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Malayang Pasko sa inyong lahat!

SABI NI SIR

The military is in a situation today where it must demonstrate the superiority of the democratic ideals and processes of change by its ability to fight and readiness to sacrifice for this, for the democratic process in a free society. In time of peace and in time of hostilities.

Pres. Marcos, PMA, Baguio City, March 22, 19



the national weekly
FORUM
of free expression

BELIEF

I sincerely and honestly believe that WE Forum is the counterpart of Noli Me Tangere and El Filibusterismo during the Spanish regime.

Benjamin Manguiat Cosico
San Francisco del Monte
Bernardo Ave., San Francisco del Monte, Quezon City

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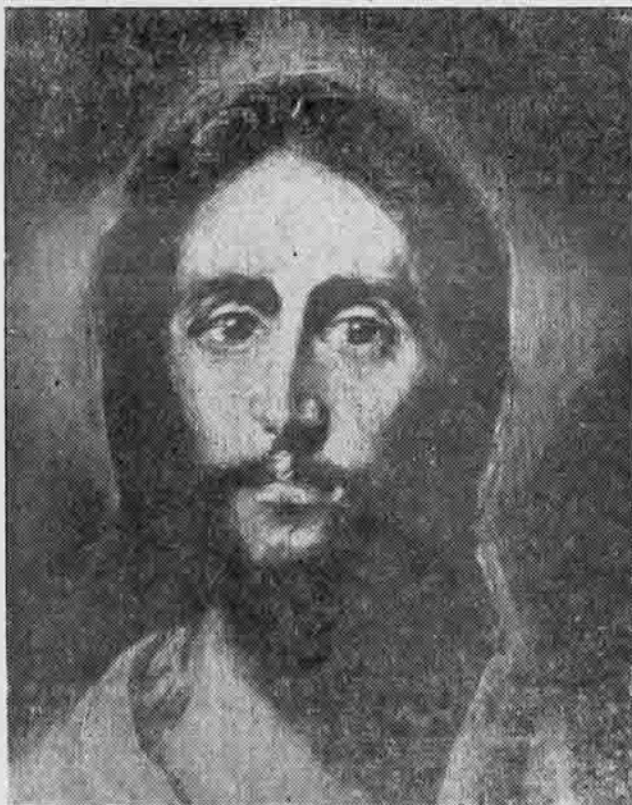
FOR THE WEEK DEC. 20-26, 1980

P1.00 IN METRO MANILA

Why do priests act the way they do under martial law?

EDITORIAL

Jesus Christ, a subversive



One thousand and nine hundred eighty years ago, an out-of-town couple — the woman heavy with child — was turned away from an inn and the wife was forced to give birth to a baby boy inside a barren, dingy cave which served as a stable. The baby was thus born a squatter.

The boy grew up soon enough. His name was Jesus.

He wandered about the land, preaching about the rights of every human being to live, to love and to learn. He was, in fact, an advocate of human rights.

In every town and city, but most particularly in depressed areas, Jesus, the squatter that He was, mingled with the lowly crowds . . . the little people — the laborers, the fishermen, the unemployed, the bums of his day.

He wanted people to open their eyes and wit-
(Page 4, please)

Child-focused projects

(FIRST OF A SERIES)

With this issue, WE FORUM starts a series of articles on projects, being undertaken or sponsored by private organizations, for the upliftment of Filipino children and youth. Seven of these projects, which will be printed successively beginning with this article, have been recipients of the President's Awards of Merit given Dec. 10. The awards selected by a committee composed of Supreme Court Associate Justice Antonio P. Barredo, Dean
(Page 2, please)



by JOSE G. BURGOS, JR.
(Speech delivered during the Second Public Conference on "The Philippines: A Critical View of Public Policy and Issues", sponsored by the University of the Philippines' Dept. of Sociology, Dec. 10, 1980)

Allow me to begin by citing two quotations.

The first quotation runs like this:

"— We could no longer persevere in our determination on seeing the truth trampled underfoot in such a scandalous manner

— our honor cruelly attacked. In those unworthy writings the ideas of REBELLION were maliciously raised and attributed with an intention unworthy of condemnation. . ."

The second quotation is as follows:

"Like you, we want a new society. This is what we are for. This is what we have been striving for all along in all our work — What we are bothered about is that the 'new society' you speak of has to be brought about by force, by the restricting mode of martial law. From our experience with our people, we stand convinced that no lasting change of heart ever comes from change

decreed by the fist. True conversion comes only from persuasion and good example, from internal and willing acceptance not from fear or coercion."

This quotation — the second one—I believe is all too familiar to all of you. It was lifted from a letter written by 32 bishops, priests and nuns, on Sept. 27, 1972 or exactly one week after the darkness
(Page 6, please)

US State dep't says no to Marcos plea

The administration of outgoing U.S. President Jimmy Carter has rejected a request by President Marcos to round up opponents of his (Marcos') government in the U.S., according to a United Press International news dispatch published in the Chicago-based Philippine Times.

The dispatch reported that Mr. Marcos, "reacting to a series of bombings in the Philippines, said this week that he would ask the administration to deport to the Philippines or prosecute American nationals and Filipinos in the

United States who he says are linked to 'terrorist activities' against his government."

State Department spokesman John Trattner said the Marcos government was welcome to provide information on U.S. residents it suspects of terrorist activities in the United States, according to the news story.

UPI quoted Trattner as adding that "we have traditionally condemned international terrorism and we don't intend to allow the use of the United
(Page 8, please)

Kids don't know who Pope is?

How prepared are the Filipino youths to the forthcoming visit of Pope John Paul II in February next year?

The answer to this question crops up in a portion of a study conducted by the University of Sto. Tomas' Social Research Council July this year.

The study, according to an article published in
(Page 7, please)

WE opens Mindanao bureau

Rogelio "Roger" J. Flaviano, a veteran newspaperman, has been appointed head of WE Forum's Mindanao Bureau. He is based in Davao City.

With Flaviano's appointment, WE Forum now has two bureaus outside Metro Manila. The first to be opened was Visayan bur-
(Page 8, please)

Ramawil issues rejoinder

(The following press release is being published "as is," without any single word or punctuation mark deleted. —ED)

The Ramawil Realty Sales & Development Enterprises today denied the allegations of a news story that appeared in a weekly tabloid in Quezon City in its issue of November 15 to 21, 1980 entitled "P30 million fraud foiled". (Also see WE, Nov. 29-Dec. 5, 1980).

The transaction, "said the spokesman" is legal having been endorsed by Quezon City Mayor Adelina Rodriguez and Malacananang after undergoing the
(Page 8, please)

FM Park dislocates Igorots

BAGUIO CITY — Over 300 Ibaloi Igorots of Taloy Sur in Tuba, Benguet province, 250 kilometers northwest of Marila, have been dispossessed of their ancestral lands to give way to the construction of Marcos Park in the area.

The park is a joint undertaking of the Ministry of Tourism (MOT) and the Philippine Tourism Authority
(Page 8, please)

Sabah poll results vital to MNLF?

by ROGER FLAVIANO

DAVAO CITY — Jolo (Sulu) Prince Manguma Ismael Abubakar, adopted son of the late Princess Dayang Dayang Hadji Diandao (wife of the late Sultan Ombra Amilbansa, owner of one-half of Sabah, North Borneo), warned that the result of the elections in Sabah, held last Nov. 27, will prove vital to the escalation of the MNLF secession drive if President Marcos would
(Page 7, please)

Literature under the Marcos era

by SALVADOR P. LOPEZ

(Keynote speech at the Third National Writers' Conference of the Philippine Center of International P.E.N., Dec. 13, 1980. —ED)

The theme of this Writer's Conference is "Tradition and Modernity in Philippine Literature". To illuminate this large theme, I would like to discuss a related topic more limited in scope perhaps but also of more immediate interest: "The Truncated Literature of the

Marcos Era".
By coincidence, I recently served as chairman of the Board of Judges of the 1980 Mobil Art Awards. Three days ago, the Board selected five Filipino painters whose body of works during the past five years entitles them to recognition
(Page 2, please)

AT A GLANCE • AT A GLANCE

A LITTLE GIRL ASKS QUESTIONS ABOUT MARTIAL LAW

CHILD-FOCUSED
(From page 1)

Lucrecia Kasilag, former Court of Appeals Presiding Justice Lourdes P. San Diego, and retired Brig. Gen. Mariano G. Ordóñez — consisted of a trophy (see cut) executed by noted painter-sculptor Manuel D. Baldemor and a cash prize each of P20,000. Henceforth, the awards will be given only every after five years. All the projects to be serialized here have been included in a book, titled "The Presidential Awards of Merit for Child Focused Projects," which was produced by the Council for the Welfare of Children headed by Atty. Ester de Jesus-Amor as executive director. Ed.)

ISLAND'S LOVE

There is a small island southwest of San Jose, Occidental Mindoro. It is called Ilin, with a population of 477 families. Ilin is mostly rocky, thus few plants can grow on it. Most of the year, strong winds batter the few plants that the residents can cultivate. To augment their means of livelihood, the people also take to the sea.

To outsiders, Ilin can be a lonely place, but through all the years, the residents have known no other place to go to. Majority of the people are illiterate. Those who have had the chance to finish elementary school had to settle for the barangay high school established only a few years ago.

Before 1977, minimal formal education must have been a blessing to the people for they did not know what they had been missing in life. Depressed economic conditions in Ilin have been taking a heavy toll on the children. They are ill-clad, malnourished, and worse, there was only a bleak future ahead of them.

After 1977, however, things had changed for the better for the residents and Ilin as a whole. A civic organization, World Vision Philippines, has drawn the curtains to a world full of dreams, to an island full of love. Seeing the need of the island people, World Vision set up an integrated program of services addressed to the physical, economic, mental, social, and spiritual needs of the people. As a whole, the project is known as Island's Love Development.

Industrious by nature, the people have embraced the program willingly, which resulted in a reborn Ilin. The residents started a regular feeding program among their highly malnourished children. Mothers learned to prepare economically nutritious and well-balanced meals and what used to be emaciated children and adults have now become healthy. To round up their balanced diets, the people submit themselves to physical and dental checkups, as well as immunization and deworming services provided by the municipal health doctor in cooperation with World Vision. The people also adopted ways to keep a sanitary environment. While there are still various ailments that afflict the people, they only have to run to their "Botica Sa

LITERATURE
(From page 1)

tion and reward as outstanding among their peers.

As writers and journalists, you will find most interesting and quite pertinent to the theme of this conference the criteria used by the jury in making the awards: "In addition to the qualities of formal excellence, innovativeness and originality, influence on other artists, and a sustained level of performance, the judges paid special attention to the vision of life expressed in the works submitted as well as the integrity with which the artist reflects the human and social condition of our time." You would agree that the same criteria would be valid for a literary competition.

