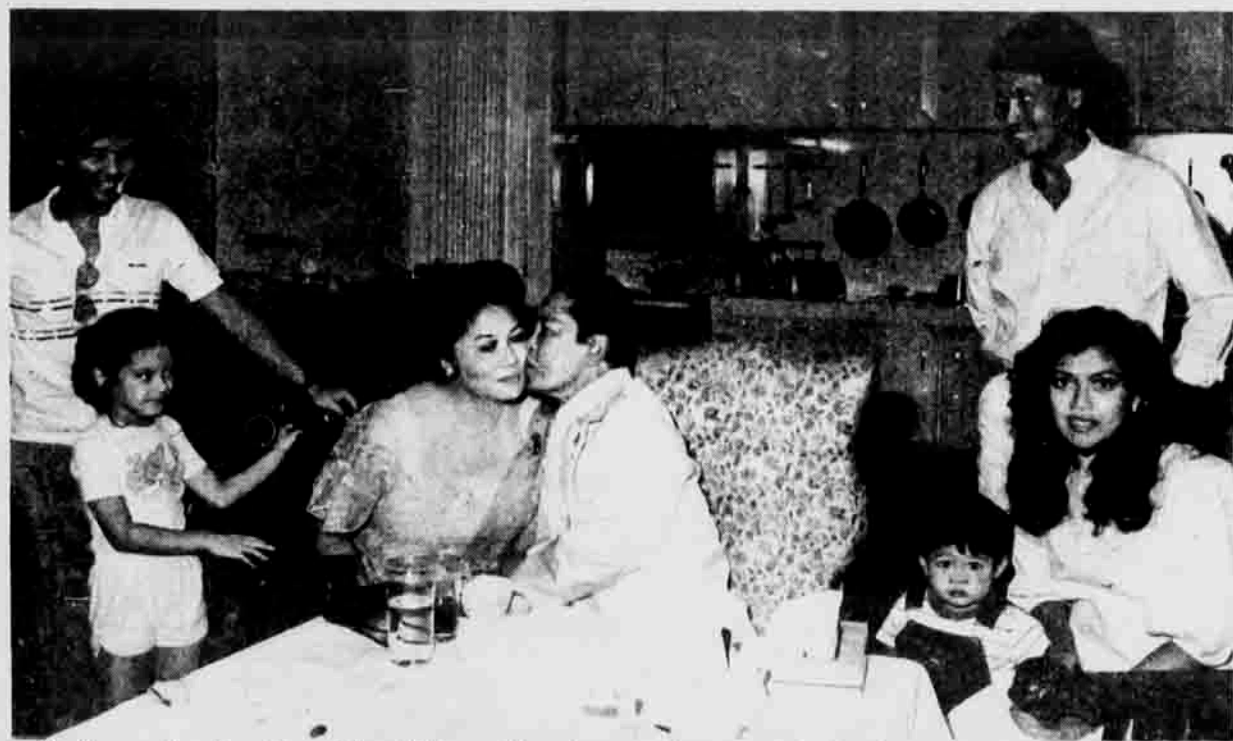
A different Marcos: Keeping his illness a secret.



Marcos with defense and military officials: Military rule.



In Honolulu: Life in exile.



A buzz for Imelda with children (Bongbong, Imee with husband Tommy Manotoc) and grandchildren.



Marcos with running mate Arturo Tolentino during the 1986 snap polls.



With the huge Marcos bust in the background, then candidates Cory Aquino and Doy Laurel flash the "Laban" sign.

PEOPLE'S FORUM



From a PR practitioner

WHATEVER HIS motives may be, columnist Ernesto R. Rodriguez is wrong on his claims against a "public relations counselor" in his column today, because:

1. Rep. Nicanor G. de Guzman Jr. is definitely not an "asshole;" he is the victim of detractors feeding media with false claims and manufactured evidence to convict him by publicity. The court will prove this, and it is best to wait for its verdict.

2. Jai alai had been introduced in the country in 1940 by the Madrigal family when the late President Manuel L. Quezon himself inaugurated the game as the only one of its kind in Southeast Asia.

House Bill 24632 which proposes to revive the game precisely aims at breaking the backs of illegal gambling operators. The public now appreciates this.

3. The "Portuguese carpetbagger from Macao" that Mr. Rodriguez refers to does not exist. No less than the Macau government specifically denied that it ever issued a Portuguese passport to Mr. Willie Yu, the PR man's client, who was a victim of Mr. Rodriguez's comadre, Miriam Defensor Santiago.

Mr. Yu is a legitimate Filipino businessman who was born in Manila and never left and returned to the country on a foreign passport. The Supreme Court has yet to act on his petition for a reconsideration of his case.

"All hits, all errors" as Mr. Rodriguez claims? That is his personal conclusion against a PR man who has yet to know why Mr. Rodriguez insults him so.

Best regards always.

ADY SISON

Pro jai-alai

BUKIDNON REP. Jose Zubiri has not only endorsed the maintenance of gambling casinos but has also filed House Bill 1802, authorizing the Gaming and Fowls Commission to issue licenses for cockfighting in barangays throughout the country.

In my view, these actuations of the "honorable" congressman make him a hypocrite, especially with regard to his vehement opposition to House Bill 24632 for the revival of the jai alai games that illegal gambling operators oppose.

H. B. 24632 will revive the integrity of jai alai as "the game of a thousand thrills" introduced by the Madrigal family into the Phil-

(Page 11, please)

Quayle contradicts Bush on Marcos's 'democratic' rule

ON JUNE 25, 1984, I received a letter from Ramon A. Tagle, Jr., secretary general of The Christian Social Movement ("towards building the Kingdom within and among people"), Gilmore Building 692 Aurora Blvd., corner Gilmore, Quezon City, which read:

Mr. Ernie Rodriguez
c/o MALAYA
West Avenue, Q.C.

Dear Ernie,

This book was sent by Raul last May 20 when I came home from Washington (sic). Sorry for the delay in giving it to you. In case you want Raul's address:

6616 Melrose Drive
McLean, VA 22101

I am not sure you know me, but I have heard of you since my high school days (1951-'53), during my college days and thru my professional career. If I am not mistaken, you do know my father, Ramon Sr., former publisher and business manager of the Philippine (sic) Commonweal, later called The Sentinel. (Ramon Sr. was on the advertising staff of the Ateneo de Manila's The Guidon when I was the publication's editor-in-chief during the school year 1930-1931. He was also my

publisher when I was managing editor of the Philippines Commonweal and associate editor of The Manila Morning Sun. -- ERR)

I now write a column on Sundays for *Malaya*. I used to edit Philippine Concerns. Enclosed are sample issues. Since I quit CFA, Philippine Concerns has not come out.

Hope to meet you personally.

Sincerely yours,

(Sgd.) Ramon Tagle, Jr.

