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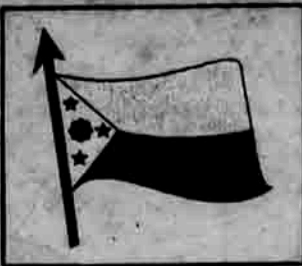
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# We Forum

To seek and live the truth and share a vision



Rally  
for peace

VOL. 15 • NO. 13

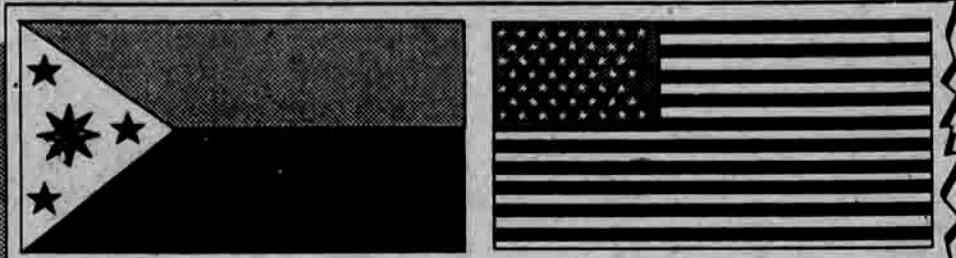
AUGUST 2-8, 1991

P3.00

IN METRO MANILA

# CORY'S STUPID POLICY

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Philippine-American  
friendship myth--Page 3



**NORTHERN SORTIE:** President Aquino receives a miniature baul (chest) from Isabela Governor Faustino Dy (left of the President) and Rep. Rodolfo Albano during a visit to the province. The President presided over the groundbreaking ceremonies of the P237-million Magat bridge and announced seven major road projects worth P1.89 billion for the province. Also in photo are (from left) DENR Sec. Fulgencio Factoran Jr. and Heherson Alvarez. (Malacanang Photo)



Bishops  
and Cory

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Problem  
of more  
jobs bug  
Cory  
gov't

Page 2

Stable  
oil prices  
in 1992?

Page 16

# RP faces serious underemployment problem

OF THE two basic employment problems confronting the country, underemployment is more serious than unemployment both in terms of magnitude and incidence. Bureau of Local Employment (BLE) Director Clifford Paragua, in a research study titled "Employment in the Philippines: Regional Trends and Patterns," underemployment was felt more in the least developed regions (LDR) than in the "better off" or more developed regions (MDR).

The LDR accounted for 60.5 percent of total workers partially employed against only 39.5 percent of the other regional groupings combined. Underemployment also grew faster in the LDR at 4.42 percent during the 1980-1988 period as against 1.45 percent in the National Capital Region (NCR) and 2.47 percent in the MDR, Paragua added.

The BLE study is part of a series of studies prepared under the first phase of the International Labor Organization (ILO) - Japan - Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) project on "Strategic Approaches Toward Employment Promotion", a project executed by the ILO-Asian Employment Program (ARTEP) and funded by the Japanese Ministry of Labor. It was undertaken to examine the employment trends and patterns in the country's 13 regions.

With different levels of development and social structures, the problems of unemployment and underemployment were not uniformly felt nor experienced in various parts of the country. They varied from one region to another in terms of level, intensity and form.

There were three regions noted to exhibit very high incidences of unemployment — NCR, Region II (Cagayan Valley) and Region IV (Southern Tagalog). According to data from the national Statistics Office (NSO), these regions had unemployment rates higher than the national average and claimed the largest shares of the unemployed, mostly from the youth sector.

The high incidence of unemployment in the more affluent regions was not an issue of low employment per se as it was one of generating jobs. Migration proved to be the main culprit in the large increase in the labor force and in turn, in high unemployment. Conversely, the relatively lower rate of unemployment in the poorer regions was also an issue of migration.

Meanwhile, there were 10 regions noted to have an underemployment rate higher than the national average, with Region VIII (Eastern Visayas) registering nearly half (47.85 percent) of the workforce partially employed. Region V (Bicol) followed with 43.84 percent and then Region XII (Central Mindanao) with

(Page 5, please)



**FARMER'S CONGRESS:** President Aquino hails the Sanduguan farmers for supporting government's programs during the opening of the 2nd Farmers' Congress (Sanduguan National Congress) at the Imus Sports Center in Cavite. Looking on are: (from left) Rep. Renato Dragon; Agriculture Secretary Senen Bacani; Benjamin Cruz, chairman of Sanduguan; Cavite Governor Juanito Remulla; Agrarian Reform Secretary Benjamin Leong; Vic Tagle, vice chairman of Sanduguan and Marcelo De Guzman, president of the Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries Association. Sanduguan is a confederation of 16 national farmers' organizations in the country. (Malacanang Photo)

## Camote urged in CL farms

CEBU CITY — All is not lost for the farmers in Central Luzon provinces whose farms have been buried in ash spewed by Mt. Pinatubo. There is a good chance for them to bounce back to productivity sooner than had been predicted.

Soil experts and root crop scientists at the Visayas State College of Agriculture (ViSCA) in Baybay, Leyte, believe that the ash-covered fields in Central Luzon can be converted into productive camote or sweet po-

tato plantations.

Leonilo L. Cedicol of the public information office of ViSCA told *AsianNews & Features* that soil experts and root crop scientists from ViSCA are scheduled to visit the ash-covered areas in Luzon to study the prospects and viability of root crop production there.

The group will be headed by Dr. Marianito R. Villanueva, ViSCA president. It will look for cooperators in Zambales, Tarlac, Pampanga and Bataan

for possible tieup on experiments.

The ViSCA experts will focus their research on a new sweet potato variety — known as Red Wonder — which has shown high tolerance to acidic soils. This new camote variety can be the key to the resuscitation of farming activities in the eruption-affected provinces.

Dr. Jose L. Bacusmo, acting director of ViSCA's Philippine Root Crop Research and Training Center, said that since vol-

canic ash is highly acidic, it is very possible that the Red Wonder camote will thrive in Luzon's ash-covered fields.

Dr. Bacusmo said that Red Wonder, which is known to have yielded 14.2 tons per hectare of acidic soil without fertilizer and under natural irrigation, may prove ideal to the farm production needs of Central Luzon.

This camote variety was tested for five years in 34 trials held in various test locations throughout the country, according to Cedicol. Test results confirmed that it was highly accepted by consumers because it has high dry matter and sugar contents. Its red skin and slightly yellow flesh with purple margins make the variety attractive to discriminating people, Cedicol said.

ViSCA is ready to make available thousands of sweet potato cuttings for the planting needs of its cooperators in Central Luzon who will also be availing themselves of college researchers and scientists for the duration of the study.

"The prospect of Central Luzon, especially large areas of Pampanga, Tarlac, Zambales and Bataan, being transformed into a vast camote plain could be a prelude to an economic miracle in the heartland of Luzon," said Cedicol.

"This is because," Cedicol added, "of the possibility of producing exportable quantities of flour and starch from sweet potato as done in Korea and Taiwan." (Asian News & Features)

## Environmental program is gov't priority

ONE OF the priorities outlined by President Aquino in her address before the fifth and final regular session of Congress Monday is environmental management for sustained economic growth.

In the last 344 days of her administration, the President took note of the generally lukewarm attitude of traditional politicians toward the protection and preservation of nature until a calamity strikes, stressed the need for greater care of the environment.

Official figures show that the rate of forest depletion from 1976 to 1986 had reached about 105,000 hectares per year, with deforestation-induced erosion of about 100,000

hectares.

Government alone, with its limited resources, cannot arrest forest denudation, which contributed to increased soil erosion in at least 22 provinces during the decade under review. Erosion led to the loss of soil nutrients, depletion of top soil, and clogging of waterways (through sedimentation) and, thus, lowered agricultural production.

However, environmentalists have noted with gratification, the increasing tendency of big business to exercise greater protection of nature.

This was no more amply demonstrated than by a multinational oil company — Caltex Philippines, Inc. — which

launched on July 18 a P13,556,925 five-year agroforestry project that introduces a revolutionary approach to upland tree farming for sustained biophysical growth of both humans and other living organisms in an ecosystem.

The project, believed the first of its kind to be undertaken by a company like Caltex, is jointly sponsored by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and the Institute for the Study of Earth and Man (ISEM) of the Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas (USA). It is designed to facilitate research and development on multipurpose tree species/wood and uses a farm-

ing system that will adequately address the economic, cultural and social dimensions of the existential needs of farm families.

The project, according to signatories to the agreement, hopes to create in farm families an understanding and appreciation of the interdependent nature of their relationship with all living things in the context of their environment. Inherent in both humankind and nature is the capacity for life-giving and life-sustaining processes that must be respected and upheld to promote their mutual survival and benefit, environmentalists said.

Signatories to the pact were Caltex president Francis

Ablan, DENR Secretary Fulgencio Factoran, Jr. and ISEM vice president Dr. Ben. J. Wallace.

"We are in the midst of a tragedy," Ablan said after the agreement signing ceremony, which marked the launching of the agroforestry project. "That tragedy is the fact that of the original 14.5 million hectares of forest land, our country has only about 1.2 million hectares of forest cover left."

He said forest denudation "kills plant and animal species important to the ecological balance... and watershed areas and disrupts the water cycle, causing flash floods and drought." (ANFI)

By ERIC S. GIRON

## SUGAR QUOTA CUT AND BASES ACCORD

**W**ASHINGTON REDUCED to a myth "Philippine-American friendship" as expounded by certain US officials with its crucial slash of the Philippine sugar quota by 48,000 tons and the threat of economic sanctions pricking the Senate into ratifying the lopsided US offer on the bases to which Foreign Sec. Raul Manglapus has totally surrendered.

President Corazon Aquino acted like a Washington spokeswoman in declaring the sugar quota reduction had nothing to do with the bases issue although a Senate rejection of the bases accord could place the country at a great disadvantage. An approved treaty would lead to better trade access to the United States, Manglapus echoed her.

While these Filipino leaders are making such quotes, US Sen. John F. Kerry said the US is sending the wrong signals in transferring the Philippine sugar quota to South Africa at a time when the two nations are in the process of re-establishing new ties after the conclusion of the bases talks.

Kerry, who sponsored the Comprehensive Anti-Apartheid Act of 1985, said the South African sugar quota was transferred to the Philippines to correct an imbalance "due to an unusual decline in Philippine sugar exports to the US in 1970." The transfer of the sugar quota to South Africa would displace some 12,000 Filipinos dependent on sugar for their livelihood, Kerry stressed. He believed it "unfair to penalize these Filipino workers for political programs which may have been achieved in South Africa."

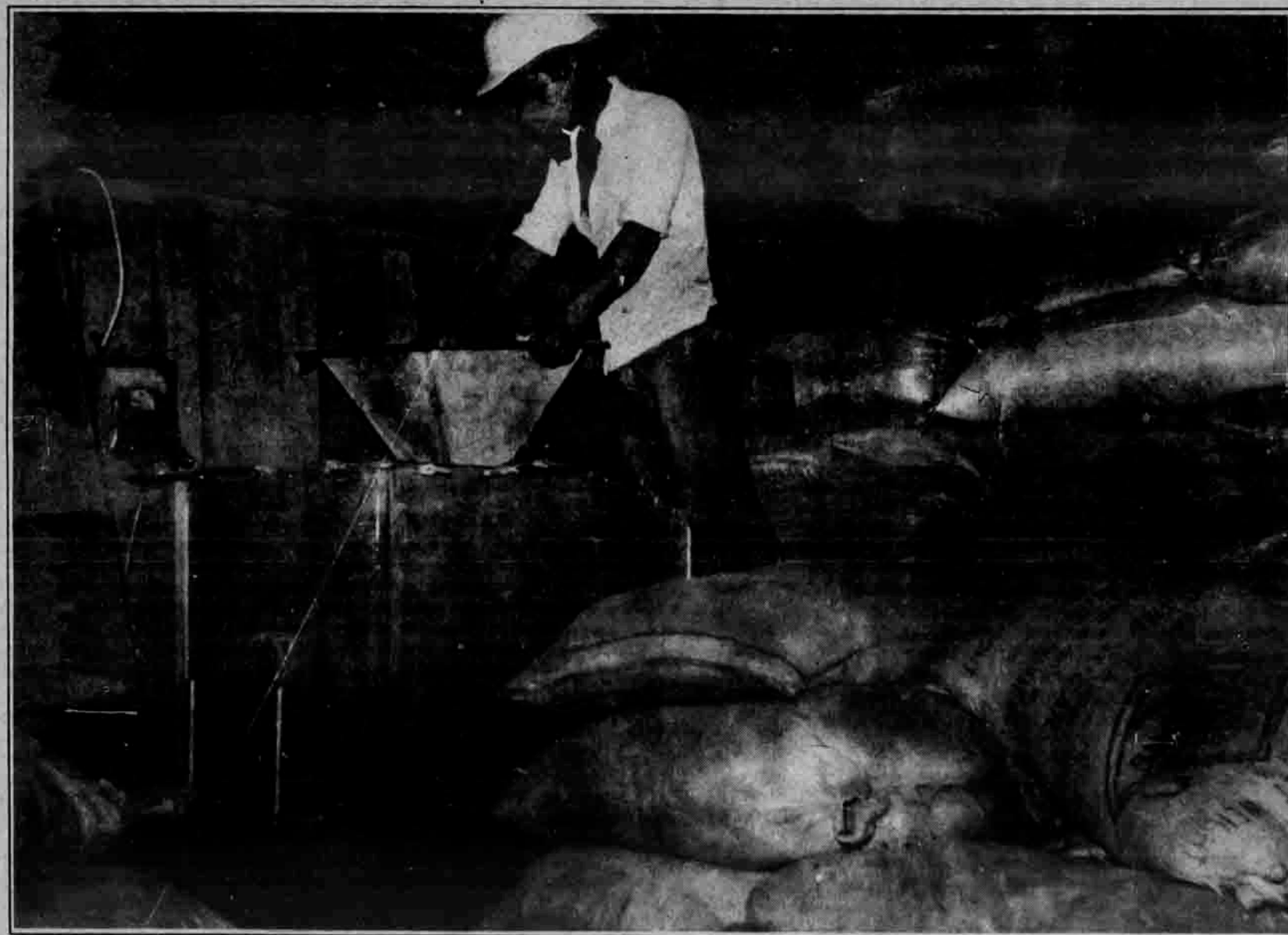
Contrary to Mrs. Aquino's claim, Sen. Leticia Shahani was convinced the sugar quota reduction is a form of US pressure: "Everything is related: These are developments that could not be avoided." She lambasted the Philippine panel for not being prepared to defend the Philippine position during the talks. The government should have sent first-class negotiators during the talks to fight for what the Philippines really needs and they should have coordinated closely with the senators who would ratify the treaty, she said.

Sen. Ernesto Maceda was suspicious of the US cut in the sugar quota when the Philippines was about to decide the fate of the US bases. He said it

could be indicative of anti-Philippine sentiment in the White House where it emanated. He noted US irritation in not getting the new bases treaty accepted.