Of the five awardees, three are figurative painters while two are abstractionists. No realist or purely decorative artist was included among the five winners. Again, a similar proportion would probably obtain between traditional and experimental forms in literature.

Interesting in themselves and relevant to the theme of this conference are the critical judgments that were passed on the achievement of the five winners, and you must allow me to quote brief extracts from these.

First, the abstract painters, who would correspond to the experimentalists in literature:

Jose Joya. His work combines breadth and physical impact with lyrical evocation. . . (It) covers a wide range of dynamics, from full chords, even sparkling tones, to muted voices. His is an abstraction that shuns rectilinear and rigid geometrism in favor of gently-contoured shapes that fan out rhythmically into space. His, too, is a refined colorism that probes the subliminal meaning of color to capture moods, nuances of feeling, and inner states. . . (He) has evolved an art of strength and refinement, spontaneity and restraint.

Romulo Olazo. Working within limited means, he creates a quietly sumptuous art. Olazo does not

Baryo" to get medicines for simple medication.

In order to reinforce all the things they have learned, the parents are now sending their children to school regularly. For the slow-learning children their parents seek tutorial services for them.

The World Vision people are aware that love for fellowmen will not be complete unless the people also know God's love. Today, the people know and believe in God's love as a result of reading their Bibles that were given to them and going to Bible studies.

"Spiritual growth and development are seen in the lives of these people as a result of these ministries," World Vision says.

Island's Love Development Project is a cooperative engagement based on an organization's love manifested in service and the people's positive response to that gesture.

settle for facile effects, but creates an art that proceeds from an unflinching sense of design, artistic control, and an acutely sensitive handling of his medium. For this reason, he has succeeded in developing a body of work that constitutes some of the most authentic and indisputably competent works in Philippine abstraction.

Now the three figurative painters, who would correspond to the traditionalists in literature:

Ang Kiu Kok. The forms and colors of Ang Kiu Kok's painting reverberate with the human cry from the dark prison-like confines and the junkheaps of twisted metal that are the detritus and waste of technological civilization gone awry. . . Hues of metallic blue, flame orange and red build up a feverish climate; the cubistic fragmentation of the figures contributes to the sense of sharp, shifting movement and dislocation. At other times, Ang Kiu Kok eschews color for monochrome black to create the mood of *De Profundis*: man alone and bone-weary in attitudes of despair, terror or resignation. The artist has also dealt with religious subjects such as crucifixions, all gnarled with spiky nails and tortured bone. . . The artist indulges his decorative side in the still-lives and windows, but even these exceed mere decoration by their intriguing space-color ambiguities.

Onib Olmedo. Olmedo has made haunting and expressionistic portraits of people gripped by suffering and soul-anguish — victims of society and of their own tortured psyches. But in this netherworld of darkness or of fire the dispossessed and the lost rub elbows with their monstrous executioners. . . The distortions he uses are consistently expressive of the spirit within which slowly but inexorably takes over the natural lineaments of the face. A number of his present figures are taken from the . . . rundown sarisari and cheap carinderia; others are crippled survivors from sugar country, and still others from the city's beer joints and a-go-go cabarets. Portraits they all are, particular and yet universal. . . Olmedo paints them with an intensity that fuses feeling and form into unforgettable images.

And, finally, the grand prize winner:

Danilo Dalena. Dalena is an artist of vision and quality. His artistic integrity and truth have led him to pursue his vision away from the elegant and perfumed edens of the privileged to the sweaty and swarming infernos of the masses. He has created in the image of the betting hall a metaphor for the human condition. . . Here lies the whole gamut of human emotions as the Game. . . mesmerizes and provokes a temporarily heightened existence compounded of hope and despair, and occasionally, of a monstrous jubilation and drunken ecstasy. They are all here; the compulsive bettors, the hangers-on, the laid-off casuals, the born losers, the perpetual imbibers, and the nocturnal denizens, gaudy

females waiting for a stroke of luck. His paintings plumb the depths of human squalor and misery relieved here and there by a ray of light: salvation is indeed possible for we will prevail. Dalena's body of work shows a versatile talent capable of a wide range of expression, from biting satire to playful pop. . . His artistic resources are rich; his capacity to respond to his social environment large and encompassing. Art for him is a totality involving the whole person as a being of thought and feeling who creates meaningful expressive forms.

After reading these words, the question asks itself: could similar judgments be passed upon the recent works of our writers and journalists?

I have invoked, in some detail, my recent experience as a member of an art jury for what I hope you will agree are good and sufficient reasons. My interest in the art of painting is coeval with the beginning of my involvement with literature and journalism. During the decade of the 30's, as daily columnist and editorial writer of *The Philippines Herald*, I wrote of developments in the arts, but especially painting, as avidly and trenchantly as I did of developments in politics. Progress and freedom were my special obsession (they still are, I must hasten to add), and in my view Victorio Edades, who was fighting to liberate Philippine painting from the grip of the conservatives was as deserving of support as Pedro Abad Santos who was fighting to liberate the peasants of Central Luzon from exploitation by the landlords. All who try to unshackle man's body, mind and spirit belong to a single continuum of consciousness, and their experiences are mutually supportive as well as interchangeable.

Or, are they, really? In a recent tribute to writers in prison, I had this to say:

To the writer, the word is both a tool and a weapon — a tool with which to create Beauty that is a joy forever, or a weapon with which to defend Truth against any foe whatsoever.

But a time of testing comes when the honest writer finds that he can no longer lift his pen like a feather in the wind, and he must brandish it instead like a sword in the air.

Other artists are more fortunate than he. The painter, sculptor, architect, composer, or choreographer moves in a world where reality is defined in terms of color, line, shape, sound and movement. But the writer moves in a world of ideas that have found a habitation and a name; he cannot evade his responsibility as keeper of the "word made flesh".

The ruler as culture-lover is quite eager to reward the artists with royal munificence since, with their creations of ethereal beauty, they help to anesthetize the popular mind. But to the ruler as guardian of peace and order, the writer who dares to demand the restoration of the rights and liberties of the people is a bothersome in-

convenience that needs to be treated accordingly.

Here, I have drawn a distinction between the art of the printed word and the art of painting that is more arbitrary than I care to admit. If the arts of the mind constitute a single continuum, why are there fewer constraints on painters, sculptors, composers, choreographers and architects than on writers and journalists? Why do Vicente Manansala, Napoleon Abueva, Leandro Locsin, Lucrecia Kasilag and Alice Reyes prosper as artists under the existing dispensation, while Nick Joaquin has to produce children's stories and Carmen Guerrero Nakpil must edit a book on technology for survival?

Of all the visual arts, painting is capable of transmitting a socially significant message that is comparable to that conveyed by literature or journalism. But the painter is limited by the nature of his medium; the nuances of line and color afford him less leeway for the venturesome pursuit of ideas than the nuances of the written word.

In the critical analyses of the work of the five painters from which I have just quoted, you will have noted how richly and variously the written word elucidates, construes, unravels and decodes the meaning and value of the paintings that were submitted for evaluation. All the other artists need us writers to do this for them.

(I remember with some amusement Dalena whispering into my ear as I was reading the citation which named him the grand prize winner. He said, "Sir sobra na yata iyan!" He could not comprehend what wealth of impressions and ideas could be evoked in a viewer by his canvases, including some that never entered the artist's mind while he was painting them!)

But because a writer can move and work among ideas more freely, he is also more frequently exposed to danger. The chances of his running afoul of the society and the state are multiplied by the infinite capacity of the word for evil as well as for good.

Whereas, under the martial rule, the painters could continue to produce canvases without feeling the need for a change of orientation, the writers or journalists were told in no uncertain terms that new rules were being laid down which they could disregard only at their peril. The detention in jail of unruly or distrusted writers for short or indefinite periods forcibly drove home the point.

When one considers the plight of writers who have been silenced by an intolerant regime, or have become silent by choice, one remembers the long, weary intellectual travail which Russian writers, from Dostoevsky to Solzhenitsyn, have had to undergo across long stretches of despotic rule under Czar or Commissar. Under such conditions, writers are often compelled to portray personal sorrow or tragedy while passing over in silence its social causes. Or conversely, they celebrate personal happiness and triumph while making

sure to attribute these to the prevailing regime, because such acclaim is what the regime wants and insists on getting.

Preoccupation with private human concerns: love and hate, joy and sorrow, victory and defeat, crime and punishment, triumph and disaster — these are the familiar staple of the popular novel, short story, play or poem which readers are avid to consume under any political regime. These, after all, are the proper concerns of imaginative literature. The problem, however, is that it is often impossible to insulate any form of personal sorrow or tragedy, which is prime material for good literary work, from the social environment in which it occurs. An individual is often unhappy because he is hopelessly in conflict with an intolerant social system or an all-powerful state. You cannot abstract him from the society in which he lives and has his being. A critique of the society, whether express or implied, is therefore unavoidable.

What I am trying to say is that I would be prepared to accept the thesis that it is not mandatory for literature to grapple with social problems. A treatise on sociology would be obliged to do that, but not necessarily a novel or a play. (This is quite a change from the view I advanced in "Literature and Society".) But if a novelist or a playwright tries deliberately to ignore the social matrix in which his characters live and move, the latter would be like puppets dangling aimlessly in the void. No form of life exists inside a vacuum.

After all, no novelist in search of a model can go very far without bumping into Balzac, Dickens or Dostoevsky, and all these are social novelists. They portray the individual caught in the coils of every imaginable predicament. But the shape of the predicament was already there, in the very womb of the society in which the protagonist was conceived.

The Marcos era has now lasted sixteen years; eight years before, and eight years after the proclamation of martial law. The truncation of Philippine literature and journalism which was accomplished on 21 September 1972 has resulted in a perfectly symmetrical structure which should appeal to the literary historian: a mountain which on one side is illuminated by the sun, but on the other is darkened by a cloud. And the mountain looks as if it is about to blow its top.

The champions of the New Society like to remind us how chaotic were the first eight years of the Marcos era, before martial law. Although they used to boast how idyllic, by contrast, were the conditions under martial law, they do not say so anymore, or they do so with much less conviction than before.

I must confess that recently I have been feeling a certain nostalgia for the "chaos" of the first eight years of the Marcos era. I miss the glorious intellectual liberty of that period. I miss the familiar voices of Nick Joaquin, Greg Brillantes, Chitang Nakpil, and

METRO MANILA NEWS



Christmas gifts from FL: ZIP lot titles for the poor

P300-M fun park to rise in Makati

MAKATI — This premier town, now the country's business capital, will soon be the site of a P300-million Disneyland-type recreational and sports center. This announcement was made by Mayor Nemesio I. Yabut upon his return last Saturday from Taipei where he visited a similar center and negotiated with a Hongkong firm to build one in Makati.