The book he sent me is entitled "A Pen for Democracy," issued by the Washington Office of the Movement for a Free Philippines (MFP). On the first page is inscribed in long hand:

Washington, D.C.
May 17, 1984

To Ernie Rodriguez,
Who is a truly perennial, young fighter for freedom.

With my admiration,

(Sgd.) Raul S. Manglapus.

Turning to page 227 of Manglapus' book is a facsimile of the op-ed page of *The New York Times* issue of Friday, July 10, 1981, entitled, "Buttery Toast in Manila" by Raul

POLITICS & POLITICOS



by ERNESTO R. RODRIGUEZ, JR.

S. Manglapus, whose opening paragraph reads:

"McLEAN, Va. -- Before Vice President Bush's celebrated Presidential inauguration toast to Ferdinand E. Marcos -- 'We love your adherence to democratic principle and to the democratic processes' -- passes forever into the satirists' domain, let us not forget that this startling obeisance is a natural expression of President Reagan's foreign policy."

That was less than a decade ago. Now, George Bush's successor as vice president, James Danforth Quayle, tells us: "She (President Aquino) is the one that was able to change this country from one that was not a democracy to a country that is now a democracy. And of course, human rights and democracy go hand in globe." (*Philippine Daily Inquirer*, p. 6, September 28, 1989.)

Does this pronouncement of Vice President Quayle mean that he has now disowned a toast made by his predecessor in office, who now happens to be his president, therefore his immediate

(Page 14, please)

Lost papers in the Ombudsman

FOR WANT of a nail, a kingdom was lost--the old saw runs.

Today that refrain runs through a government system of bureaucracy, negligence and possible graft. Take this vivid example of our fight against corruption in Sorsogon.

After I was inaugurated to my sixth term as governor of Sorsogon, I immediately saw Commission on Audit Chairman Fem Domingo to request a team of auditors to go over the books of some government offices. The Marcos administration has become notorious for graft and I wanted to start my administration clean. Besides, corruption was my top issue.

Fem Domingo willingly sent a three-man team to Sorsogon. For two months the team scrutinized as many records of possible anomalies. The team eventually submitted a 41-page report on irregularities in the province. About P15 million was allegedly lost to graft by the province.

I personally handed the COA report to Ombudsman Conrado Vasquez who congratulated me for my fight against corruption. He received the report, handed it to his secretary, properly receipted. That was October 27, 1988.

Eleven months passed and no word from Ombudsman Vasquez. Meantime, the people involved in those anomalies had been shouting over the radio in Sorsogon that my campaign against corruption is all talk. Proof is, they said, there are no charges against them in any court. I was puzzled. Last

month, I phoned the office of the Ombudsman and was told my papers could have been sent to the Sandigan at the old Congress building. I saw Judge Guerrero, a very upright prosecutor, and he ordered a thorough search of their records. No trace of the papers.

Yesterday I personally went to the Ombudsman offices of Justice Vasquez and Justice Colayco. Both were out on a conference but I inquired from their secretaries. Nanette, secretary of Justice Vasquez, admitted they could not trace the papers. I told her I personally handed the papers to Justice Vasquez and had it properly receipted. Nanette said the girl who received my papers has gone to America. No papers were entrusted to her by the old clerk. I went to the second floor where they have a new computer system installed only a few months ago. No trace of the papers, either. I was getting very much concerned. I told the staff that because somebody stole or lost or sold those papers, we were delayed eleven months. The people involved in those anomalies had covered their tracks. Meantime, I who launched the crusade against corrupt officials was the one ousted from the governorship on my sixth term--because some of the people involved in those anomalies had launched a vicious campaign that I am an American citizen.

To remedy the situation, I requested COA to furnish me extra copies of the report which I personally delivered to the office of Ombudsman Vasquez. I appealed very hard

LET THERE BE LIGHT



by JUAN G. FRIVALDO

to the staffers there, "Please do not lose this report again."

The funny part of this eleven-month delay is that while the corrupt officials involved in those report had possibly covered their tracks, some have been recalled back to service.

That is the irony of Cory's loudly heralded drive for transparency; bureaucracy, inefficiency and the hangover of the Marcos system of corruption are producing the opposite result.

Justices Vasquez and Colayco are very honest and upright persons. But what can they do if some of their subalterns purposely lost the paper or sold them to the denounced persons.

Today I not only pray the second set of papers are not lost again, but proper investigations are pursued honestly. The ballpark is with Ombudsman.

Now I am wondering how many reports of investigations have met the same fate as my request. There is a general clamor now "for that one big fish."

Would the COA report I submitted catch a dilis?

Doy confirms his international stature

I RECEIVED a letter from one who calls himself "concerned labor personnel" and he wants my opinion whether Labor Secretary Franklin Drilon is liable for violation of the Anti-Graft law since according to this writer, Mr. Drilon "continues to hold a substantial pecuniary interest in the ACCRA Law office in which Mrs. Violeta Drilon is a principal partner." According to the writer, "the ACCRA Law office is the winningest law office in the labor department, with the largest clientele among big business employers with legal fees running into millions redounding to the conjugal income of Secretary and Mrs. Drilon". The writer adds that "in adjudicating cases handled by the ACCRA law office, Secretary Drilon is patently guilty of violating Section 7(a) of RA 6713 (Code of Conduct) that: 'public officials and employees shall not, directly or indirectly have any financial interest in any transaction requiring the approval of their office'. "The Code of Conduct", he adds: "specifically defines family interest as extending to spouses" (Sec. 3(k)).

I cannot readily answer these questions but I will certainly look into this one because the writer has raised good and relevant issues.

That was quite a signal and singular honor which Doy Laurel received when he was invited to the International Democratic Union conference in Tokyo last September 22 to 24. In fact it was not just an honor to Doy but to our people considering the prestige of the gathering which included US Vice President Dan Quayle, Lee Atwater (Chairman of the Republican National Committee) Prime Minister Maggie Thatcher of Great Britain and

Japan's Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu. The International Democratic Union is definitely a very much respected organization which includes the world's biggest and most influential parties with some 27 powerful countries in its roll. Moreover, the fact that the Vice President delivered a major address in the conference -- although he was invited only as an observer, added luster to this trip. This invitation to Doy is significant for the Nacionalista Party; it means the big leaguers in the world recognize the NP and Vice President Laurel. Definitely it proves Laurel's credentials in the international scene and will be a great asset in the future.

