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Marcos 'chair' in US university junked

Girl in Ermita



Walking somewhere in Ermita, Manila, last week, *We Forum* reader Nilo Abaya saw a little girl stop peddling newspapers and looked intently at almost nude photos of women in a disco joint. What's in this girl's mind? Abaya asked himself. He stole this shot and sent it to us.

The much-ballyhooed Ferdinand E. Marcos academic chair at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, a branch of the Tufts University in Massachusetts, U.S.A., has been cancelled.

The plan to establish the academic chair in honor of President Marcos was dropped because the school received only P500,000 of the \$1.5 million that Marcos pledged, according to a dispatch of the *Associated*

Press, an international news service.

Quoting the school dean, Theodore L. Eliot, Jr., AP said that \$350,000 of the money received would be used to set up Marcos Fellowships and \$150,000 to fund a new auditorium at the Fletcher School which is part of Tufts University.

"There will be no chair," Eliot was quoted as saying.

No professor had been named to the chair, and sev-

eral Asian specialists had reportedly declined appointment. The terms of the gift were renegotiated last summer in Manila by Mr. Marcos and Jeffrey A. Sheehan, an assistant dean, Mr. Eliot said.

The promise of \$1.5 million to establish the Ferdinand E. Marcos Chair for East Asian and Pacific Studies was announced in November 1977 and was greeted by campus protests. Mr. Marcos has ruled the Philippines

by martial law since 1972.

Dr. Allan D. Callow, chairman of the university's trustees, said the gift of the chair was arranged by Foreign Minister Carlos P. Romulo of the Philippines and was meant to thank "the people of this country for their support and assistance" to the Philippines.

"Tufts in no way condoned the authoritarian regime of the Philippines," Dr. Callow added.

WE

FOR THE YOUNG & LIVING

the national weekly
FORUM
of free expression

VOL. IV * NO. 46

FOR THE WEEK MARCH 7-13, 1981

* P1.00 in METRO MANILA

PLANTERS FILE SUIT

P7.4B sugar export contract protested

Five million tons of sugar, which comes from the country's production this year up to 1984, had already been sold at fixed low prices through an export contract entered into by the Phil-

ippine Sugar Commission and its marketing arm, the National Trading Corporation (NASUTRA) without the consent of the sugar planters.

Pimentel receives suspension threat

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY — Mayor Aquilino Pimentel, Jr., one of the outspoken critics of President Marcos, has been recommended for suspension by General Manager Gaudencio Tobias of the National Housing Authority (NHA) for allegedly blocking the implementation of slum improvement program (SIR) projects of the national government here.

But Pimentel was trying to reverse the situation: He wanted Tobias, a retired general, investigated instead. He charged, in a wire to the Ministry of Local Governments and Community Development, that the move to suspend him was politically motivated.

Tobias' recommendations was contained in his memorandum to Mr. Marcos.

Among others, Tobias said that:

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Metro jeepney drivers restive

Some 12,000 jeepney drivers who are members of a new federation are restive over what they termed as measures that spawn "tong collection".

The contract, worth P7.426 billion, virtually confiscated our sugar produce, according to a group of sugar planters in a petition for prohibition it

filed before the Supreme Court last Dec. 18, 1980.

The petition, which came on the heels of a "social unrest" in the sugarlandia, escaped the national media's attention.

The petitioners are Corazon Zayco, of Bacolod City; Emilio Yulo, Iluminada Vda. de Locsin and Estrella Vda. de Jesena, all of Binalbagan, Negros Occidental; Narciso Agudon, Batangas; Jose Ma. Kilayko, Irving Villamor,

Angel Villamor, Oscar Martin, Socorro Tubilla, husband and wife Geoffre and Gloria de la Paz, Domingo R. Paulino, husband and wife Wayne and Amelia Jaro, Anna Macasa,

Jose Jamandre, also of Bacolod City.

They said they instituted the "class suit" in their own behalf and in behalf of and for

(Page 2, please)

MMC bides time on Lopez plaint

The Metro Manila Commission, through the Solicitor General's Office has asked the Supreme Court to give it more time to prepare and submit its comments on two petitions filed by Manila Opposition leader Gemiliano Lopez, Jr.

The petitions:

1. Questioned the legality, validity and constitutionality of the Metro Manila Commission. This was filed Feb. 6 by Lopez.
2. Asked the Supreme

(Page 2, please)

The oppressed Higa-onons

DEEP in the interior districts of Gingoog City live a tribal group called Higa-onons. For ages, these people had been sustained by the bounties of their thick forest.

Like other non-Muslim hilltribes in Mindanao, they would rather stick it out in the wilderness than be assimilated by colonial powers in the lowlands.

At least, sources of food up there were theirs for the taking. Wide varieties of honey, fruits and edible plants

(Page 9, please)

3rd FM's opponent

Another "potential" opponent of President Marcos in the June 7 presidential elections has come forward, saying he would "nullify martial law forever" if he gets elected.

Lucio L. de Gala, who styles himself as a radio commentator and author, said he is running for president "by the support and blessing of the Liberal, Nacionalistas, Laban, the student groups of the Philippines, all sectors of society and the guidance of the almighty God."

Apart from erasing martial law, De Gala promises to:

1. Create a firm, honest and strong Cabinet.

2. Abolish the Interim Batasang Pambansa.

(Page 9, please)

War vet still fighting

Sometime in June 1969, a year that saw the heightening pace of demonstrations, one man "marched" to Malacanang grounds and staged a one-man rally.

The defunct *Philippines Herald* would headline the story:

"I rallied alone at Malacanang."

The man was Pepe Susada,

Officers of the Philippine League of Local Drivers Association, Inc. (PHILLODA) have been persistent in their petition before the Metro Manila Commission against mulcting policemen and unreasonable traffic rules and regulations.

Last Tuesday, March 3, a delegation from the PHILLODA went to the MMC offices in Quezon City but failed to

(Page 9, please)

Solon in P3.5B land deal?

An assemblyman heads the real estate company which stands to profit more than P3.52 billion from a business transaction in which some Malacanang people are obviously involved.

The assemblyman signed documents that were acted upon by a Malacanang official

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RAMAWIL

Land Bank is liable - P.3

Economic growth rate debunked

By ALEX NICDAO

PART II

The trends in government revenues and expenses are indicated by a figures below that were obtained from NEDA, viz:

Year	Revenues (Million pesos)	Expenses (Million pesos)
1978	P27,846	P32,148
1979	35,900	39,352

Despite its huge expenses, government has been active in trimming down the "household" expenses and undertaking the construction of more infrastructures from its funds and revenues. It also has tried its best to develop a surplus in its current account by minimizing its expenses. By undertaking massive fund-raising activities abroad to finance its infrastructures program the government has taken the initiative and responsibility of being the prime mover of Philippine economic development. It has appropriated for itself the allocation of local and foreign economic resources to effectively control its development programs.

On the other hand, the Central Bank looks at the trend in government deficit spending as inflationary, i.e. more pesos chasing a limited amount of goods and services (low production). Moreover, the efficiency of the Ministry of Public Works and other agencies involved in the infrastructure program is in doubt due to the anomalies that have been unearthed between the infrastructures procurators and the bidding contractors, i.e. reports of Minister Paterno regarding corruption in public works. Anomalies in government projects are undertaken thru overpricing, wastage and purposeful destruction or dilution of existing supplies, thereby increasing costs. These anomalies also include fictitious purchases. Furthermore, the construction of more roads

and bridges will only encourage the use of more cars and consumption of more gasoline during this prevailing energy crises.

Consequently, there is a need for government to avoid deficit spending so that inflation can be better controlled by the Central Bank by minimizing the effects of demand pull inflation, i.e. more pesos chasing limited amount of goods and services. Government should try harder to balance its budget and to spend within its means. It should try its best to generate savings of 30 percent or more of its annual budget as proposed similarly to the private sector, so that it can share these savings with the private sector that needs more capital for its operations to increase the productivity of the economy as a whole. Government should realize that the private industrial sector can be its efficient partner for development by developing a competitive situation within it. Construction of more roads should be minimized to control and minimize the consumption and importation of oil during this energy crises.

To assure the efficiency of the government agencies in development, they should be organized along the lines of the "responsibility center" concept, wherein which revenue centers will be required to maximize savings by increasing service/documentary revenue thru increased quality service and reduction of operating costs in order to

achieve a 30 percent or more savings in revenues. Government units that do not generate revenue can be classified as cost centers and required to generate savings of 30 percent from their annual budgets. To minimize corruption, the highest authority in government should require all government ministries to strengthen their internal control systems and to undertake more frequent auditing activities. The President of the Philippines should be the only one who should give the go-signal for the approval and release of funds for major infrastructure projects subsequent to prior checking and canvassing of project inputs, to minimize anomalies in all echelons of government. Alternatively, the government may consider the scheme of Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew of Singapore in making his government more efficient. Ministers are automatically replaced if they cannot meet the development objectives of government. Government, may, de-emphasize its role in development by allocating more funds to the industrial sector. Why not let the private sector take the initiative this time?

Taxation

The publicans at the Bureau of Internal Revenue are presently using the income tax system utilized last year which is already modified to provide for realistic deductions and tax rates. Presently proposals and studies are being undertaken to study the feasibility of adopting the 1 per cent gross income tax and the imposition of taxes on luxury goods. Finally, they have imposed an energy tax on essentials, viz: gasoline, electricity, etcetera. Likewise, the Ministry of Finance is contemplating and studying the feasibility of lo-

P7.4 BILLION ... from page 1

the benefit of sugarcane planters in the country "who are so numerous as to make it impracticable to bring them all before the Court."

The contracts entered into by the Philsucom and Nasutra call for the sale of two million tons of sugar from 1981 to 1984 at a weighted average of only 23.50 cents per pound or P235 per picul. The prices are 22 cents (1982), 22.50 cents (1983), and 28 cents (1984).

The contracts mean that the buyers will pay for the products at these amount regardless of whether the price of sugar goes up. A few years ago, the price went up to as much as P670 per picul.

The contracted sugar costs P7.426 billion (2 million tons x 1,000 kgs. - 2 billion kgs. - 63.25 kgs. (in one picul) = 31,620,550 piculs x P235 = P7.426 billion).

Nasutra and Philsucom were created in 1977. Philsucom, established by Presidential Decree No. 388, later amended by Decree 1192, has the powers, among others, to set policy regarding the sugar industry, act as the exclusive sugar buying and selling agency, set floor and ceiling prices for the commodity, and even to take over and operate deficient sugar mills.

Philsucom, in turn, created the Nasutra as its marketing arm for both domestic and export sugar and has since exercised total control over that aspect of the industry.

The two agencies, according to the petitioners did not consult the sugar planters before entering into the contracts.

It was only in a public announcement by Philsucom Commissioner Chairman Roberto S. Benedicto that the sugar planters came to know of the contracts, according to the petitioners.

They added that "their previous consent have not been sought, much less obtained, nor was ever any information on the matter given to them individually or through their planters' associations."

The petitioners said that the planters would not have consented had their views been sought considering, they added, that "the price of export sugar then was and still is well above 22 cents per pound, or P220 per picul. Indications, they said, are that the high price will prevail in the coming years.

The petitioners said that the Philsucom and Nasutra are mere agents. Therefore, they said, they and their fellow sugar planters are entitled to the full price of their sugar.