The recreational park and sports complex will be located in a 20-hectare area along the Pateros road near Fort Bonifacio. It runs parallel to the Pasig River.

"This center in Taipei was patterned after the Disneyland in the U.S. This inspired me to build one in Makati at no cost to the government, not only for the children and people of Makati but also for all Filipinos," Yabut stated.

The mayor said the Hongkong firm has offered to construct the Makati amusement center on a turn-key basis.

(Page 6, please)

HHKK of Caloocan

by TEDDY RAMOS

CALOOCAN CITY — What does "HHKK" stand for? If you had been able to answer that question correctly a week ago on a television quiz show there is no knowing how much in prizes it would have won for you.

Today, it is different.

Karnabal sa CC

CALOOCAN CITY — "Karnabal sa Bagong Lipunan '80 sa Kalookan" will be opened on Tuesday afternoon, Dec. 16, which will mark the start of the Christmas season. The traditional "misa de gallo" will begin in the early morning of that day in all Catholic churches throughout the country.

Lasting for a period of 20 days, up to Jan. 6 next year, the carnival will have for its venue a 5,250 square meter lot along Samson Road near the University of the East Caloocan.

(Page 6, please)



Mayor ASISTIO, JR.

Everybody knows, especially here in Caloocan City, what HHKK means. It is Handog-Hakbang ng Kabataang Kalookan (HHKK). It is the brainchild of Mayor Macario Asistio, Jr., aimed at assisting poor but talented youth obtain an education from elementary up to college.

The HHKK is a "first" in Metro Manila and perhaps in the country. It is unique in the sense that for the first time, youths belonging to the haves are

The awarding of land titles in Zonal development Program areas in Metro Manila as part of the celebration of "Pasko sa mga Dahop na Barangay", a project of the First Lady and Metro Manila governor, will probably be held in the latter part of this month when Mrs. Imelda R. Marcos returns from abroad.

The awarding program was originally scheduled for Dec. 7 but this was cancelled because of the unexpected trip of Mrs. Marcos to the United States.

At least, two ZIP areas have been chosen where 600 land titles are to be distributed to selected lot awardees. These areas are

Maricaban in Pasay City lists were based on the 1977 census conducted by each city's ZIP staff and verified by the NHA in July, 1980.

Maj. Gen. Gaudencio V. Tobias, general manager of the National Housing Authority, has officially informed Pasay Mayor Pablo Cuneta and Caloocan Mayor Macario A. Asistio, Jr. of the land certificate awarding program under Mrs. Marcos' "Pasko sa mga Dahop na Barangay" project which is intended to enliven the Christmas of dwellers in the depressed areas.

The NHA is undertaking the development and upgrading of the ZIP areas funded with a loan from the World Bank. In his letters to the mayors of Pasay and Caloocan, Gen. Tobias enclosed lists of awardees to be given the land titles. He said that

Torcuator approves prosecution

QUEZON CITY — City Attorney Jose T. Torcuator told this newspaper last Friday that he will recommend today, Dec. 15, to Mayor Adelina S. Rodriguez the criminal prosecution of all those involved in the fraudulent grant of the P30-million loan by the Land Bank to the Ramawil Realty Sales and Development Enterprises, Inc.

The money had been deposited by Quezon City with the Land Bank under Trust Account No. 01-152, under an agreement under which the bank obliged itself to invest the amount for the city at a guaranteed earning of 17 percent per year.

The P30-million loan was supposed to be used by Ramawil in developing the Pangarap Village in Tala, Caloocan City, for the Malacanang Homeowners Association.

Without showing the loan agreement papers to Quezon City, particularly the title of the 78.4-hectare land which Ramawil put up as collateral for the loan, the Land Bank released the P30-million in two installments to the borrower. It turned out that the title, Transfer Certificate of Title No. 264455 of the Quezon City Register of Deeds, was spurious.

The city attorney said that he could not as yet pinpoint the persons whom he will recommend for criminal prosecution, although he said that the officers of Ramawil and certain officials of the Land Bank who had a hand in the scandalous deal, are undoubtedly behind the fraud.

(Page 6, please)

Postpone assessments revision -- assessors

The Philippine Association of Assessing Officers (PAAO), composed of all provincial and city assessor's of the country, has requested for the postponement of the general revision of assessments of real property scheduled for 1982 to 1984.

Main reason cited by the PAAO is the fact that until now, the revision which

was conducted in 1978 has not yet been completed in many provinces and cities of the country.

Manila City Assessor Nicolas Catiil, president of the assessor's group, said the resolution was approved at a meeting of the officers and directors held at the Ministry of Finance last Nov. 27 and 28.

Originally, under PD 464, otherwise known as the Real Property Tax Code, the revision of assessments of real property was fixed for every five years. However, under a decree amending PD 464, President Marcos set the revision once every three years to have property owners from too abrupt increases.

Atty. Catiil told this newspaper last Friday that the resolution will be submitted to the minister of finance sometime this week, when it is put in final shape.

In Metro Manila, preparations for the general revision in 1982 have been delayed. Twelve of the 13 municipal assessors have been unable, until now, to prepare the schedules of market values which will be the basis for the revision of the property assessments in their respective areas because of their temporary reshuffle to other assignments.

The reshuffle should have ended last Nov. 30 but as of today, the municipal assessors have not yet returned to their permanent places of assignment.

Way back in 1968, when he was just a councilor, he had been sending quite a number of youths to high school and colleges and most of them are now making a name for themselves in their chosen careers.

Curfew for minors in PC is proposed

PASAY CITY — Two barangay captains, Elias Vida and Felipe Maranas, have come up with a proposal to curb juvenile delinquency in their areas. The proposal: impose a curfew on all minors from 10 o'clock in the evening to four o'clock the following morning.

They reasoned out that minors who roam around at night get themselves into "barkadas" and are apt to commit acts of misdemeanor if not worse crimes.

If these minors are kept at home by curfew, they are not given a chance to run afoul of the law, the two barangay leaders said.

When the matter was referred to him for comment, City Legal Officer Eduardo Gatchalian said the imposition of curfew is solely within the power of President Marcos.

didate for scholarships starting next school year.

Assisting and supporting out-of-school youths and underprivileged school children of Caloocan has occupied the attention of Mayor Asistio.

working for the cause of youths belonging to the have-nots of our society.

Come January 4, 1981, some 10,000 student youngsters will walk all over the main streets of the city, to be led by Mayor Asistio, city officials and barangay captains to officially launch the HHKK and to drumbeat support to the cause of the youth who cannot afford to go to school due to the high costs of modern-day education.

Mayor Asistio said each of the 188 barangays will field their own participants to the HHKK. A minimum of 58 students will be required for each barangay.

Each barangay team will be sponsored by a business establishment or civic group or even by an individual or groups of individuals who may want to contribute their best to the cause.

A sponsor, Asistio said, will put up a voluntary minimal contribution of P1,000 which will automatically go to the HHKK scholarship trust fund.

Already, some 25 barangay have sent in their donations of their respective sponsors. A total of P25,000 is now in the custody of Dr. Elizabeth M. del Rio, treasurer of the HHKK scholarship trust fund executive committee.

At the rate the donations are coming in, according to the Mayor, and granting that the 188 barangays will be actively participating, an expected turn out of P200,000 can easily be realized. An equivalent counterpart fund from the city government will bring the total to P600,000. The earnings of this money will support a number of scholars by next year.

As decided by the executive committee, barangay captains and kabataang barangay chairmen, through their council resolutions, will nominate can-

Asistio creates panel for PNR lot talk

CALOOCAN CITY — A special panel has been created by Mayor Macario A. Asistio, Jr. to negotiate for the use by the city of various parcels of land owned by the Philippine National Railways and located in the city.

Among the PNR properties needed by the city are the lot along Samson Road where the INP headquarters and the city jail are under construction; an adjacent parcel of land containing the impounding area for illegally-parked vehicles; another lot where the RES building is located; and a lot along the PNR tracks where the city plans to put up a

A school. The committee is headed by City Legal Officer Juan Banaga. Vice-chairman is City Assessor Isidro Abesamis. Members are Asst. City Engr. Roberto Cordero, RES Area Manager Cesar del Rosario, President Gonzalvo of the Association of Barangay Councils and Police Station Commander Benedicto Serrano.

The city government panel is supposed to negotiate with a PNR committee to be created by PNR General Manager Juan de Castro. Until now, however, the PNR has yet to constitute its group. Banaga

(Page 6, please)

Deals that don't need MMC okay

Not all contracts executed by the mayors of the various cities and towns of Metro Manila need to be submitted to the Metro Manila Commission for review and approval.

Responding to a query made by Manila Mayor Ramon Bagatsing, Vice-Gov. Ismael A. Mathay said that the so-called housekeeping contracts, such as lease of classrooms and office spaces, contracts for the repair of vehicles and equipment, and contracts for on-going projects, do not have to be submitted to the MMC.

A memorandum of Metro Manila Gov. Imelda R.

(Page 7, please)

PULSE



EDITORIAL

Jesus Christ, a subversive

(From page 1)

ness the deprivations around them. He urged them to speak their minds out on every conceivable issue of the day. He opted for a free exchange of opinion and ideas, convinced that the truth will make men free. He was not fettered by conventions nor undaunted by the ugly talks about his sanity.

He did not possess any wealth. In fact, He was considered a vagrant. But the people who believed in Him, His ideas, in His credibility and honesty, offered food and shelter to Him and His growing number of proteges who were known as apostles.

In seeking out His vision, many people in the established order and those who wanted to maintain the status quo, collaborated to persecute and prosecute him.

He was called a lot of names. Activist. Non-conformist. Professional Agitator. Subversive.

Because He believed in justice, He let Himself be hailed before the courts to face His accusers. His apostles were rash. They wanted to revolt. But He cautioned them. They laid down their arms.

What were the charges against Him?

That He conspired to overthrow the government. That He protested vehemently against the excesses and corruption of the oligarchs and power-wielders, against oppressive and abusive decrees and laws.

His trial was a mockery. He was never given a whit of a chance to defend Himself. All forces were marshalled against Him.

He was detained. And while under detention, He was tortured and humiliated.

But He took all this degradation calmly. For every abuse heaped upon Him, He gained added strength. He did not lose His dignity. He stood pat on His conviction. No amount of torture could break down His spirit. After all, He was fighting for the ultimate in human endeavor.

The power-hungry, the military, the elite, the "malalakas", the oppressors and suppressors, had their way. He was sentenced to die — on the cross.

Jesus Christ fought — and died — for freedom, for justice, for truth, for love.