The Far East Bank & Trust Company is now the biggest private commercial bank in the country. It started way, way below; in fact before Pacific Bank was closed and Far East Bank took over the Pacific Bank outlets, FEBTC was far behind among leading commercial banks. So how did it prosper so fast? Simple. Jobo Fernandez who was top banana at FEBTC in the past is now Central Bank Governor. But, of course, Jobo claims to have "divested" his shares in installment over a period of 14 years to some of his relatives and friends. That's why I charged him for violating the Anti-Graft Law but I was stopped, then suspended by the Supreme Court. *Kaya nakakarma sila ngayon...*

Now they admit that former Chief Justice Teehankee, Philippine Ambassador to the United Nations is gravely ill with cancer and is in precarious condition. Remember when I

mentioned about this in my column shortly after my return from the United States last May? In fact I was wondering even then why Teehankee insists in staying on at his UN post considering his state of health and why the DFA refuses to let him go. I am sorry to say that in hindsight, having appointed Justice Teehankee to the UN was a wrong move and it did not add anything to the stature of Dindong. In fact it has been shown now that his stint in the UN has been so unspectacular. He should just have rested on his laurels as Chief Justice and had a leisurely retirement; instead, he wasted the remaining part of his life doing nothing great at the UN. Of course I pray for some miracle for Dindong; we used to be very close to each other during the martial law years; he used to come to my residence in San Juan. He was the one who inducted me to the Civil Liberties Union at the residence of Don Antonio Araneta in Forbes Park during the dark days of martial law -- Joker Arroyo and I were inducted together -- those days when so many of the people around Cory today were either romancing with Ferdinand Marcos or cowering in fear with their tails between their legs.

Some people in Zambales keep criticizing Board member and movie actor Miguel Rodriguez for his frequent absenteeism in the Board. But I tell you, even Amor Deloso is often absent, too. Many people tell me that their governor is getting more and more difficult to find at the capitol and getting more

IN MY CORNER...



by RAUL M. GONZALEZ

and more difficult to see, even in his house. Perhaps the Zambalenos should try visiting Amor in his mansion in Quezon City.

I hope that by the time this comes out, they would already have unmasked the Metro Manila congressman who is also linked to the gun smuggling scandal except that he was not caught -- unlike Jun de Guzman. I have an idea who this congressman is; I understand he was in the US last July 5 or 7 and returned with Jun de Guzman with identical-looking boxes. He is quite young with a prominent name in Metro Manila at *saka mahilig din daw sa gambling at close din sa kaibigan ni Jun. Hala bira... At saka he voted for suspension. Dapat ma-unmask na lahat yan...*

I had a good laugh when I read an item in the Bulletin about the supposed complaint of two "Grand Knights" of Columbus in Zambales, saying that my wife is trying to upstage them in the electrification project in Sitio Tambac in Iba. You see, the Iba Municipal Treasurer, Mr. Calimlim who is past "Grand Knight" daw, was the one who sought my wife's help for this project. In good faith my wife went out of her way to give them support; now that she is supporting them, it seems that they are not happy. Why did they ask for help, in the first place?

For whom the X'mas bells toll

THE OFFICIAL agenda of activities of President Aquino on her visit to the US this November will be hectic. One schedule she purposely did not announce, because it is unofficial, is her Christmas shopping spree. If November comes, can Christmas be far behind? Even now, as early as September, we hear a lot of Christmas songs on the radio. Who can be a Scrooge to remain dull to the pervading spirit of the joyous Yuletide?

It would not be a wonder if the leader of the biggest World Bank/IMF borrower, and recipient of the most abundant aid, grants, and loan from the Marshal Plan and the EEC investment pool will play Lady Santa Claus (Santa Nicholas?).

Mrs. Aquino must have instructed her ladies-in-waiting in the Palace to canvass her political cronies for the Yuletide gift-giving extravaganza. No stone is left unturned in this canvassing among the Senators and Congressmen, Cabinet members whom she thinks should be greeted with lovely tinsel-wrapped packages according to their respective personal tastes.

The ladies-in-waiting have been asked to give their suggestions, and readily some of them mentioned Uzi guns, automatic rifles, Magnum silencer .38 cal., Spanish Ruby handguns, and double barreled shotguns

are appropriate giveaways.

Others recommended perfumes, and the names and brands came in thick: Jean Patou Joy, Paco Rabanne, Tamango, Maja, Poison, Passion, Diorissimo, Oleg Cassini, Haute Couture, Givenchy, Chanel No. 5, lotion and cologne for men and women. These are all familiar with the Malacanang ladies around Mrs. Aquino.

Some mentioned "The secret of Oriental beauty."

"What is that?" Mrs. Aquino must have asked.

"Kokuryu cosmetics," said one lady-in-waiting, "Dreamy lotion, summer cake, herbal shampoo, lipstick, a set of them for each Palace friend. They are Japanese products manufactured under license by Cherry Laboratory, Inc. They are formulated by the best Filipino chemists and sold in attractive containers by Cherry Lab marketing organization, Cosmos Bazar."

"Put Kokuryu on our Christmas shopping list then. We can buy truckloads of them if they are available here," she said, "and surely not so expensive as Jean Patou or Christian Dior items."

The shopping list finished, President Aquino must have instructed the giggling, not-so-young ladies-in-waiting to list down

the recipients of the planeload of Christmas items from USA. Their next meeting on this unofficial but most important activity during the November visit in America would be in October.

Come October, those ladies-in-waiting would certainly be around for further discussion of details of the shopping spree. But the giggling not-so-young secretaries and hangers-on will be sitting around, come cool October, with long faces. They could not give a line-by-line, item-by-item report on the Christmas gift distribution extravaganza. Who will receive what gun or perfume or Kokuryu cosmetics?

The women would have found out to their dismay that most if not all of the Senators, Congressmen, Cabinet members, technical advisers will be out of the country on Christmas for their own shopping spree too and to get away from their friends and their constituencies. The women Palace attendants will have found out that the legislators, Cabinet members, and technical assistants shall have drawn their salaries, allowances, bonuses, in advance until January 1, 1990. Most of them will be back in the country after the New Year.

So, ask not for whom the Christmas bells and bills toll... They toll for thee, taxpayers,

TOWN CRIER



by VIC BARRANCO

schoolteachers, factory workers, peasants; for thee, little employes, little factory workers, little hoi-polloi, little creatures and children of God.

People's Forum

(From page 10)

ippines in 1940 when the late President Manuel L. Quezon inaugurated and lauded it as the only one of its kind in Southeast Asia.

The proposed measure will not only generate badly needed government revenues that increase from P700 million to more than P1 billion yearly, but will also restore the means of livelihood of 3,200 workers and their 16,000 dependents, and provide resources to various laudable, charitable, social and civic projects.

But most important of all, H. B. 24632 will break the backs of illegal operators of masiao, sakla, "last two," and other forms of banned gambling.

RODOLFO D. BANZON
NDC Compound, Sta Mesa

Preparation for and conduct of trial -(61)

10.29. Objection to the competency of the evidence

WHEN PARTICULAR types of evidence are excluded by law under certain circumstances, such as confessions obtained by force, violence or intimidation, or where the accused was not assisted by counsel or informed of his constitutional rights (Sec. 12, Art. III, 1987 Constitution), the admissibility of the same as evidence may be objected to.