Economist Alejandro Lichauco took to task the "colonial mentality" displayed by Sen. Edgardo Angara who warned that the Philippines

# US squeeze play on RP



RP SUGAR: 48,000-ton cut by US not connected to bases issue?

risked being politically and economically isolated by Washington and the international community should the Senate reject the bases extension treaty. He said the Philippine tragedy is rooted "in that sense of infantile dependence bred by the special character of Philippine-American relations, of which the bases are

the most notable feature."

If the Senate rejects the Manglapus-Armitage deal, Sen. Wigberto Taniada in Cebu warned that aside from the sugar and garments quota reduction in the US market, forthcoming loans may be delayed or cancelled "not only from the US, but also from Japan and South Korea," two of

Washington's closest allies in the Pacific. Top Japanese and South Korean officials who visited Manila moved for the retention of the US bases.

Sen. John Osmena said local traders out to protect their business interests have been lobbying for Senate approval of a bases treaty. But he could not see how a rejection of such

treaty could be avoided. A straw vote showed at least 12 of the 23 senators are opposed. Sixteen votes are required for ratification.

#### CONTRADICTIONS

The Americans have developed a knack for saying one thing and doing just the opposite. While Ambassador Nicholas Platt and spokesman

Stanley Schragar assured the Pinatubo disaster would not be used as leverage in the bases issue, Defense Sec. Richard Cheney junked ash-laden Clark Air Base and the initial US offer of \$360 million cash compensation was scaled down to \$203 million for a ten-year stay. This is not even half of  
(Next page, please)

the \$480 million a year agreed upon in the 1988 Manglapus-Shultz memorandum up to 1991.

What sympathy have the Americans shown for the 42,000 Filipino employees at Clark who have suddenly become jobless? After the first volcano eruptions, the Americans fled Clark and left the Filipino workers to fend for themselves. They were not paid their salaries. And yet the Aquino apologists use the base workers as an argument in defending the US presence. Now who's looking after the workers' welfare but the labor department—not the Americans at Clark.

The US has rejected any Philippine bid for debt condonation or reduction, or any trade concession. The \$203 million "best-effort" pledge and non-cash benefits like food and military surplus are subject to "annual appropriation requests." This puts the Philippine government at the mercy of the US Congress.

The executive agreement incorporates the Manglapus-Shultz accord contravening the Constitution's nuclear ban which provides: "The storage or installation of nuclear or non-conventional weapons or their components on Philippine territory shall be subject to the agreement of the Philippine government. Transits, overflights or visits by US aircraft or ships, however, shall not be considered storage or installation."

After a ten-year stay beyond the year 2000, US forces will begin their evacuation on the 11th year for which no money will be paid the Philippines. This is the take-it-or-leave-it US offer which President Aquino finds "the best under the circumstances" and for which she called upon the people to lobby for Senate approval. Since the Constitution says no foreign bases shall re-

main in the Philippines after Sept. 16, 1991, the Senate is hard-pressed to act on the executive agreement.

#### PLAN FOR SUBIC

Senate President Jovito Salonga favors the conversion of Subic Bay into an international dockyard run by a private corporation controlled by Filipinos who can enter into contracts not only with the US but even the Soviet Union or with other powers. A Subic conversion plan has been drafted by Jose Abueva's committee.

The text of the proposed treaty gives the US unhampered use of Subic Naval Station although disadvantageous to the Philippines. Permanent and transient forces using Subic installations for training shall be subject to prior agreement with the Philippine government. The US shall inform the Philippines of any significant reduction of US forces stationed at the base. Non-removable buildings and structures at Subic will revert to the Philippines after their completion.

With regard to Clark, Salonga said government plans will have to wait until Mt. Pinatubo subsides which, according to volcanologists, will take up to a decade. The US decision to give up Clark Base forfeits its right to use 30,000-hectare Crow Valley for military exercises. However, the new deal authorizes US forces to use "Philippine land, waters and air spaces for purposes of training," such as Tabones Islet, Los Frailes, Leon Crean Naval Gunfire Range, Wild Horse Creek Close Air Support Range, Subic and Zambales sites.

Salonga rejected the proposal of Sens. John Osmena, Ernesto Herrera and Heherson Alvarez for a renegotiation of the US offer which both Washington and Malacanang have opposed. Salonga said renegot-

iation is a "two-way traffic" and if the other side does not wish to negotiate, "any urging on our part will be futile."

Manglapus said there was no need for renegotiation because after the talks on the bases ended July 17, the Philippine panel under Defense Undersecretary Feliciano Gacis is still negotiating unresolved issues on the technical level. "Until the treaty is signed, the negotiations are not yet finished," Manglapus said. However, he saw no need for any changes.

Four unresolved issues identified by Gacis' panel are:

1) The Philippines' objection to the US position that the Philippine Air Transport Office's statutory authority to control the use of Philippine air space be contingent on the American mutual agreement.

2) The US wants the word "enforce" deleted from the provision that the Philippine and US commanders of Subic Naval Base will "monitor, check and enforce" the disposal of hazardous or toxic wastes.

3) The Philippines holds that the Agreement on Installations Arrangement and Military Operating Procedures, being a supplementary agreement, be ratified or recognized as a treaty with the mother Treaty of Friendship, Cooperation and Security. The US favors independent acceptance by both countries of the AIMOP. The Philippines favors a unilateral review of the agreement prior to the ninth year "to determine whether Philippine national interest will justify discussions with the US on a post-treaty access arrangement for the US in accordance with the Philippine Constitution." The US is silent on this.

4) The Philippines insists on diplomatic clearance for the use of Subic by third country vessels and aircraft with which the Philippines may or may not have diplomatic relations.



**AUSSIE GRANT:** Steve Robinson (wearing lei) of the Australian Direct Assistance Program, hands over to Rod O. Francia, president of the Anak Pawis ng Exodus, Inc., a check for P100,000 for the latter's water-wells project at Purok 7 (Manggahan Floodway) in Taytay, Rizal. The grant will fund the construction of five artesian wells for the residents of Purok 7. Looking on are Anak Pawis officials (from left) Tomas Rife, Josefina Claricia, Antonio Maestre, Manuel Samadan, Romeo Maratas, Mike Lagura and Antonio Bungcag. *We Forum's* Max Noble is one of the association's legal advisers.

The United States has agreed to clean up only portions of Clark Air Base which it needs during the one-year withdrawal until Sept. 16, 1992 like runways, power and water systems, some structures and buildings, and roads.

In the face of strong Senate opposition to the new bases treaty, Senator Osmena suggested an "interim treaty" during which the US will have continued use of Subic station at the cost of \$360 million for 1992 and \$203 million for 1993. After that renegotiations can be conducted.

If the Senate rejects or leaves the treaty unacted, Salonga said the US may enter into an access arrangement with the Philippines after the MBA lapses on Sept. 16, 1991. Access rights entitle a foreign country to limited use of base facilities for drydocking, ship repairs and refuelling on a commercial basis as distinguished from basing arrangements under which a foreign country more or less exercises complete control of base operations.

US basing arrangements with 30 other countries are not treaties but mere "executive agreements" which may be what the bases talks have brought about. Stanley Schrager pointed out that "a treaty primarily refers to an international agreement con-

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Alejandro Lichauco said, "The bases are the icons of colonialism and for as long as we continue to be mesmerized by them, we shall continue morally, psychologically, and spiritually to be enslaved by the evil they represent."

#### SUGAR PRICES UP

In anticipation of the sugar quota reduction in October, sugar traders have jacked up prices. Sen. Ernesto Maceda said the Sugar Regulatory Authority should use police power together with the Department of Trade and Industry to keep the sugar prices at a reasonable level. Sugar is now being sold at P835 to P840 a bag. Around 80,000 bags of sugar were reported hoarded in a warehouse in Malaybalay, Bukidnon.

Despite the glut in the sugar produced there is an artificial shortage in the market which means the commodity is being manipulated. The US is exerting pressure on the Philippines so that it can protect its own interest, Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile said. The timing, he said, indicates the relation between the diversion of the sugar quota and the ongoing bases negotiations.

Other senators like Salonga and Osmena believe the sugar

quota never belonged to the Philippines and the US was merely returning it to South Africa. Osmena said the Senate should concentrate on probing sugar traders for the artificial increase in prices.

Sen. Ernesto Herrera deplored the neglect of the base workers by the negotiating panel who did not bring up the matter before the Americans during the talks. "The panel squandered the opportunity to negotiate a comprehensive economic relief package for the workers and their families, most of whom suffered great losses because of the Mt. Pinatubo eruptions," Herrera stated.

The new bases agreement would have added relevance to the country's economic development if specific provisions were made for the thousands of base workers who would lose their means of support once the bases go, he said.

The main impact of the bases is basically economic. So is the US decision to suddenly deprive the Philippines of a 48,000-ton sugar quota and shift it to another country at a time when the senators are studying the US-manipulated agreement with "regionalist" Manglapus. While their diplomats speak of "new ties," Washington is again bullying the Filipinos to succumb to its squeeze play on the bases. White man speaks with forked tongue.



**MACEDA, SHAHANI, LICHAUCO:** US pressure assailed.

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**MACEDA, SHAHANI, LICHAUCO:** US pressure assailed.

# Church-State relations shift as Cory completes term

By MA. SOPHIA LIZARES-BODEGON

THE COUNTRY'S Catholic bishops may now breathe easy as Corason Aquino, a devout Catholic herself, completes her term as president. The bishops who have vowed to be "one with the poor," appear unwilling to rock the boat. Neither do they want to miss it.

Aquino must be first to understand the power of faith and an influential hierarchy in this predominantly Catholic country. She herself rose to the presidency in 1986 on the wings of a Catholic bishops' statement damning as fraudulent the electoral returns in a contest between her and Ferdinand Marcos.

She visited their headquarters in historic Intramuros just before the statement was written. She got even more support when Manila's powerful Cardinal Jaime Sin called for a show of "People Power."

Although the bishops conference did not officially endorse her candidacy, most of its members had stuck their necks out for "Cory."

Last week soon after Aquino delivered her valediction before Congress, the bishops, as if in closure, issued a pastoral letter on the 1992 elections. To be read from Catholic pulpits last Sunday, the three-page document "Decision for Our Future," might have been just another statement on patriotic duty, coached carefully in the language of non-partisanship.

The bishops criticizing "the politics of pay-off, patronage and personalities," urged citizens to organize poll vigilantes, and expressed their commitment to a "program aimed at raising the level of our voters' political judgment."

## DESPAIR AND DISARRAY

Significantly however, they echoed the mood of the President's detractors. "We feel," the bishops wrote, "the chilly onset of despair that democracy cannot seem to ensure the majority of our people the satisfaction of their basic human needs, and allow them to live in peace, hope and dignity."

They "blamed" "unworthy individuals we have placed into office" for environmental degradation, "the perversion of democratic principles" and "five years of irreplaceably lost opportunity."

They noted the "pervading cynicism" and called on citizens to organize "in the face of disarray."

Safely out of circulation during the weekend's tumultuous Welgang Bayan (National Strike) that called for a rollback of oil prices, the bishops also issued a statement entitled "Plight of the Poor." Pledging to become the Church of the Poor, the bishops said among others "we must lower the price of fuel" and basic commodities.

The bishops also elected Bp. Carmelo Morelos to replace conservative academic Archbishop Leonardo Legazpi as president.

"This is a wonderful sign," says Fr. Benjamin Alforque, chair of the Justice and Peace commission of the country's largest religious congregations. Morelos, bishop of Butuan in northeastern Mindanao, "knows about the bombing of basic Christian communities especially in Agusan and Surigao (provinces) and has been involved with the poor," he said.

## DON'T ROCK THE BOAT

Alforque however is cautious: "Watch the vocabulary." He points out the bishops did not use the protest movement's term "rollback" or the government's "reduction."

"They don't want to abandon the people, but they don't want to rock the boat either," says Alforque who also heads the local movement to promote church workers' rights.

The Catholics were upstaged in the last few weeks by the Iglesia ni Cristo, a small but closely-knit indigenous sect which pressed government to reduce petrol prices. Although sect leaders denied their move was political, it was made alongside that of militant labor and transport groups.

Alforque said the Catholic hierarchy, despite its criticism, seeks to "preserve constitutional democracy" and "isolate the Left" particularly among its priests and religious. Like Aquino, its main political interest is the "assurance of a smooth transition through the electoral process," Alforque added.

Now that Aquino is leaving, Alforque says the hierarchy will be "more free to speak." Most of the country's bishops are unlikely to make personal commitments to any of the presidential hopefuls, he forecast.

## BALL WITH PROTESTANTS?

With two Protestants among the presidentiables, the limelight may well shift to the United Church of Christ in the Philippines (UCCP), which is second only to the Catholic Church in size. Jovito Salonga, considered the layman of the

UCCP and former defense secretary Fidel Ramos may well be arrayed against each other in May 1992 polls.

"This is a sensitive situation; getting identified with a candidate," says an apprehensive Bishop Erme Camba, UCCP general secretary.

"The UCCP," Camba said however, "has encouraged people to participate in elections and be very critical about their choice."

Regardless of whether the next president is Catholic or Protestant, the Church will take a critical stance. "If the new government goes off from morality, we will say something," Camba said.

## MILITANTS SCANDALIZED

Militants among the Church rank and file believe there is nothing new in the political configuration. "It is the same idea of Church as power grabber," says Fr. Ben Moraleda. "It doesn't matter if it is Catholic or INC," he said referring to how the Iglesia ni Cristo won centerstage during the oil price strikes.

"How can the President be scared of the INC but remain insensitive to the sufferings of the people?" he asked. He recalled that the demand to restore prices to pre-December 5 levels had been raised by secular groups months ago.

Moraleda, chair of the National Ecumenical Forum for Church Response, said "Aquino has ridden on religion and the faith of a people to hide her crimes against them."

Aquino's most controversial policies are sponsored by Finance Secretary Jesus Estanislao and Central Bank Governor Jose Cuisia, both

guarantee work continuity.

The BLE study findings have far-reaching implications, particularly among policymakers. They imply the need to review government prescriptions on employment problems. And considering that employment problems vary from one region to another, a unified scheme to remedy them

may not work at all. There is a real need, therefore, to diversify approaches if one really intends to attain effectiveness in any undertaking.

As Paragua concluded in the BLE study, "a real searching on government employment programs is required." (Asian News & Features)



CORY, SIN: No rocking of boat.

members of the conservative Catholic organization, the Opus Dei. Both officials have insisted on keeping the country's debt repayment schedule, costing 40 percent of the national budget this year.

"Can't they (government) see we must eat too?" asks a

former Catholic, now a member of the Iglesia ni Cristo. "Can't they see that the people have suffered enough?"

"Why must government put money before the interests of God's people? This is idolatry," Moraleda said. (Philippine News and Features)

## Republic of the Philippines REGIONAL TRIAL COURT National Capital Judicial Region Branch 77, Quezon City

IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION  
TO APPROVE THE WILL OF  
NORBERTO J. QUISUMBING,  
DECEASED.

RAMON J. QUISUMBING,  
Administrator. SP. PROC. NO. Q-89-2200

## ORDER

All persons/entities are hereby notified that LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION have been issued in favor of MR. RAMON J. QUISUMBING, now residing at No. 544 Lafayette Street, East Greenhills, Mandaluyong, Metro Manila, Philippines.