They alleged that the Philsucom and Nasutra have no power under the law and the Constitution "to confiscate petitioners' sugar."

wering ad valorem and specific duties on commodities that are imported as a member of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) and as required by the IMF-WB Group.

(TO BE CONTINUED)

WAR VET STILL ... from page 1

las and, therefore, have not been given benefits.

Susada's one-man crusade did not succeed then. Now, 11 years since his Malacanang rally, Susada still is pursuing his campaign.

One day last week, Susada walked into the WE Forum's editorial office and, in two crutches, the small man announced he has not given hope. Would WE Forum help? he asked.

He handed WE Forum some documents. One written by him says in part:

"... there were many guerilla members who were not recognized, or their names were not carried on their guerilla unit rosters submitted to the United States Department of the Army for recognition.

"While the other guerilla members whose names were carried on their guerilla unit rosters submitted to the United States Department of the Army for recognition, but their recognition were then rejected for unknown reasons.

"There were guerilla units who were recognized by the United States... but later on their recognition were unreasonably revoked..."

"... At present many of the veterans are sickly, ill, and very old, many are now fast dying at the Veterans Memorial Medical Center, and at other places in the Philippines, without enjoying benefits to which they are entitled to receive from the United States."

Susada has sought the assistance of Mayor Ramon D. Bagatsing in his crusade. The mayor has written Assemblyman Constantino Navarro Jan. 20, 1981, endorsing Susada's campaign.

Says Bagatsing's letter in part:

"This is to intercede in behalf of Mr. Pepe A. Susada, my co-veteran during World War II, and a long standing friend.

"Mr. Susada is requesting that Office (Batasan) to make a similar Resolution to our House Concurrent Resolution No. 10, with Committee Report No. 3287, and Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 2, sponsored by former Senator Jose W. Diokno during the defunct 7th Congress of the

They recalled that various sugar planters' associations have published in the newspapers letters to President Marcos. But their pleas were unacted.

Earlier Benedicto defended the long-term sale, saying that this would be good for the producers.

He said that the market of sugar goes up and down. "We are apprehensive," he added, "that eventually the price of sugar will be down."

He said that "our role in Philsucom-Nasutra is not only to foresee what will happen this year, or next year, but what will happen in the next five years."

There have also been numerous television commercials and full-page newspaper ads praising the "leaders of the sugar industry" for their vision in protecting the industry. ●

MMC BIDES TIME ... from page 1

Court to order the Commission on Elections to hold "free, honest and orderly elections" for members of the Sangguniang Panlungsod and Sangguniang Pambayan in the four cities and 13 towns of Metro Manila. This petition was filed earlier. In the first petition, Assistant Solicitor General Nathaniel P. de Pano, Jr. asked until March 14 to submit his comment. He asked until March 7 to submit his comment on the second petition.

Lopez, a defeated mayoralty candidate in the last local elections, said that the Commission as formed by Presidential Decree No. 824 in 1975 has not been ratified by a majority of the qualified voters of Metro Manila.

President Marcos issued the decree following a referendum which showed that the formation of the Commission was favored by the people of the four cities and 13 towns.

But Lopez through lawyer Regalado Aralar, said no plebiscite has been called to change the form of government in Metro Manila.

In his other petition, Lopez said that no council exists today in the four cities and 13 towns because the Comelec failed to hold elections last year, along with the other towns and cities in the country.

In the absence of any sanggunian, any of the cities and towns of Metro Manila cannot validly enact ordinances appropriating funds for their operations as envisioned in Presidential Decree No. 824 according to Lopez.

Lopez cited the Constitution which provides in Section 3, Article II that no province, city or municipality may be created, divided, merged or abolished, or its boundary substantially altered, except in accordance with the criteria established in the Local Government Code, and subject to approval by a majority of the votes cast in a plebiscite in the unit or units affected. ●

Philippines.

"For and in behalf of our co-veterans of World War II, particularly the unfortunate ones; the sickly, the ill, and the aged, most especially the dying ones now confined in the Veterans Memorial Medical Center, and in other places of our country."

Says another letter, signed on March 17, 1976, by Mariano Aureaus, secretary-general of the Veterans Federation of the Philippines:

"... please be informed that the delegation which was authorized by the govern-

ment to attend the 33rd WVF Council meeting and World Assembly of War Veterans held in Australia on August 5-6, 1975, was already recommended to the President of the Philippines that the problem should be elevated on a government-government level." ●

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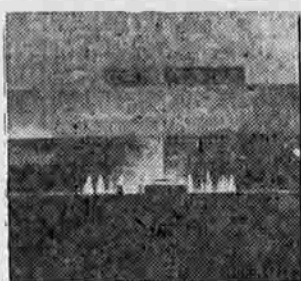
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METRO MANILA NEWS



P'que residents hit bad roads, canals

PARANAQUE — The San Antonio Valleys X and XI Homeowners Association assailed bad roads, stinking canals and inadequate water supply in their subdivision area located at Sucat, Paranaque, Metro Manila.

Speaking through Engr. Jaime E. Biton, association president, the residents said that for the last 10 years, both the subdivision owners and the municipal government have been giving them run-around whenever we complain about the situations obtaining in our area.

"We provide our own water supply and we pay for the maintenance of street lights although we believe that these are not our obligations. We just want to manifest our cooperation. But the bad roads and the stinking polluted canals are conditions

we can no longer bear," Biton said.

He said his association is seeking the help of the Metro Manila Commission to remedy the situation. "We believe Vice Governor Ismael A. Mathay Jr. can intercede in our behalf," he added.

Biton headed the list of the new association officers inducted into office last Saturday by Atty. Art Bernales, barangay captain in the area and former president of the College Editors Guild (CEG).

Meanwhile, Assemblyman Rogelio M. Quiambao of Metro Manila, upon learning the problems of the homeowners, manifested his willingness to help them alleviate the situation the residents are in. He said he would like to attend a meeting of the homeowners association to help iron out the problem.

30 o/o hike due in Caloocan ass'ments

CALOOCAN CITY — A 30 percent increase in the assessments of taxable real property during the coming general revision is expected by City Assessor Isidro Abesamis following the formulation of a new schedule of market values.

The schedule will be the basis of the reassessment of all parcels of real property, residential, commercial and agricultural, during the revision which starts on July 1 this year and ends on Dec. 31, 1982. Payment of realty taxes based on the new assessments will begin Jan. 1, 1983.

Abesamis told WE-FORUM that on the basis of the expected 30 percent increase, total property assessments will go up from the present P1.4-billion to P1.8-billion in 1983.

Higher market valuations have been placed on residential and commercial properties in all areas of Caloocan City under the new schedule. Lots along Rizal Avenue Extension in the Monumento vicinity are to be increased in value from the present P1,200 to P2,000 per square meter — the highest in the city.

For the rest of Rizal Avenue from Monumento

(Page 7, please)

Assessments freeze yields discrimination

The revelation of Pasay City Assessor Luis V. Medina Cue that 70 percent of the city's residential and 30 percent of the commercial areas have been included in Pasay's "blighted areas" has been echoed in Manila and in Caloocan City.

Cue had disclosed to the WE-FORUM in last week's issue that because of a presidential proclamation freezing the market values and, therefore, the assessments of all properties in the blighted areas, forthcoming revision of real properties starting on July 1 will not yield an appreciable increase.

A similar situation exists in Manila, according to informed sources at the city

assessor's office. (City Assessor Nicolas Catilil was out last Friday afternoon but he had earlier warned against the adverse effects of the proclamation freezing property assessments at their present levels.)

The sources cited the huge Tambunting estate on Rizal Avenue which has been named among Manila's 38 blighted areas. Tambunting was razed by fire in 1979. They said that because of the proclamation, the newly constructed commercial buildings along Rizal Avenue in the estate will not be subjected to revision.

Yet, on the opposite side of the avenue which was also burned down, new

(Page 8, please)

RAMAWIL CASE

Land Bank liable

Government investigators, after weeks of intensive inquiry, are reported to have reached the conclusion that the Land Bank is liable for any loss arising from the scandalous P30-million loan it had granted to the Ramawil Realty Sales and Development Enterprises.

This is in line with assurances given by Land Bank President Estanislao Basilio to Quezon City Mayor Adelina S. Rodriguez that the bank will assume the responsibility of paying for the city's P30-million deposit in the event Ramawil defaults on its loan obligation.

In reaching the decision, the government probers said that under the terms of the "Deed of Revocable Trust" between the bank and the Quezon City government, and notwithstanding the "conforme" indicated on the document by the QC officials, such consent did not have the effect of releasing the bank

from its obligation arising from the trust responsibility it had assumed.

The investigators noted that under Sec. 56 of R.A. 337, the Land Bank, as the trust corporation, was obliged to administer the funds under its custody with skill, care, prudence and diligence necessary under the circumstances

then prevailing that a prudent man, acting in like capacity and familiar with such matters, would exercise

Generally, the investigators concluded, a corporate trustee must exercise the same standard of care, diligence and skill in making trust investments as is required of an individual trustee.

Based on the records of the case, the government investigators said, it is clear that the Land Bank neglected to exercise its duty and obligation for which reason it will have to assume the risk the event of default by Ramawil to pay back the bor-

rowed money.

In arriving at such findings, the investigators noted that the bank's trust officer, Atty. Reynaldo Geronimo, in his letter of June 27, 1980, had given the information that the Quezon City funds would be placed in stable banks.

It was likewise noted that in the Deed of Revocable Trust executed between the Land Bank and Quezon City, preference in investing the city's P30-million deposit would be given to government securities.

The probers questioned the action of the bank in making direct investments in development projects, such as the Pangarap Village housing project of Malacanang employees, out of trust deposits made by Quezon City.

They also asked if investment offers of private enterprises, like Ramawil, are screened only by the bank's trust officer and are apparently not reviewed by higher bank authorities.

Meanwhile, reports from the Ministry of Justice that Mrs. Natividad Fajardo, manager-treasurer of Ramawil, is facing several estafa charges, has dimmed hopes that the realty office can pay back the P30-million loan it had secured from the Land Bank.

While the Land Bank has notified QC Mayor Rodriguez that it had accepted as substitute collaterals 149 parcels of QC and two parcels of Caloocan lands, the market value of such collaterals amounts only to P5.6-million, as compared to the P30-million which Ramawil obtained with a fake land title.

Summer program for M'la youths

MANILA — Mayor Ramon D. Bagatsing last week announced the launching early next month of the annual "Anang Maynila" summer program which will give some 10,000 children from the city's depressed areas a "weekend treat of fun and frolic" at government expense.

The mayor met with the city department heads and chiefs of offices last Feb. 27 to finalize plans for the weekend program which will be held from March to April to provide in-school and out-of-school youths recreation, entertainment and leadership training.

The children, between the ages of 8 to 15 years old, will be brought to historical spots and resort sites for six consecutive Saturdays beginning March 7 where they will be treated to a whole day of fun, games, swimming and dancing in line with the project of the First Lady and Metro Manila Governor Imelda Romualdez Marcos.

(Page 7, please)

Caloocan graft case to be reinvestigated

CALOOCAN CITY — A reinvestigation of the graft case involving former Acting City Mayor Virgilio Robles and 12 other former and incumbent city officials and employees is being undertaken by Tanodbayan Special Prosecutor Mariflor Castillo.

The 13 accused were informed of this develop-

ment by Justice Vicente Erieta, Tanodbayan chief, during their arraignment last Feb. 24. The accused had filed a motion for a reinvestigation which Erieta readily approved.