The 1987 Constitution, like the 1973 one, is explicit in saying that any confession obtained in violation of the right of any person under investigation to be informed of his right to remain silent and to have competent and independent counsel, preferably of his own choice as well as of the other rights guaranteed in the provisions of Sections 12 and 17, Article III, "shall be inadmissible in evidence."

In like manner, the Constitution also declares as "inadmissible for any purpose in any proceeding" any evidence obtained in violation of the constitutional right to privacy of communication and correspondence as well as any evidence obtained thru illegal or unreasonable searches and seizures (Sec. 3, Art. III).

This class of evidence is therefore objectionable for being incompetent.

Another example of incompetent evidence that is objectionable because it is excluded by law is the affidavit required by the 1985 Rules on Criminal Procedure to be executed by a proposed state witness to be

submitted by the prosecution to the court as a basis for a motion to discharge an accused who has become a witness for the state.

Under Section 9, Rule 119 of said Rules, when the prosecution desires to use a co-accused as state witness, and for this reason files a motion to discharge him from the information, the motion must be accompanied by a sworn statement of the proposed testimony. However, should the court deny the motion for discharge, the said sworn statement SHALL NOT BE ADMISSIBLE IN EVIDENCE, which means that it cannot be used against the other accused, although under the Rules the evidence adduced in support of the discharge automatically forms part of the trial, because it would be hearsay. It also means that the sworn statement cannot be used as evidence of admission against the affiant himself. Such use is expressly prohibited by the Rules.

Ordinarily, a sworn statement (in fact, any statement) which contains admissions against interest of the declarant is admissible in evidence against him. In this particular case, however, the Rules immunize the affiant who is a proposed state witness from the effects of his own admission by declaring that if the motion for discharge is denied by the court (and the cause of the denial is not attributable to the affiant), then the sworn statement shall be inadmissible in evidence.

This is one of the instances where the law disregards the fact and excludes the evidence on grounds of public policy and on the

constitutional principle that no person shall be compelled to testify against himself.

There are other laws which prohibit the use of evidence obtained under peculiar circumstances. These are called immunity statutes because they declare the evidence inadmissible. Statutes which require witnesses to testify in particular kinds of cases or in special proceedings but which at the same time grant them either immunity from prosecution arising out of their testimonies (transactional immunity), or at least immunity against the incriminatory use of said testimonies (use immunity) are not uncommon. Where a law gives a witness either transactional or use immunity, he may not refuse to testify. His answer may be compelled because the immunity given to him is equivalent to his constitutional privilege against self-incrimination. The constitutional privilege assures that a citizen may not be compelled to incriminate himself by his own testimony, but if the immunity statute prohibits the prosecutorial authorities from using the compelled testimony for the prosecution of the witness or prevents its use as evidence against the witness, then it affords the same protection as the privilege itself, and takes the place of the latter.

An example of an immunity statute is PD 1886 which created the AGRAVA FACT-FINDING BOARD. Section 5 of said decree compels a person to testify or produce evidence before the board even if such testimony or evidence may tend to incrimi-

LAW AND (DIS)ORDER



by ANTONIO P. CORONEL

nate him or subject him to penalty. However, it also provides that such testimony or evidence SHALL NOT BE USED AGAINST THE WITNESS, except that he shall not be exempt from prosecution and punishment for perjury he committed in so testifying.

The legal compulsion to testify would be clearly repugnant to the Constitution were it not for the protection extended against the use of the compelled testimony against the witness, except for perjury. The Supreme Court held that Section 5 of PD 1886 qualifies as an immunity statute, although the protection it extends to the witness is only against incriminatory use of his testimony in any subsequent proceeding. It does not provide for immunity against criminal prosecution for perjury. This was the reason why the testimonies of General Fabian Ver and the others were declared inadmissible as evidence against them in the first Aquino-Galman murder trial.

Another example of an immunity statute is Section 4 of Executive Order No. 14, which likewise compels testimony and the production of evidence before the PCGG but with the proviso that the witness shall not be prosecuted criminally on the basis of the

(Page 15, please)

Vice President Quack is a postman

AMERICAN VICE President Dan Quack a.k.a. Quayle, delivered a letter from President Georgeous Bush to Presidentita Cory.

The "Bush Man" is a postman.

Star headline: "Cory-Quayle one-on-one talks set today."

Tita-a-tita or quack-to quack?

Let us hope that no local institution of learning will award a doctorate degree to the visiting veep.

Otherwise he will become a "Quack doctor."

To the average American, their president is plain Bush.

To the subservient administration, the Yankee chief executive is "Almighty Bossman."

Platt apologizes to Tita Cory for US gun report.

A solicited apology?

Sen. Maceda: "I will not be cowed." Talagang toro.

Sen. Maceda revealed that unidentified men have been tailing him since he began exposing the names of people involved in bigtime gambling.

Manong Ernie, para hindi ka masundan patakbuhin mo ang iyong kotse ng

paatras.

The Task Force Anti-Gambling will be disbanded by Tita Cory.

Papalitan na lang ng Task Force Pro-Gambling?

Item: "Cory safe in Mindanao." Magkano ang laman?

Sen. Salonga assailed Pres. Aquino on poll plan.

The poll campaign finally starts.

Maj. Gen. Ramon Montano ordered the arrest of soldiers in vice dens. The gambling lords are very lucky.

CIS trains guns on vice lords. Don't train, aim.

There are close to 500 thousand applications for visas to the US pending at the American Embassy.

That is almost half a million future brown Americans.

"Someone gets robbed, killed every four minutes; raped every 5 hours." - We Forum headline of yore.

Ms. Cory is in a mess, governing a wicked nation.

According to this paper's editorial report:

"Every five hours a woman is raped in the Philippines. Every four minutes someone either steals, harms or kills another person in the country."

From bed to worst.

Ads: "Palmolive gives away P1 million to Lyn Curammeng of Olongapo City."

BIR to the newest millionaire: "Lyn, may we know your TAN?"

Item: "Clinically dead patient can sue." In heaven or hell?

Veep Quack is the spare tire of Pres. Bush.

While Veep Doy is the spared tire of Pres. Cory.

Imaginary lines between the No. 1 and No. 2.

CORY: "Dan, I was expecting Georgeous Bush."

DAN: "Sorry, Madame President but my "bush" President Bush is very "bushy."

CORY: "You mean bossy?"

DAN: "No, Madame. My President is "bushy" counting dollars for your aid."

CORY: "With no strings attached?" DAN: "No strings attached, Madame

PUNNY LINES



by FUNDADOR SORIANO

President. Just tie this rope around your beautiful neck as a guarantee that our bases will stay here till kingdom come."

Imaginary lines between Dan and wife Marilyn.

MARILYN: "Sweetheart, why are the natives shouting Yankees go home?"

DAN: "Because those communist Filipinos can't pronounce my name."

What is a Quacker's oath? The pledge of the visiting American veep when he took his oath of office.

What is a Peking duck to the Americans? A roasted Quayle.