Notice is hereby given that all persons/entities that have claims for money against the deceased NORBERTO J. QUISUMBING, arising from contract, express or implied, whether the same be due, not due, or contingent, for funeral expenses and expenses of the last sickness of the said decedent, and judgment for money against him, to file said claim with the Clerk of Court of this Branch, at the Children's Museum Library Inc. (CMLI) Building, North Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City (fronting Veterans Memorial Hospital), within six (6) months from the date of the first publication of this notice, serving copy thereof upon the aforementioned RAMON J. QUISUMBING, the appointed administrator of the estate of the aforesaid deceased, NORBERTO J. QUISUMBING.

Let copy of this Order be published once a week for three (3) consecutive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation duly chosen in a raffle conducted by the HONORABLE EXECUTIVE JUDGE.

Likewise, let a copy of this Order be posted by the Deputy Sheriff or Process Server of this Court at the main entrance of this Courtroom, at the main entrance of the New Quezon City Hall Building, at the Sheriff's Office, RTC, Quezon City and at the Office of the Clerk of Court, RTC, Quezon City, all at petitioner's expense.

SO ORDERED.

Quezon City, Philippines, 18 June 1991.

(Sgd.) IGNACIO L. SALVADOR  
Judge

## RP faces . . . (From page 2)

42.67 percent.

The high incidence of underemployment in the LDR may be the result of various factors, one of which was the prevalence of the non-wage type of employment in these regions which are prone to sea-

sonal or casual types of employment. Another possible explanation was the over-dependence on agriculture which was the source of employment in LDR's 6.47 million workforce. As an employment source, agriculture does not

# PAGCOR: The Philippine Amusement & Gaming Corporation

## What it is all about.

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**Philippine Amusement & Gaming Corporation**  
PAGCOR HOUSE 1330 ROXAS BOULEVARD MANILA



## Bacani, Gabaldon must act on FTI fiasco

**F**OR THE last several weeks, the Food Terminal, Inc. has been in the news with the consistency of Mt. Pinatubo, although of a lesser intensity. Its so-called president-general manager, a certain Jaime de la Rosa, has been accused of various shenanigans by his own people, in amounts that do not qualify him as a big fish, not as sharks go, anyway. But he is barely 18 months in office and FTI employees wonder how big he could really be, given time and opportunity, and the cunning ("wise, wise", as a columnist puts it) by which he was able to do his thing. Consider the following:

Item: A slew of criminal cases before the Ombudsman, ranging from malversation of public property, falsification of public documents, and estafa or malversation arising from such falsifications, which could conceivably earn him a jail sentence;

Item: A case before a three-man investigating body at the Department of Agriculture, created to probe charges of double compensation, illegal sale of FTI vehicles, and cover-up of an accident involving his daughter and a company van allegedly driven by her which hit two young female students;

Item: A suit before a Makati court for breach of contract;

Item: A letter from Sen. Wigberto Tanada, chairman of the Senate Blue Ribbon committee, warning de la Rosa in no uncertain terms that the FTI employees he suspended for testifying before the committee on irregularities at the firm were "merely exercising their right to be heard" and "should not be interfered with through suspension or threats of punishment."

Until he is proven guilty, the guy is presumed innocent. And during a lucid moment, he was telling everyone who cared to hear that "they" (presumably his enemies), were trying to replace him with their own man who could mount a fund-raising campaign among FTI lessees for the elections next year, and lure voters with temporary jobs that will terminate after the needed vote is cast. This is not a rare insight; every concerned citizen of Tagig is painfully aware how vindictiveness, viciousness and opportunism have relentlessly governed the conduct of the town's political life of the last few years. The politics of warlordism, so reminiscent of the dictatorship that people power had exorcised, has reared once more its ugly, arrogant head in these parts.

Granting these stresses, one wonders how even a highly competent man — let alone a totally incompetent one — could operate with any appreciable degree of efficiency. Why de la Rosa continues to stick like epoxy to his job is a pertinent question. If this were happening in Japan, he might have committed harakiri; if in the working Western democracies, he might have already resigned and hied to some forsaken isle where they have not seen a newspaper. Unfortunately, the cultural derangement that marked the progress in government service had so deeply affected its officials as to develop the hide of a rhinoceros and make them impervious to public scorn; for the crooks and incompetents who cannot land a job elsewhere, death before resignation has become a resounding battlecry.

But these unhealthy developments in the FTI's corporate life have limned two imperatives in sharp focus:

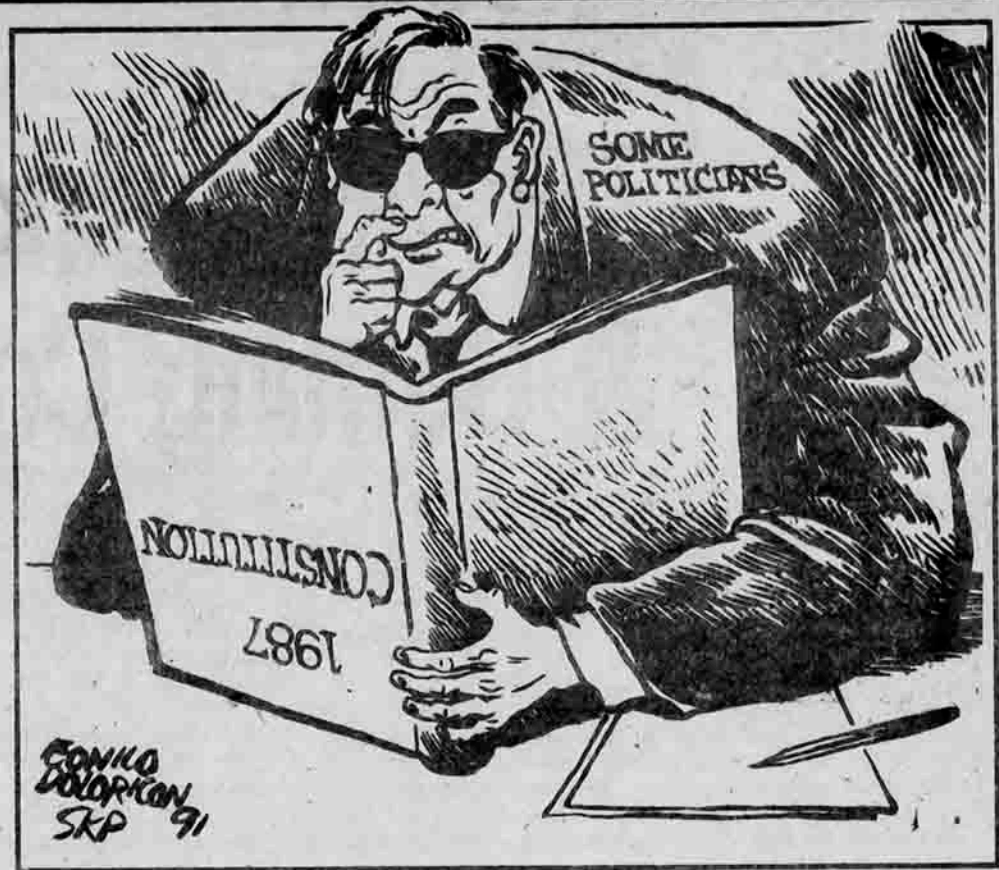
First, the urgent necessity to suspend de la Rosa, as prayed for in the Ombudsman suit, pending the outcome of his case, to prevent further abuse and harassment of those who will testify against him; and

Second, his replacement with a seasoned management man who can effectively grapple with company problems, not with a political lameduck who will succumb to every pressure and blindly execute a hidden, self-aggrandizing agenda as dictated by his master.

Secretary Senen Bacani of DAF, where FTI is attached, and National Food Authority Administrator Pelayo Gabaldon easily come to mind. But for the standing sanction against multiple jobs for Cabinet members, Bacani's self-effacing efficiency and integrity could be brought to bear to reverse the doomsday plunge of the FTI under the incumbent stewardship. NFA has been funding FTI all these years and has become a classic case of good money being thrown after bad. Gabaldon, who is aware of this waste, has not "drowned" two bargesful of rice and palay, his name has not been tainted in past rice, corn and wheat importations. During the kleptocratic regime, both NFA and FTI had one top honcho; depending on the man on the job, it could be a good precedent.

De la Rosa's dwindling supporters among the upper echelons — the rank and file are giving him up for a lost cause — have foisted the issue of the proverbial two evils, implying that, against a town politician, their boy is the lesser one. As a viewpoint, it is myopic, and deceptive as an argument. For this only holds true in an electoral contest where only two rotten candidates are duelling for the plum. In an appointive position, choice will supervene. And in this particular case of far-reaching issues, the intervention of choice — even the luxury of it — should be a decision of paramount consideration. The remaining ten months are crucial; for any unmitigated crook, this is enough time; for a good man, this is too short.

Nevertheless, ten months are enough to arrest FTI's headlong rush towards perdition. This is Bacani's and Gabaldon's solemn responsibility.



MANILA TIMES, AUGUST 1, 1991

## Lohika vs Mahika

KUNG BAKIT puro may hika ang napili kong paksain ay dahil kinapos talaga ang hininga ko sa paghabol sa bilis ng mga pangyayari sa kasalukuyan at siyempre pa dahil na rin sa sobra nang polusyong (materyal at moral) nalalanghap sa kapaligiran. Alam at paborito ng mga walang alam ang mahika (magic), subalit ang lohika at talagang kokonti lamang sa ating mga Pinoy ang nakakakilala dahil sa tutuo lang ang sinusunod ng karamihan ay "ang bulong ng damdamin ko".

Ang lohika ay ang siyensiya ng wastong pag-iisip, ang pundasyon ng matematika, pisika, electronics, at siyempre pa, ang pilosopiya at teolohiya. Sayang at hanggang sa kasalukuyan, hindi rito nababatay ang ating pulitika, ekonomiya o kalakal, at maging ang ating pagiging relihiyoso. Ang ating mga pulitiko, ekonomista, mangangalakal, at pati kaming mga pari ay pawang mga madyikero na pinahahanga ang mga walang alam sa aming kakayahan. Puwes, namamaalam na ang Cory magic. (Hindi ko maiiwasan ang pagpaala-ala sa mga interesado na ang valedictory ni Presidentita Cory ay hindi lamang nangangahulugan ng "babay na sa inyo" kundi puro utang - vale nang vale - na tayo pa ring mga mamamayan ang babayad. Siningil pa tayo sa utang na loob natin kay Ninoy. Ang lagay niyan, hindi pa ba niya pinatubo?) Pumutok na, Praise the Lord!

Nasaan ang lohika sa ating badyet nangayon ay gusto nang madyikin upang lumobo pang lalo (gawing 308 bilyon) sa pamamagitan ng lalo pang pagpiga sa balsa ng mga hikahos? Ganito iyan. Ang pangunahing pinuproblema ng mga mayayaman at maka-mayaman na maka-

**GISING!**



ni PLACIDO P. DIAZ

Diyos kuno ay ang population control. Solusyon: gipitin at buwisiin ang mga mahihirap upang magpakamatay nang lahat. Nasaan ang lohika sa pagdeklara ng holiday (banal na araw) sa pagtugon sa welgang bayan na humihiling ng pagbabang presyo ng langis? Nasaan ang lohika sa partisipasyong sulong-urong ng Iglesia ni Kristo? Ang hindi nakakakita - dumilat.

Hindi sa kinakalaban ko ang kinse misteryos ng Santo Rosaryo na ginagawa diumano araw-araw ni Presidentita Cory, Cardinal Sin, at Hesus Estanislao (pati na rin ni Julie Amargo). At naniniwala siyempre ako sa bisa ng pananalangin o dasal. Subalit ang Diyos ay tapat. Ang pakikitungo sa Kanya ay hindi sa pamamagitan ng mahika, kundi ng lohika. Ang mahika ay panloloko at pandaraya. Sa lohika, hindi talaga uubra ang mali. Ang utos ng Kuya Hesus: "Ipangaral'ninyo ang Ebanghelyo". Ang ginagawa ng mga evangelists ay tinuturo ang Bibliya maliban sa ebanghelyo. Ang sabi ni Kuya: "Kung ano ang ginawa n'yo sa pinakamaliit kong kapatid, iyan ang ginawa n'yo sa Akin." Ang tumutupad sa lohika niyan ay maliligtas. Ang nagmamadyik sa relief goods ay mauutas.

**We Forum**



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**JOSE G. BURGOS, JR.**  
PUBLISHER-EDITOR

## TOWN CRIER



by VIC BARRANCO

## The Hidden Sea

IT IS called in Hiligaynon, a West Visayan dialect, Tinagong Dagat, or the Hidden Sea. It is a body of water in Panay island totally enclosed by land, no outlet, with strangely fresh, not briny water.

If Tinagong Dagat is at sea level, it would have a naturally salty water as an ordinary sea has. But it is estimated to be about 680 feet above sea level, while for example, the Sea of Galilee in Palestine (Israel) is 700 feet below sea level. Yet Tinagong Dagat and the Galilee have the same volcanic origin. The TD in Panay was, according to legend which is also supported by geological plausibility, was shoved upward by a great explosion or volcanic eruption some centuries or eons ago. The SG was pushed down into the big crack which formed into a basin of the river Jordan which flows southward into the sulfuric Dead Sea which has no outlet.

That was thousands of years ago before Israel, the Promised Land, was founded in the Biblical times. The big terrestrial crack was formed in the

time of Moses, a thousand years or more before the ministry of Jesus, in the time of Moses who led the Israelites out of slavery in Egypt, walking across the Red Sea which had been devoured by the tremendous geological crack, to the Promised Land. Moses, as the Bible tells us, received the Ten Commandments from God, the father, and the 10 basic commandments were the bases of laws, of behavior and conduct of the chosen people in the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

In the legendary background of the TD in Panay island, we have to digress from the Sea of Galilee and the time of Moses, because of the enchanting contrasts of the geological formations of these two seas which are about halfway around the planet earth from each other. The SG is below sea level, while TD in Panay is above sea level. Both have been formed by horrendous cataclysmic forces that caused sudden and massive crustal rearrangement, either by volcanic or tectonic action, or a combination of both.

The Hidden Sea is actually on a rim of a volcano filled with water. The volcano has no name. It has been identified only as Tinagong Dagat, the water that has filled its rim. The volcano sits astride the Madya-as mountain range that divides Antique and Iloilo provinces of Panay. The TD is more accessible from Antique than Iloilo, and the volcano that hides it in its bosom is said to be "extinct." But modern geological and physiographical sciences have disclaimed that there is no more "extinct" classification of a volcano. A volcano may be classified as active or dormant only, but never extinct, it is argued by today's scientific natural events; like the Mount Pinatubo which had a series of eruptions and explosions beginning June this year. Pinatubo

was dormant for about 600 years.

The nameless or anonymous mount on Madya-as mountain range that holds the Hidden Sea must be dormant for a much, much longer time than Mount Pinatubo. When it erupts, the force and extent of its damage and devastation and defacement of the earth can extend far vaster than Pinatubo's. Heaven forbid! A large part of narrow Antique province may sink by crustal or volcanic displacement and lahar flow, etc.

Tinagong Dagat may blast itself off with a sizeable part of western Panay island; but it has been immortalized now in a novel of adventure and romance by an Ilonggo writer Steve (Esteban) Javellana entitled "Without Seeing the Dawn."