Special Prosecutor Castillo was given by the court two months to conduct the reinvestigation.

At their arraignment be-

fore the Sandiganbayan last Tuesday morning, all the respondents pleaded "Not Guilty" to the anti-graft charge. Except for Robles and City Legal Officer Juan Banaga who represented themselves during the arraignment, the accused had their respective counsel.

(Page 8, please)

TRACED Causes for shortfall in realty tax collections

The Finance Office of the MMC under Finance Assistant Mauro G. Calaguio has initiated a campaign in all four cities and 13 towns for the maximized collection of real property taxes.

Records from the revenue division of the Finance Office indicate that in 1980, while realty tax collection in the cities and towns was estimated at P323,777,970, actual collection totalled only P288,937,266.02.

The causes for the shortfall in collection were traced by city and town treasurers to the following:

1. The certifications made by the assessors which were the basis of the estimates made by the treasurers from current real property taxes were inaccurate because the general revisions that took effect in 1979 were made without ocular inspection generally, as borne out by the following:

- (a) There were properties no longer existing yet their tax declarations have not been cancelled. Some cases in point were some parcels of land in Marikina which were eroded and now form parts of a creek yet in the records they are still taxable. In Quezon City, some improvements were only found out to be no longer existing when the owners came out, during the publication of delinquent property for

public auction sale.

- (b) Now and then duplication of tax declarations is uncovered.

- (c) There have been numerous protests of property owners against erroneous or excessive assessments and most of these, after ocular inspections, have been confirmed and the tax declarations have been amended.

- (d) Changes in property ownership, which are numerous on account of failure of new owners to have new tax declarations issued, could have been found out had there been honest-to-goodness ocular inspections.

2. As of now, in Quezon City, copies of about 20% of the recently revised tax declarations have not been received by the city treasurer from the city assessor.

3. The assessors have not made painstaking efforts in finding out what properties are tax-exempt because they are owned by government agencies like the G.S.I.S., the S.S.S., the N.P.C., the NWSS, etc. or because they are church-owned and wholly used for religious purposes.

4. In Quezon City and this may be true also in other localities in Metro Manila — there are numerous parcels of land, nay, subdivisions, occupied by squatters. Owners of these properties, because they derive no benefit there-

from as the squatters cannot be driven away, do not mind their tax obligations. They even allow the government to sell the properties at public auction because they know, as what is actually happening in actual public auction, that no bidder would dare to make any offer. In Quezon City, we have the Bagtas and the Villar Maloles Subdivisions where most of the lots are occupied by squatters. In the last public auction, the lots offered for sale were all considered sold to the city government for lack of bidders.

5. There are properties appropriated by the government under the Zonal Improvement Program. These properties are reflected in the records as

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QC income in 1980: P190-M

QUEZON CITY — The city government realized in 1980 a total income of P190,963,742.93, according to records in the office of the city treasurer. This is P28,158,671.14 more than the receipts for the previous year.

The real property tax was the biggest source of income for the entire year. Real property tax

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PULSE



EDITORIAL

Jeepney drivers

At first glance, the complaint of a new group of jeepney drivers could be interpreted as merely an attempt to project itself to the public. For it is crying against an old problem: tong collection.

Perhaps, this is the main reason why the organization members failed to air their grievance to government offices and officials they tried to seek an audience with. As a last recourse, the members had to come to WE-FORUM which, people must be very familiar of now, is always willing to speak for anyone or any group with legitimate complaints. (See story on Page 1.)

We are not saying that the jeepney drivers' formula to end tong collection by policemen is the right thing. To our thinking, the formula can stand a lot of improvement to effectively eradicate the problem.

But we do support the move of the drivers because we are aware that tong collection is one of the causes of the country's moral disintegration — not to say the monstrous traffic situation in the Metropolis. Especially along R. Magsaysay Boulevard, the traffic congestion has been worsening everyday, something that wears out the patience of commuters and helps increase greatly the country's oil consumption.

We might also mention here that tong collection digs painfully into the pockets of the jeepney drivers. In these times of economic hardships (no matter how rosy government people try to picture the economy), the jeepney drivers rightfully deserve to bring home their hard-earned money at the end of the day.

This is not an indictment against every policeman in our midst, knowing that there are many honest ones. But certainly the bad ones already cast a filthy image on the good ones.

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The media and the opposition

by JOSE G. BURGOS JR.



Faithful readers of WE-FORUM have been inquiring why, in our recent issues, we have not been publishing the views and reactions of the political opposition in connection with the national elections and Constitutional amendments issues.

Our answer is simple: the political Opposition has not been furnishing us with their statements. Once in a while, their press releases reach our editorial desk — but days after these have been published in the more widely-circulated daily newspapers.

I don't blame the Opposition. With the so-called "lifting" of martial law, the major daily newspapers have regained their senses and have since been accommodating the press statements of the Opposition. Which is a very healthy sign, indeed. And good for the Filipino people. Now, more newspaper readers can get a glimpse of the "other side" of the political fence through the dailies.

For our part, we'll give broader coverage to economic and social developments, abuses and injustices against the common tao, government corruption, violation of the peoples' basic human rights, etc. In short, any issue that involves the welfare, interest and dignity of Juan dela Cruz and his family.

—oOo—

How has the press fared since martial law was lifted? Let's hear from the College Editors Guild of the Philippines (Metro Manila chapter) through a letter furnished this corner.

"Dear Editor:

"Last Thursday morning, February 19, a peaceful march participated in by some 6,000 farmers, workers, and students progressed along East Avenue after the "people's mass" officiated by the Holy Father, Pope John Paul II. It was observed that legitimate demands were aired: Free all political prisoners; Restore workers' right to strike; Stop military atrocities; Dismantle U.S. military bases.

"The marchers were heading toward Cubao when they were met by a military blockade at the East Ave-

nue-EDSA-Timog junction. They were forcibly driven toward the Timog route, apparently, to conceal them from spectators and sympathetic commuters along EDSA and East Avenue. The marchers, at this point, already decided to disperse and end the march. Some workers and students, however, were cornered in a relatively deserted street where military vehicles surrounded them. The well-equipped anti-riot squads then ruthlessly started to beat up the defenseless marchers despite the fact that they have already dispersed. Truncheon thuds, agonized screams, the noise of stampede, and the sound of police siren from rushing military vehicles filled the air as the police attacked the workers and students.

"The military has once again demonstrated the atrocious manner by which it deals with the dissenting masses ostensibly thinking that repression would stop the people from airing their grievances and discontent. Such incident of cruelty and violence is, indeed, ironic in view of the just concluded message of love by the Holy Father.

"Contrary to reports that came out in the dailies, the purpose of the rally was not to desecrate or make a mockery of the holy mass. It was, rather, an attempt to show the Holy Father the real conditions and sufferings of his people, which have been craftily hidden from his view from the time he stepped on our soil.

"Furthermore, it was not true, as one paper reported, that the same group started to chant slogans while the mass was going on for it was observed that solemnity of the mass was respected.

"In addition to the inaccuracies in the newspaper reports, there was a patent absence of any account of the violent reaction from the military and arrests made on workers, farmers, and students.

"We call on the press to come out with a full and fair coverage of such events, as what happened last February 19. We feel that this is the only way we can prove and assert press freedom in this country."

VIEW POINTS

Justice and freedom

by RAUL M. GONZALEZ



I would like to quote once more, lest it be forgotten because of our still controlled media, the departure message of the Holy Father before he left the Philippines, thus: "MAY JUSTICE AND FREEDOM REIGN THROUGHOUT YOUR LAND". Thank you, Holy Father, for having reminded those high officials, including generals who saw you off and kissed your hand, that it is our Godgiven right to have justice and freedom in our country. May your words find meaning in the hearts of those people who have taken away our freedoms, abused many of us through tortures and illegal arrests, perpetuated themselves in power through the muzzles of guns, and impoverished our people through their ill-gotten riches.

—oOo—

A news item caught my interest a few weeks back about Pasay City Mayor Pablo Cuneta acting as "ninong" in a mass wedding of several hundred Pasay couples presided by Fr. Leviste. I think that, celebrated on the threshold of the Pope's arrival, the mass wedding was a good moral gesture considering the Pontiff's strong stand against those who flaunt the sacredness of the marriage vows. I only hope, however, that public offi-

cial who take part in sacred solemnizations like that in Pasay are themselves qualified to personify the roles they appear to perform. I mention this because I know of so many public officials who are the exact personifications of immorality in their private lives because they publicly display their concubines. Instead of being given public adulations by their constituents, these people should be ostracized because they constitute bad influences on the people in their communities.

—oOo—

The recent IBP elections in the Rizal Chapter will go down as a sham in the 8 year history of the Integrated Bar because the election was only dictated by a few persons holding responsible positions in the prosecutory and judicial branches of the government. What has happened in Rizal became practically an outrageous scandal among lawyers and fiscals in the province because of the incessant dictation and meddling of some important elective, prosecutory and judicial officials in the province. This, notwithstanding the specific provisions in the IBP By-Laws which provides: "campaigning for or against any candidate, while holding an elective, judicial, quasi judicial or prosecutory office in the government or any political subdivision, agency or instrumentality thereof", are prohibitive acts and practices under Section 14(c) of Article I of the By-Laws. In Rizal, unfortunately, this provision was flagrantly defied.

Unless the Supreme Court would take some drastic actions against these public officials, what happened in Rizal will spread to other areas and the Integrated Bar will be relegated to just any other organization which the founding fathers of Bar Integration have tried so hard to avoid.

—oOo—

This is like rumor-mongering but is it true that one mayor in Metro-Manila was almost killed right inside his office by a military officer recently? I was informed that this mayor of a large municipality was made to kneel by the military officer with a gun pointed at his head and when his bodyguards made moves to draw their own weapons, they were disarmed by the bodyguards of the military man. What could have been the cause? I don't know. All I can say is that an incident like this could happen only because the soldiers still lord over the civilians in our country. And if a mayor can be so humiliated and so abused right inside his office, what more for the defenseless civilians and ordinary citizens like us? No wonder many people get arrested and they just disappear.

Which brings me to a letter I received from Olongapo City. The letter writer has asked my help on behalf of a poor barrio couple named Dominador and Fer-

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THIS IS MY OWN—

Rulers

by JOAQUIN R. ROCES



Our present rulers are always within the law
When what they would want to do would violate it
They would quickly maneuver to amend it
Then they do it out of respect for the new law

As a sign of respect for the constitution
They keep on amending the constitution
That way they find no real need to violate it
And deem it more respectable to mutilate it

And all of the proven political systems
That have worked well for other nations all the while
They would lay aside like disposable items
Then are mishapen, and labeled, — Philippine style

Now gone is the time
When presidents come and presidents go
But the constitution lives on forever
Now constitutions come and constitutions go
But the president never goes — never!

VIEWS & INTERVIEWS

Nepotism



By PROF. SALVADOR ROXAS GONZALES

Continuation of Salvador Roxas Gonzales interview by a *cuchero* from Bicutan on the backwardness of science in the Philippines.