Star editorial: "Welcome, Vice President Quayle!"

This punster's unedited message: "Goodbye, Mr. Quack!"

What is another word for sipsip? "Star."

Cordillera farmers urge DDT ban



STREET CHILDREN: Their number is swelling.

Swelling number of street children

By MA. DIOSA LABISTE

CEBU CITY -- Children who have made the streets as their home and source of livelihood are a common sight in Asia today.

Most help their families survive, and are on their own to clothe and feed themselves by doing odd jobs such as vending, scavenging or begging. Not a few have succumbed to the lure of prostitution.

In the 4th National Conference on Street Children held here last Sept. 25 to 29, Nina Hamili, who also participated in the Asian Conference on Street Children last May, identified the causes behind the proliferation of street children in Asia.

These causes can be classified as immediate (why a child flees from his home or family), underlying (why a child leaves his community or environment) and socio-economic and political.

Hamili said the immediate reason why kids abandon their families for the streets is the harshness of living with their families. These children usually come from either poor or large families

and are raised by unemployed or under-employed parents. The parents usually have low educational attainment and their values are materialistic or consumeristic.

The underlying cause of the phenomenal increase of street children in Asia has something to do with the conditions of the communities the children come from. Hamili said these communities lack access to basic social services and are deprived of adequate employment opportunities that would enable families to live decent lives.

Hamili said street children mostly come from slum and squatter areas in Asian cities as a result of the influx of families from the rural areas. These families of peasant origins are unskilled and thus land jobs that earn them little.

However, Hamili said the root cause of phenomenon of street children lies in the political, economic and ideological structures which breed poverty and unemployment.

Situational studies con-

ducted by participants from the People's Republic of China, Malaysia, Philippines and People's Republic of Vietnam have revealed that certain periods in the history of these countries contributed to the rise in the number of street children.

In China, from 1960 to 1962 -- a little more than a decade after the Chinese Revolution was in place -- the study noted there were many children living on the streets because entire families were starving due to economic difficulties faced by China in building a socialist economy. Also from 1966 to 1982, the years of the so-called Cultural Revolution, the street children population continued to swell because many were unable to attend regular schools or were not assigned regular jobs by the government.

An increase in the street children population was also noted in 1985 because of the increase in the number of "floating families" (migrants). In Beijing alone there were some 333,000

(Page 14, please)

LA TRINIDAD, Benguet -- The Department of Health's (DOH) malaria-control program in the Cordillera hinterlands has become a cause for alarm among Cordillera residents.

DOH uses DDT to spray households in Kalinga-Apayao to control malaria, say farmers and vegetable gardeners who attended a recent Pesticide Forum at the Benguet State University.

DDT -- the chemical dichloro-diphenyl-trichloroethane -- is an odorless and colorless insecticide in crystalline form.

DDT is banned in most Western countries due to its devastating effects on wildlife. Once in the environment, it accumulates in virtually all food and living things. Its toxicity also increases by accumulation in body fats at each level of the food chain.

Experts reveal that un-

controlled use of DDT has helped breed pesticide-resistant mosquitoes, causing a dramatic resurgence in malaria.

DDT has been banned in 50 countries including the US, its main producer, but is dumped in Third World Countries with less restrictive policies on pesticides.

Except for DDT, most pesticides in the human body can be detoxified by the liver, disclosed Dr. Charles Cheng, a medical specialist of the Baguio-Chinese General Hospital who has studied the effects of pesticides in the human body. One among the speakers in the forum, Dr. Cheng endorsed the total ban on the use of DDT.

Together with health workers from nongovernment agencies, the Cordillera farmers in a resolution called on concerned government authorities to come up with an alternative ap-

proach to the control of malaria.

The pesticide forum, organized by the Baguio-based Cordillera Environmental Concerns Commission, also passed resolutions urging the government to undertake a massive educational and information campaign on the proper use and disposal of pesticides. (PNF)



On September 30, 1988

JOAQUIN "Chino" ROCES

y PARDO

joined his Maker

after a lifetime of courage,

integrity and intense love

for his country and people.

In his memory,

the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass

will be offered

at the Shrine of Mount Carmel, Doña

Juana Rodriguez Avenue, Quezon City

at nine o'clock in the morning,

Saturday, September 30, 1989.

'Witchcraft' Island: Mecca for cure-seekers

SIQUIJOR, SIQUIJOR -- Visitors to this island province have discovered that their conception of voodoo bears little resemblance to the real thing.

Siquijor (pop. 80,000) is known as "witchcraft island" to many. The island has in fact been mecca for hundreds of people who seek cures from a number of **magtalabang** (healers or doctors), ask for the services of those who can do **barang** (sorcery), or, during the Lenten season, join in the assembly of medicine men and women to learn the secrets of their trade.

But both "healers" and "doctors" here are quick to say that rather than being presented as members of a secret society which inflicts harm, ailments, stupor or death to human beings, they would rather prefer to be recognized as "doctors" who happen to cure people because of their topically active potions.

These potions, made of ingredients from plants gathered from the bottom of the seas, barren scrublands, chambers of rocks, mountain summits and wells, are combined with prayers to cure the real or imagined ailments of a person.

One of the **magtalabang** who insists that she does not have any supernatural powers is Ambrosia Calunsad, 94.

Lola Busha, as she is known in Siquijor, is not your usual crone on a broomstick. She lives with her husband Francisco Sumalpong, 100, in the village of Ibabaw in a big house built after the war. Although the ceiling's corners are covered with cobwebs, straight from a haunted house movie, the walls are decorated with pictures of Caucasian calendar girls in the nude.

Lola Busha attributes her health to her diet. She eats nothing but vegetables, cassava and corn. Her simple

fare, however, is regularly complemented by bottles of wine she downs at the village store and by unlit cigars she jams into her mouth. Every Sunday the villagers always notice her walking towards the town's cockpit to bet or "to unwind," as she puts it.

Of the healers on the island, it is Lola Busha who has attracted a lot of patients not only in Siquijor but even as far as Mindanao and Manila. She is reputed to have cured former First Lady Imelda Marcos in the early 70s when the latter's legs developed a scale-like texture.

Lola Busha said this happened when the San Juanico bridge linking Samar and Leyte (Imelda's home province) was being constructed and a block of concrete fell on a merman. A **sumpa** (curse) was thus put on Imelda by a mermaid.

Imelda according to the old woman, fetched her by

helicopter. She was flown to Malacanang where she stayed for three days until the First Lady was cured.

Lola Busha started as a midwife after she had three children. She said she heard whispered messages from the Virgin Mary who told her she would be a medicine woman.

She says she can tell what kind of ailment a person has by listening to the beat of his pulse, at technique which she has refined to an uncanny degree.

Her knowledge of medicinal plants in the forests or around her place would put any schooled ethnobotanist to shame. She can identify plants that can cure most ailments, including those caused by black magic. Some of these, she said, are grown in peasants' home, like lemon grass, tobacco leaves, **tuble vines** and all sorts of weeds that grow wild in one's backyard.