It is a well written novel, with setting laid at the Hidden Sea, hideout of the guerrillas during the Japanese occupation in WWII. It is a literary opus which brought fame to Steve Javellana, as well as to the underground Visayan freedom fighters. A truly literary gem, it is an outstanding contribution to the treasure trove of adventure novels that came out of the Pacific War in 1942-1945. "Without Seeing the Dawn" could have been produced into a movie. Writer Javellana could have had it translated into his rich and colorful native Hiligaynon dialect. But Javellana, apparently in robust health despite the suffering he went through during his guerrilla years, died soon after the war but his many dreams of immortalizing Tinagong Dagat still remain with his countrymen.

Someday, somehow a cultural exponent of western Visayas, an individual or an association, will pick up the thread from where the author dropped it, and signal a Visayan cultural renaissance.

## SA GANANG AKIN



ni PURA CASTRENCE

## Isang awit

MAYROONG ISANG awit si Jose Ayala, isang Filipino composer at singer ng mga awit na makabayan, na napakalungkot. Ang paksa ng awit ay ang pagkawalang tao sa Baryo ng Santa Filomena na inaawit ng Langay-langayan na lumilipad sa himpapawid. Bakit kaya nilisan ng mga tao ang kanilang baryo? Ang sagot ay binigay ng dulang pinalabas ng theatre group na galing sa Pilipinas na nagtanghai kamakailan lamang sa Melbourne: Marahil ay binomba ng militar ang baryo kaya't napilitan ang mga taong lumipad sa ibang pook. Ang lungkot ng awit ng Langay-langayan nang nakita niya ang mga punong kahoy na hitik ng bunga, mga palayang natutuyo at walang umaani at mga dampang walang nakatira.

Dahil sa deklarasyon ng Pangulong Aquino ng total war laban sa mga rebels ay higit na lumakas pa kaysa sa dati ang loob ng mga sundalo na usigin at pahirapan ang mga taga-baryo na pinagsususpetsahan nilang kumukupkop o tumutulong sa mga rebels. Totoo man o hindi ang suspetsang iyon, binubomba nila ang mga pook na pinagsususpetsahan.

Labis na kapangyarihan ang ipinaubaya ni Pangulong Aquino sa militar kung kaya't ito'y umaabuso at pinahihirapan ang mga sawimpalad na walang laban sa kanila. Mararamdaman ng makikinig sa awit na ito ni Jose Ayala ang daing ng mga tao na ipinadama sa awit ng ibong Langay-langayan.

benefit from this and what fat government contracts are awarded to the influential "Mafias"?

## TEA W/ JULIE



by JULIE AMARGO

## Who rules Congress?

unlike in the US where they have the good stamps program where families are categorized according to income and the less total family income they have, the more in food stamps each family is given. So, food is not a problem and malnutrition is not on the rise. There are other subsidies given to the people but here it is the businesses that receive subsidies as in the case of the Oil Price Stabilization Fund, the milking cow of the oil companies.

An obdurate administration attracts plagues and disasters yet what is Congress doing to alleviate the miseries of our people? Take the case of our interest rates. When I attacked the high interest rates on lending precisely because I read in the Selected Papers of the Department of Finance that in the year 1990 alone, Government-Owned and Controlled Corporations (GOCCs) and Government Financing Institutions (GFIs) earned about P59 billion in interest income and paid P16 billion in interest expense making a net of P43 billion in a single year, did Congress look into the following matters?

1. The Carp Fund - Who are the beneficiaries of this Fund in detail? How much of the Fund is invested in high-yielding securities? Who are the people close to the administration that take advantage of this Fund?

2. The Grants-in-Aid from Donor Countries - Japan donated P183 million specifically to help correct flooding problems within the vicinity of Vito Cruz. The area is still being flooded and there seem to be no visible improvement in this respect. What about other Grants-In-Aid?

3. The Earthquake Fund - How much were received from the many donors who came to our aid and why is the work so slow in the rehabilitation process of the areas involved?

4. Are our interest rates on lending so high because government itself is earning much on interest income? Is this the reason why basic services are not delivered on time because the funds are invested in high-yielding securities?

5. What about the proliferation of government-owned and controlled corporations and the link of the obdurate accounting and auditing "Mafias" to these GOCCs?

Bobby Ongpin started this in the Department of Trade and Industry and almost every department now in government has this GOCCs. Who

## The political situation without Cory Aquino

By NATHAN CASTRO

AN EMOTION-CHOKED goodbye to politics by President Aquino in her last State of the Nation Address throws the presidential race in 1992 wide open.

With the last remaining doubts over Mrs. Aquino's possible reelection attempt cleared up, many expect the several "presidentiables" to intensify political efforts for the coming presidential derby.

Particularly unshackled of uncertainty with the President's possible reelection looming large over its plans and preparations is the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino (LDP) identified as the majority party run by close associates and relatives of Mrs. Aquino.

The LDP may now concentrate on preparing for its national convention with its choice limited to Speaker Ramon Mitra and former Defense Secretary Fidel V. Ramos who are fighting neck and neck for the party's nomination as official presidential bet next year.

Both Mitra and Ramos had been hesitant candidates because of insistent rumors that the President would seek reelection and there was a

general perception that many of her official acts point out to preparing for a reelection.

Among such acts were those which were interpreted to mean she was destroying all LDP presidential aspirants so that in the end she would be the only one left for the LDP to choose next year's polls.

But with her final and definite farewell to politics in her State of the Nation Address, people expect the Mitra and Ramos groups to be locked in a bruising no-holds-barred contest for the LP presidential nomination.

Observers say the fight between the two is still even with Mitra counting on members of Congress as his main support while Ramos has members of the governors' and mayors' leagues and the military behind him.

Ramos' supporters say they now have the edge because President Aquino has thrown her support for Ramos which was apparent with the appointment of retired Gen. Renato de Villa as new defense secretary. Mitra had strongly objected to de Villa's appointment describing him as a

(Page 14, please)

## "Farewell to the Nation Address"

FORMER SECRETARY Eddie Ramos is asking the impossible from Monching Mitra by asking him to resign the speakership *upang pantay daw ang laban*. While there may be some merit to the arguments, there is no parallelism between the situation of Eddie and Monching. You see, Mitra is an elective official and there is neither legal nor moral requirement for him to resign until he files his certificate of candidacy. In the case of Ramos, as an appointive cabinet official who serves only at the

pleasure of the President, he, definitely has the moral duty at least, to resign since he is an announced presidential aspirant.

\*\*\*\*\*

I am aghast at the statement of Solicitor General Frank (the suspender) Chavez that the Marcos pals should have been lined up against the walls and shot when the country was still under a revolutionary government. Chavez is talking through his hat when he claims that due process was not enforced during that time because we had the Freedom Constitution which, likewise embodied the Bill of Rights. Anyway Frank issued a denial, saying he was merely quoted out of context. That is the "refuge of sinners" when they get caught; unfortunately for him, Desiree Carlos of *Malaya* stood pat on her account of the Chavez interview, based on the notes taken. *Kaya lumalabas pa na sinungaling din itong si Frank.*

Consequently it should be high time for Cory to reexamine the worth of Frank Chavez in her government. *Tatal kayabangan lang naman ang ginagawa nito dahil gustong tumakbong senador daw.* But his record of performance, like his PCGG counterpart David Castro is dismal. One thing is clear, this man Chavez is dangerous because despite his being a lawyer, he forgets that there is presumption of innocence vouchsafed in the Constitution, including in the Freedom Constitution. *Nakakahiya!*

\*\*\*\*\*

I listened intently to the State of the Nation Address of President Cory last July 22. It did not sound like a State of the Nation Address: "Farewell to the Nation Address" should be the more apt title. It was also a valediction made 10 months in advance. *Kaya tama yata yong sug-*

*gestion ni Senator Maceda na mag set up na ng transition government to prepare the nation to a smooth and peaceful change until a new president is elected next May.* Truth is, Cory herself admitted her shortcomings with a "mea culpa" that "as God is my witness, I really tried my best". Yes, she should be given a credit for trying. Unfortunately, her best was not enough and the nation is in doldrums; everything just went wrong during her more than five years in office. She claims credit for restoring democracy but according to Amnesty International, the Philippines has the worst human rights situation in the Asean region. How does that jibe with democracy?

I agree with some critics that the true "State of the Nation" is in the streets. The true state of the nation are the prices of prime commodities which have multiplied ten-fold, even more since EDSA; in the criminality on the streets, the devaluation of the peso, the graft and corruption that has gone from bad to worse, the lack of confidence by the people on government and the fragmentation of our society, not to mention the *utang* that we have from foreign creditors which has mortgaged even our unborn children.

*Kaya* I agree with Senator Maceda on his call for a transition government and if I may suggest, a true coalition government where the best minds should be harnessed whatever be their political affiliations. In times of crisis, no one person nor party can claim monopoly of talent nor patriotism. All great leaders of the world have set up coalition governments as Churchill did during World War 2, as Roosevelt did during the same period.

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"No more politics this session" - Speaker Mitra. *Sana totoo.* But can they avoid politics in their deliberations with an election staring

### IN MY CORNER...



By RAUL M. GONZALEZ

them at their faces? I doubt it: I am sure that every congressman and senator has the 1992 elections in his agenda.

\*\*\*\*\*

I congratulate President Cory in her call to the AFP and the PNP to assure clean and orderly elections in 1992. I think she should also have directed the same request to the Comelec and to the teachers.

\*\*\*\*\*

There are reports that relief funds worth P5.4 millions are missing in Tarlac. This time they are not pointing to supposed to be suspended Governor Ocampo but to Mayor Macapinlac of Tarlac, Tarlac. At least that is just P5.4 million, *kasi* in Zambales, until now I have not heard where the P12.8 million given to Daldaloso was spent for. This amount was even announced by Cory when she visited San Antonio. *Kung sa bagay baka naman yan ang ginagamit* to improve the property in Bulawen. *Ang problema diyan ay,* according to Undersecretary Tria of DENR, Bulawen is not the site for the evacuees but some 400 hectares in Salaza, 150 hectares in San Juan, some 60 hectares in Mambog and another 50 hectares in Bucao-Porac areas. *Kaya, lipat na naman ang kaawaawang evacuees na ayaw naman talagang pumunta sa Bulawen, pinilit at tinakot lang.*

*At siyanga pala,* where did the P1.8 million

(Page 15, please)

### YOUTH VOICE



by DAVE TABANIAG

## "Blue jeans" (1)

THE FOLLOWING appeared in the May 1982 issue of the Reader's Digest: "Annotation in the 1980-81 bulletin of the Eisenhower College of the Rochester Institute of Technology: "In addition to courses listed here, the International Relations Program requires one additional *course* (underscoring mine-DT) Economics 200."

\*\*\*\*\*

Also, this one: "My language development class was studying the process by which a young child learns to talk. Sounds will lead to syllables, syllables to words, and words into sentences. At this point, the professor stopped and asked the class, 'And what do sentences lead to?'"

"A timid voice volunteered from the back of the room, 'Lectures?'"

\*\*\*\*\*

College life can be fun, especially if you've got lots of *barkadas* in school. But college life also means never-ending research work, term papers, theses, plays to watch and write a review about, endless visits to the library, practicum at a radio or T.V. station, etc.

Sometime in the early '80's when I was, if not in Grade Six, in 1st year high school, a movie was shown in Metro city, entitled "Hotshots."

If I am not mistaken the theme song from that movie went something like: "Sige, sige, kayod sa eskwela, at balang araw makikita n'yo. Pagkatapos ng iyong paghihirap di ka rin makakahanap ng trabaho..."

Boo-hoo!

\*\*\*\*\*

What do I plan to do after I finally say goodbye to TriCol? I'll try a 9 to 5 job for a while, and then I'll resume my schooling to take up B.S. Educ. *para makaganit naman ako sa mga magiging estudyante ko.* Grrr!!!

\*\*\*\*\*

Hi! to the MassCom 144 (MassCom Research) class of Ms. Parian. That's from 9:00 A.M. to 12 NN every Saturday.

"Three hours, Mother?"

### ONE'S WORTH



by MAX NOBLE

## A time to go

IN ITS July 27th issue, the *Free Press* said: "Vasquez would not confirm it, but takes the occasion instead to dramatize his office's alleged dire need to get more funds. The old man — who is a political bed-hopper, having changed 'loyalties' just as quickly as regimes have fallen and risen here — claims the Office of the Ombudsman 'does not have enough funds to pursue its work.' Of course, he does not state that he already has convinced Congress and Malacanang to double his office's funds."

This, to me, is just short of saying the Ombudsman has to go, as this column has urged. There's time for everything, the wisest man who ever lived tells us, and for Justice Vasquez and his deputy, Justice Colayco, the time to while time away fishing is overdue already.

The two justices have served the government long enough; and it's high time younger and more energetic Ombudsmen took over.

I wouldn't say so if, after their four years in office, the anti-graft body has successfully prosecuted at least one Big Fish. Apparently, age has caught up with them.

\*\*\*\*\*

No education secretary in memory is as indecisive as the incumbent when it comes to the welfare of students and teachers.

Last Friday, for instance, Carino announced the suspension of classes in Metro Manila only after the streets were already flooded; the following morning, his announcement again came too late.

However, in the firing of public school teachers who join demonstrations for a redress of legitimate grievances, Carino is very decisive. And he obviously couldn't care less about the Constitution, which guarantees freedom of speech, and about the consequences on the teachers concerned and their families.

Considering their plight — they're underpaid, overworked, exploited, and neglected — teachers are sometimes constrained to take to the streets if only to bring their miserable condition to the attention of the powers that be. Sad to say, instead of

getting sympathy, the teachers are penalized.

The teacher's misery is compounded by the indifference of Carino's boss in Malacanang. Otherwise, the President should have long fired him.

But then that wouldn't be in conformity with her character. It's her habit, you know, of retaining misfits in her Cabinet.

\*\*\*\*\*

Every time I read about Slovenia and Croatia, I'm reminded of the "Bikol Republic" advocated by, among others, ex-Gov. Juan F. Trivino of Camarines Sur. But while the Slovenes and Croats have resorted to military means, the would-be-secessionists south of Luzon hope to achieve their objective through peaceful means.

It may be a pipedream, but who knows?

After all, the Bicol region has been one of the most neglected by the national government.

If the Cebuanos, the Negrenses and the Mindanaoenos have manifested their intention to wean themselves from "Imperial Manila", why not Bicolanos?

Maybe, it's just the misfortune of Bicolanos not to have produced any President, who would have poured Malacanang's bounty on the region. Maybe.

Maybe, it's just the misfortune of Bicolanos

(Page 15, please)

## PEOPLE'S FORUM



## Odd Orbos

IN THE odd-even world of Oscar Orbos, the odds have finally caught up with him, so it seems. Now, what follows next is for Oscar Orbos to get even, it would seem.

It is rather difficult to forget, during those heady days of Oscar Orbos at the DOTC, how silly and even odd he made us feel at being told to purchase gasoline for our cars only every other day.

Neither can we forget the serious joke he foisted upon us all by threatening that odd and even numbered cars be allowed on the road only on alternate days.

And how the populace breathed a sigh of relief when practical housewife President Cory, seeing through the silliness of it all, dropped the idea.