- Q. Have you waited long, Professor?
- A. Not very. *Tempus fugit*.
- Q. I don't understand Latin, Professor, except *totus tuus*, ever since the Pope came. What do you think of his Holiness?
- A. A truly humble man, and truly loved by the people. If he were a Filipino and run for president, Marcos would not win.
- Q. Don't say those things, Professor, let's keep politics away from religion, won't we?
- A. But religion is a part of politics. Religion doesn't mean merely to be able to say mass, that's for priests. Religion says treat your fellowmen justly, don't fool them, and that's good honest politics. What we must avoid is "politicking", not politics; only ignorant people can't see the difference.
- Q. Well, coming back to my being late, Professor, I passed by the National Science Development Board and I didn't want to spoil their appetite by giving them the horse manure for their biogas project during lunch. *Horse shit* would have spoiled their appetite, wouldn't it?
- A. No, they are used to it.
- Q. And I had to wait and come back after several days, as I was told that they had a big problem out there at the NSDB, what do you think could it be?
- A. Some scientists have sent a petition to President Marcos to remove the NSDB. And Dr. Roger Posadas, head of UP physics department, and internationally known scientist, is asking for a government auditing of that agency for it is alleged that much money for science is wasted or allotted to enrich some people. (WHO magazine, 21 February)
- Q. That is not possible, isn't Dr. Melecio Magno, the chairman, a man of integrity?
- A. Integrity is one thing, responsibility is another. I personally don't think he is responsible for many things that Roger is charging the NSDB with. But Dr. Magno has for years left most of the decisions to those under him. Perhaps he was too busy at the Batasan (Parliament), being also minister of science.
- Q. What are the charges of Dr. Posadas?
- A. Oh, many things, ranging from poor performance in spite of their mission-oriented projects in which they were not clear what the mission was, to keeping the scientific manpower training in this country at a mediocre level, to a *Balik* scientist programme that showed more scientists going back to America after studying there than the ones coming back to the Philippines with a few who go back and forth at government pay who can be called *Balik-balik* scientists, to outright anomalies in financial matters, and nepotism.
- Q. Good gracious, worse than the highways scandal. But isn't nepotism allowed now by virtue of Republic Act 3859 amending the Science Act of 1958 and P.D. 1502 to allow close relatives to work in the same agency since there are few scientists around, or get funds for projects, provided such relatives are qualified?
- A. The Oxford dictionary defines "nepotism" as follows: "Undue favour from holder of patronage to relatives (orig. from Pope to illegitimate sons called nephews)", the poet Pope, not the Vatican's head. Do you mean *undue favours* should be allowed when there are also others who are qualified?
- Q. Didn't the NSDB reply to those charges of Dr. Posadas?
- A. A lawyer, of all people, wrote the reply and even defended nepotism. (WHO, 28 February) The science community have long suspected that lawyers make the decisions at the NSDB. Now they know. Had it been Dr. Magno, the chairman, who wrote the reply, it would have been more enlightening and perhaps more credible.
- Q. Is that why science in the Philippines is at a mediocre level, because the NSDB which has more than P200 million budget has failed to do its best?
- A. More than forty top scientists and professors of science in the Philippines think so and signed a petition to President Marcos to revamp the administration at the NSDB if the Philippines is to progress in science, advance its

Review and repeal of decrees urged

By TITO GUINGONA

(LAST PART)

Permit me to quote the words of the New York Times cited in the book "The Counterfeit Revolution".

"The Decree imposed a 100 percent duty on the imported raw materials Mr. Disini's American and British owned competitor, Filtrona Philippines Inc. and continued the usual 10 per cent tariff on those used by Mr. Disini's company."

As a result, Filtrona Philippines had to close operations here, and left Mr. Disini's company with a near monopoly of 75 per cent of the lucrative filter business, with an estimated profit of more than \$1 million dollars a month.

4. While that decree's concern for the growth of local enterprises seems commendable, it does not jive with the tax free importation of beer bottles granted to the new brewery of Mr. Lucio Tan. Let me quote the Daily Express, Business Section, dated January 28 this year, under the heading "Asian Brewery Importing tax-free beer bottles":

"ASIA BREWERY INC. (ABI), one of six major companies owned and controlled by businessman-banker Lucio Tan, has purchased 50 million 12-ounce bottles from an Australian company to support a P400-million brewery project.

The importation valued at about \$6 million dollars was authorized by the Central Bank in September last year. The initial shipment of five million bottles was delivered to ABI last November and was exempted from the payment of duties and taxes." The alleged reason for granting said exemption is that the local glass industry does not possess adequate capacity to supply beer bottles.

Is that claim correct? Perfecto F. Darwin, President of the Glass Manufacturers of the Philippines disputes this strongly and contends that the local glass industry, despite adversities like high cost

technology, and accelerate industrialization. Without science progress the Philippines will for ever be a poor country. We are already behind our Asean neighbours, and maybe later we will be behind Papua in science.

Q. I am glad you explained the importance of science to me, a *cuchero*. We, the people who are non-scientists, have always thought that it was politics and elections that could save this country. We thought that science is only for the birds. What can we, ordinary citizens, do to help science in our country?

A. Politics and elections are important provided people do not think they are everything. We need more top level scientists in the Philippines than politicians. The country is suffering from brain drain of scientists. If only we could brain drain our politicians. But, then, most of them have no brains to drain.

Q. What do you think of the coming plebiscite and elections for president?

A. It will cost our people more than a hundred million pesos, when we could very well wait for 1984 to have the regular elections for the national assembly and the presidency. With P100 million the Philippines could train for the Ph.D. level about 1000 scientists in physics, chemistry, mathematics, and engineering. What a waste of money for an unnecessary election!

of petroleum, is definitely in a position to supply the glass requirements of this beer company. Mr. Darwin contends that he has officially requested that local glass manufacturers be given first option to supply all bottle requirements before importations are allowed. Otherwise it may dangerously distress the local glass industry.

But even assuming that the local glass industry cannot meet the bottle requirements of Asian Brewery — why allow importations duty free? Why the privilege? Why the subsidy? Why the loss of revenue to the government when Asian Brewery Inc. is more than capable to absorb the entailed costs. What special qualities does Lucio Tan possess? What special relations to merit such special treatment? In the case of Filtrona Philippines the reason for the restoration of high duty was to encourage the local companies. In the case of Asian Brewery Inc. its tax free importations can only prejudice the local industry. Perhaps it is time we review and remedy these inconsistent policies.

4. PD 1113 issued in March 1977 grants to the CDCP a franchise to operate, construct, and maintain toll facilities in the North and South Luzon Toll Expressways for 30 years. Which means that each time we pay toll in those places for the next 30 years until the year 2007, we pay tolls to a private firm not to the government, the monies collected become private funds, not government, and the control of those funds shift to the discretion of CDCP, not to any public agency, subject only to payments of the items embodied in Section 2 of said decree, which are: a) pay the government an annual concession fee to be determined by the Toll Regulatory Board, b) construction at its own expense expansions of expressways from Angeles City to Carmen, Pagansinan

and from Calamba, Laguna to Lucena, c) reimbursements to the government for external debts in connection with the construction from Balagtas, Bulacan to Angeles City, and d) discharge of certificate of indebtedness evidencing obligations of the government to CDCP in connection with the construction and rehabilitation of both expressways.

Why a private firm to collect toll? Why not the government directly? Is CDCP a good toll collector with proven experience? Furthermore, people are entitled to know: How much toll collections in one day, how much in one month, in one year, in thirty years? How much the considerations embodied in section 2? When will the proposed expansions be undertaken? Why was such franchise granted without bidding, without equal opportunity for others who may be as qualified? Is not the function of the CDCP as contractor of the expanded expressway incompatible with its role as collector of tolls? Will not this result in undue increase of tolls because of undue increase in cost of construction? Incidentally, the government in this decree is mandated to turn over to CDCP all equipment, all facilities, all assets and equipment directly related to the toll operations of both expressways — and grants to CDCP freedom from all other taxes and imposts save income and property tax. Fringe benefits to a favored plum.

5. Then we have the decrees on casinos already established in most big cities across the land, PD 1067 dated January 1, 1977 and its amendment PD 1399 dated June 2, 1978 granted the Philippine Amusements and Gaming Corporation a franchise to establish, operate and maintain gambling casinos on land or water within the Philippines. We submit that these decrees constitute class legislation because they unduly extend special privileges — like exemptions from payment of all taxes — including income tax — provided the earnings reaped from the casinos are invested anew in casinos or in any affiliate activity that will redound to the benefit of the franchise-corporation, or any corporation with

whom the franchisee has any existing arrangements with or related to the operations of the casinos, or government bonds, or BOI registered corporations or any productive enterprise or in payment of indebtedness to the government. You and I and millions of others have no such privileges.

But a more vital objection to the proliferating casinos is grave prejudice to national interest against riches for a favored few. Dewey Dee played heavily in the casinos. Many Filipino businessmen big and small are lured to the casinos. Contrary to the original propaganda that these gambling dens were intended to service only foreign tourists — Filipinos from all walks of life have been enticed not only here but also in Baguio, Cebu, Davao, Zamboanga.

Many have lost entire fortunes, some have even committed hara-kiri. For the base of Philippine business are mainly corporations — where the father usually controls not only management but the treasury as well. Once he is addicted to gamble in the casino, he will not limit the stakes to his own personal funds but will inevitably dissipate the monies of the family corporation as well — draining them to the road of bankruptcy. The loss is double to the nation because the dissipated resources would no longer support a viable business multiplied by the number of casinos that have proliferated across the land.

My friends Mr. Marcos has issued almost two thousand decrees. Now that he has lifted martial law, he himself can review them in detail, and where warranted, ask for the repeal of those that contravene the constitution and national interest. If not — the Batasang Pambansa who claim that they have the power to amend and alter presidential decrees can review them now in detail — and where warranted — repeal them for the sake of the nation. If they do this now it will not only enhance the mandate of their public trust — they will also prove that in the threshold of normalcy the lifting of martial law is not an empty show. We ask them to accept that challenge — and we ask you — civic and business leaders of the land — to also ask them to accept that challenge.

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ANNOUNCER

Corruption seeps to judiciary

By: AMBROSIO PADILLA

Cabinet Bill No. 42, "An Act Reorganizing the Judiciary, Appropriating Funds therefore and for Other Purposes", submitted by Assemblyman-Minister of Justice, Ricardo C. Puno to the interim Batasang Pambansa was prepared by a Presidential Committee with the Chief Justice, Enrique M. Fernando, as Chairman, pursuant to Executive Order No. 611 "to improve judicial services, and thereby best serve the public interest" in the "efficient dispensation of justice".

Will Cabinet Bill No. 42 help accomplish the purposes of the judicial reorganization?

Its principal provisions are: (1) the creation of "the Intermediate Appellate Court" to replace the Court of Appeals, providing for 45 members, with nine (9) divisions of five (5) members each, four divisions to take cognizance of appeals in civil cases; two divisions for criminal cases; three divisions for special and all other cases. The affirmative vote of three members of a division of five shall be necessary for the pronouncement of a decision or final resolution; (2) the creation of thirteen (13) "Regional Trial Courts" in lieu of the Courts of First Instance; (3) the creation of "Metropolitan Trial Courts, Municipal Trial Courts, and Municipal Circuit Trial Courts" to replace City and Municipal Courts, and (4) with "Miscellaneous Provisions".

The principal defects of the judicial system during and even before Martial Law, are (a) undue delay in the decisions of many pending cases, and (b) unjust decisions thru corruption which has also spread to some sectors of the judiciary.