Today we commemorate His birth anniversary. And us we, Filipinos, remember Him, let us ask ourselves: Was the sacrifice of Jesus Christ worth it? Do we have freedom, justice, truth and love in our midst?

Merry X'mas, please

Despite our economic hardships, our political restraints and the shackling of our basic human rights, please try to have a Merry Christmas. At least try, please. The only price for not achieving one, if we fail, is hurt feelings. And what's another one this time for a long suffering people?

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JOSE G. BURGOS JR.
Publisher-Editor
MARCELO B. SORIANO
Managing Editor

TO SEEK AND LIVE THE TRUTH AND SHARE A VISION.

A brave young girl's concern

by JOSE G. BURGOS JR.



Last week, I received a handwritten letter from a 15-year-old girl whose concern for contemporary and past events deeply touched me. The letter follows:

"Sir: Enclosed is a poem I made last August. I think it is a good material to be published in your WE-Forum.

"I am Ma. Asuncion A. Balingit, a high school senior. Even if I'm only 15 years old, I am not blind to events and the hidden works of our government.

"I was a regular buyer of WE-Forum until I found myself wanting for more copies. Our town newsstand always lack it. I wonder why.

Last night, while I was looking for a book, I found two copies of Free Press and Sunday Times Magazine having the Liberal Party bets (Kalaw, John Osmena, Mitra and Magsaysay) as covers. As I have always been interested in politics, and have been an avid fan of the oppositionists, I immediately sat down and began reading it. I learned that the opposition does not really blame Marcos but in general, his subalterns. I was touched with the results of the bombing in Plaza Miranda that injured the Liberal bets and killed a lot of innocent people. By the way, have the killers been found? I was six years old then and I haven't an idea what politics was.

"I also came to read about the suspension of the writ of habeas corpus. Will there be any possibility of retaining it back?

"Going to the present, what can you say about the inclusion of my idol Jovy Salonga and other opposition leaders? Is this true? I'll tell you something. If that Lovely is an oppositionist, then I think he'll not have the nerve to voice out the names of the others included. Di ba, if you would be an opposition, you'll have to take an oath first, saying that you'll offer your life to that movement? But he didn't! He doesn't have a word of honor! I think he's a phoney! Will you answer me back? I would like to have a reply to these questions 'coz there's no one I could relate to. I need your help. I can't bear the regime's brutality go on. I really need

your help. Write to me, please?

"P.S. Could you give me the address of John Osmena? He's my crush. I know he's already got a wife and a kid. I just want to ask him if he's doing fine. And also Jovy Salonga. I know he's busy right now but there'll be a time for him to take rest and I'll take that chance."

Ma. Asuncion's poem reads:

"Like a dog held in a collar
"In a dark and gloomy cellar
"That's how my heart feels
"Like a bird kept in a cage
"Calming down his rage
"That's how our countrymen feel
"Like us held as robots
"Programmed by Marcos
"That's how I see it.

As soon as I read her letter, I immediately scribbled a note to Ma. Asuncion and mailed it last Thursday, Dec. 18:

"Dear Ma. Asuncion:

"I got your letter today (Dec. 16) — 49 days after you have written it. Either you forgot to mail it immediately after or as usual, the post office people took their own sweet time delivering your letter to me.

"I guess that's how the 'new society' of Mr. Marcos works!

"I will fully answer your letter in my column (Publisher's Notes) in WE's next issue because I want other people to know that there's a brave little girl who is asking a lot of questions where the rest of the Filipinos — including writers and so-called intellectuals — have kept not only their mouths shut but also their minds.

"In the meantime, continue asking questions for your sake, for the peoples' sake. And remember to pray for freedom and for peace.

"Para sa kalayaan, JOSE G. BURGOS, Jr."

Due to lack of space, my answer to Ma. Asuncion's questions will be carried in our succeeding issue.

VIEW POINTS

Light at the end of tunnel?

by RAUL M. GONZALEZ



The recent announcement of Mr. Marcos commanding immediate implementation of the decree allowing bail for those charged even under ASSO should be the light at the end of the tunnel for many persons who have been languishing inside military concentration camps who deserve release on bail but who are being denied this constitutional right under martial law. This is more than 8 years late but better late than never. Perhaps the consciences of those in power have finally bothered them after denying many people with this right to bail under the refuge of the martial law powers of Mr. Marcos.

Indeed, I cannot imagine of situations where notwithstanding civil court orders allowing bail, many persons are still kept in detention for long because they were arrested under ASSO and those in the military, with very narrow minded interpretations of constitutional rights insist in keeping people inside their stockades.

Former Senator now Assemblyman Arturo M. Tolentino very aptly commented during his address before the general assembly and convention of the Integrated Bar Manila IV Chapter last December 13, that it

THIS IS MY OWN—

Press freedom

by JOAQUIN R. ROCES



When a common man is killed today
In many a crime that is gory
It is just a newspaper story
For why create a great big fuss
The victim is not one of us

But when a newsman is victimized
Our minds are quickly polarized
And all of us rise up as one
To demand that justice must be done
And as if returning from the dead
Raise proudly once again our head
As suddenly we remember, — Ah, yes
To defend the freedom of the press

is a waste of government funds to hold a presidential election during the transition period only for Mr. Marcos to indulge in "shadow boxing".

During the interaction between the IBP and various agencies of the government on the problem areas being encountered by lawyers in dealing with the agencies, Mr. Justice Antonio P. Barredo of the Supreme Court readily told Director Francisco Estrella of the Ministry of Labor that there are so many conflicting rules and regulations being issued in implementation of the Labor Code that even the Supreme Court gets confused.

Overheard inside an elevator while going down from the Quezon City Hall last December 12, after a trial in Branch VII of the City Court: Person No. 1: "Pare alam mo ba kung ano ang tawag ngayon kay Victor Lovely?" Person No. 2: "Hindi, bakit ano na ba ang tawag sa kanya?" Person No. 1: "Victor Wood Lovely na ngayon". Person No. 2: "Bakit naman?" Person No. 1: "Kasi kumakanta na ngayon". No comment.

"Well, for all his star performance recently in being the most celebrated state witness although no court has yet made him as such, I think that this character named Victor Lovely should now deserve to be made a nominee for the presidency in case they call for an election of a transition president so that the fears of Senator Tolentino that Mr. Marcos might just be "shadow boxing" may not come to pass.

Headline story in an afternoon paper last December 8: "Police declares war on 2 gangs blamed for city bombings". I could not quite believe this lead story because if I will just follow the line of thinking of the military and the propagandists of the martial law regime — the only people who should be blamed for city bombings are Senators Salonga, Aquino and Manglapus.

The trial balloon which the government tried to float about a presidential election next year has just been shot down by the apologists in the Batasan and the controlled media who, all of a sudden have been making it appear that the people oppose the proposed election. It is really insulting to us, the people to be teased by certain announcements that would whet our appetite then all of a sudden the administration will just make a complete about face.

For example Mr. Marcos has been announcing his plan to lift martial law by March 1981; but then he al-

(Page 5, please)

Philconsa

by Prof. SALVADOR ROXAS GONZALEZ



Interview with Salvador R. Gonzalez on the hypocrisy of politics, by a Philconsa member.

- Q. You are a member of the Philippine Constitution Association, aren't you Professor, why do I seldom see you in the meetings?
- A. Most of the members don't attend either.
- Q. What do you suppose is the matter?
- A. The Philconsa is supposed to defend the Philippine Constitution. But now they don't know which Constitution to defend, the 1935 or the 1973.
- Q. The 1973 Constitution of course, isn't it our latest?
- A. The original 1973 Constitution or the amended one, or the amended amended or the proposed amended to be amended, which one?
- Q. It is rather confusing, isn't it?
- A. Scandalous. Every time Mr. Marcos coughs we change the Constitution.
- Q. Does the government intend to change again the Constitution?
- A. Government members in the Batasan (Parliament) want to change the government structure to presidential-parliamentary, instead of the presidential 1935 or parliamentary 1973, to reflect their "bakla" mentality, a hermaphrodite government.
- Q. Do you think the Filipino people should have an election to elect a strong interim president?
- A. What for, isn't Marcos the interim president already? Is he getting weak or something?
- Q. Perhaps he wants to step down graciously if he loses and let another president take over, like Carter in the United States. What do you think?
- A. Loses? That's a big joke. With martial law and all the money to spend, how can he lose?
- Q. That's the point, if he should lift martial law before election, the people might elect him again for his magnanimity, wouldn't they?
- A. Magnanimity? What about the people who suffered because of his martial law, do you think they are ready to forgive and forget?
- Q. But the Constitution will first be amended again in a plebiscite to give him immunity for his official acts during martial law, isn't that clever?
- A. How about his cronies and kin who made the people suffer, will the people let them go Scot-free to enjoy their stolen riches? I don't think they are disposed to do that, although they may be generous to Mr. Marcos.
- Q. Well, they are included in the proposed immunity amendment. Should they be?
- A. If they are innocent, they should face the charges against them without being protected by an amendment to the Constitution which is supposed to protect the people, not them. Imagine, amending the Constitution to justify corruption! As they said in the 1980 Ateneo Alumni lampoon: "Talagang walang hiya; walang hiyang talaga."
- Q. How about the President?
- A. If I were he, I would not claim immunity. If the people think he did right in imposing martial law all these many years, they will exonerate him as they did the late President Jose P. Laurel Sr. who was accused of collaboration but who faced the people, run for the Senate, and won by a landslide. That is the only decent way to prove one's integrity, face the people in free elections, without martial law.
- Q. But I thought you oppose the proposal for an election for interim president, or do you approve of it?
- A. I have my misgivings for such an abnormal election, why not wait for the 1984 elections of the regular National Assembly? Let us not mutilate the Constitution. People are beginning to lose respect for the Constitution.
- Q. If Mr. Marcos should die before 1984, who would succeed him?
- A. Why does he always think he is that important to the Filipino people? The Filipinos will find another president, perhaps a better one who rule them without having to rely on martial law.
- Q. But it seems he wants to have a plebiscite on whether the people like to lift martial law or not, isn't this what a newspaper (Evening Post, 12 December) reported?
- A. Mr. Marcos thinks all Filipinos are idiots, except himself. He will be greatly disappointed. He imposed martial law without consulting the people, now he wants to consult them on whether they would like it lifted, when he has all the power to lift it by himself. Intelligent people know that, and they just smile. The budget of National Defense is seven billion pesos compared to the three and a half billion only for Education and Culture; we spend more to defend the government than to educate our people. He doesn't need a plebiscite to lift martial law.
- Q. What do you think of regional elections as opposed to elections by districts or constituencies?
- A. In England, elections for Parliament are simple and inexpensive. There are two to four candidates for each constituency of about 60,000 voters and the people know whom they are voting for. The 1973 Constitution copied that precisely because the members of the Constitutional Convention thought of

The politics of aid

By DENNIS SHOESMITH

(CONCLUSION)

The International Commission also reported that the presence of Australian 'aid' teams building roads and bridges in this area is adequate cause for concluding that the riches of Samar are to be systematically exploited without benefit to or consultation with the rural inhabitants. The aid programme in the Commission's view, served the central government and its international partners at the expense of the poor.