As a matter of fact, for the great multitude of Metro Manilans, the name ORBOS became an acronym for Order Revoked Because Obviously Silly.

Which brings us to the odd, if not silly, circumstances that have hounded Oscar Orbos of late according to press reports, as follows:

Oscar Orbos submits what looks like a hurriedly handwritten resignation which President Cory, who usually takes her time over resignations immediately accepts. How odd.

Oscar Orbos snubs the President's invitation to appear on her TV show "Magtanong sa Pangulo" after his resignation is accepted. Getting even? What an odd way of doing it.

Oscar Orbos sends an obscure technocrat to read his speech for him before no less than the Manila Rotary Club. Now, that is odd.

Oscar Orbos announces he has forsworn politics, quit the LDP and has chosen to serve the country without fanfare, in his capacity as a private citizen; then mobilizes people power, Pangasinan style to back it up with. Odd. Odd. Odd.

At this point, it looks like Oscar Orbos is far from getting even. And it sure makes him look more and more the odd man out by the minute.

Meanwhile, evenhanded Cebu Governor Emilio "Lito" Osmena is patiently waiting in the wings for Oscar Orbos to snap to an even keel so they can get on with their heretofore exciting O-O team, which, we pray, stands neither odd-odd nor obviously odd.

At any rate let us see if we can make some sense of all this.

To start with, the name Oscar Orbos has five letters each. Five is an odd number. Which makes it odd-odd. Five and five equals ten, which is an even number. That makes it odds-even, which is his patented trademark.

Since Oscar Orbos is odd-odd, the ideal partner to pull him out of this maze of oddity

## Mga buwitre

KINAKAIN NG buwitre ang mga bangkay ng tao, hayopokaya'y mga basurang mabahong-mabaho na dahil sa sobrang kabulukan. Mas gusto nila'yung pinag-aagawan at mabaho na sa kabulukan marahil ay higit na masarap ito sa kanilang panlasa. Ganito ang nangyayari sa mga kababayan nating sinalantang Mt. Pinatubo at ngayo'y nakakalat sa iba't ibang evacuation centers. Marami na akong nakausap na tipid na tipid ang mga relief goods na dumarating sa kanila at pagkaraan ay maririnig nila sa radyo at telebisyon na nagpadala ang ganito't ganoong bansa ng tulong salapi at pagkain, kagamitan o kaya'y ang calamity fund ng gobyerno na umabot sa milyong piso. Subalit ang mga kawawang mga kababayan nating Pilipino ay mistula pa ring mga pulubi sa sariling bansa.

Mayroon nang dalawang pulitiko sa Zambales ang napabalitang nag-aaway tungkol sa pagkuha ng kontrata sa rehabilitation ng nasabing lugar. Higit na makabubuting magtulong na lamang ang dalawang pulitikong ito na ibalik muli ang buhay sa Zambales kaysa pag-awayan ang pagkuha ng contractor.

Mayroon pa ring iniulat sa 'kin na maraming mga relief goods ang itinitinda sa Divisoria. Ano'ng klaseng mga tao 'to. Mga taong Buwitre? Mga tao ang itsura sa labas ngunit mga ganid, sakim at uhaw sa dugo ng kapwa

niya tao.

Nagkakagulo daw sa Senado at kongreso dahil sa magkakaroon ng vacuum sa July 30, 1992 pagkaraan ng eleksyon at iba na ang pangulo. Ito ay ibimunyag ng kapaid ni Gng. Aquino na si Cong. Peping Cojuangco. Naaalala ko tuloy noong EDSA picnic noong 1986 sa EDSA nang sabihin ni Enrile na tiwalag na siya sa rehimpeng Marcos dahil sa pandarayang ginawa nito sa eleksyon. Hindi na raw sila naniniwalani Ramos sa pamahalaan ni Marcos. Naalala ko rin ng biglang ipahayag ng Iglesia ni Kristo na maglulunsad sila ng isang rally kapag hindi ibinaba ang presyo ng gasolina. Nahihirapan daw ang mga Pilipino. Ang naisip ko lagi ay tumitigil ba ang pagtakbo ng mga utak ng mga ito at hindi nakita nina Ramos at Enrile na mapagsamantala ang rehimpeng Marcos. Sa loob ng dalawampung taon, noon lamang nila nalamang masama pala ang pamahalaang Marcos. Sa loob ng dalawampung taon?

Ahg ibig kong sabihin, pagkaraan ng anim na taon na paghahari ng mga Cojuangco't Aquino sa Pilipinas ay ngayon lang nila nakitang may depekto ang ating Saligang Batas. At ngayon ay nagmumungkahi si Peping Cojuangco na magbuo ng Constituents Assembly upang susugan ang kasalukuyang saligang batas. Ang mungkahi naman ni Sen. Joey Lina

## KILATISIN NATIN



ni JOSE CRUZ PAPA

ay magsagawa na lamang ng lehisasyon sa mga kulang daw ng Konstitusyon.

Dahil dito ay nagbigay ng opinyon ang ilan nating nakausap na mga tagasamasid ng pulitika ng bansa.

1. Gusto lamang ni Peping Cojuangco diumano na pahabain pa ang panunungkulan ni Gng. Aquino, sa pagka-presidente. Dahil kapag sinusugan ng kongreso ang Konstitusyon, ipapasok na rin nila sa amendments na maaari nang tumakbong muli si Gng. Aquino.

2. Maaaring mag-hold-over capacity diumano si Gng. Aquino kung sakaling magkaroon ng protesta sa eleksyon sa isyu ng dayaan.

3. Makagagawa sila ng paraan diumano sa pagsasakatuparan ng hindi synchronized elections. Matatandaang ibinasura ng Supreme Court and usapin sa synchronized elections.

Kailangang lumahok sa pagsusuri ang tumbayan sa bagong "pakulo" na ito.

## The ordeal of Filipino journalists

By SALVADOR FLOR

LEGASPI CITY — If, by some quirk of circumstance, journalists, disappear from the face of the earth, what will our society be like, orderly and serene and without chaos or worst than one can imagine?

It is no secret that some people desire journalists 'to go to hell'. Without journalists, no one will impeach their integrity and honor and cause them sleepless nights.

Thomas Jefferson, one of the US founding fathers, said, "Were it left for me to decide whether we should have a government without newspaper or newspaper without government, I would not hesitate to prefer the latter."

An article in the *Press Freedom Advocate* issue of May, 1991 written by James Deakin, said it will be easy for journalists to gain favors by reporting the triumphs of government not the failures, the corporate profits not the bankruptcies, the vacation not the sunburn.

The article *Don't Blame the Messenger* origi-

wally published in the *Dialogue* said journalists "trying to catch the sparks for a moment's examination, refuse to be a bulletin board of the ordinary, the pleasant, the noncontroversial." Thus, very few like them.

The reality is not palatable to many people, some said.

Because of the journalists preference for the unpleasant, the controversial, because of their frequent inaccuracy, their insistence on reality, many are getting bullets and court suits instead of awards.

The Philippines which boasts of the freest press in the world has one journalist killed every fortnight, according to the *Press Freedom Advocate*.

In the Bicol Region, it is not bullets that are felling journalists but libel convictions and court suits. Six have been convicted and more are expected to follow with a dozen journalists facing libel suits.

But many public officials are not ready to heed the advice. When their honor and integrity seem impeached, they hit back with libel suits or bullets. The wounded feelings and besmirched reputation can not be soothed with the balm of a clear conscience.

The best defense against libel is the truth, an old Legaspi City newsman said. (ANFI)

Oscar Orbos's birthday is January (1) 28 which is odd-even. The eventempered Lito Osmena's birthday is September (9) 11 which is odd-odd, and by an odd coincidence, it is also the birthday of the late Ferdinand Marcos.

Their birthyears, Osmena 1938 and Orbos 1951 are even-odd. Cebu Governor Emilio Osmena shall be 54 years old on election day and Attorney Oscar Orbos shall be 41. Again even-odd.

When elections are held on the tenth of May, it shall be 5-10 odd-even. And 1992 broken

down to 1 plus 9 which is ten and 9 plus 2 which is eleven would be even-odd.

Now what could make more perfect sense in the odd-even world of Oscar Orbos!

AGAPITO W. MENDEZ, JR.  
President, Permaline Homes  
Director, Confederation of Marikina  
Homeowners  
and Neighborhood Association, Inc.  
Parang, Marikina  
Metro Manila

ANG SYCIP, Goffres, at Velayo (SGV) ay kamakailan lang nagdiwang ng kaarawan ng pangulo at tagapagtatag nito na si Ginoong Washington Sycip. Ginanap ang okasyon sa PICC sa tinaguriang "party of the year" - ang pinakatan-yag at pinakamarangyang pagtitipon ng taon. Nitong huling mga araw, nalathala ang pagsapit ng kanilang taunang anibersaryo ng "paglilingkod sa kapwa". Bakit natin sila pinagtutuhan ng pansin?

Itong grupo ng mga accountants ang nangunguna sa tagumpay ng kanilang propesyon dito sa Asya. Natural lamang na itong mga tagapan-

# Ang papel ng SGV

Ni PLACIDO P. DIAZ

galaga sa kayamanan ng mga mayayaman ay yumaman din. Hindi ko ito ikinaiinggit sa kanila. Ang nais ko lamang linawin ay ang kanilang pananagutan sa patuloy na pagdarahop ng karamihan sa aking mga kababayan. Sangkot sila sa kahirapang dinaranas ngayon ng aking bayan.

Matatandaan na sa pag-upo ni Presidentita Cory, ang grupong ito ng mga eskriba

ang inatasang mangasiwa sa mga kayamanang naiwan ng tumakas na diktador. At hindi lang ito ang ginagampanan nilang panunungkulan sa kasalukuyang administrasyon, gayundin sa nakaraan. Sila ang tiyak na nakakabatid sa karamihan ng nakawan na nangyari sa kaban ng bayan. Subalit, kagaya ng mga kalihim na ang trabaho ay siyempre itago

ang baho ng kanilang mga amo, wanakosey din itong mga tagahawak ng doble-libro de kuwenta. Hindi sila mga kuwentista.

May kasama ako sa Kapatiran ni Hesus Nazareno na nag-aaral ng accounting dahil tala-gang magaling siya sa math. Sinabi ko sa kanya ang aking opinyon na sa ating panahon, nalagpasan nang mga account-

ants ang mga abogado sa kasingungalingan. Kung ang mga abogado ay binabaluktot ang matuwid at ang matuwid ay binabaluktot, ang mga accountants ay nagagawa nilang palitawin na wala ang mayroon at ang mayroon ay wala. Kaya, sa tingin ko, sila na ngayon ang namber wan sa panloloko ng kapwa, dahil sa paghabol sa salapi.

Ngayon, ang punto ko rito ay: Bakit sa SGV pinahawak

ang kargo y data ng kayamanang naiwan sa Malakan-yang? Dahil siyempre, walang tiwala ang gobyernong rebolusyonaryo kuno ng Presidentita sa COA, ang ahensiya ng ating pamahalaan na itinalaga ng Saligang Batas upang gampanan ang gayung tungkulin. Ang tanong: ano ang ginagawa ng COA kung gayon? Kung hindi mapagkatiwalaan ang mga naka-upo roon at sumasahod nang walang ginagawa, puwes palitan na silang lahat ng mga tauhan ng SGV, upang por lo menos, paghirapan naman nila kahit bahagya ang patuloy nilang panloloko sa bayan. Ikanga: transparency.



AUGUST 2-8, 1991

11

## Tulong sa Pinatubo Bigay ng UNDP, pinakamalaki

SA MGA pandaigdigang organisasyong nagpadala ng tulong para sa mga biktima ng pagsabog ng Mt. Pinatubo, ang United Nations Development Program (UNDP) ang naka-pagbigay nang pinakamalaki.

Ayon sa pinakahuling ulat ng National Disaster Coordinating Center (NDCC), ang UNDP ay nakapagbigay na ng \$500,000 cash, na inilalaan ngayon para sa rehabilitasyon, at ng karagdagang \$50,000 halaga ng 750 tolda at 2,000 kumot.

Sa mga bansa naman ay pinakamalaki ang donasyon ng Estados Unidos sa halagang \$6.37 milyon. Ngunit iyon ay hindi cash, bagkus ay mga kagamitang binubuo ng tulong na medikal, pagkain, nakaempakeng pagkain at seismic at iba pang kasangkapan.

Nagpadala naman ang Confederation of European Communities (CEC) ng kabuuang P1.5 milyong cash at P8.4 milyong halaga ng mga suplay na medikal, silungan at pagkain.

Kabilang sa iba pang malalaking multilateral donors ang UNICEF, na naglaan ng \$50,000 para sa pagbili ng oral dehydration equipment, water

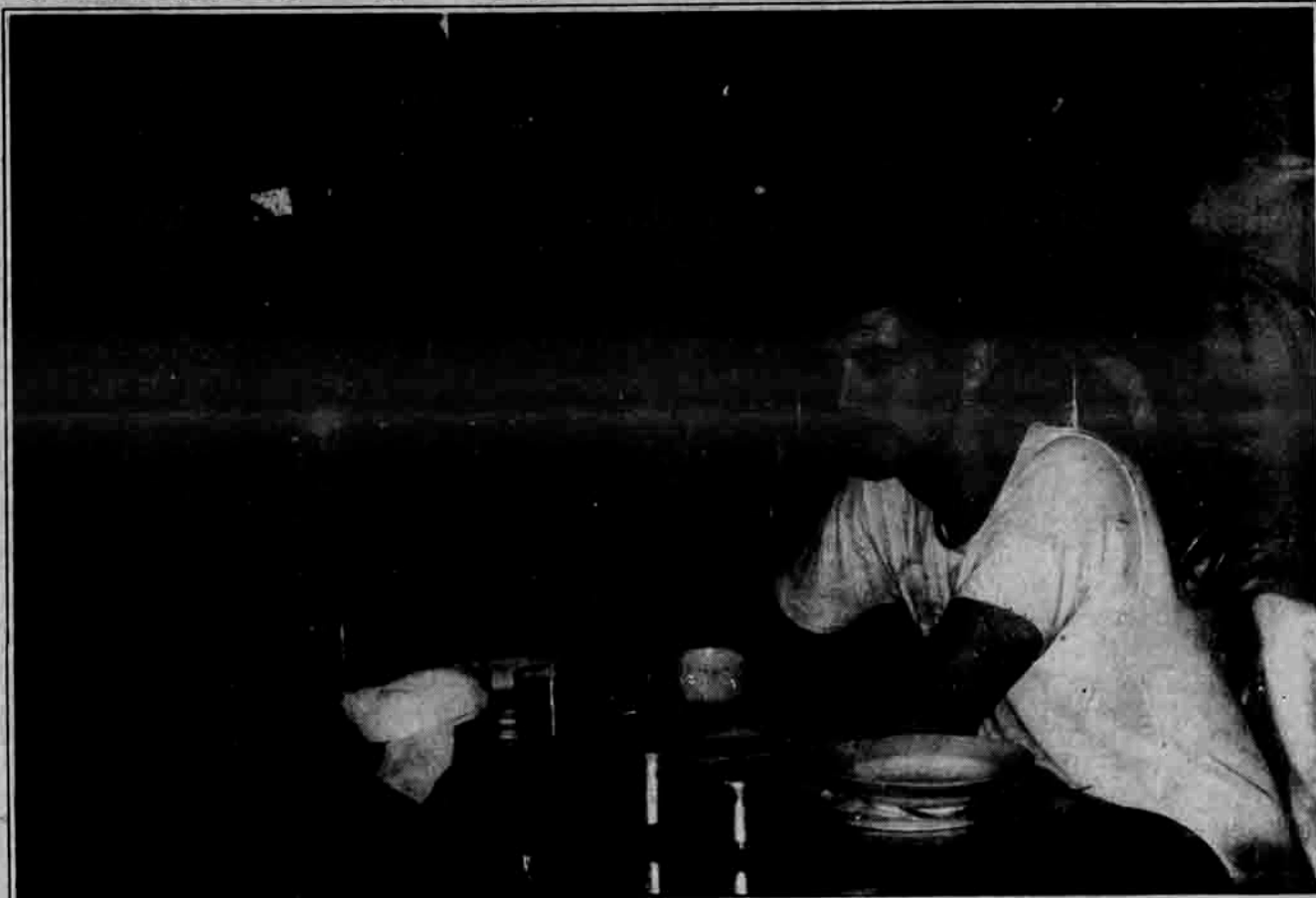
tablets at mga sisidlan ng tubig, at hiwalay na \$440,000 na hindi pa naiipoprograma.