The above defects, which are the legitimate grievances of many parties-litigants, will not be cured by the proposed reorganization of the judiciary

by Cabinet Bill No. 42, for the following considerations:

1. The jurisdiction of the Supreme Court remains the same "in accordance with the Constitution and other applicable laws or decrees" (Sec. 9, par. 2). Due to the heavy back-log of the Supreme Court, it can not comply with the Constitutional provision that it must decide all cases submitted to it within eighteen (18) months (Art. X, Sec. 11(1) 1973 Constitution). The Supreme Court should be relieved of reviews or appeals of less important cases, like the Workmen's Compensation, administrative reviews, etc., for its time and attention should be dedicated to decide important questions of law;

2. The creation of divisions in the Intermediate Appellate Court (Court of Appeals) into divisions to decide civil, criminal and other cases, may expedite the decisions on said cases as "specialized" divisions, but the increase of membership from three to five, will not remedy, but may further delay the disposition of appealed cases. Rule 51 on "Judgment, and Quorum of the Court (Sec. 2) would be more expeditious, and avoid or reduce delays;

3. The creation of "Regional Trial Courts" whose jurisdiction in civil, criminal and other cases (Secs. 19-21) shall be within the territory to be defined by the Supreme Court (Sec. 18), with appellate jurisdiction over Metropolitan Trial Courts, Municipal Trial Courts and Municipal Circuit Courts (Sec. 22), will not hasten but delay the disposition of cases. It also will duplicate judicial proceedings, for "final judgments, decisions, resolutions,

orders or awards of Regional Trial Courts and quasi-judicial agencies, instrumentalities, boards or commissions"

are appealable to the Intermediate Appellate Court (Sec. 9/27);

4. The creation of Metropolitan Trial Courts, Municipal Trial Courts and Municipal Circuit Trial Courts (Sec. 25), in lieu of City and Municipal Courts, which are trial courts, is a mere change of names and will not improve the efficient administration of justice.

However, their authority to hear and decide petitions for a writ of habeas corpus or applications for bail (Sec. 35) and summary procedure in special cases (Sec. 36), are good provisions to hasten dispensation of justice, specially the simplified procedure for forcible entry and detainer cases, violations of traffic rules, violations of the rental law by admitting affidavits and counter-affidavits in lieu of oral testimony (Sec. 36);

5. The period for appeal (Sec. 19) within fifteen (15) days from notice of final order, resolution, award, judgment or decision appealed from (Sec. 39) is an improvement, by shortening and making uniform the period of appeals in all courts. That "no record on appeal shall be required to take an appeal" will also diminish expense and shorten appeals, and hopefully the decisions of appellate courts;

6. The transitory provisions (Sec. 42) whereby existing courts "shall be deemed automatically abolished and the incumbents thereof shall cease to hold office", even with gratuity of judges (Sec. 44) will violate the security of tenure of judges guaranteed by the Constitution (Art. X, Sec. 7, 1973 Constitution). The decision in Ocampo vs. Secretary of Justice (G.R. No. L-7910, Jan. 18, 1955) will not justify such constitutional violation, for the majority decision did not receive the required votes for declaration of unconstitutionality of Rep. Act No. 1186 abolishing "cadastral and judges at large" for, according to Chief Justice Paras, Justice Alex Reyes and Justice Labrador, said Act was enacted by Congress to precisely implement the constitutional provision on "district judges" (Art. VIII, Sec. 7, 1935 Constitution).

lity of Rep. Act No. 1186 abolishing "cadastral and judges at large" for, according to Chief Justice Paras, Justice Alex Reyes and Justice Labrador, said Act was enacted by Congress to precisely implement the constitutional provision on "district judges" (Art. VIII, Sec. 7, 1935 Constitution).

"* * * The case of Ocampo vs. Secretary of Justice, G.R. no. L-7910 (decided on January 18, 1955) involved the constitutionality of section 3 of Republic Act No. 1186, expressly abolishing all existing positions of Judge-at-Large and Cadastral Judges." *

"* * * in the Ocampo case, seven (7) members of this Court or a clear majority thereof voted to declare said section 3 of Republic Act No. 1186 unconstitutional." (Gacho, et al. vs. Osmena, Jr., etc., et al., 103 Phil. 837, at p. 847)

7. The growing corruption in Government, which has also crept to some sectors of the judiciary will continue to be a nagging problem, for said Cabinet Bill No. 42 provides for no remedy therefor. The appointment of judges in the Martial Law regime by the President, without the approval of a separate and independent body, like the former Commission on Appointments (Art. VII, Sec. 10(3), 1935 Constitution) has contributed to corruption, because some appointed judges are not deserving, due to lack of sufficient knowledge and experience in law, substantive and procedural, including evidence, and more, because of their lack of moral fiber, to dispense justice in accordance with law and the evidence, without fear or favor, and also free from suspicion of adjudging a case because of bribery, friendship or other extraneous consideration.

Sila noon

Ni LEO P. BALABIS

Ang pangalan ko po ay si Julian Makabayan. Anak po ako nina Inang Maria Rizal at Amang Jose Makabayan. Isinilang po ako noong toang 1865 sa may bandang Cavite. Ako po ay Pilipino.

Marahil inyong maitatanggong kung bakit magpahanggang ngayon ay naririto pa ako sa lupa sa taong ito. Katunayan po, ako ay matagal nang patay. Lamang ay hindi ako matatahimik sa aking kinalalagan kung kaya't kaluluwa akong gumagala sa lupaing ito. Isa pa, naatasan din ako ni Gat Bayani na patnubayan ang mga nangyayari dito sa lupa at ipaalala sa inyo ang aming magiting na nakaraan. Kanya din pong ipinaabot sa inyo ang pangungumusta.

Magbinitilyo na ako noon nang aking nakilala sina Jose Rizal, Andres Bonifacio, Emilio Jacinto at marami pang iba, na ngayo'y itinuring na mga bayani sa kasaysayan ng Pilipinas. Akin din pong nakilala sina Padre Gomez, Burgos at Zamora. Gayundin si Tandang Sora. Ito ay sapagka't kagaya din nila akong sumapi sa kilusan ng Propaganda, sa pakikipag-away sa mga dayuhang Español at sa paghahatid ko ng mga dokumento sa kanila. Minsan din po akong sumulat para sa La Solidaridad.

Ang inyo pang mababasa ngayon ay hindi batay sa mga pala-palagay lamang o hango sa mga tsismis o sabi-sabi lamang. Ito ay tutuon naganap at nangyari noon na siya na ring nasaasad sa inyong mga aklat ngayon. Gayun din, isa ako sa mga nasawi sa pakikipaghamok noon. Narito ang ilan sa mga kabanata noon:

Akin pang maalaala ang malupit na kamatayan nina Padre Gomez, Burgos at Zamora noong umaga ng Pebrero 17, 1872 sa Luneta. Ang kanilang kamatayan ay siyang dahilan kung bakit marami sa amin ang sumapi sa mga kilusan laban sa mga Español.

Maalaala ko pa rin ang La Liga Filipino ni Rizal na sinundan ng KKK ni Bonifacio. Datapwa't magkaiba sa pamamaraan ay isa ang layunin. Iyan ay ang kalayaan.

Maalaala ko pa rin ang isa pang Emilio na nakipaghimagsik sa Cavite gamit ang pa-

ngalang Magdalo. Siya si Emilio Aguinaldo.

At akin pa ring maalaala na hindi lamang mga lalaki ang sumapi sa kilusan laban sa mga dayuhang mapangamkam ngunit pati na rin ang mga babae. Ilan sa kanila ay sina Gabriela Silang at Tandang Sora. Babae nga sila ngunit itinaya ang buhay sapagka't sila rin ay Pilipino na naghangad ng kalayaan.

At paano namin makakalimutan si Jose Rizal? Ang dakilang bayani na sumulat ng Noli Me Tangere, El Filibusterismo at marami pang iba? Paano namin makakalimutan ang inspirasyon ng bayang Pilipinas, na ibinuwis ang buhay makapagsilbi lamang sa bayan? Oo nga't hindi nakipaghamok sa labanan ngunit ang nagawa niya ay higit pa sa tagumpay ng himagsikan. Siya ang nagpatunay na ang tinta ay mas mabagsik pa sa espada. Siya ay Pilipino.

Dapat ko ring ipaalala sa inyo ang unang Pilipino na gumapi sa dayuhang si Magellan sa Mactan, Cebu noong 1521. Siya ay si Lapulapu, ang larawan ng tunay na Pilipino.

Mapait at madugo nga ang aming kasaysayan; nangamatay nga kami sa pakikipaglaban ngunit hindi ninyo nalalaman kung gaano kasiya at kasarap ang aming nagawang paglingkod sa bayan at iyon ay hindi ninyo mararanasan kung ayaw ninyong maranasan.

Nakakalungkot ang pagka-kaiba ng mga Pilipino sa noon at sa ngayon. Sabi pa ni Gat Rizal, "Noon, tayo ay matapang, mapagmahal sa bayan at nangamatay para lamang sa Inangbayan. Sila sa kasalukuyan, Paano ba?"

Kami noon ay tunay na Pilipino, kayo kaya? Mahirap paniwalaan ngunit gusto ko na ring aminin na sa ngayon, Ginebra San Miguel na lamang ang tunay na Pilipino. Tutuo ba ito? Makabayan kami, Kayo, ganoon ba? Buktan mo ang inyong mga mata, kapatid ko. Lingunin mo ang inyong paligid. Tanawin mo ang bukas at pagkuwa'y sagutin mo ang tanong ko: Kung kayo ngayon?

Newsweek fuss: Here's why

(LAST PART)

Formidable: The broad-based power of the Philippine Catholic Church is a formidable factor in national life. Nearly 85 per cent of the country's 47 million people are Roman Catholic. More than a million students attend 286 Catholic kindergartens, 491 elementary schools, 921 high schools, 159 colleges and twelve universities. The church operates 21 radio and television stations, three national monthly magazines and a newspaper in each of the three largest cities.

But for all the imposing power of the Roman Catholic state-within-state, outside forces have long been pushing the Philippine church toward confrontation with the Manila government. During the 1960s Pope John XXIII's Vatican II ecumenical council set

in motion a social-action movement aimed at improving the material lot of the poor—an enormous undertaking applied to the ill-fed and disease-plagued people of the Philippines. On top of that, Marxist-inspired revolutionary ferment had an obvious appeal for students and urban workers in a country where less than 10 per cent of the population controls the bulk of national wealth. More recently, two additional intellectual movements spurred change. From the United States, activists brought back radical theories of community organization. And from Latin American clerics came the "Theology of Liberation," a doctrine calling for extensive church-based social movements.

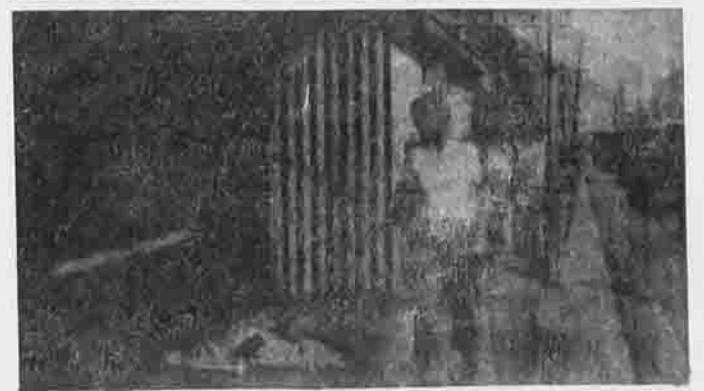
As a result, hundreds of grass-roots centers were organized in church parishes across the country. Under the umbrella of "Basic Christian Communities," they attempted to give the rural and urban poor an understanding of the need for change and of the role the people themselves could play in bringing about reform. Many of the Communities adopted a distinctly Marxist tone in their analysis that inevitably led to conflict with the country's elite. And their work has also put them at odds with much of the church hierarchy, most of whom hold to the traditional line that discourages social crusades. "They think our methods are unacceptable," says one young Jesuit working in a teeming urban slum. "They fear we are

preaching class hatred that would only lead to violence."