The roads and other infrastructure services provided by Australia will serve Philippine plans for exploiting deposits of bauxite and aluminium, and perhaps uranium. American and Japanese multinationals, notably Reynolds and Mitsubishi are already involved in the island. There has been some dis-

pute between Australians and Filipino officials over where the roads should go and it is now clear that the Philippine Government's priority was this kind of economic development rather than the needs of the rural poor.

The Samar project is instructive for the insight it provides into ADAB thinking on bilateral aid. First, it is painfully obvious that the Australian Government was poorly informed on the actual situation in Samar and discovered very late the highly political and critical situation which exists there. The political situation was not raised at all in the preliminary studies and, as has been mentioned, the Australian Government was unaware of NPA activity in 1977 and officials I talked to rejected re-

ports of such activity in 1978. There is evidence that ADAB still underestimates the extent of military terror and NPA support. Military abuses are regarded as spontaneous and individual, not as a consequence of deliberate policy. A new commander, who had some training in Australia, was thought to have improved the situation.

Second, aid officials, although increasingly aware of the 'security' problem, avoid knowing too much about the overall political situation and the difficult issues this raises for Australian Government involvement. The Philippines is, to put it simply, a dictatorship. Our aid, as Filipino critics point out, supports that dictatorship. It is also controversial because it serves the interests of multinationals

and their local partners whatever the good intentions of the project planners. Critics of the project in Samar allege that there was no attempt to consult with the people affected or to identify their needs. ADAB officials monitoring the project could make the point that bilateral aid is of necessity government to government not government-to-people and that there are serious obstacles to genuine consultation. It is hoped that some benefit will get through but this can only be assessed 'after the event'. ADAB has adopted both a Basic Needs approach and a wider economic 'development' strategy but experience in the Philippines suggests the small people will not gain much from projects whose benefits are simply expected to trickle down.

Someday, there will be peace

BY DAVID LAWRENCE

(The author wrote the following piece for the U.S. News & World Report in Christmas 1955. It was then headlined "Christmas in World Affairs." We believe the article was true then as it is still true this Christmas 1980. Ed.)

Someday the spirit of Christmas will mean more in national and international affairs than it does today.

Someday there will be peace on earth.

Someday there will be good will toward men.

When?

Can it be while men hate, deceive one another, envy one another, rob one another?

Can it be while men malign one another and distort truth just to win an election to public office?

Can it be while men, without basis, question each other's integrity instead of debating issues and ideas?

Can it be while those who boast of freedom and democracy practice bigotry in their own communities and deny their fellow men the rights that "freedom" must guaran-

tee to everyone?

Can it be while men conspire to enslave their fellowmen — to imprison them in isolated camps far from their homes and families?

Can it be while tyrants deny liberty to the individual and wield the scepter of despotism over millions of helpless persons?

Can it be while we prate of morals and idealism and then sell our souls amid the hypocrisies of the hour?

Can it be while men surrender principle and morality and excuse conduct as necessary to meet "political expediency" in international relations?

Can it be while men who profess to be righteous sit down to bargain with evil regimes and to negotiate a "live and let live" philosophy that openly condones sin and cravenly

runs away from the sacrifice so necessary to win a triumph for a cause that is just?

The world each year is reminded of Christmas in an outburst of generosity toward kinsfolk and friends. But the gifts mostly are of material things. The voice of the spiritual is rarely heard above the din of the crowd. We recite the rituals, but do we fulfill the words which speak the true creed?

This is an age of decaying morals and of crass materialism. The prophets of old have been silenced. The new prophets urge the advantages of compromise with evil — they terrorize the people with a strange fear of death. They regard sacrifice as obsolete. Jesus, they argue in effect, would better have appeased the enemy.

The motive to resist tyrannical masters at the risk of death has always been heroic, but nowadays, we are asked to buy security at any price — even at the price of ideals and moral principles.

The great martyr of all times had no fear of mortal death. His was to the last a voice of patience and restraint, of charity and forgiveness. There was no flinching in the test.

The lesson in the life of Jesus, well known to all of us but little heeded, is one of martyrdom for a great principle. This principle offers a firm foundation for all human relationships. It is a principle of unselfish concern for and, indeed, love of one's fellowman.

Nations will never manifest it in their relations with other nations until individuals learn its true meaning and give it effect in their daily lives.

For the principle of love is not merely affection for each other. It connotes tolerance, helpfulness, willingness to share each other's resources, and,

above all, rendering unto others the respect and the consideration that equals deserve from one another.

We speak of peace as an objective, but we seldom examine the ingredients of peace that comprise the moral force of mankind.

For until the spirit that permeated the life and teachings of Jesus nearly two thousand years ago becomes the code of mankind, there will be continuous friction and misunderstanding and perhaps over war.

Peoples do not willingly fight one another. Rulers even war.

Peoples do not willingly fight one another. Rulers bring on war by misleading oppressed peoples, hiding the truth from them and falsely accusing other nations of threatening attack. It is the oldest crime in all history. We are conscious of its vicious impact today. Only truth can overcome it, by reaching into the hearts of men everywhere.

Someday there will be real Christmas.

Someday the peoples of the world will rise to do homage to the principles that will assure a peaceful coexistence.

But the real Christmas will come when men have discovered within themselves the power that overnight can render impotent any commands issued by the despots.

The real Christmas will come when, among nations like our own and our allies, there is an impulse to follow the courageous will of a liberated conscience.

To achieve this emancipation from the shackles of modern ideologies, we must grow a Christmas tree that does not wither after Christmas; a tree that is nourished within our own hearts and spreads its branches from man to man as it unites us all in a world of eternal love.

VIEWPOINTS ... (From page 4)

ways has a caveat "barring unforeseen circumstances". If I remember right, when they held the referendum in 1973, they announced that the people do not want martial law to be lifted for 7 years. Now martial law has been with us for 8 years already — why does Mr. Marcos still have to place caveats in his announcement about the lifting thereof? Justice Barredo, if I heard him correctly during the Manila IV convention even mentioned that Mr. Marcos will lift martial law by January 1981. Kailan kaya talaga?

The people of Uruguay make me feel embarrassed because the Uruguayans showed more courage and conviction when they voted overwhelmingly against the ratification of the military sponsored Constitution a few weeks ago. In the Philippines we always vote 99.9% "yes". In fact hindi lang "yes", "Yes, sir" pa.

minimizing, if not eliminating, corruption due to overspending when a candidate spends millions to feed and entertain voters over a large region and once elected gets back his investment by robbing the public coffers. Now we are told to go back to that. It's hypocrisy. Do we want that? Voting by district or constituency also eliminates automatically bloc-voting.

(Next week? is there a Santa Claus)

WE Classified Ads

BUSINESS DIRECTORY o LEGAL NOTICES

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
AND COMMUNICATIONS

NOTICE OF HEARING

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to the provision of Section 4, Rule 5, Administrative Order No. 6-A, of the Bureau Posts, which took effect on Feb. 22, 1977, implementing Presidential Decree No. 240, dated July 9, 1973, C. S. Santos Services, represented by Mrs. Carola S. Santos, with business address at No. 4330 Dimatimbagan St., Dongalo, Paranaque, Metro Manila, filed with this office a verified petition PEMEDES Case No. 80-11 for authority to operate private express and/or messenger delivery service within Metro Manila.

The public hearing on this petition shall be conducted on Dec. 29, 1980 at 2 o'clock p.m., to be held at the hearing room, Rm. 313, Third floor, legal section, Bureau of Post bldg., Liwasang Bonifacio, Manila.

All those who intend to oppose the herein petition are requested to file a verified opposition with the office of the Postmaster General on or before Dec. 26, 1980 and serve a copy thereof to the petitioner.

(Sg.) FELIZARDO R. TANABE
Acting Postmaster General

Dec. 13, 20, 27, 1980

NOTICE OF EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the deceased spouses Enrique and Salud Alcantara who died intestate, consisting of a lot and house, located in Manila, and lot MNOPEFGH, Block 818, Section I (Garden), located in Paranaque, being a portion of TCT No. 145950 of the Registry of Rizal, have been extra-judicially settled by their heirs per Noc. No. 107; Page No. 23; Book No. XII; Series of 1980; of Notary Public Eliseo A. Razon of Manila, self-adjudicated by heir Henrietta Alcantara-San Pedro, inter alia, per Doc. No. 25; Page No. 6; Book No. VI; Series of 1980 of Notary Public Eliseo A. Razon of Manila.
Date of Publication: Dec. 6, 13 & 20, 1980.

NOTICE OF EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late REMEDIOS G. GENATO who died intestate on June 23, 1980 in Manila has been extrajudicially settled by her heirs per Doc. No. 80, Page 18, Book IXL, Series of 1980 of Notary Public Eliseo A. Razon of Manila.

Dec. 13, 20, 27, 1980.

EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT OF ESTATE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late JUSTINIANO A. VALEZA, who died intestate on July 12, 1976, in Manila, has been extrajudicially settled by his heirs as per Doc. No. 1623, Page 27, Book IX, Series of 1980, of Notary Public Pedro D. Genato of Manila.

Dec. 13, 20, 27, 1980.

EXTRA JUDICIAL SETTLEMENT NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late spouses Melanio and Silveria Macalinao (nee Aringo) who died intestate on January 18, 1968 and December 16, 1970, respectively, consisting of a parcel of land situated in Makati (Metro Manila) as evidence by Transfer Certificate of Title No. 36963, has been extrajudicially settled by their heirs per Doc. No. 3238, Page No. 6, Book No. CXIV, Series of 1980, of Notary Public Ernesto Abrogua, of Manila.
Dec. 6, 13, 20, 1980

P300-M

(From page 1)

The sports complex will include a swimming pool, a tennis court and a 10,000-seat gymnasium.

"Ours will be a cheaper Disneyland and will have an Asian motif. We may call it 'Paraiso ng Kabataan sa Bagong Lipunan'."

the mayor said.

Officials and technical experts of the Hongkong firm are expected to come here before Christmas to inspect the site and prepare plans for the center, the mayor disclosed.

of night descended upon all Filipinos. It was addressed to the man who had so shrewdly fashioned the crucible that is martial law upon 48 million Filipinos.