Ang World Food Program (WFP) ay naghandog ng \$50,000 na halaga ng mga delata, bigas, mantika at tuyo. Ang International Labor Organization (ILO) ay nag-ambag ng \$30,000 halaga ng tulong teknikal. Ang World Health Organization (WHO) naman ay nagbigay ng \$15,000 halaga ng mga gamot at suplay na medikal.

Sa mga bansang nagsitulong, pangalawa ang Japan na may pinakamalaking iniambag. Nagbigay sila ng \$200,000 na cash at \$200,000 halaga ng pagkain, gamot, tolda, generators, kakanin at mga baldeng plastik. Nagbigay din ng \$200,000 cash ang Taiwan at ng mga toldang nagkakahalaga nang P5.6 milyon.

Ang iba pang bansang nagsipagbigay ng malalaking tulong ay ang Australia, Belgium, Canada, China, France, Finland, Germany, Netherlands, New Zealand at Norway.

Ang Saudi Arabia ay nagpadala ng mga pagkain samantalang ang Thailand ay nagbigay ng salapi, mga suplay na medikal at bigas. (Asian News & Features)



GABI SA ANGELES: Apektado rin sa pag-alis ng Clark Base.

## Kamatayan ng isang lungsod?

ANG LUBHANG nakasakit sa mga Pilipino sa desisyong Amerikano na bituan na ang Clark Air Base ay hindi ang mga implikasyong pulitikal at pangmilitar nito kundi ang pagkamatay ng isa sa pinakamasiigla at progresibong lungsod sa bansa — ang Angeles City.

Ang mga residente ng Angeles City, na umasa sa presensiyang ng US sa Clark Field, ay nayanig at nalito nang ang kanilang tinatamang kaunlaran ay biglang palisin ng pahayag nina US Negotiator Richard Armitage at Admiral Charles Larson, commander-in-chief ng US Pacific Command, na dahil sa napakalaking pinsalang nilikha ng pagputok ng Mt. Pinatubo noong nakaraang Hunyo 12 ay tatalikdan na ang Clark.

Ang naapektuhan nang malubha ay ang tinatayang may 600,000 residente na ang pinagkakitaan ay pagpapapa sa mga tauhan ng hukbo ng US ng mga tirahan sa mahuhusay na subdivisyon at pagbibigay ng serbisyo sa kanila sa mga restawran at bar at sa prostitusyon.

Bukod sa daan-daang libong negosyanteng ito ay ang mahigit sa 30,000 manggagawang Pinoy sa loob ng base na biglang nawalan ng trabaho nang ang mga Amerikano ay magsialis sa base sa unang pagputok ng Mt. Pinatubo.

Sinabi sa kanila ng mga awtoridad ng pamahalaan na huwag

malungkot sapagkat handa na ang pagsasagawa ng mga plano sa kombersiyon na ang Ninoy Aquino international airport ay ililipat sa Clark at isang malawak na pook ng kalakalan para sa mga hotel, tindahan, liwaliwan at iba pang destinasyong panturista ang itatayo sa inabandonang pasilidad ng US.

"Mas malaki ang kikitain ninyo kaysa inyong kinikita sa ilalim ng mga Amerikano," ang sabi sa nalulumbay na mga residente ng Angeles. Ngunit hindi sila napapatalon sa tuwa sa mga pangakong ito.

Alam na nila ang nakaraang rekord ng pamahalaan sa pangangasiwa sa mga ari-arian na galing sa ibang mga pamahalaan at mga pribadong kompanya, na inilarawang nakalulungkot. Itinuturo nila ang Sangley Point sa Cavite na isang halimbawa ng kabiguan ng pamahalaan at sinasabi na maging ang Camp John Hay, na kamakailan ay inilipat sa pamahalaan, ay nagpapakita na ng palatandaan na matutulad ito sa Sangley Point.

Alam nila na hindi na nila matatamasa kailanman ang prosperidad na kanilang tinamasa nang ang Clark ay nasa kasiglahan ng pagpapatakbo.

Gaya ng sinabi ng isang Angeles Rotarian, "Iyon ay isang pangarap na hindi na babalik kailanman." (ANFI)



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HOW IS



MADE?



1

SA PAMAMAGTAN NG

**FERMENTATION**



2

SA GANTONG PARAAN DIN

ANG BARLEY AY  
GINAGAWANG  
BEER



3

ANG

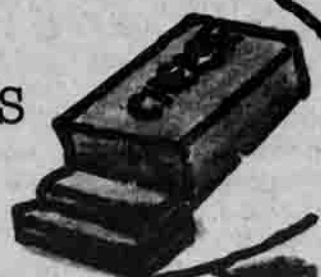


UBAS, WINE



4

AT ANG GATAS



5

BILHIN SA  
ORIGINAL PAKETE



6

# Mga kritiko, nililito ni Cory

SI PRESIDENTE Aquino ay may paraan ng paglito sa kanyang mga kritiko hinggil sa pagpapatupad ng patakaran ng panlabas ng Pilipinas. Ang bagay na ito, ayon sa mga kongresista, ay makikita sa mga pagbabagong nagaganap sa mga pag-uusap ukol sa kasunduang pambase.

Tinutukoy ng mga miyembro ng Kongreso, lalo nаноong mga may kinalaman sa patakaran ng panlabas, ang mga sumusunod na pangyayari:

1. Nang matigil sa mabibigay na isyu ng upa at tagal ng pananatili ang pang-anim na paghaharap ng mga panel ukol sa hinaharap ng mga pasilidad pangmilitar ng US sa bansa, isang ganap na kabiguan ang ipinakikita ng mga balitang nanggagaling sa Maynila at sa Washington. Pagkatapos, mismong si Presidente Aquino ang nagkusang magpatawag kay US Ambassador Nicholas Platt sa Malakanyang para sa iniulat na isang simpleng pagpapalitang kuro. Ngunit kalaunan ay nabatid na tinalakay nila ni Platt ang mga "nuts and

bolts" o mga kaliwa't kanan ng isyu sa base. Hindi nagtagal ay lumabas ang mga balita na ang Washington ay payag nang ipagpatuloy ang pag-uusap.

2. Nang sumabog ang Mt. Pinatubo, na labis na nakapinsala sa Clark Air Base at Subic Naval Base, nagpahayag ng pangamba ang mga nakatataas na opisyal ng Washington na maaaring bitiwang na ng Estados Unidos ang mga base. Mabilis namang kumalat ang takot sa Pilipinas. Nagpahayag ng kahilingan si Presidente Aquino na manatili muna sa Maynila si Ambassador Platt habang hindi pa natatapos ang negosasyon, at pinauwi niya si Ambassador to Washington Emmanuel Pelaez "para sa konsultasyon."

3. Naagapan ni Presidente Aquino ang bangaang ibinabanta ng mga anti-base nang atasan niya si Kalihim Panlabas Raul S. Manglapus na lagging ipaalam sa Senado ang mga pangyayari sa negosasyon.

4. Tiniyak din ng Presidente na nitong mga huling yugto ng



PANG. AQUINO: May paraan.

pag-uusap ay "walang masyadong salita, puro gawa."

5. Ngunit sinasabi ng mga kongresista na magkakasubukan nang husto kapag kinailangan na ang pakikiayon ng

Senado sa kasunduang ipinagpagsara niya sa US. Hinihintay nila ang isang pagsusukat ng lakas nina Presidente Aquino at Senate President Jovito Salonga, na namumuno



**MORE ACCURATE SURVEYS AND MAPS:** Modern satellite and computer surveying equipment enabled Filipinos and Australians to re-establish in a record of 28 months a new network of geodetic control points covering the entire Philippines, including several in Bicol. The first ever to be undertaken for an entire country, the re-survey would have taken 30 years to complete if conventional methods were used. The new network provides a more accurate data base for surveys and maps and will help improve natural resource management in the Philippines. The re-survey was undertaken as part of the A\$24 million (about P500 million) Australian Government grant for the Natural Resources Management and Development Project (NRMDP) currently being implemented by DENR. (Australian Embassy)

disproportionately small, chances are, it is not getting the nutrition from the placenta that it needs," he said.

Hypertension is the leading cause of stroke, which does not only cripple people. The fact is, it is a leading cause of death. Thus, preventing or fighting hypertension is vital throughout life because a minor blood pressure elevation increases the risk of a stroke.

Mild hypertension can often be controlled by exercising, cutting down on salt and losing weight if one is too fat. When blood pressure rises, the doctor usually prescribes a drug and patients are advised to have regular blood-pressure monitoring. (Asian News & Features)

# P40-M para sa pollution control sa Calaca Plant

MAGLALAAAN NG P40 milyon ang National Power Corporation para sa pagpapahusay ng pollution control at monitoring systems ng Calaca I. Ipagpapatuloy lamang ang pagtatayo ng Calaca II matapos malutas ang lahat ng suliraning kaugnay ng mga perhuwisyong dulot ng Calaca I.

Ito ang tiniyak ni Pablo Malixi, ang bagong presidente

sa anti-bases bloc.

Gayunman, kung titingnan ang husay niyang lumusot sa mga kagipitan, malaki ang pagasang makukuha rin ni Aquino ang pagsang-ayon ng Senado. (Asian News & Features)

ng Napocor, sa mga mamamayang tutol sa pagbubukas ng naturang power plant na ginatungan ng uling sa isang pulong na ginanap sa Malakanyang kamakailan. Kasabay nito ay binigyang diin niya na kailangang-kailangan ng bansa ang mga naturang power plant.

"Kung hindi itatayo ang Calaca II, daranas ng matinding kakapusan sa kuryente ang bansa," ani Malixi. Idinagdag niyang maghahanap pa sila ng pondo upang matustusan ang iba pang proyekto, gaya ng pagbibigay ng malinis na tubig sa mga matataas na barangay ng Calaca, na naapektuhan ng abo mula sa Calaca I.

Ayon sa isang detalyadong sulat ng Sangguniang Bayan at mga mamamayan ng Calaca, ang 300-megawatt na power plant ay nagbubuga ng hindi kukulangin sa 60,000 tonelada ng abo taun-taon at nagbubuga rin ito ng sulphur dioxide na nag-iwan ng asido kapag sumanib sa ulan.

Napakabaho rin anila ang sulphuric wastes na nakapagpaparumi ng tubig sa kanilang mga poso, ang tanging pinagkukunan ng tubig pang-inumin at panluto ng mga taga-Calaca.

Nangako rin si Malixi, na ang kontratista ng itatayong Calaca II ay pakukunin nila ng mayor's permit at pagbabayaran nila ng lisensiya sa munisipyo ng bayang ito upang mabawi ng pamahalaang lokal ang real estate taxes na mawawala sa kanila dahil sa konstruksiyon ng power plant. Lahat ng empleyado ng Napocor sa naturang power plant ay doon din nila pagbabayaran ng income taxes.

Bukod dito, ipinangako ni Malixi na uunahin nila sa pagkuhang manggagawa ang mga taga-Calaca. Sisikapin din na mga kuwalipikadong taga-Calaca ang mailagay sa mga itatayong opisina ng mga kontratista ng Napocor doon.

Nag-alok pa rin ng mga punla ng puno si Malixi para sa tree-planting program sa Calaca. (Asian News & Features)

## Hypertension is tied to fetal size

THE STRUCTURE of fetal arteries may lead to adult high blood pressure, meaning, hypertension may develop prenatally, said a study conducted by researchers at the medical Research Council's Environmental Epidemiology Unit based in Southampton, United Kingdom.

Results of the study, which were published in the British Medical Journal and in Cardiology in Practice, a supplement to Asian Medical News, found that the size of a mother's placenta in relation to the size of her fetus had an important effect on the adult systolic and diastolic pressures of the child.

The researchers headed by Dr. David Barker, director of the epidemiology unit, examined 449 people in Preston, England, between the years 1935 and 1943.

Dr. Barker and his colleagues found that the inverse proportion between the placental and fetal size may have caused circulatory adaptations that led to hypertension. Specifically, blood may have diverted from the trunk of the fetus to the brain, altering the structure of the arteries of the fetus, which consequently led to high blood pressure, it was noted.

"We found out that men and women with ages ranging from 46 to 54 and who had been small babies and whose mothers had large placentas had the highest blood pressures," Dr. Barker said. "The placenta represents a target for growth. If the fetus is

Maligayang pagbati sa ika-18 kaarawan ni JENNIFER B. JUNTILLO sa darating na ika-11 ng Agosto 1991. Ang pagbati ay nagmula sa kanyang mga magulang na sina Domingo at Julieta Juntilo at ang kanyang kapatid na si Domingo Jr. at ang kanyang mga kaibigan sa San Rafael, Bulacan. (D'JEMRSF)

# Subic Base workers apply for Middle East jobs

By LOUELLA G. VIZCOCHO



SUBIC BASE: Unstable jobs?

OLONGAPOCITY—Residents of Olongapo City, host of the US Subic Naval Base, are not head-over-heels over a draft treaty that may extend base operations for ten more years.

Already some 255 workers at Subic's Ship Repair Facility, have resigned for what they believe are more stable jobs in the Middle East.

The PNF source, a well-placed supervisor who asked not to be named for fear of losing his job, himself has an application pending with a firm in the Mideast. "Nasa balag kami ng alanganin kahit na nagkaroon ng proposed 10-year extension. Ang malinaw, base lang ang mare-retain, kaming mga manggagawa hindi malinaw. (Despite the ten-year extension, we are uncertain of our future. What is clear is that the base will stay, the workers may not.)" he said.

Word has been going around that there will be mass lay-offs, and even American supervisors are saying the same thing, he added.

Machinists, welders and riggers top the list of resignees, the source said.

Meanwhile, Zeny Gonzales, owner of a restaurant chain here is optimistic. "It's a welcome development. Now we know we have ten more years to recover

and profit from our investments. We'll have no more second thoughts about pumping in more money."

She even welcomed entrepreneurs who would be displaced by the closure of Clark Air Base in Angeles City.