Lola Busha said these herbs are cooked with coconut oil (taken from a single coconut that faces the southwest) during Black Saturday because "it is the only time spirits unleash their powers because Christ is dead."

Until now there has not been much pharmacological evidence to support the **mananambal** claim that their medicines indeed work. Until research verifies the healers' claims, the peasant folk who compose the bulk of the healers, patients will continue to spread the word that the healers have supernatural powers.

Stories abound of healers' cures, however.

Bolo-bolo is one such "cure." This is meant to cure **buyag** (curses). Islanders say the healer needs only to touch the victim, and rub potions on his stomach for bits of dried twigs, grass or insects to come from him.

Another method is **si-ging-siging**, a "cure" for sickness caused by traumatic experiences which have developed into rashes, infections or boils. The healer prescribes some herbs, and rubs a potion on the victim's body while he recites the Apostle's Creed.

Tawal is done by the healer as he recites Latin incantations. The victim is supposed to be "cured of insect bites, snake bites and broken bones in his procedure."

Peasant folk also say their sorcerers can also harm or kill through such methods as **paktol**, **barang**, **hapli** and **laga**. These are performed only on Tuesdays, Wednesdays or Fridays, or during the shift from the first phase of the last quarter of the moon to the earliest phase of the first quarter.

In **paktol**, parts of the victim's body -- hair, feces, urine -- are cooked in a potion with coconut oil. The victim is supposed to die as a result.

In **barang**, the sorcerer commands tiny bits of insects to enter a body. **Hapli** is the traditional curse, done with a clay or wooden doll which represents the victim, which the sorcerer pricks with a needle. The pain is supposed to be felt by the victim who is relieved only when the needle is taken out.

In **laga**, sea water is boiled with some items stolen from the victim. The sorcerer decides what part of the victim's body would be in great pain by feigning pain during the ceremony. (PNF)

Ernesto RODRIGUEZ

(From page 10)

boss? How dare he dispute his President! What Mr. Bush then said as "adherence to democratic principle and to the democratic processes" was after all, after a matter of a few years, in the words of Mr. Quayle, not so -- not a democracy. As the Latins would say: "Quantum mutatis ab illo" or, better still, "O tempora! O mores!" O the times! O the morals!

In any case, I feel reassured by a few statements made by the Robert Redford of Indiana, like "...this is a new beginning in a relationship that recognizes the importance of the democracy here in the Philippines, recognizes the host nation's involvement

and recognizes the sovereignty and the dignity of the people."

Indeed, the bottomline in Philippine-American relations is recognition by the United States of the sovereignty and dignity of the Filipino people.

From where I sit, I see where the President is at long last trying to institute reforms in the prosecution arm of the national government. She has fired and disciplined several prosecutors, obviously upon the prodding of my friend Justice Secretary Sedfrey A. Ordonez. This must be the result of that stern warning Mrs. Aquino had levelled at the Department of Justice for sleeping on its job. That's the only way to get things done. Tell them to

produce or else.

There is something disturbing though about the report that Pasay City prosecutor Francisco Villa is seeking the inhibition of Pasay City Judge Sergio Amoney from hearing the case of the notorious Rep. Nicanor de Guzman, Jr. "following reports that the judge had approved the temporary release of several criminal suspects under alleged anomalous circumstances." (*Malaya*, September 28, 1989.)

Villa has every reason to worry considering the fact that in the De Guzman case there are so many in power who are interested in the matter, men who will be difficult to refuse. If Villa's charges are found to be well-evidenced, why does not the Supreme Court not only inhibit, but actually dismiss, the

erring judge? The *res ipsa loquitur* theory can be taken into consideration in this case. Let the chips fall where they may. Because this is one case where justice will have to be done though the heavens fall.

A Filipina, Dolores Sibonga, who has been elected to the city council of Seattle, Washington, USA three times, is reportedly running for mayor in the November elections of that big city in America's northwest. If she makes it she will be the first American of Filipino descent who will have made it big in her part of the world.

The Asians, the Hispanics, let alone the blacks, are now making their influence felt in the "land of the free and the home of the brave." More power to them!

Swelling

(From page 13)

floating families in 1978, this number increasing to 1.3 million in 1987. In Shanghai, floating families numbered some 1.8 million, and many were said to have been looking for jobs for "entertainment or excitement."

In Malaysia, the street children are non-Malaysians, according to the government. They are reported to be children of illegal mi-

grants lured by economic opportunities in developing Malaysia. According to the government, street children are engaged in such crime-related activities as drug-pushing, prostitution and petty thefts.

In the People's Republic of Vietnam, as in China, political and economic upheavals contributed to the proliferation of street children. Before 1975 (during the American occupation of Vietnam) for example, war displaced so many families

that children were left on their own in the streets to organize gangs dreaded even by the police.

At present, old and new political pressures have caused social problems, among them juvenile delinquency. According to the study, some 35,000 youths are arrested every year and most of them come from Ho Chi Minh City (formerly Saigon). Moreover, the study said that the failure of economic policies of creating "new economic zones" also

left families homeless. Many resorted to stealing money and motorbikes and street children were known for other notorious escapades.

In the Philippines, the rising number of teeners and pre-teeners working or living in the streets began to be felt in 1970. As poverty levels soared and a high inflation rate lowered the purchasing power of the peso, the number of street kids also increased.

One study pointed out

that external shocks such as the 1979 price increase and the 1980-1982 global recession further strained structural weaknesses such as the vulnerability of the economy to external inflation and severe poverty, thus affecting a large portion of the population. Thus in 1983, the street children said their primary reason for being in the streets was "to earn a living."

Studies on street children from Asian cities are

far from comprehensive and complete, however. Most of these studies are descriptive in nature and focus on the situation of the street children rather than the structural problems which have led to the proliferation of street children.

Hamili said more studies should tackle the underlying and root causes of the problem, such as the economic and political powerlessness of the families the street kids come from. (PNF)

Read your Constitution, Salonga tells Mitra

SENATE PRESIDENT Jovito Salonga yesterday prodded House Speaker Ramon V. Mitra to "re-read your Constitution" and to "stop playing games" with the Filipino people over the issue of the American bases in the Philippines.

Salonga was reacting sharply to Mitra's adamant stand favoring a referendum before the Senate can act on any treaty on the fate of American facilities in Clark (Pampanga) and Subic (Zambales).

According to Salonga,

the Constitution itself prohibits the holding of a referendum before a new treaty is signed.

Salonga further said that this provision of the Constitution has more weight because it was approved and ratified by the people in February 1987 and was not merely passed through a plebiscite.

"Let him re-read his Constitution. I ask everyone to give a little more support to what the Constitution says in Section 25 of the transitory provisions. Let us

respect the Constitution, and tell the truth to our people." Salonga was quoted as saying.