The country's bishops preserved at least a facade of church unity for a time, but that was thoroughly shattered in 1972 when Marcos imposed martial law. The initial response of church leaders was to counsel extreme caution, urging Catholics to take a "calm and prayerful" response. Over the next eight years, only the development of the deliberately vague "critical collaboration" policy averted open splits in the ruling Catholic Bishops' Conference.

Abuses: Most ranking clerics interpreted the phrase to authorize nothing more than a quiet top-level dialogue with the government. Yet some, particularly the bishops from war-torn Mindanao decided it permitted increasingly open criticism of the Marcos regime and direct action to combat the abuses of mili-

Tourism sight



tary rule. By 1979 even the prelates denounced "ma-such conservatives as Cardinal Sin were calling publicly for an end to martial law. And late that year, a pastoral letter signed by 98 of ruled out.

IN THE MATTER OF THE ADOPTION OF
THE MINOR JORDAN FLORES BONIFACIO,

SP. PROC. NO. 665-A
For: ADOPTION

RONALDO G. REYES,
MARY ANN A. REYES,
Petitioners.

ORDER

Before the Court is a verified petition for adoption filed by Ronaldo G. Reyes and Mary Ann A. Reyes through counsel praying that after due notice, publication, and hearing, the minor Jordan Flores Bonifacio be declared their child by adoption.

The petition alleges among other things that petitioners are husband and wife, both of legal age, Filipinos, and with residence at, 46 West 12th Avenue, Grace Park, Caloocan City, Metro Manila; that petitioners desire to jointly adopt as their own child a minor named Jordan Flores Bonifacio, who was born on March 18, 1972 and who was declared an abandoned, neglected, and dependent child by this Court in its Order dated January 9, 1981; that the Ministry of Social Services and Development has agreed and given its written consent to the petition; that petitioners possess all the qualifications and none of the disqualifications to adopt under the law, and are financially and morally capable to bring up and educate the minor sought to be adopted herein; and that the latter has no property of his own.

WHEREFORE, finding the petition to be sufficient in form and substance, the same is hereby set for hearing on March 23, 1981 at 9:00 o'clock in the morning,

SUMMER
(From page 3)

During the meeting with city officials, the mayor stressed the importance of setting up safety measures for the children's protection without hampering their enjoyment.

As an added safeguard for their safety, Bagatsing said that each boy and girl participating in the summer program will be covered by a P10,000 insurance for that day.

Various agencies of the city government like the health department, the city schools, the police, the public recreation bureau and the social welfare department, have joined hands in developing civic virtues among the children by scheduling lectures on character education and citizenship training.

30% HIKE
(From page 3)

to the Quezon City boundary has been tagged for increase from P350 to P500 per square meter. The same valuation will be true with lots along Samson Road.

Land along A. Mabini St. will go up from the present P200-P250 to P350 per square meter under the new schedule.

In the bukid area, a 10 to 20 percent increase will be affixed on the lots, with the biggest increase to be effected in the B. F. Homes (Phase 3), where the land will be appraised

before this Court sitting at the 4th Floor, Genato Building, 417 Rizal Avenue Extension, Grace Park, Caloocan City, Metro Manila, and anyone who has objection to the petition should file his opposition thereto with the statement of his ground therefor.

Let this order be published at petitioners' expense once a week for three (3) consecutive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation in Caloocan City.

Furnish copies of this order and of the petition, together with its annexes, the Office of the Solicitor General and the Ministry of Social Services and Development, Caloocan City Branch, for the former to appear and represent the State on the aforesaid date and time of hearing and the latter to conduct a social case study on the minor sought to be adopted and the petitioners, within thirty (30) days from receipt hereof, submitting a report thereon to the Court at least one week before March 18, 1981, and to appear on the date and hour of hearing.

SO ORDERED.
Caloocan City, February 27, 1981.

(Sgd.)
ALICIA V. SEMPIO-DIY
Judge

March 7, 14, 21, 1981

CAUSES FOR
(From page 3)

still taxable properties. 6. Copies of the tax declarations of newly-discovered taxable properties are not promptly furnished the treasurers.

7. The monthly report of the assessor to the treasurer on the increase or decrease of the total assessed valuation is not religiously made, if at all. Treasurers need this for purposes of checking whether the corresponding tax declarations have already been received by him and, if received, whether he has already made appropriate actions, especially when the tax declarations involved call for collection.

8. There are cases where collection is adversely affected. One of the causes of the failure of Marikina to realize its estimated income from current real property tax collect the taxes of RETELCO which has been adamant in not paying them on the ground that its properties are tax-exempt, notwithstanding the opinion of the Ministry of Finance to the contrary. RETELCO has taken

at P150 per square meter — a P50 increase from the present P100.

City Assessor Abesamis said for raw land in the bukid area, the market value will be hiked from P10 to P20 per square meter.

Messages from the Pope

(PART II)

ON JUSTICE

What then are the requirements of justice in this regard? That working conditions should be as worthy as possible, and that social security should be perfected so as to enable everyone, on the basis of growing solidarity, to face up to risks, difficult situations and social burdens; that wages should be regulated in their various and complementary forms; that workers should have a real and just share in the wealth that they help to produce in enterprises, in professions and in the national economy.

You can be sure that your Pope is with you on this issue and on similar issues, because what is at stake is man and his dignity.

ON MUSLIMS

Society cannot bring citizens the happiness that they expect from it unless society itself is built upon dialogue. Dialogue in turn is built upon trust, and trust presupposes not only justice but mercy. Without doubt, equality and freedom, which are at the foundation of every society, require law and justice. But, as I said in a recent letter addressed to the whole Catholic Church, justice by itself is not enough: "the equality brought by justice is limited to the realms of objective and extrinsic goods, while love and mercy bring it about that people meet one another in that value which is man himself, with the dignity that is proper to him" (Dives in Misericordia, 14).

Dear Muslims, my brothers: I would like to add that we Christians, just like you, seek the basis and model of mercy in God himself, the God to whom your Book gives the very beautiful name of al-Rahman, while the Bible calls him al-Rahum, the Merciful One.

It is only within this framework of religion and its shared premises of faith that one can really speak of mutual respect, openness and collaboration between Christians and Muslims. Then comes willingness to work together, to build a more fraternal society. In spite of the geographical nature of your great country, it is more relevant today than ever to repeat the saying: "no man is an island".

My dear friends: I wish you to be convinced of the fact that your Christian brothers and sisters need you and they need your love. And the whole world, with its longing for greater peace, brotherhood and harmony, need to see fraternal coexistence between Christians and Muslims in a modern, believing and peaceful Philippine nation.

ON LAND OWNERSHIP

Yes, human dignity must be promoted by the land. Because the land is a gift of God for the benefit of all, it is not admissible to use this gift in such a manner that the benefits it produces serve only a limited number of people, while the others — the vast majority — are excluded from the benefits which the land yields. It is not admissible that in the general development process of a nation there should continue to exist the injustice whereby progress worthy of man does not reach precisely those people who live in the rural areas, who in sweat and toil make land productive, and who must rely on the work of their hands for the sustenance of their family. It is not admissible that offers them no hope for a better future. No, in giving the land to humanity, God had a different purpose, for his gift was a gift of love to humanity.

A truly Christian challenge is therefore presented to those that own or control the land. I know that many of you who are plantation-owners or who are planters are truly concerned with the welfare of your workers, but the Church, aware of her responsibilities, feel impelled to held up before you again and again the ideal of love and justice, and to encourage you to compare constantly your actions and attitudes with the ethical principles regarding the priority of the common good regarding the social purpose of economic activity. The right of ownership is legitimate in itself but it cannot be separated from its wider social dimension. In his Encyclical *Populorum Progressio*, Paul VI, echoing the teaching of the Second Vatican Council, stated this principle very clearly when he wrote: "God intended the earth and all it contains for the use of every human being and people. Thus, as all people follow justice and unite in charity, created goods should abound for them on a reasonable basis (*Gaudium et Spes*, 69). All other rights whatsoever, including those of property and of free commerce, are to be subordinated to this principle. They should not hinder but on the contrary favor its application. It is a grave and urgent social duty to redirect them to their primary finality. (no. 22) The landowners and the planters should therefore not let themselves be guided in the first place by the economic laws of growth and gain, nor by the demands of competition or the

its case to court.

9. Failure to contact the property owners on account of change in address that is not reflected in the tax declaration. Cases like this are countless. The difficulty in contacting such property owners is made more difficult by the general absence of the

Number of Torrens Title in the tax declarations.

10. Inadvertence by the assessor. In Pasig, the assessor admitted that he made an error in his certification of the projected total assessed valuation of taxable properties as of 1980 was its inability December 31, 1979.

selfish accumulation of goods, but by the demands of justice and by the moral imperative of contributing to a decent standard of living and to working conditions which make it possible for the workers and for the rural society to live a life that is truly human and to see all their fundamental rights respected.

Likewise, the workers, either duma-ans, sacadas or industrial workers, must be guided by a truly human and Christian concept of their task. Human labor remains the superior element in the economic enterprise, for through it man exerts his dominion over the material world for the building of his own human dignity (cf. *Gaudium et Spes*, 67). The man or the woman who works becomes a cooperator of God. Made to the image of God, man received the mission of governing the universe so that its riches can be developed and used for the benefit of all, in order to grant every human person the possibility to live according to his own dignity and thus give the glory to God. To all the sugar cane workers I say, as I say to all workers everywhere: never forget the great dignity that God has granted you, never let your work degrade you but remember always the mission that God has entrusted to you: to be by the work of your hands, his collaborators in the continuation of the work of creation. See in your work a labor of love, for your daily work expresses love for your dear ones and your commitment to the well-being of your family. Be proud to be workers of the land. At the same time know that the Church supports you in your endeavors to have your rights as workers respected. Ninety years ago already, the great social Encyclical *Rerum Novarum* spelled out very clearly that the worker is entitled to wages that give him a just share in the wealth he helps to produce, and that working conditions should be geared not to the ever increasing economic profit of the enterprise but to the inviolable dignity of man as an individual, as a provider for his family and as a builder of the society to which he belongs. It has been the constant teaching of the Church that workers have a right to unite in free associations for the purpose of defending their interest and contributing as responsible partners to the common good. Such associations should be protected by appropriate laws which, rather than restrict their activities, should guarantee the free pursuit of the social welfare of all their members and of the workers in general.