The first quotation was also written by a churchman. It was contained in a lengthy manifesto which was a rejoinder to a series of articles published in the newspapers that bitterly assailed the dignity of the Filipino clergy. The date of the publication of this manifesto? June 27, 1864. The author of this manifesto? A Filipino religious named Jose Apolinario Burgos.

Of course, you are aware of our Philippine history. Fr. Burgos was both priest and patriot. His execution, together with Frs. Mariano Gomez and Jacinto Zamora, in 1872, marked a "turning point in the history of Filipino nationalism." Their struggle for equality and their subsequent martyrdom ignited the mass upheaval of the Filipinos against oppression and tyranny.

Although their trial before a military commission was a farce and an outright mockery of justice, they were nevertheless executed for fomenting rebellion, specifically, the Cavite Munity.

Philippine history is replete with the names of members of the clergy who drew blood and more than blood — who sacrificed their lives in the names of reforms, of freedom, of Filipino dignity.

During the Spanish Inquisition, the star of our priest-patriots shone brightly, guiding other Filipinos toward the path of freedom... towards what another priest, Fr. Horacio dela Costa, S. J., described as "The achievement of full consciousness of our national identity, of what it means to be a Filipino and thus to make a Filipino contribution to the humanization of the world."

Then, as now, priests and laymen joined hands for the attainment of greater political rights for the Filipinos. In fact, in 1869, they organized themselves into an Assembly of Reformists which soon gained adherents among the studentry of the day. Then as now, the students staged demonstrations. Then, as now, their leaders were arrested and detained. Then, as now, priests interceded for their release.

Twenty four years after the martyrdom of Frs. Burgos, Gomez and Zamora, another name emerged in the firmament of religious nationalists who fought for freedom: Gregorio Aglipay, founder of the Iglesia Filipina Independiente, known as the Nationalistic Revolutionary Church. Aglipay was a true revolutionary who became the ecclesiastical superior of all Filipinos in arms during the Filipino-American war.

Accounts of heroic deeds of the religious during the Japanese occupation also abound in our history books. Scores of priests, including bishops, were interred in concentration camps for their steadfast conviction and for not cooperating with the Japanese invaders.

Today, we are witnessing the same spectacle of a dictatorial government ar-

rogating unto itself all powers of life and death over our people. But there is one great difference between the past and the present. While yesterday saw foreigners trampling upon Filipino rights, today, we see our own kin, fellow Filipinos, debasing our dignity, suppressing our basic human rights and sapping our very own self-determination and self-will, transforming many of us into cowering, spineless herds of sheep.

And like history repeating itself, we witness the resurrection of the Burgoses, the Zamoras, the Gomezes, the Aglipays in our midst. And the same struggle seems like a vicious cycle: one-man rule over popular will; tyranny over democracy; slavery over freedom.

In the vanguard of the present day struggle, are the religious who, like their colleagues in the distant past, have taken up the cudgels for the oppressed and the downtrodden.

The scenario is practically the same: the controlled press accusing the priests of being subversive or rebels; the priests going about their business attending to the poor, the neglected, the victims of military abuses; government agents rounding up the priests — for alleged involvement in a violent and armed struggle to overthrow the government!

One question that needs to be answered is: Why? Why is the martial law administration sensitive to the activities of the religious? Why do the priests get involved in the mounting opposition to martial law? Why have the religious become active in such issues as human rights, freedom of speech and assembly, development of people, government abuses?

The answer lies in two words: Martial Law.

Let us hear from 17 members of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines — the organi-

ASISTIO CREATES ... (From page 3)

ga has already written the PNR manager that his committee is ready to conduct talks with the PNR panel.

Previously, PNR General Manager de Castro had indicated to the city government its willingness to lease the parcels of land needed by the city at a rate of P1 per square meter per month, this rate, however, to escalate by 20 percent every year.

Mayor Asistio, Jr., however, has adopted the stand that since the PNR owns 54.8 hectares in the city which do not pay real property taxes but, on the contrary, all PNR facilities are provided with free government services, such as police and fire protection, garbage collection and the like, the city should not be charged any rental for such lands as it may need and which are not in use by the railways company.

The lands of the PNR in the city have an area of 548,482.70 square meters with an assessed value of P118,308,987, according to City Legal Officer Bana-

gation of the country's bishops. In their statement entitled "Ut omnes Unum Sint" issued on November 5, 1976, they said.

"It is in the area of human rights and justice, especially, that we see the unchristian nature of non-involvement. For the sad fact is, under Martial Law in the Philippines, our people have been deprived of rights which are theirs simply because they are human; rights to freedom of speech, of association; rights to due process; to a meaningful participation in the decision making process touching their common welfare; rights to truth and information; rights even to their dignity as thinking men and women. In the government's frenetic drive towards economic development, these rights are of secondary importance. This we believe is a massive injustice compounded by deceit and wholesale manipulation of people, by the dehumanizing fear that comes with the power of the gun".

In other words, the priests have been drawn — wittingly or unwittingly — into the vortex of the people's struggle for justice and truth simply because others have abdicated their duties to their people and their country.

* We see the frustration of a controlled mass media, practising not the freedom of the press but the freedom of the "Praise."

* We see the most expensive parliament saying "aye" to every suggestion of the one-man ruler.

* We see government officials and their subalterns nodding their heads in agreement to every pronouncement of the rulers.

Finally, let me bare myself, as a journalist, in answer to my earlier question of why have the religious taken over the responsibilities that others should have performed. You and I know that all avenues to truth and factual information have been closed by martial law authorities. Deception and half-truths, if not outright lies, have become the name of the game in journalism today. Any journalist worth his salt has been hampered in his search for the factual, real, true story. And where have

TORCUATOR ... (From page 3)

Meantime, the Central Bank is reported to have ordered an investigation into the matter. Aside from the Land Bank, two or three private commercial banks are said to have been also victimized.

Torcuator also declared that to protect the interests of the city, the ad hoc committee created by Mayor Rodriguez to probe the matter and of which he is chairman, is taking steps to force Ramawil to put up substitute collaterals other than the 149 QC and two Caloocan lots.

The city attorney said that under the agreement between the Land Bank and Ramawil, the borrower agreed to assign to the bank certain of its receivables specified as follows: (1) Farmont Mines, Inc.; (2) Ramawil Realty Sales and Development Enterprises and (3) Meralco-Jala-Jala Housing Project.

the people turned to in their search for the truth? For objective, accurate facts? Not to the newspapers. Not to the radio and television stations. But to their friends and confidantes in the church.

I should know. Most of the stories that I publish in We-FORUM are either written by a priest or tipped off to me by a priest. Now I've let you in with my secret. But then, who cares? After all, under martial law and with so many martial law agents around, one can't keep a secret for long. They even make up the secrets for you. That's why our detention camps are filled with so-called subversives and still many are in the waiting list — including Fathers Olaguer and Intengan.

Why do the religious act the way they do now under martial law? It all boils down to one simple reason: The search for truth, for justice and for freedom. I thank you.

KARNABAL ... (From page 3)

loocan branch which is a part of the PNR property.

Five different types of rides will be provided for the free use of children. The city government will pay P500 per ride per day or a total of P50,000 for the 20-day season for the five rides.

To accommodate as many children as possible, tickets will be printed and distributed among the 188 barangays, according to Secretary to the Mayor Arnulfo Tamayo. The barangay leaders will apportion the tickets among the children in their respective communities.

At least 30 booths will be constructed inside the carnival grounds to be leased to commercial establishments which may want to sell their wares to the carnival visitors, Assistant City Roberto Cordero has disclosed.

A stage will also be built where nightly cultural presentations will be staged.

The city is appropriating P200,000 to finance the carnival during the entire Yuletide season.

Mayor Macario A. Asistio, Jr. is the overall chairman of "Karnabal sa Bagong Lipunan sa Kalookan." Executive Assistant Romeo Ibasco is the project officer.

Various committees were created by the mayor to take care of the different aspects of the carnival, as follows: finance, headed by City Budget Officer Dafrosa Dacumos and Assistant City Treasurer Faustino Gutierrez; planning — Assistant City Engineer Roberto Cordero and Architect Sadi; special events — Cultural Affairs Officer Loida Virina and Capt. Simon; security — Capt. Adriano and Civil Security Officer Angel Cruz; and medical aid — City Health Officer Dr. Nicolas Concepcion and Caloocan City General Hospital Director Honora to Mackay.



Life Today, a Catholic monthly magazine, posed several questions to 500 youths aged 15 to 24.

And the answers, said the article written by Fr. Fausto B. Gomez, O.P., indicated that the youths are not quite prepared for the visit.

Of the youths asked, one-half belong to the rural areas in the province of Nueva Ecija. The other half belonged to urban areas from selected barangays in Metro Manila.

The youths are all Catholics, according to Father Gomez's article.

The first question asked was: "What do you think is the role of a Pope?" More than one-half of the youths (53 percent) answered that they know nothing about it. Forty-seven percent said they knew something and 19 percent spoke of evangelizing as the task of the Pope, and 9.8 percent said the Pope will proclaim social justice.

To the question "Do you know the present Pope?" more than one-half (56 percent) did not know him. Those who answered in the affirmative belonged mostly to Metro Manila. Among these, however, some had erroneous knowledge, answering that the Pope was John XXIII or Paul IV (one even said that the Pope was Cardinal Sin).

The rest of the questions and answers follow:

When the young were asked if they knew that the Pope is coming to the Philippines, sixty per cent (60) of the youth polled answered in the negative (of the forty per cent who knew about it, thirty three per cent belonged to the urban area). They were also asked: What are your plans for the Pope's coming? The great majority answered that they had no plans (81%), while only a minority (19%) said that they had concrete plans (of seeing the Pope, of praying with him, of listening to him).

In the answers to the above mentioned questions, there is a noticeable difference between the

DEALS

(From page 3)

Marcos last No. 11, 1980 to the 17 city and municipal mayors required that all contracts entered into by the mayors, including contracts of employment and trust agreements, must be submitted to the MMC for prior review and approval.

Upon learning of the governor's memorandum Manila City Treasurer Jesus I. Calleja ordered the two assistant city treasurers, Eduardo A. Trinos and Loreto Abaya, as well as all treasury department heads not to pay any claim unless the contract under which the claim is made has been okayed by the MMC.

Because of the impracticability of submitting all contracts executed by him to the commission, Mayor Bagatsing sent a letter to Vice-Gov. Mathay requesting him for a clarification of the memorandum of the lady governor.

rural and the urban youth; on the next set of questions, the difference is almost negligible.