Building collapses; 4 killed

Four persons were killed and eighteen others were injured, nine of them in critical condition, when the wall of the building they were working on collapsed yesterday afternoon at the site of the Uniwide Department store on Don Mariano Marcos Ave., near the boundaries of Pasig, Cainta and Marikina.

Those killed were identified as Jose Canieza, Benny Dumadag, Juan Matanreza and another who remained unidentified as of press time.

coherent and consistent policy involving protest actions as principal element of true democracy, Aquino said that violent dispersals done by military and police forces may alienate some sectors from the government.

Expressing support to the protesters' valid position, Aquino said: "We should guarantee the people of their basic constitutional rights, not just a simple re-hash of the policies practised during the Marcos regime."



SALONGA



MITRA

SGS probe pressed

THREE SENATORS yesterday sought an immediate inquiry on the expanded pre-shipment contract awarded to the Societe-Generale de Surveillance (SGS) following reports that this would entail the expenditure of substantial government funds amounting to more than P100 million a year.

Sens. Heherson Alvarez, Mamintal Tamano and Teofisto Guingona, Jr. observed in their Resolution No. 644 that there is a trend among the countries that adopted the pre-shipment inspection system to designate at least two or more contractors.

The Senators also asked

for an inquiry on the circumstances and basis of the government for the selection of award to the SGS through pre-shipment contract with South Korea, Indonesia, Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand and Brunei following complaints of some irregularities in the process. (OA)

Arrest of protesters condemned by TFDP, 'Butz' seeks inquiry

SEN. AGAPITO "Butz" Aquino yesterday asked for an immediate investigation into the dispersal operations conducted the other day by military and police authorities against the various cause-oriented groups that protested the visit of US Vice President Dan Quayle.

Expressing his disappointment and sadness, Aquino viewed the protesters' arrest as a curtailment of their constitutional right to free speech.

Asking the authorities to reevaluate police and military policies related to mass actions, the President's brother-in-law noted that the arrest was made while the demonstrators were just assembling.

At the same time, the Task Force Detainees of the Philippines (TFDP) strongly condemned the arrest of more than 150 members of

various cause-oriented groups who staged a protest rally against Quayle near the Manila City Hall.

TFDP said that this was a violation of their right to air their grievances.

They added that the "Philippine government places more value on the interest of the Americans than that of the Filipino people."

Twenty-one of those arrested, meanwhile, were transferred to the city jail after police filed charges of illegal assembly and assault against them.

He pointed out that the military action against the airport demonstration may impair meaningful public discussion of issues involving the United States, particularly the foreign bases issue.

Calling on the authorities to come out with a

Antonio CORONEL (From page 12)

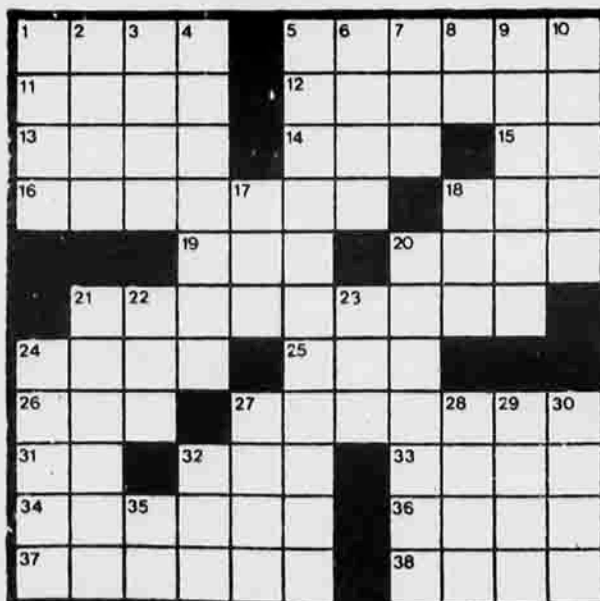
compelled testimony or evidence presented by him if he invokes his privilege against self-incrimination.

It will be noted that while the Agrava Board Decree provided only from use of immunity and did not exempt the witness from criminal prosecution, the PCGG Executive Order provides for absolute transactional immunity, i.e., immunity against criminal prosecution, by declaring that "no individual shall be prosecuted criminally" in connection with his compelled testimony or other evidence. Executive Order No. 14 even goes further and authorizes the PCGG to grant immunity from prosecution to the witness.

In any event, the rule is well-settled that evidence given under an immunity statute (whether the immunity is transactional or only use immunity) is inadmissible as evidence and therefore may be objected to as incompetent.

Forum Crossword

By JOSEPH JACOB



ACROSS

- 1 Young woman
- 5 Makes happy
- 11 Swear
- 12 Trice
- 13 New Guinea islands
- 14 Paid athlete
- 15 Preposition
- 16 Exhaust
- 18 Evergreen tree
- 19 Attempt
- 20 Duration
- 21 Visitor's day: 2 wds.
- 24 Headliner
- 25 Arista
- 26 —en-Provence, France
- 27 Showed scorn
- 31 Behold!
- 32 Half-way
- 33 Siodina's warning cry
- 34 Landed property
- 36 Preposition
- 37 Repaired
- 38 In case

DOWN

- 1 Burden
- 2 Swiss river
- 3 Cease
- 4 Asylum
- 5 How our contingent arrives from the Olympic Games

6 Legend

- 7 I love, to Don Juan
- 8 Symbol for tellurium
- 9 Undivided
- 10 Rage
- 17 Sea eagle
- 18 Sacred city
- 20 Melodic
- 21 Idle
- 22 — Romana
- 23 Be indebted
- 24 Witch city
- 27 Location
- 28 Thick cable
- 29 Love god
- 31 Fender damage
- 32 Insance
- 35 Ton: abbr.

(Answer to previous puzzle)