GORDON

Olongapo mayor Richard Gordon however has deemed that there are more than enough bars and nightclubs in the city and that newcomers will have to put up other enterprises.

Armando Santos, another businessman, sees the influx of investors as a boon. "If they come here, we'll have moneyed residents. That will open up job opportunities which are insufficient here."

Meanwhile, Roberto Flores,

president of the Federation of Filipino Civilian Employees Associations at the base complains that base authorities have not given them relief goods or entitled them to the 30-day paid emergency leave afforded their American counterparts.

He said most of the base workers lost their homes and properties when Mt. Pinatubo spewed tons of ash and sand over most parts of the provinces of Zambales, Pampanga and Tarlac, including the cities of Angeles and Olongapo where the bases are located.

Base workers interviewed by PNF said the disaster clearly showed what most of them refused to believe before: that the Americans will always place their interests over that of Filipinos, even those of the base workers who had served them well for several decades.

Base critic and Irish missionary Shay Cullen also downplayed whatever positive effects the continued stay of Subic base would have on Olongapo's economy. "I see terrible social exploitation—child abuse, violence against women, prostitution," Cullen said.

"The negotiators did not take into consideration the dehumanization that is part and parcel of the US base's presence," he added. (PNF)

## Closed Kennon Road hampers Baguio rebound

BAGUIO CITY—Except for occasional curiosity seekers, Camp John Hay looks deserted only a few weeks after the Americans left.

In nearby Benguet, farmers complain it takes them an average of two days to ship their perishable vegetables from Buguias, the new vegetable capital, at its northern tip to outlets in Manila.

"Baguio's old charm may have been regained as ninety percent of the physical infrastructure of the city has been restored. But it's not yet out of the woods," says Oswald Alvaro, city secretary.

"For as long as Kennon Road remains closed, we can not talk about promoting local tourism. We can't rebuild Benguet's vegetable industry," Alvaro said, a year after the city was devastated by an earthquake.

Kennon Road, the scenic gateway carved out of mountainsides leading to the country's summer capital, sustained heavy damage from landslides during the tremors.

Last week, the Baguio City council passed a resolution urging the national government not to divert rehabilitation funds earmarked for the earthquake-devastated parts of central and northern Luzon to those damaged by the Mt. Pinatubo eruption.

The resolution pointed out that little has been done to reopen Kennon Road a year after it

was destroyed and yet the country's economic managers have already decided to divert to the volcano-damaged areas some P6.4 billion out of the earthquake rehabilitation fund.

City officials say government engineers over-estimated costs to reopen the historic road. Only on the basis of an aerial survey, officials said, the engineers pegged rehabilitation costs at P3 billion. A ground survey was not conducted, they pointed out. Much much less is needed, they argued.

Former Philippine Tourism Authority (PTA) general manager Bernardo Vergara, after assessing the highway's damage was reported as saying the rehabilitation estimate is grossly exaggerated. "With P3 billion, we could build a bridge from Baguio to Rosario (in lowland La Union)," he told city officials.

Besides prohibitive costs in reopening the zig-zag road, the national government has hesitated to rebuild it because it was declared ecologically unsound. Little has been done, however, to restore its denuded forests. Residents along the abandoned highway have since been treated with benign neglect.

### UMBILICAL CORD

Since Kennon was opened in 1905, city officials point out, it has served as the city's umbilical cord. Its tourism industry was dependent on weekend travelers who reached the city

from Manila by car in only four to five hours.

The more expensive but highly perishable temperate vegetables needed by first class restaurants around the country depended on fast delivery through Kennon.

Today, buses going up to the city take from eight to 10 hours to reach Baguio through Naguilian Road, one of the two alternative routes left to lowlanders. On foggy nights, the trip takes as long as 12 hours, discouraging weekend vacationists.

The repercussions are far reaching. Benguet is left limping on the vegetable industry as the economic base after the collapse of the mining industry. Ten out of Benguet's 13 towns depend on vegetables which bring in gross sales of over P1 billion yearly.

Frequent landslides along the Halsema Mountain Highway, the vegetable route, and the continued closure of Kennon have choked the industry since after the earthquake.

The same could be said of the tourist trade. Slow business at Camp John Hay, the locals' source of pride after it was returned by the US in July, serves as a daily reminder that the once thriving tourism trade in the city has not picked up.

The third leg of Baguio's economy, its student population, has saved it from total collapse. Although enrollment de-

## The political . . . (From page 8)

"Ramos clone."

Mrs. Aquino's support would mean also the support of most of her relatives who are holding top political posts and also of the *Kabisig* movement known as her personal mass movement involved in civic projects with a nation-wide network of civic leaders.

But Mitra is known to have the edge among the LDP delegates since he was one of the party founders and was its first president until he gave way to Senator Neptali Gonzalez when he announced for the presidency.

He had a hand in the appointment of the party delegates who would make the final choice of the EDP presidential bet.

Mitra also has another advantage as House speaker with access to millions of pesos of House budgetary outlays including a whopping discretionary

clined from an average of 50,000 per semester before the quake, its big student population has filled hopeful fastfood chains and boarding houses. (Philippine News and Features)

fund and many forms of perks and privileges which could help him in his presidential campaign.

Recently, he ordered that each and every congressman be granted a P49 million countryside development outlay (a.k.a. pork barrel funds) which tied up all congressmen to his presidential ambitions. Even opposition solons were given the same amount.

Ramos' supporters are asking that Mitra likewise resign his top congressional position since he has a decided advantage over Ramos because of the tremendous resources available to the Speaker. They said since Ramos was asked to leave out of *delicadeza*, the same should also be applied to Mitra.

The opposition, on the other hand, also prepared to go full blast with their political agenda with the Aquino factor gone. They had stated any reelectionist president would be hard to defeat because he would have the entire government machinery and resources at his command to misuse and abuse to win the elections.

Fighting for the Nacionalista presidential nomination are Salvador Laurel, Juan Ponce Enrile and Eduardo Cojuangco. With the specter of an Aquino reelection gone, they can now concentrate on their fight for the NP nomination without having to worry about a rear-guard action against a reelectionist in power.

Opposition leaders say that with Mrs. Aquino firmly asserting she was not running again, they would have much better chances in winning the coming presidential polls.

Other presidential candidates who were assessing their positions in the wake of the Aquino farewell speech were Jovito Salonga, Joseph Estrada, Miriam Defensor Santiago and Aquilino Pimentel.

Estrada and Santiago have been consistently topping all political surveys although they still have small parties not yet fully organized nationwide. Estrada has the Partido ng Masa and Santiago had the Philippine Reform Party.

Both are confident as elections near, their respective political parties would become fullpledged national organizations down to the grass roots level.



## Igorot miners seek new land laws

By MAURICE B. MALANES

ITOGON, BENGUET - Hardly are Philippine laws in their favor. But this fails to dampen the spirit of villagers in this northern Philippine mining town as they protest the open-pit mining operation of Asia's biggest gold-mining firm.

Villagers of Ucab, a gold-rich village 30-minute from the summer capital of Baguio City, have since July 1 barricaded an open-pit mining operation of Benguet Corp. in the subvillage of Keystone. They have been threatened with arrest.

Together with another such operation in nearby Loacan village, Benguet Corp.'s open-pit project known as the Antamok Gold Project will dislocate over 17,000 residents who depend both on pocket mining and farming, says a new study by the Baguio-based Task Force Against Open-pit Mining (TFOPM).

Ucab villagers contend that the land where they now live and work on has been the same land their ancestors tended long before Benguet Corp. and other big firms arrived. They invoke ancestral land rights.

Although a constitutional provision recognizes the rights

of "indigenous cultural communities," among those the right to ancestral domain, the laws needed to spell these rights out are yet to be made.

Two bills on ancestral land rights are pending in Congress after they were filed more than a year ago. The bills, authored by Sen. Joseph Estrada and Kalinga-Apayao Rep. William Claver will give ancestral land owners the legal and political clout to control and manage their ancestral land as well as the mineral wealth underneath.

A bill by Sen. Orlando Mercado bans open-pit mining.

Benguet Corp.'s land rights are, on the other hand, based on existing mining and land laws, passed during the American colonial period up to the regime of the late ex-Pres. Ferdinand Marcos. These continue to work against the protesting Ucab villagers.

Invoking Presidential Decree No. 463, for example, Benguet Corp. management is set to file charges of "illegal obstruction" and "coercion" against barricade leaders.

### GOV'T ACTS FOR BENGUET

The Cordillera office of the

environment department (DENR-CAR) itself informed barricaders to stop "staging pickets and obstruction threat, otherwise, we regret the consequences of your actions."

The government directive is based on Sec. 87 of PD 463 which penalizes persons obstructing the "prospecting, development, exploitation and operation" of mining claim holders.

DENR-CAR also told pickets in a July 4 cease-and-desist order that Benguet Corp. was allowed to use the harmful open-pit method "after it was granted the necessary clearances/permits by the DENR."

"Besides, there is no law and regulation prohibiting open-pit mining per se," DENR-CAR said.

"We've nowhere else to go. Benguet Corp. may be able to pay us huge sums in exchange for our lands. But money is finite, while the land stays forever," a 65-year old man said in local *Kankanaey* language.

Itoigon town officials interceded last weekend by sponsoring a referendum on the contested Keystone open-pit site. Of the more than 350 Ucab folk who participated, only 36

voted in favor of the controversial method which uses bulldozers and cranes to scrape whole mountainsides for low-grade ore.

Benguet Corp. vice president Dominador Valencia told *Northern Dispatch*, a local news agency, last week that the Itoigon referendum was "only a consultation." He said town officials try to come out with "compromise solutions" in response to the villagers' opposition.

Four days after the referendum, bulldozers started operating again as some 50 company guards positioned themselves on the contested Keystone site, the Baguio-based independent Mining Communities Development Center (MCDC) reported.

While villagers were able to stop the big machines, they said they realized their fight against the giant firm is a long one.

Benguet Corp.'s Antamok project must cover at least 1,623 hectares in Loacan village alone, to pass the environmental compliance certificate issued by the environment department. (PNF)



ORBOS: New spirit.

## Rekindle spirit of EDSA--Orbos

CEBUCITY— "Private citizen" Oscar Orbos kept Cebuanos hanging on to his every word during two speaking engagements he gave here last week following his resignation early July as executive secretary.

"Thank you for your confidence," Orbos said, responding to an impassioned appeal from students for him to declare his presidency.

"Maybe there is a proper and necessary time to make the decision (however) we will not succeed if my fundamental message is not realized," he told the young Cebuanos.

Earlier, he told Cebu Rotarians: "I would declare that Lito (Cebu Governor Emilio M. R. Osmena) be the president and I the vice president." Yet he cushioned the impact of his statement with the condition that the spirit of EDSA be rekindled first.

Months ago, Orbos figured in a ticket called "o-o" (for Osmena-Orbos also Filipino for yes).

"My running for a government position is immaterial," he told the students. "I can stand here and promise, but making me president will not be enough."

People need to directly interact with government because if they left everything to their leaders, change cannot be achieved, he said.

He said that in the history of the Philippines, it was only during the 1986 EDSA uprising when the people did not leave their destiny to their leaders. Filipinos, however, seemed to have forgotten the lesson of this event in history, he lamented.

As a result, he said, the country has not gotten out of the rut. "In fact, 1992 would be worse," he forecast, saying next year would see stagflation, high unemployment and a people losing confidence in government.

Asked what form he wanted people power to take, he said people could start organizing where they are and set standards upon which they will judge their present and would-be leaders.

Skeptical political pundits here believe Orbos may be seeking a groundswell of popular support. As of presstime, Osmena hasn't said yes to the former executive secretary's invitation. (PNF)

### Max NOBLE

(From page 9)

that their political leaders don't care as much for their region as they should. Maybe.

Or, maybe, Bicolanos are

just unfortunate.

There may be other *may-be's*, but these shouldn't matter anymore for Bicolanos who want to change the fortune of their region.

Mr. Trivino, are you still there?

## Visayas fish catch declines

By MARIVIR MONTEBON

CEBUCITY - The Southeast Asia Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC) has found that fishponds and prawn have caused the decline of annual fish harvests. In study, the Japanese-funded center said that small fishermen lose about 420,000 tons of fish every year due to the conversion of mangrove swamps to fishponds and prawn farms.

Inland fishing which is carried out in fresh and brackish water, contributed 28 percent of the total fish production last year.

### Raul GONZALEZ

(From page 9)

for communications go? *Nagtatanong lang kami...*

\*\*\*\*\*

An elective provincial offi-

Threatened are fisherfolk in Iloilo province where 20,000 or a third of the Visayas' 60,942 hectares are located. Industries like seaweed culture in the coral reefs in Jingtanan island in Bohol province, mussel culture in Western Samar province, and pearl culture in Jilantagaan Diot Bantayan in Cebu province have also become widespread.

Fishers in Ingore district in Iloilo City, for instance, were deprived of their access to shorelines when a businessman constructed a three-hec-

tare fishpond there.

Meanwhile in the town of Carcar, Cebu, a local fisherfolk association has petitioned local governments to stop fishpond expansion there. The conversions they say, have lowered water supply and increased water salinity.

Already the Metropolitan Cebu Water District has warned that water supply in the province may last only five years. Wilman Eliot, association chairman of small fishermen in Cebu has expressed alarm over the continued rise

in the number of inland fishing ventures. In Carcar alone, at least 200 hectares of prawns have been developed.

Early July, fisherfolk organizations affiliated with the Visayas Conference on Agrarian Reform (VICAR), submitted a policy proposal for government to rehabilitate the breeding grounds of fish, to assure small fisherfolk that foreshore lands are for their homes and livelihood, and to require licensing of fishponds and other marine culture operations. (PNF)

he has not paid; I wrote him to remind him about the promise, he has not even had the courtesy to reply to me. *Puede na man* "thank you" *na lang sanda, kaya lang* I do not like to be

taken for granted. *Kasi*, I also gave him P2,500 for the Boy Scouts jamboree several months back but the teachers told me the money never reached them.

# We Forum

16

AUGUST 2-8, 1991

P3.00

## Most expensive blunder of Aquino administration

By ABE P. BELENA

**FORMER TRADE secretary Jose Concepcion Jr. called it a stupid policy. His successor, Peter Garrucho**

The controversial nine percent levy on all imports has been proved an expensive blunder by the Aquino administration. Even government data show it has been counter-productive.

A glaring miscalculation was finance secretary Jesus Estanislao's projection that the tax measure imposed last January, would generate P3 billion (US\$83 billion) in revenues this year and substantially bridge the wide gap between government income and budgetary requirements.

Records from Mr. Estanislao's office show that for the first half of the year, the import levy for the government is P5.54 billion (US\$20 billion) or less than one fourth of projected income.

Analysts of the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) feel the levy's ill-effects on the Philippine economy are

more profound. Secretary Garrucho has petitioned Malacanang to exempt the importation of capital goods (mostly machineries for new industrial plants and for existing industries' expansion programs) from the levy.

From the day the levy was slapped on all imports, the signal to import capital goods was given by the DTI for 260 projects. The worth of those machineries total P102 billion. Not one of the applicants has actually brought in equipment.

"They are awaiting until the levy is lifted," notes a key DTI official. This has two major effects. First, it has delayed the setting up of strategic infrastructure on which the industrial sector was to grow. Second, it has robbed the country of a chance to create thousands of jobs which could have helped reduce the number of unemployed.