Regarding the importance and significance of the papal visit, three questions were asked: Is the visit important to you personally? Is it important for your family? Is it significant for Philippine society? Here are the answers: seventy eight per cent (78%) said that the papal visit had no importance to them personally; eighty five per cent (85%), that it had no importance for their families; and seventy four per cent (74%) told the interviewers that the visit of the Pope had no importance for Philippine society.

Here's Fr. Gomez:

Although we cannot go into other details, let us mention, at least, the concrete reasons given by youth on the significance of the incoming papal visit. The papal visit is important personally to twenty two per cent (22%); because they will see the Pope (27%); because the Pope will bless them (19%), or give them inspiration (11%), or be able to hear his personal message (10%); it is also important for the remaining thirty three per cent (33%), but they do not know why.

Only fifteen per cent (15%) stated that the papal visit is important to their families. Why? Because the Pope will bring blessings to their families (56%), or he will unify their families (24%), or make their families closer to God (15%), or be able to pray together with the Holy Father (5%).

Regarding Philippine society, why is the papal visit significant to twenty six per cent (26%) of the youth polled? Because the visit of the Pope is an honor for our country (39%); because the Pope will bless our country (19%); because the Pope will know our needs (10%), or will tell us how to achieve peace (11%), or will unite Catholics and Non-Catholics (6%); the papal visit is really important, but they do not know why (11%).

For lack of space, we cannot interpret wholly the poll on the youth. Is it not, anyway, a little shocking? To me, the results were a total surprise. Why? Because the Filipino youth, and according to a scientific survey, is the most religious youth of the world. This deep religiosity of the Filipino youth was confirmed by our descriptive poll: of the five hundred young people, ninety seven per cent (97%) attend Mass; and forty nine per cent (49%) participate in the (community) Block Rosary; and twenty eight per cent (28) belong to Church-affiliated organizations.



'Doy' Laurel warns Marcos on polls

CEBU CITY — Assemblyman Salvador "Doy" Laurel has warned that President Marcos should there be an election is running with the determination to win and that he would even choose his opponent.

Speaking before an informal gathering of the members of the Cebu United Opposition, Laurel stressed that "he will even decide who will be his opponent."

Laurel, who visited Cebu recently, noted that the President had announced he would not have anything to do with the terrorist oppositionists, but that he was willing to do political battle with the moderates in the opposition.

The Batangas lawmaker noted that the opposition is only one — those who want the end of martial law and that Marcos step down from office. On the other hand, the administration is composed of those who want martial law to continue and who want Marcos to remain as dictator.

He added that what the President was really trying to dichotomize were the violent and non-violent oppositionists. "We are all moderates," he said. "We are not stupid enough to admit that we

Doctor faces charges

DAVAO CITY — A chief doctor of an emergency hospital in Kapalong, Davao del Norte, is facing administrative charges of "insubordination" for allegedly refusing to undergo a training in surgery at the Davao regional hospital in Bajada, this city.

Charged for insubordination is Dr. Nathaniel Erum, chief of the Kapalong Emergency Hospital. Erum was relieved of his duties by Dr. Helen S. Bapeda, pending resolution of the charges.

The complaint was filed by Edilberto Fernando, director of the regional health office Region XI, who earlier had sent a circular requiring him to undergo a six-month training in surgery.

Fernando said the conduct of Dr. Erum was prejudicial to the best interest of the service. He directed Dr. Erum to answer the charge saying that he can avail himself of a lawyer for assistance.

Dr. Erum, in his answer, said that the administrative suit against him should require him as the respondent to file his answer.

Virtually giving a discourse on administrative suits such as this kind, Erum told Fernando that, he being the complainant and a regional director, should inhibit himself from the proceedings of the administrative case as there is always that presumption of partiality or bias.

are for violence because we know our laws," he said.

Laurel also noted why the President wants a fresh mandate from the people. Among the reasons, according to him are:

1. The opposition is gaining momentum.
2. The student-labor unrest.
3. The demands of the business sector.
4. The increasing obligations of the government.
5. The support given by foreign powers to the insurgents in Mindanao.
6. The dwindling economy, etc.

Get involved Rono says

CEBU CITY — Local Governments Minister Jose A. Rono has underscored the importance of getting the people involved in the choice of leadership even as he justified the election of a transition President.

Speaking before the Cebu Breakfast Club during its regular meeting at Townhouse restaurant, Rono stressed the importance of the people's involvement, saying: "This is important because we believe that if you have to choose a leader, the people must be involved in the choice of that leadership."

Backing up his contention, Rono asserted that:

1. There should be a President during the transition;
2. The terms of office shall end at the time that the regular national assembly will convene to elect the Prime Minister in 1984.

Taruc raps political situation in Davao

DAVAO CITY — Assemblyman Luis Taruc assailed the political situation in Davao City, saying that the new political machinery of the crisis government of President Marcos is still being manned by and equipped with old political figures and "spare parts" of the rich and the influential who predominated the political arena here in two elections under martial law.

Speaking before a huge crowd of landless residents of Davao City, who gathered at the Buhangin Barangay High School last Sunday, Taruc also blamed the masses for their failure to guard and protect the people's rights in order to effect a truly representative government through election.

He lamented that the mass base is not properly represented in the legislative branch of the government, particularly at the Batasang Pambansa. He said that the poor or the mass base makes up 80 percent of the political structure of the country

VISAYAS * MINDANAO NEWS



Weekly Beam —

Ah, Christmas

By DANNY M. GONZALES



YOU CAN hear it. Smell it. Even feel it. Yes, Christmas 1980 is just around the corner. How merry will it be? Or sad? Considering the high cost of everything, the celebration of something — like a yuletide season — is usually expensive. What's in store for us in Christmas '80?

SPECTRE OF HIGH PRICES

PEOPLE IN the Philippines as well as in other developing countries view with apprehension the celebration of Christmas this year. Can we afford it? This is often the question. Especially among the poor. For the spectre of high prices is always there. And it's simply impossible to expect a downswing of prices in a season like Christmas when the demand for goods and goodies is simply great. For there will always be people who can afford to go shopping. The rich. And the near rich.

CAUTIOUS

THE LESS fortunate are even more cautious with their spending these days sincere there also hovers the modern-day Sword of Damocles — the ever unpredictable suppliers' raising of oil prices. This early, there are warnings of an oil price shock next year. In simple words, this means oil prices will go up higher than you think. Shockingly higher than you expect.

WHAT THEN?

SHOULD THE oil prices go up more than anyone of us expect, what will happen? Can the long-suffering Filipino nation still be able to adjust to it? How long can they endure? How long can they take it? Only time will tell. Meanwhile, the people — no matter the hardships — should be merry this Christmas. The days ahead don't look so bright. There's no point being unhappy in advance. After all, by next year there may be changes. Who knows, the miraculous Sto. Nino might yet shower us with His blessings? And to think that we're holding a big affair for Him in Cebu — the "sinulog." He remains the last hope of the poor, unhappy people who have lost faith and hope in the capacity of their fellow men — especially those in high places of government — to lend them a helping hand.

but their representation in the Batasan is barely two percent.

He said there are only four representatives from his region who speak for the poor. He said the representatives of the poor from the Visayas are sugar barons in Negros Occidental and Iloilo, and in Mindanao and Sulu, owners of plantations and coconut oil mills.

Taruc branded his colleagues at the Batasan as "bourgeois" and feudalistic. He said they represent the moneyed and the landed, who do not think of how to help the poor but of how to make more money and acquire more lands. They are feudalistic because they derived their power from land and money, Taruc added.

"That's why they are called rubber-stamps." He quipped.

From the president of the Buhangin United Residents, Inc., Pablo Juinio, Taruc learned among other things, that the land title issued to Insular Development Corp. over its con-

flicted area at Buhangin was made before the area was released as alienable and disposable, that both the Solicitor General and the Director of Lands had not been sufficiently informed of the IDC-Buhangin settlers' petition to the office of the solicitor general.

Yu is new patrol chief

DAVAO CITY — Major Benjamin T. Yu has reassumed the command of the Constabulary Highway Patrol Division in Region XI.

Yu has just finished four months schooling in Traffic Management Course at the University of the Philippines in Diliman, Quezon City.

Yu was the former CH-PD commander here until his schooling started last July 21. He finished his course last Nov. 12, and took over from Capt. Acmad Omar who acted as the commander until Yu's return.



KURO-KURO

Bakit ngayon lang?

ni FRANCISCO 'SOC' RODRIGO



Kahit alisin ang martial law, patuloy pa rin ang diktadura ni Pres. Marcos.

Malimit ko nang naipaliwanag iyan sa kolum na ito.

Noong 1972, bago idineklara ang martial law, limitado ang kapangyarihan ni Marcos bilang presidente. Umiiral noon ang "check and balance of power" sa tatlong sangay ng gobyerno: legislative, executive, at judicial.

Noong Septyembre 23, 1972, inagaw ni Marcos ang lahat ng kapangyarihan sa pamamagitan ng martial law.

Noon, samakatuwid, martial law ang ginamit na sandigan ng pagka-diktador ni Marcos.

Ngunit, mula noon, minariyobra ni Marcos na magkaroon ng kumw'y sandigang legal ang kanyang sukulung kapangyarihan. Sinalamangka niya ang pagpapatibay ng "transitory provisions" at ng "1976 amendments" na nagbigay sa "incumbent president" (walang iba kundi si Marcos) ng kapangyarihan ng "executive (magpatupad ng batas) at gayon din ng "legislative" (magpatibay ng batas).

Pati ang "judiciary" ay kanyang kinontrol, sa pamamagitan ng paglalagay sa kanyang kamay ng kapangyarihan kumaltas sa sinomang huwes o mahistrado.

Kaya't ngayon, ang dictatorial powers ni Marcos ay hindi na hango sa martial law kundi sa "transitory provisions" at "1976 amendments".

At, dahil dito, alisin man ang martial law, diktador pa rin si Marcos.

Kaya nga't lagi kong iuulit-ulit sa mga nakaraang kolum: Kailangan pawalang-bisa o lagyan man lang ng takdang "time limit" ang nasabing mga probisyon at amendments upang tunay na malansag ang diktadura at manumbalik ang demokrasya.

"Ang tao sa Pilipinas ay isa lang indibidwal; hindi siya myembro ng isang bansa."

Iyan ang puna ni Rizal sa isang artikulong sinulat niya sa La Solidaridad.

Ang nais ni Rizal ay magkaroon ang Pilipino ng nasyonalismo o damdaming makabayan.

Dapt rating ituring na ang bayan ay isang katawan, at ang bawat isa sa atin ay sangkap ng katawang iyan. Dahil diyari, ituring nating tayo'y kasangkot sa ano mang nangyayari sa ating mga kababayan, saan mang panig ng bansa.

Minsang magkaganyan, liral na sa atin ang salawikain: Ang sakit ng kalingskangan ay damdam ng buong katawan.