Wherever people work together, inspired by the aim of securing the dignity of every human being and of building a society based on justice, the hope for a better future will be kept alive, and ways and means will be found to share the fruits of progress with all in the community. When the legitimate rights of every category are respected, peaceful ways will be devised to achieve the common good and no one will hesitate to put the full wealth of his talents, skills and influence at the service of his brothers and sisters in the common pursuit of a just society. Government agencies that are guided by a true concern for the dignity of the human person will not become instruments of oppression or power tools for one class category. Free associations of workers that base their action on the peerless dignity of man will inspire confidence as partners in the search for just solutions. Workers and employers who learn to see each other as brothers will not get locked in bitter disputes that leaves problems unsolved and human solidarity weakened or in ruins. When man himself, man with his unsurpassed dignity, is the measure that is applied to the special problems, then there will be no room for violence in the struggle for justice. To adopt man as the criterion of all social activity means committing oneself to the transformation of every unjust situation without destroying what one seeks to protect: a society based on brotherhood, justice and love. Violence can never be a means of solving social conflict, and class struggle which opposes one group to another cannot create justice since its premise is destruction and contempt for man. To construct a truly human society in the Philippines, every man and woman must make a choice for justice and love, for solidarity and brotherhood against selfishness and hatred. Choose human dignity and a better future will be yours.

VIEWPOINTS (From page 4)

nanda Rintantan who are allegedly detained in Camp Majuinaja in Olongapo City since August 1980 but until now no charges have been filed against them, except the claim that they are subversives.

I was informed that this couple is so destitute that they cannot afford the services of counsel to assist them and their three young children have to wander why this matter was not brought to the attention of the Integrated Bar's legal aid office in Olongapo City under IBP President Cardenas. I will look into this matter but in the meantime, may I request the letter writer to get in touch with the IBP Zambales Chapter and ask for legal aid for the couple. I am positive they will be given legal assistance immediately.

This column congratulates the winners in the recent IBP chapter elections — especially those who won notwithstanding strong pressures against them from the establishment. Congratulations are in order for President Elect Custodio Parlade of Quezon City who humbled an establishment-supported candidate; President Elect Manuel Punzalan of Bulacan, and President Elect Eduardo Palermo of Negros Occidental.

WE Classified Ads

BUSINESS DIRECTORY o LEGAL NOTICES

Republic of the Philippines
OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF
Pasig, Metro Manila

File No. 1375

METROPOLITAN BANK AND TRUST COMPANY,
Mortgagee,

— versus —
DANILO E. SUAREZ and ALETA C. SUAREZ,
Mortgagors,

EXTRA JUDICIAL FORECLOSURE OF REAL ESTATE MORTGAGE UNDER ACT 3135, as amended by ACT 4118.

NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE

WHEREAS, by virtue of the Deed of Real Estate Mortgage duly executed and signed in due forms on October 14, 1975 and November 21, 1977, by the Spouses **DANILO E. SUAREZ and ALETA C. SUAREZ,** with residence and postal address at No. 20 Lapu-Lapu St., Magallanes Village, Makati, Metro Manila, hereinafter referred to as the mortgagors, in favor of the **METROPOLITAN BANK AND TRUST COMPANY,** a banking corporation duly organized and existing under and by virtue of the laws of the Philippines, with principal place of business and postal address at Metro Bank Plaza, Buendia Ave., Makati, Metro Manila, hereinafter referred to as the mortgagee, the former mortgaged to the latter certain parcels of real properties, together with all the buildings and improvements existing thereon, to wit:

TRANSFER CERTIFICATE OF TITLE NO. S-11635 PROVINCE OF RIZAL

A parcel of land (Lot No. 11, Block No. 22 of the subdivision plan Psd-26544, being a portion of land described on plan PCA-2137, G.L.R.O. Rec. No. 2029), situated in the Municipality of Makati, Province of Rizal, x x x x containing an area of **TWO THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED FIFTY TWO (2,552) SQUARE METERS,** more or less, x x x x x"

TRANSFER CERTIFICATE OF TITLE NO. (410993) S-15792 PROVINCE OF RIZAL

A parcel of land (Lot 18, Block 33 of the subdivision plan (LRC) Psd-12510, being a portion of Lot 63-B-1-A described on plan Psd-51412, LRC (G.L.R.O.) Rec. No. 2029), situated in the municipality of Makati, Province of Rizal, Island of Luzon x x x x x containing an area of **SIX HUNDRED SIXTY (660) SQUARE METERS,** more or less, xxxxx"

WHEREAS, the said mortgagors executed the aforesaid deed of real estate mortgage as a security to the mortgagee of the mortgage indebtedness in the amount of **FIVE MILLION EIGHTY FIVE THOUSAND PESOS ONLY - (P5,085,000.00),** in Philippine currency:

WHEREAS, the terms and conditions of the said mortgage contract were said to have been broken and violated by the mortgagors by their failure to pay the mortgage indebtedness,

which as of February 13, 1981 amounted to **P5,085,000.00 PESOS,** in Philippine currency, with interest thereon, attorney's fees, exclusive of daily interest and expenses thereafter, penalties, charges, lawful fees and expenses, all secured by the said mortgage;

NOW THEREFORE, by virtue of the power of attorney inserted in the said deed of real estate mortgages and in accordance with the provisions of Act 3135, as amended by Act 4118, the Ex-Officio Provincial Sheriff of Rizal, upon a verified petition of the mortgagee aforementioned thru **MR. REYNALDO C. LASERNA,** Sr. Manager and Head of Legal Division of the mortgagee-bank, hereby announces and gives notice to all parties concerned and to the public in general that on **March 25, 1981, at 10:00 o'clock in the morning** or soon thereafter, in front of his office, located at the Ground Floor, New Hall of Justice Building, Rizal Provincial Capitol Compound, Pasig, Metro Manila, he or his duly authorized deputy sheriff, will sell at public auction to the highest bidder and for cash, in Philippine currency, the above described real properties, together with all buildings and improvements existing thereon, to satisfy the full amount of the mortgage debt, interest, attorney's fees, penalties, charges, lawful fees and expenses plus all the necessary sheriff's fees and expenses incidental to this foreclosure and sale.

This Notice of Sheriff's Sale shall be posted for a period of twenty (20) days on three (3) public places in Makati, Metro-Manila, where the properties are located and on three (3) public places in Pasig, Metro Manila, where the auction sale shall take place and likewise a copy of this notice shall be published in "WE", a newspaper of general circulation in Metro Manila and edited in Quezon City, once a week, for three consecutive weeks, the first publication to take place at least twenty (20) days before the date of the auction sale. Prospective buyers or bidders are hereby enjoined to investigate for themselves the titles to the said real properties and the encumbrances thereon, if any there be.

Pasig, Metro-Manila, February 23, 1981.

(Sgd.)
MAXIMO C. CONTRERAS
Acting Ex-Officio Provincial Sheriff

Republic of the Philippines
COURT OF FIRST INSTANCE OF MANILA
SIXTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

RAMON JOAQUIN,
Plaintiff,
— versus —
ALBERTO LA FUENTE Y AMORES,
ALIAS ALBERTO AMORES LA FUENTE,
Defendant.

AMENDED SUMMONS

WHEREAS, on December 3, 1980, plaintiff, through counsel, filed a motion praying that service of summons on defendant Alberto La Fuente y Amores alias Alberto Amores La Fuente be effected by publication;

AND, WHEREAS, on December 4, 1980, the Honorable **ALFREDO V. CRUZ,** Judge presiding Branch XXIX of this Court, issued an order granting the same;

NOW, THEREFORE, defendant Alberto La Fuente y Amores alias Alberto Amores La Fuente is hereby summoned and required to file with the Office of the Clerk of Court of the Court of First Instance of Manila, Sixth Judicial District, Fourth Floor, City Hall, Manila his answer to the amended complaint filed against him in the instant case within sixty (60) days after the last publication of this summons, serving copy thereof upon the plaintiff, c/o Agrava, Lucero, Alikpala & Gineta, 2nd Floor, Merchants Investments Bldg., 313 Buendia Ave. Ext., Makati, Metro Manila. Upon failure on his part to do so as aforesaid, plaintiff will take judgment against him by default and may demand from the said Court the relief prayed for in the amended complaint.

Let this summons together with the amended complaint, be published by the plaintiff and at his expense, in the "WE-FORUM", a newspaper selected by raffle in accordance with Presidential Decree No. 1079, once a week for three (3) consecutive weeks. Likewise, plaintiff shall, at his expense, deposit copy of the summons, as well as the amended complaint, in the Manila Post Office, postage prepaid and by registered mail, addressed to defendant Alberto La Fuente y Amores alias Alberto Amores La Fuente, at his last known address.

Manila, Philippines, February 24, 1981.

(Sgd.)
NICANOR E. SILVANO
Clerk of Court
Feb 28, March 7, 14, 1981

ANNEX "A"

Republic of the Philippines
COURT OF FIRST INSTANCE OF MANILA
BRANCH XXIX

RAMON JOAQUIN,
Plaintiff,
— versus —
ALBERTO LA FUENTE Y AMORES,
ALIAS ALBERTO AMORES LA FUENTE,
Defendant.

AMENDED COMPLAINT

COMES NOW plaintiff, by the undersigned attorneys, and before this Honorable Court respectfully states:

1. Plaintiff is of legal age, widower and resident of 2927 Nagtahan Street, Sta. Mesa, Manila.

2. Defendant is of legal age and, according to plaintiff's last information and belief, is a resident of Madrid, Spain.

3. Defendant is the registered owner of a parcel of land (PROPERTY) covered by Transfer Certificate of Title No. 45238 (TITLE) of the Register of Deeds for the City of Manila, and a minor on August 7, 1934, represented by his legal guardian,

Joaquin Navarro, who was plaintiff's adopting father.

4. Joaquin Navarro died during the Japanese Occupation.

5. From 1951 to 1969, the PROPERTY became delinquent in the payment of realty taxes in the amount of **P5,154.91,** including penalties.

6. On December 4, 1970, as a consequence of such delinquency, the PROPERTY was sold at public auction to one **Nicanor T. Eusebio,** now deceased, subject to a right of redemption up to December 6, 1971.

7. Under date of November 23, 1971, the City Treasurer of Manila sent a letter to plaintiff as follows:

"Republic of the Philippines
City of Manila
OFFICE OF THE
CITY TREASURER

November 23, 1971

(Sgd.)
MARCIAL L. ESTRELLADO
Deputy Sheriff Incharge

Checked & Verified by:

(Sgd.) **PABLO L. SY**
Deputy Sheriff and
Reviewing Officer

Copy furnished:
Sps. Danilo E. Suarez and Aleta C. Suarez (Mortgagors)
No. 20 Lapu-Lapu Street
Magallanes Village,
Makati, Metro Manila

Atty. Domingo A. Santiago, Jr.
Counsel for the Mortgagee
Suite 501, State Condominium I
186-188 Salcedo St.,
Legaspi Village
Makati, Metro Manila
Feb. 28, March 7, 14, 1981

ASSESSMENTS
(From page 3)

commercial structures will be reassessed during the coming general revision, the same informants told this newspaper.

A similar situation obtains along G. Tuazon in Balic-Balic, Manila. On the right side of the street's portion which has been declared a blighted area, big residential and commercial buildings and their lots will be saved from the assessments revision. But on the other side, the assessments of the buildings and the lands will be revised, resulting in higher taxes to be imposed on the property owners.

In the case of Caloocan City, City Assessor Isidro Abesamis pointed to a portion of A. Mabini St. where one side has been declared a blighted area. On this side, the lucky property owners of lots and big

CALOOCAN GRAFT
(From page 3)

The court set the trial of the complaint for May 18, 19 and 20 should the re-investigation establish the existence of a prima facie case. Under the anti-graft and corrupt practices law, trial of the case, once started, is continuous.

buildings will escape the revision. But on the opposite side, the revision will apply and will result in higher taxes on the part of the unlucky property owners.