**wants it scrapped. Labor and business are united in opposing it.**

Garrucho also expressed the alarm since a tax holiday for companies registered with the Board of Investments expires August 13. The exemption covers imported capital goods which will soon be levied the controversial nine percent import tax.

New local and foreign investments also plummeted by 20 percent for the first half of the year compared to the same period last year, another indicator of a decline.

Equally hurt are industries that depend on imported raw materials to sustain production at old levels. The DTI has not consolidated data on the extent of the production slowdown among manufacturers dependent on imports. The fact that the "banking system is awash with dollars" however is proof enough that few firms are importing, a trade official says.

A third sector clobbered by the import levy is agriculture which is dependent on imported raw materials in the manufacture of fertilizer and pesticides. As early as the first quarter of the year, the Fertilizer and Pesticide Authority has backed the fertilizer industry in its petition for exemption from the "exorbitance" tax.

Like Garrucho's request for capital goods, the exemption for agricultural inputs has not been granted.

The government has been slow in correcting its blunder. A promise to reduce the levy to five percent still has to take effect middle of August. It is timed with P1 peso average rollback in oil products, another controversial belt-tightening measure demanded by the IMF.

By then, the damage shall have been far done. (Philippine News and Features)

## Levy cut effect on Peso rate nil

THE PROPOSED import levy cut from nine to five percent in August will have an effect of nil to minimal on the exchange rate of the peso, according to bankers.

Along with the prices of domestic oil prices, the import levy, according to Finance Secretary Jesus P. Estanislao, may



J.C. ESTANISLAO

be reduced by August in response to public clamors that they be brought down.

The maintenance of current oil prices and the present import levy rate is a commitment of the Philippine government to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in exchange for a \$1.3 billion financing it extended to the country last year.

Apparently, a new compromise or arrangement has been negotiated with the IMF, but bankers believe it is now too late in the year to feel the beneficial effects of the proposed levy cut on Philippine imports and ultimately on the peso exchange rate.

The peso exchange rate began to improve with the introduction of the nine percent additional tax on imports because it dampened the demand for

dollars and other major world currencies.

As a result, imports also began to fall, and the revenues the government was hoping to derive from the additional import tax failed to materialize.

With the planned reduction of the levy, bankers said its beneficial effects could be felt only next year, when imports ordered during the latter part of 1991 are expected to begin arriving.

The real strength of the peso against the currencies of the country's premiere trading partners, however, will be put to test when a faster phaseout of the import levy is implemented by the government, hopefully next year, the bankers stated.

It is also expected that the levy reduction to five percent, along with other factors, would mean revenue losses of P19.5 billion during the rest of the

year.

If Congress fails to introduce or approve Malacanang-sponsored revenue-raising measures between now and December, no further reductions in the levy rate might be instituted in the near future, the bankers stated.

For the import levy reduction alone, the estimate loss is P10 billion a year, and it would need a tariff of P1 per liter on domestic products to raise P12 billion to offset the lower revenue collections.

In addition, according to Estanislao, an average of five centavos per liter will be made to flow into the Oil Price Stabilization Fund (OPSF) to build up a buffer estimated at P3 billion by August next year.

But the bankers said the new sources of revenues being proposed by the finance secretary

THE NEW schedule of prices for petroleum products, set for implementation in early August, has been calculated to ensure stable costs in 1992, even if the crude oil price goes up from \$17 to \$21 per barrel on the world market.

President Aquino has forwarded to the Energy Regulatory Board (ERB) for consideration the recommendation by a trisectoral committee - government, employer and labor - to reduce the fuel prices by a weighted average of P1.01.

The prices of fuel products shall be reduced from P15.95 to P12.95 per liter of premium gasoline; P15.00 to P12.00 per liter, regular gas; P7.75 to P7.30 per liter, kerosene; P7.75 to P7.30 per liter, diesel; P5.15 to P3.75 per liter, fuel oil for the National Power Corporation (Napocor); and P5.61 to P4.94, liquefied petroleum gas (LPG).

The biggest reduction, P3.00 per liter is for premium and regular gas, the main fuel of utility vehicles in the countryside, cars, tricycles, farm machines and fishing boats. This is followed by a P1.40 per liter cut for bunker oil, which Napocor will use in generating electricity. The rest of adjustments are minimal, 45 centavos per liter for kerosene and diesel and 40 centavos for LPG.

The ERB, an independent body attached to the Office of the President, is expected to approve the new fuel prices, subject to some slight revisions for some products.

The effectivity of the price adjustments has not been fixed, although it shall not be later than August 15. This is in compliance with President Aquino's directive that any reduction in the fuel prices shall be carried out only after the deficit in the Oil Price Stabilization Fund (OPSF) shall have been wiped out.

ERB Chairman Rex Tantiogco said the Presidential assistant on energy affairs, Wenceslao de la Paz, who oversees the work of OPSF, will inform him as soon as the OPSF accounts have been balanced. Tantiogco will then pass on the information to the three major oil companies - Caltex, Shell and the state-owned Petron - so that they can adjust the prices of their fuel deliveries to dealers.

Tantiogco justified the proposed P1.01 weighted average reduction in fuel prices. It will provide the people with considerable relief from the high costs of commodities and enable the government to build up a P3 billion to P5 billion surplus in the OPSF, which will be adequate to maintain the adjusted fuel prices throughout next year despite success of a plan by the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) to increase the price of crude oil to \$21 per barrel.

As recommended by the technical committee, Tantiogco noted a wide gap between the adjusted prices of premium and regular gasoline at P12.95 and P12.00 per liter, respectively. This may invite adulteration of the premium gasoline by unscrupulous dealers to gain more profit, he said.

Tantiogco said he personally favors a further reduction of 25 centavos per liter of premium gasoline so that its new price of P12.70 per liter will be closer to that of P12.00 per liter of regular gas. His suggestion will be studied by other ERB members. While the price of premium gas may still go down, that of LPG may go up. Tantiogco said the recommended price of LPG is lower than the imported cost and, thus, should be corrected before being finalized.

He said LPG dealers should be allowed reasonable margin or else they will have no incentive to stay on in the business, which will result in LPG shortage.

The fuel oil price reduction, while exclusive for Napocor, is not meant to favor only the state-owned power company, he said. By lowering the price of bunker oil by P1.40 per liter, he said, Napocor will no longer need to increase the power rate by 17 centavos per kilowatt hour. Napocor has petitioned for a new rate hike to raise P7 billion that will replace the amount of government subsidy, which is being phased out.

A more colorful account was given by President Aquino in her weekly *Magtanong sa Pangulo* radio/television program last Sunday as to why bunker oil price will not be lowered for private industries.

Mrs. Aquino said that during a survey of industries, the government was informed that bunker oil consisted only a small part of their production costs. For this reason, she said, manufacturers turned down a government suggestion for them to lower the prices of their products.

"Kaya, seguro, ang maganda rito ay babaan muna nila ang presyo ng kanilang mga produkto, tapos noon ay pag-uusapan natin ang mapababa ang presyo ng fuel oil," Mrs. Aquino said. (Asian News & Features)

would certainly be turned down by Congress for obvious reasons, it's election time again next year.

However, even without Congressional action, the imposi-

tion of new taxes to compensate for the lower levy rate, will likely be implemented via presidential fiat, as it did with the controversial nine percent import surcharge. (ANFI)

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Analysts of the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) feel the levy's ill-effects on the Philippine economy are

more profound. Secretary Garrucho has petitioned Malacanang to exempt the importation of capital goods (mostly machineries for new industrial plants and for existing industries' expansion programs) from the levy.

From the day the levy was slapped on all imports, the signal to import capital goods was given by the DTI for 260 projects. The worth of those machineries total P102 billion. Not one of the applicants has actually brought in equipment.

"They are awaiting until the levy is lifted," notes a key DTI official. This has two major effects. First, it has delayed the setting up of strategic infrastructure on which the industrial sector was to grow. Second, it has robbed the country of a chance to create thousands of jobs which could have helped reduce the number of unemployed.

**wants it scrapped. Labor and business are united in opposing it.**

Garrucho also expressed the alarm since a tax holiday for companies registered with the Board of Investments expires August 13. The exemption covers imported capital goods which will soon be levied the controversial nine percent import tax.

New local and foreign investments also plummeted by 20 percent for the first half of the year compared to the same period last year, another indicator of a decline.

Equally hurt are industries that depend on imported raw materials to sustain production at old levels. The DTI has not consolidated data on the extent of the production slowdown among manufacturers dependent on imports. The fact that the "banking system is awash with dollars" however is proof enough that few firms are importing, a trade official says.

A third sector clobbered by the import levy is agriculture which is dependent on imported raw materials in the manufacture of fertilizer and pesticides. As early as the first quarter of the year, the Fertilizer and Pesticide Authority has backed the fertilizer industry in its petition for exemption from the "exorbitance" tax.

Like Garrucho's request for capital goods, the exemption for agricultural inputs has not been granted.

The government has been slow in correcting its blunder. A promise to reduce the levy to five percent still has to take effect middle of August. It is timed with P1 peso average rollback in oil products, another controversial belt-tightening measure demanded by the IMF.

By then, the damage shall have been far done. (Philippine News and Features)

## Levy cut effect on Peso rate nil

**THE PROPOSED** import levy cut from nine to five percent in August will have an effect of nil to minimal on the exchange rate of the peso, according to bankers.

Along with the prices of domestic oil prices, the import levy, according to Finance Secretary Jesus P. Estanislao, may



EC. ESTANISLAO

be reduced by August in response to public clamors that they be brought down.

The maintenance of current oil prices and the present import levy rate is a commitment of the Philippine government to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in exchange for a \$1.3 billion financing it extended to the country last year.

Apparently, a new compromise or arrangement has been negotiated with the IMF, but bankers believe it is now too late in the year to feel the beneficial effects of the proposed levy cut on Philippine imports and ultimately on the peso exchange rate.

The peso exchange rate began to improve with the introduction of the nine percent additional tax on imports because it dampened the demand for

dollars and other major world currencies.

As a result, imports also began to fall, and the revenues the government was hoping to derive from the additional import tax failed to materialize.

With the planned reduction of the levy, bankers said its beneficial effects could be felt only next year, when imports ordered during the latter part of 1991 are expected to begin arriving.

The real strength of the peso against the currencies of the country's premiere trading partners, however, will be put to test when a faster phaseout of the import levy is implemented by the government, hopefully next year, the bankers stated.

It is also expected that the levy reduction to five percent, along with other factors, would mean revenue losses of P19.5 billion during the rest of the

year.

If Congress fails to introduce or approve Malacanang-sponsored revenue-raising measures between now and December, no further reductions in the levy rate might be instituted in the near future, the bankers stated.

For the import levy reduction alone, the estimate loss is P10 billion a year, and it would need a tariff of P1 per liter on domestic products to raise P12 billion to offset the lower revenue collections.

In addition, according to Estanislao, an average of five centavos per liter will be made to flow into the Oil Price Stabilization Fund (OPSF) to build up a buffer estimated at P3 billion by August next year.

But the bankers said the new sources of revenues being proposed by the finance secretary

THE NEW schedule of prices for petroleum products, set for implementation in early August, has been calculated to ensure stable costs in 1992, even if the crude oil price goes up from \$17 to \$21 per barrel on the world market.

President Aquino has forwarded to the Energy Regulatory Board (ERB) for consideration the recommendation by a trisectoral committee - government, employer and labor - to reduce the fuel prices by a weighted average of P1.01.

The prices of fuel products shall be reduced from P15.95 to P12.95 per liter of premium gasoline; P15.00 to P12.00 per liter, regular gas; P7.75 to P7.30 per liter, kerosene; P7.75 to P7.30 per liter, diesel; P5.15 to P3.75 per liter, fuel oil for the National Power Corporation (Napocor); and P5.61 to P4.94, liquefied petroleum gas (LPG).

The biggest reduction, P3.00 per liter is for premium and regular gas, the main fuel of utility vehicles in the countryside, cars, tricycles, farm machines and fishing boats. This is followed by a P1.40 per liter cut for bunker oil, which Napocor will use in generating electricity. The rest of adjustments are minimal, 45 centavos per liter for kerosene and diesel and 40 centavos for LPG.

The ERB, an independent body attached to the Office of the President, is expected to approve the new fuel prices, subject to some slight revisions for some products.

The effectivity of the price adjustments has not been fixed, although it shall not be later than August 15. This is in compliance with President Aquino's directive that any reduction in the fuel prices shall be carried out only after the deficit in the Oil Price Stabilization Fund (OPSF) shall have been wiped out.

ERB Chairman Rex Tantiogco said the Presidential assistant on energy affairs, Wenceslao de la Paz, who oversees the work of OPSF, will inform him as soon as the OPSF accounts have been balanced. Tantiogco will then pass on the information to the three major oil companies - Caltex, Shell and the state-owned Petron - so that they can adjust the prices of their fuel deliveries to dealers.

Tantiogco justified the proposed P1.01 weighted average reduction in fuel prices. It will provide the people with considerable relief from the high costs of commodities and enable the government to build up a P3 billion to P5 billion surplus in the OPSF, which will be adequate to maintain the adjusted fuel prices throughout next year despite success of a plan by the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) to increase the price of crude oil to \$21 per barrel.

As recommended by the technical committee, Tantiogco noted a wide gap between the adjusted prices of premium and regular gasoline at P12.95 and P12.00 per liter, respectively. This may invite adulteration of the premium gasoline by unscrupulous dealers to gain more profit, he said.

Tantiogco said he personally favors a further reduction of 25 centavos per liter of premium gasoline so that its new price of P12.70 per liter will be closer to that of P12.00 per liter of regular gas. His suggestion will be studied by other ERB members. While the price of premium gas may still go down, that of LPG may go up. Tantiogco said the recommended price of LPG is lower than the imported cost and, thus, should be corrected before being finalized.

He said LPG dealers should be allowed reasonable margin or else they will have no incentive to stay on in the business, which will result in LPG shortage.

The fuel oil price reduction, while exclusive for Napocor, is not meant to favor only the state-owned power company, he said. By lowering the price of bunker oil by P1.40 per liter, he said, Napocor will no longer need to increase the power rate by 17 centavos per kilowatt hour. Napocor has petitioned for a new rate hike to raise P7 billion that will replace the amount of government subsidy, which is being phased out.

A more colorful account was given by President Aquino in her weekly *Magtanong sa Pangulo* radio/television program last Sunday as to why bunker oil price will not be lowered for private industries.

Mrs. Aquino said that during a survey of industries, the government was informed that bunker oil consisted only a small part of their production costs. For this reason, she said, manufacturers turned down a government suggestion for them to lower the prices of their products.

"Kaya, seguro, ang maganda rito ay babaan muna nila ang presyo ng kanilang mga produkto, tapos noon ay pag-uusapan natin ang mapababa ang presyo ng fuel oil," Mrs. Aquino said. (Asian News & Features)

would certainly be turned down by Congress for obvious reasons, it's election time again next year.

However, even without Congressional action, the imposi-

tion of new taxes to compensate for the lower levy rate, will likely be implemented via presidential fiat, as it did with the controversial nine percent import surcharge. (ANFI)