Kapag pirabayaan ang sakit na iyan, maaaring kumalat sa ibang mga parte ng katawan.

Ito'y dapat magsilbing leksyon sa mga peryodistang ngayo'y puspusang nabababala sa pagkapatay sa kapuwa peryodistang si Demosthenes Dingcong.

Tamang sila'y mababala at magmalasakit. Kasama nila ako diyari.

Ngunit ang tanong ko ay: Bakit ngayon lang sila biglang nagising? Bakit

ngayon lang sila um-aray? Dahil ba sa kapuwa-peryodista ang naging biktima?

Bakit hindi sila kumibo noong nakaraang walong (8) taon tungkol sa maraming mga nangyaring pagpatay, pagtorture at iba pang pagmamalabis ng mga militar at pulis laban sa mga taong walang kasalanan kundi ang manindigan at magpahayag ng atas ng kanilang budhi? Bakati pinaktakpan pa nila ang mga abusong iyan?

Iyan ang idinaing ni Rizal na "indibidwalismo", embes na "nasyonalismo", ng Pilipino. Hangga't hindi tayo mismo ang tinataamaan o malapit nang tamaan, ay hindi tayo kikilos.

"Lakasan ang loob mo! Dito (sa Pilipinas) ang tao ay hindi magiging marangal hangga't hindi nakukulong sa karsel."

Iya'y hango sa Noli Me Tangere ni Rizal.

Iyan ang sinabi kay Crisostomo Ibarra ng isang mabait at matandang militar nang nalaman ni Ibarra, na noo'y bagong dating mula sa Europa, na ang kanyang ama ay namatay sa loob ng isang karsel na pinagbilangguan sa kanya ng mga pinunong Kastila.

Nauulit ngayon sa Pilipinas ang ganayang pangyayari.

Kung paanong ang mga dinadakup at ikinukulong noong panahon ni Rizal, bilang mga "filibustero", ay yaong mga may giting at lakas ng loob na manindigan para sa simulain laban sa pangangapi ng mga Kastila, ang mga ina-ASSO at ipinipiit ngayon sa Crame, Bonifacio, Bicutan, etc., ay yaong mga handang mag-alay ng sakripisyo sa altar ng kalayaan, katarungan, katotohanan, at dangal ng mamamayan.

Kaya't ngayon, tulad noon, karangalan ang makabilang sa hanay ng mga "political detainees", sapagkat ang mga ito'y nabilanggo dahil sa paninindigan sa waga na atas ng kanilang konsyensya.

Habang sinusulat ko ito, wala pang katiyakan kung itutuloy o hindi ang ipinahayag na balak ni Pres. Marcos na magdaes ng eleksyon para sa "transition president".

Ngunit, batay sa mga lumilitaw na senyal, waring naghahanda na si Marcos ng dahilar upang makaatras siya sa balak na iyan.

Sa sinundang kolum, inilahad ko ang aking mga katuwiran kung bakit ako'y tutol sa nasabing balak. Ang pagdaraos ng nasabing halalan ay hindi magdudulot ng ano mang kabutihang, bagkus lilikha ng pinsala, sa bayan.

Kaya't ako'y magagalak kung magkatotoo ang mga senyal na iya'y iurong.

Ngayon, ang sikapin sanang gawin ng mga pinuno ay ang magtatag ng tohahanan at tapatang transition tungo sa muling pag-iral ng demokrasya.

Iwasan na sana ang mga "palabas" at mga pakitang-tao na ang tanging pakay ay libangin at linlangin ang bayan.

Halatang-halata na iyan ng tao. Ang Pinoy ay suyang-suya na diyari.

RAMAWIL (From page 1)

necessary scrutiny of all the supporting papers.

The Register of Deeds of Quezon City certified as to the veracity of the collaterals when it issued a certification to the effect that Certification of Titles are authentic and do not have any lis pendens or encumbrances

The Ramawil Realty on the other hand, denied also the fact that somebody from the office offered P50,000.00 to Vice-Mayor Sarino to facilitate or get his signature. How can the company offer this big amount to a legitimate transaction? The spokesman asked. Besides, the transaction is valid even without the signature of the Vice-Mayor.

I'm sure there are detractors who would like to see this project fold-up because they would like to take over after seeing that the project is almost in its homestretch stage. After all, the detractors probably don't know, that the project is for the housing of government employees supported by a foreign investment group, the spokesman said.

We would like to invite anybody to go to our offices and present all our supporting papers to the transaction. Our doors and our books are open for anybody who would want to scrutinize our dealings, the spokesman said.

US STATE (From page 1)

States for international terrorist purposes. We will not be, however, cooperating with the Philippine authorities in rounding up opponents of the Philippine government in this country."

Meanwhile, former Sen. Raul S. Manglapus was reported to have urged Filipinos in the U.S. to "stand up and be counted against the Marcos dictatorship."

Manglapus, according to the Philippine Times, spoke before 400 members and sympathizers of the Movement for a Free Philippines which Manglapus himself heads as president.

The former senator had led a "Free the Philippines" rally at the University of Chicago recently. With him were Serge Osmena III, grandson of former President Sergio Osmena, detainee for five years in the Philippines, and Alex Esclamado, editor-publisher of the San Francisco-based opposition newspaper Philippine News.

In the same rally, Manglapus denied that he ordered recent bombings in the Philippines. He said "we did not order those bombs, but neither would we condemn those objectives (the overthrow of Marcos) of brave men who have lost hope that Marcos will ever step down."

Osmena, according to the Times, asked that grievances be addressed to President-elect Ronald Reagan, saying that Filipino-Americans "convince Pres. Reagan that the long term interests of the U.S., not only Filipinos

highly by freedom-loving people.

SABAH (From page 1)

fail to enlist the support of legitimate Muslim leaders of Mindanao.

The result of the Sabah elections has not yet been officially announced but there have been indications that former Chief Minister Mustapha Bin Datu Harum could recover power.

Mustapha, who had been Chief Minister of Sabah or Chief of State, ran against incumbent Chief Minister Onn. Mustapha had been defeated in an earlier election but ran again on indigenous issues.

Pre-elections forecast showed that Mustapha was held favorite by the majority of voters whom they considered as indigenous compared to incumbent Chief Minister Onn who is of Chinese origin. Mustapha is half-Badjaos from Tawi-Tawi.

Prince Abubakar declared that the victory of Mustapha would boost and push forward the plans of Misuari to secede Mindanao from the Republic. He recalled that since the start of the MNLF movement, Mustapha, together with the late Prime Minister Tunjku Rahman, has been clandestinely giving financial support to Misuari.

He expressed fear that the future of Mindanao would be in grave danger if the authorities would not keep abreast with the highest affairs of the neighboring country. He added that if the authorities would not be alert, the people in the region might wake up one day and find themselves overrun by the MNLF with the aid of foreign nations.

The trouble in Mindanao, Prince Abubakar declared, has now become an economic enterprise. Thousands of soldiers have also been killed, including a fine and gentleman officer, Teodulo Bautista. Despite billions of pesos spent by the government, the fighting still rages on, the prince lamented.

Prince Abubakar believed that the key to the solution to the Mindanao conflict is for President Marcos to enlist the help of sincere and traditional Muslim leaders, like General Hadji Salipada K. Pendatun.

Regarding the Sultanates claim of Sabah, Prince Abubakar said that as a legitimate heir to the claim, his concern is more on the peaceful solutions to the Mindanao conflict than the Sabah claim. —RJF

alone, "will lie in making friends with the Filipino people."

Osmena declared during the rally that the Movement for a Free Philippines will soon be activating a "Political Institute" where the basic programs for an alternative government will be outlined to the people.

With that program, Osmena was reported by the Times as saying, "we can insure that the wealth of our land will be utilized to meet the needs of the majority who are poor, rather than to feed or to continue feeding the insatiable appetite of the handful who are rich."

FM PARK (From page 1)

(PTA) in honor of President Marcos. It covers more than 300 hectares of what used to be the ricefields, orchards and homelots of the Ibalois.

In affidavits executed before the provincial attorney, Taloy folks said a joint MOT-PTA team with military escort had since 1975 threatened them into selling out their land below prevailing prices. But they refused to give in to the threats.

Their refusal reached a point when authorities deemed it wise to assign the Region I Constabulary Command to handle the case. Eventually, through alleged deceit and force, the people agreed to vacate the place and accept payments from MOT and PTA officials.

Tourism Minister Jose D. Aspiras denied that Taloy folks were ever threatened into selling their land. "My God, I never forced them," he told the local media. Aspiras, however, confirmed plans to make Marcos Park a multi-purpose tourism complex.

Among the park's features are a golf course, tourist establishments and an imposing ninety-foot bust of President Marcos. The mountain-sized bust, which shall overlook the lowlands of La Union and China sea, is the country's counterpart to Mount Rushmore in the United States.

Another feature of the park is a cluster of cogon-thatched huts described in tourism brochures as an Igorot village. Some of these houses have broken down either due to faulty construction or erosion. No one lives in them.

As of presstime, construction of the park is still going on. Work especially on the bust is being rushed up. Other activities include road-widening and planting of coconuts to the abandoned ricefields. Meanwhile, visitors are prohibited from entering the area.

Francisco "Isko" Alilis, 63, a prominent resident of Taloy Sur, is one among the hundreds of Ibalois affected. Park authorities have expropriated his five-hectare lot for P69,000. However, P15,000.00 of the amount, he said, went to the pocket of local officials including an official of the Region I Commission on Elections.

If given a choice, Alilis said, he would never move out. "But we are helpless. We are up against the government. We were given no choice." Park authorities have already fenced off the area. Hence, all existing plants and fruit trees are considered park authorities.

Alilis said he is aware of this. Casting an eye to the ground, he said however that it is not that simple to just leave the bones of his dead relatives behind. "Until the proper rituals are performed I will not leave the place," he vowed. He said that in his backyard alone, at least twenty dead relatives are buried.

(From Tribal Forum)

LITERATURE

(From page 2)

Kerima Polotan, among others. I miss the Manila Times, the Philippines Free Press, and yes, my old newspaper, the Philippines Herald, too. I guess I'm just an old, unreconstructed lover of organized disorder or disorderly organization. The totally orchestrated poli-

tics and economics, art and culture, literature and journalism, of today aren't exactly my cup of tea. I trust you will find the sin of nostalgia forgivable in one who celebrates this year the golden anniversary of his love affair with the written word. (To be continued)

WE OPENS

(From page 1)

reau, with Danny Gonzales as chief based in Cebu City. Like in Manila and other parts of Luzon, WE Forum is well-received in Mindanao and in the Visayas — proof that an independent and credible newspaper is esteemed