We Forum

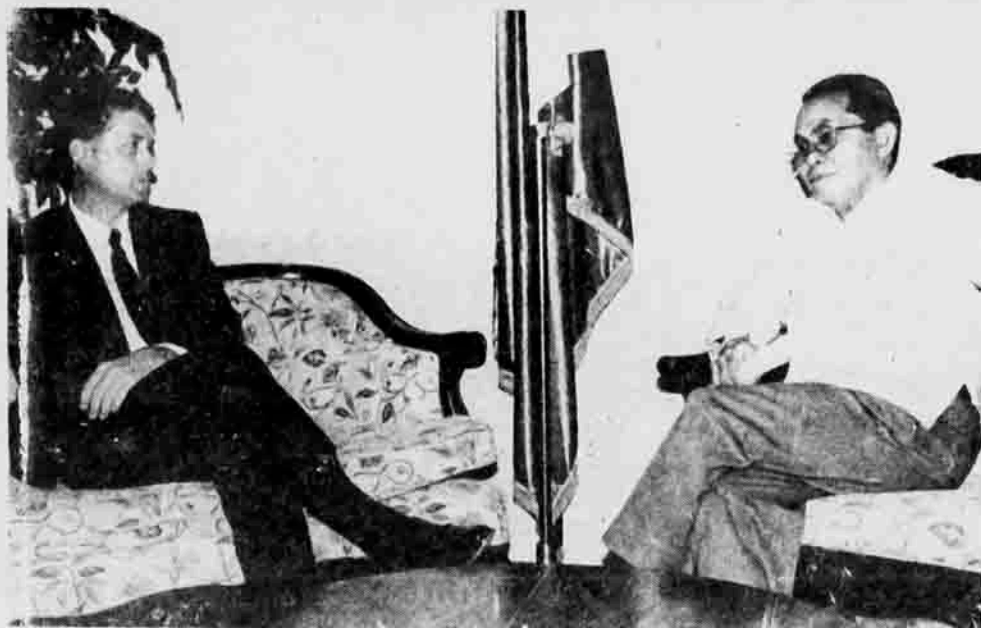
16 * FRIDAY

SEPTEMBER 29, 1989

p 2 only

IN METRO MANILA

Solons press RP venue for bases talks



VISIT: Vice President Quayle with Senate President Jovito Salonga.

An optimistic Quayle leaves RP

US VICE President Dan Quayle left yesterday for Malaysia on the last leg of his Asian tour.

Prior to his departure, Quayle expressed confidence that the Philippines and the United States will be able to forge a "suitable and acceptable agreement" regarding the US military bases in the country.

Quayle said he was opti-

mistic that this agreement will lead to an extension of the stay of the US facilities in Clark (Pampanga) and Subic (Zambales).

"I am confident that we will find a mutually acceptable agreement on the future of our bases here in the Philippines. I am hopeful that that mutually acceptable agreement will be one of longtime involvement for

the United States of America. We are committed to peace, we are committed to freedom, we are committed to democracy. We are also committed to economic development of the Philippines, economic growth and finally, the issue of security and stability," Quayle said in a speech he delivered before his departure. (Maricar Molina)

Aquino on RP-US bases talks

President Aquino's statement accepting the proposal for negotiation on the US bases:

I have accepted the proposal of the U.S. Government that our representatives meet in December to begin discussion on

our future security relationship. This only means that a Philippine panel, the composition of which is still under study, will meet with the American panel. The continuation of the discussions may or may not lead to a new bases

agreement. The Philippine panel will be guided by what we believe to be in our national interest and no other. All concerned sectors, private and public, including the bases council will be consulted in the course of the discussions.

SEVERAL SENATORS yesterday stressed that negotiations regarding the US military bases agreement should be done in the Philippines to avoid any undue pressure the United States might apply on the President and her negotiators.

This was the senators' reaction to the proposal of US Pres. George Bush that the talks on the US bases begin this coming December.

Reacting to Bush's proposal, Sen Joseph Estrada said that since the bases are here, therefore the talks should be held here and not in the United States, lest we become victims of a "home-town decision".

"That has happened to us before. We were being persuaded to go to America but we refused. We insisted on (holding the talks in) the Philippines. The military bases are here. It is our country that is involved, you (Americans) go there," Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile said.

Sen. Orlando Mercado on the other hand said: "Historically, we all know that when the negotiations are brought in the US, they are concluded immediately. It is better here (Philippines) because we are the ones concerned."

At the same time, Sen. Heherson Alvarez also expressed his agreement that the bases talks should be held here, saying that the negotiators can have the chance to inspect the bases anytime. (Maricar Molina)

Marcos is dead

(From page 1)

unit after a series of treatment and a kidney operation. He had been in a coma ever since his operation two months ago.

But Col. Arturo Aruiza, a spokesman of the Marcos family, vehemently denied Gomez's statement, saying that it was an unchristian thing for Gomez to do.

"The family of President Marcos never even thought pulling out the life support of Marcos," he told a radio station.

The death of Marcos, who ruled the Philippines for years, 14 of which were under martial law, was first relayed to radio station DZRH by Mayor Manuel Ortega of San Fernando, La Union, at about 7:30 o'clock last night. Shortly later, the news of Marcos' demise spread like wildfire throughout Metro Manila as TV and radio stations broadcast the news.

The death of Marcos came while President Aquino was at the Philippine International Convention Center attending a testimonial dinner for ex-President Diosdado Macapagal whom Marcos defeated in the 1965 presidential elections.

PRESIDENT AQUINO yesterday expressed deep condolences to the family of Marcos.

In a statement read by her assistant press secretary, Mrs. Aquino said:

"We note the passing of Ferdinand E. Marcos, former President of the Philippines. Speaking for the nation, I can say that he touched the life of every Filipino who was his contemporary as no other Filipino leader did before him. His rule changed our country, in what ways he changed it, I leave for now to others and ultimately to history to describe. For at this moment of passage, we must allow such a loss to transcend for his family politics and history and the opinion of men and women. No one should trudge on the dignity of this painful moment in the life of a family. I personally dole deeply with the family he leaves behind with sincerity for I and my children know the pain of such a loss. It is therefore with deep regret that I must reiterate the policy that our government has adopted after long and careful deliberation. In the interest of the safety of those who will take the death of Mr. Marcos in widely and passionately conflicting ways, and for the tranquility and the order of society, the remains of Ferdinand E. Marcos will not be allowed to be brought to our country until such time as the government, be it under this administration or the succeeding one, shall otherwise decide. A chapter in the history of our nation, a chapter uniquely his own and a part of each of our lives closes on this day with the death of Ferdinand Marcos. Let us pray for his repose. I express again to his wife and his children my condolences and that of our people.

VICE PRESIDENT Salvador Laurel yesterday said that the death of former President Ferdinand Marcos should close a painful chapter in the country's history and put to rest bitterness and rancor that have divided our people.

Laurel received news of Marcos' death early last night but was not able to issue personally an official statement due to pressing engagement. Nevertheless, Laurel left a statement which his spokesman, Ike Gutierrez, read. The statement follows:

"My family and I wish to express our deep sympathy to the bereaved wife and children of the late President Ferdinand E. Marcos. His passing should now close a painful chapter in our history and put to rest all bitterness and rancor that have divided our people. Let us now strive to bring about national reconciliation which we failed to achieve during his lifetime.

"I now, therefore, ask President Corazon Aquino to allow the remains of the former President to be brought home and buried in his hometown with all the honors due a former head of state of this country."

THE FOLLOWING official statement of the Marcos family was read by Aruiza:

"President Marcos expired at 12:40 in the morning, Sept. 28, 1989, of cardiac arrest. He was unable to be resuscitated with medication and the usual methods of treatment. God has taken this great man away from our midst to a better place more deserving of his presence. Perhaps, his friends and detractors alike will now be able to look beyond the man and see what he stood for: his vision, his compassion and his total love of country. The Marcos family would like to thank all those who have extended their many kindnesses in this time of his greatest need."