He also mentioned the 54-hectare Bagong Barrio which heads the city's 11 blighted areas. There are big buildings in this ZIP area but because of the presidential proclamation, such properties will not be reassessed in the coming general revision.

total amount of **P6,224.52,** computed as follows:
1951-1969 taxes & penalties **P5,154.91**
Costs of Publication **P 257.72**
TOTAL **P5,412.63**
15% Interest p.a. **P 811.89**
TOTAL COSTS OF REDEMPTION **P6,224.52**

Should you fail to do so on the date above specified, this Office shall execute a deed sufficient, in form and effect, to convey to Mr. Eusebio, the purchaser, 130 sq. m. of your above described property that has been sold, in order to vest title to him. Kindly give this matter your preferential attention.
Very truly yours,
(Sgd.) **H.M. DIEGO**
City Treasurer

By:
(Sgd.) Illegible
JOSE R. GLORIA
Asst. City Treasurer "

8. On December 3, 1971, or before the expiration date of the aforesaid right of redemption, plaintiff, for and on behalf of defendant, deemed the PROPERTY paying therefor the amount of **P6,224.52,** evidenced by Official Receipt No. 479512, itemized as follows:
"1951-1969 taxes & penalties **P5,154.91**
Cost of Publication **P 257.72**
TOTAL **P5,412.63**
15% Interest p.a. **P 811.89**

TOTAL COSTS OF REDEMPTION **P6,224.52"**

9. Plaintiff is entitled to reimbursement from defendant for the sum of **P6,224.52** which he has paid for the account of the defendant.

10. Under the circumstances, defendant's "act or omission" has compelled plaintiff to institute this action to protect his interest, for which he is entitled to attorney's fees which may be reasonably determined at **P5,000.00.**

WHEREFORE, it is respectfully prayed that judgment be rendered sentencing defendant to pay to plaintiff the sum of **P6,224.52,** with legal interest from December 3, 1971 until fully paid, and the additional sum of **P5,000.00** as reasonable attorney's fees.

Plaintiff further prays for costs of suit and such other relief as may be just and equitable in the premises.
Makati (for Manila), November 27, 1980.

AGRAVA, LUCERO, ALIKPALA & GINETA

By:
(Sgd.) **JULITA A. REYES**
Attorneys for Plaintiff
P.O. Box 2029, Manila
2nd Floor, Merchants Investments Bldg.
313 Buendia Ave. Extension
Makati, Metro Manila

EXTRAJUDICIAL PARTITION OF ESTATE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late **BONIFACIA GABRIEL VDA. DE RAYOS,** who died intestate on April 2, 1979 in Libis, Quezon City, has been extrajudicially settled by her heirs as per Doc. No. 2205, Page No. 441, Book No. 1, Series of 1980, of Notary Public Ramon J. Masaganda, of Quezon City.
Feb. 28, March 7, 14, 1981

NOTICE OF EXTRA JUDICIAL PARTITION OF ESTATE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of **VALENTIN RAYOS** who died intestate on March 7, 1954, in Quezon City has been extrajudicially settled by his heirs as per Doc. No. 1149, Page 78, Book No. XXII, Series of 1978, of Notary Public Armando Cortez of Manila.
Feb. 28, March 7, 14, 1981

NOTICE OF EXTRAJUDICIAL PARTITION OF ESTATE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of late **AURORA PENALOSA VDA. DE MEDINA** who died intestate on Oct. 9, 1974 at Makati, Metro Manila, has been extrajudicially settled by her heirs as per Doc. No. 11, Page No. 4, Book No. III, Series of 1981 of Notary Public Manuel G. Garcia of Manila.
Feb. 21, 28 & March 7, 1981

Sesquipedalian, Agnewtic, etc.

By TOMAS BOQUIREN

After reading the published comments of one of the Presidential spokesmen in the metropolitan press, criticizing the views of Opposition stalwarts on TV, I could not help noticing his patent pride and prejudice.

He is obviously thrasonical, naive, and Agnewtic — the way he spouts sesquipedalian verbiage to castigate the minions of the Opposition, reminiscent of a former American politician, who was discredited by his own people following the notorious Watergate scandal and known for his predilections for thesaurian bombast and logistical fanfaronade. Calling his antinomian counterparts "theretistical and nescient" would only be a miserable reflection of his own intellectual inadequacies and vaudevillian tergiversations. This Panjandrum of the platitude and cross between a Byzantine logothete and an Indian devidasis would want us to believe that the pthical, aneuristic, and anomied administration that he represents is the best of all possible governments on the terrestrial sphere. To disguise the deficiencies of this autarchy, he resorts to theretical villifications and pharisaical gallimaufry. Not to mention the verbal legerdemain, chicanery, iggamation, collution, ilaqueation, brummagem, pettifogging, supercherie, and blague found emblazoned in the papers most of the time. Our favorite mouthpiece is a sophisticated rhetorician inebriated with the elixir of his own pomposity, and currently afflicted with cerebral elephantiasis and also psittacal logorrhea.

As a tribute to his numerous kind and species under the New Society, I hereby dedicate the following concoctions:

Arrant and subservient, they come. Such
Obsequousness transcends the limits of
Condescension, the very essence of serfdom.
With affinity these medicant spirits furiously
incarnate:
Their entities cognate, spectral, irresolute, pejorative
and parasitical — show
The aberrations of the fraternity fraught with
the ignis
Fatus ideal that to transpose coalescent nullities
with
Servility, a simpering Byzantine attitude of
impotency is needed
To vitalize national integrity.
Truncated they stand, their baleful intagliod
and castrated psyches
Transfigured with illusory gradeur —
Acquiescent with rootless self-deception!

METRO JEEPNEY . . . from page 1

hold a dialogue with Metro Manila Vice Governor Ismael Mathay, Jr. The group, instead went to the WE Forum offices to air their gripes.

Among other things, the jeepney drivers are seeking the lowering of traffic violation fines to P2.50, instead of the current range of from P10 to P50.

They also recommended that such fines be paid to banks or traffic enforcers who in turn, would issue traffic citation receipts in lieu of traffic citation tickets (TCT) which according to them entailed exorbitant fines and which settlement meant waste in the drivers work hours.

They said that confiscation of drivers' licenses should also be done away with, because such measures instead of checking traffic

violations, serve as breeding ground for corruption.

They also said that because fines for traffic violations ranged from 10 to 50 pesos, these encouraged traffic enforcers to prey on jeepney drivers and settle for half the amount. At the same time, fourth and fifth time traffic violators fear the suspension and revocation of their licenses as prescribed by Presidential Decree 1605.

Narciso A. Cailan Sr., Philo-loda president said that most traffic violations committed by jeepney drivers could be traced to defective and confusing traffic signs, which he said should be given more priority than TCT issuances.

At the same time, Philo-loda also appealed to the First Lady to grant amnesty to drivers affected by the issuance of some 40,000 TCTs pending at the Metro Manila Commission (MMC). They said the drivers met difficulty in paying the fines because of unreasonable provisions governing its payment.

Medardo Roda, the spokesman for the delegation, said that the drivers, who already had to content with traffic enforcers who exacted "tongs" from them to avoid being issued TCTs, found that traffic violation fines not only was excessive but also carried excessive interest rates when not paid promptly.

THE OPPRESSED . . . from page 1

abound. Deers, wild pigs, foxes, monkeys and birds were everywhere. Fish in the brooks were in abundance.

No law then barred them from clearing small parts of the forest to grow rice. Nobody minded if they gather rattan, out of which they made hammocks, baskets and animal traps. They could readily tap almaciga trees for firewood and medication.

For dwellings, they were free to cut trees like the gisip or anislag to serve as foundation, pakiki or pughan for the floor, lakap or bulo for the walls. They could freely gather coffee leaves for the rooftop.

No "outsiders" bothered to intrude into their Paning-ahon (sacred mountain) where they prayed and offered gifts to Ibabasok their god of harvest, Ebunturanon the god of wild game, Bulalakaw the god of fish, etc.

Everything seemed to run its natural course, until "Progress" dawned on the Higa-onons in 1960.

It came in the shape of Anakan Lumber Company (ALCO), a sister-firm of the Agusan-based Nasipit Lumber Company (NALCO). Backed by state laws deeming ancestral lands as part of the public domain, ALCO acquired the vast Higa-onon territory as its logging concession.

Life for the Higa-onons since then was never the same again.

The Higa-onons are at a loss. Even their gods seemed to have deserted them. They said the foul odor of petroleum plus the noise of bulldozers and dynamites must have offended the spirits.

ALCO did promise them a lot of things in return. Employment for all the able-bodied natives. Schools for their children. Free medical services at the company hospital. Free transport services exclusively for Higa-onons. Free lawanit boards for building houses.

Company officials even pledged to pay for the damages incurred in their bulldozing activities. To appease the head datu, they offered to build him a palatial home.

But apparently the promises were made to be broken.

Many years have passed. Yet not a single school is on sight. Jobs, except for a few datu, never came. Instead, lowlanders were the ones recruited.

Higa-onons still have to pay for their rides. No lawanit boards were distributed free.

Yes, ALCO built a house for the head datu. But it is made of reject lumber and scraps of lawanit. They paid for the kaingin crops damaged. But it was they who dictated the price.

Medical services are also provided free of charge at the hospital in Anakan. But facilities are inadequate and the treatment discriminatory. Many a sick person's relative, seeing no improvement in the patient's condition, have brought the latter back home to die.

Enraged, some four hundred Higa-onons wrote President Marcos last February 1980, demanding an end to the logging operation. They were especially adamant against logging in their Paning-ahon, the place still left untouched by ALCO.

But to no avail. logging activities continued without let-up. ALCO went on to survey the Paning-ahon. It has marked areas for cutting and has even felled some trees already.

With their backs against the wall, the Higa-onons confronted the ALCO management in a dialogue on April. But the talks only served to heighten their frustration.

ALCO officials asserted that it is impossible to stop the operation. The company, they claimed, is already paying the government for it. Besides more than 5,000 workers would be laid off, they said. Unaccustomed as they were to the wily ways of logging firms, the Higa-onons grudgingly gave up. For a while, they acquiesced themselves to making the most of what was left of the forest ruins. They planted the denuded areas and gathered rattan to sell in exchange for cash.

Yet even these did not go unhampered for long. Presidential Decree No. 705 now requires those occupying the forests to secure forest residence permits. Unless they comply with the order, the Higa-onons are considered "squatters, illegal kaingeros" and thus subject to penalty and resettlement.

Already three Higa-onons were apprehended and charged with "illegal kaingin" by ALCO. They were released later but only because they agreed to sign a contract never to return to their father's land again. One Higa-onon farmer was filled with tears when he signed it.

Worst, it was also decreed that any rattan pole gathered by natives without license from the logging concessionaire will be embargoed. When complaints mounted against this order, military authorities took the side of ALCO saying that since it is a concessionaire, ALCO has the right to put a stop to "rattan-smuggling."

In other words, earning a living for the Higa-onons has now become "illegal"! The people cannot understand. "Was it not God himself who commanded all men to till the land for their own survival and for their annual offerings?" — they asked.

(The preceding article, by Tribal Forum, is based on a petition letter to Pres. Marcos signed by over 400-Higa-onons of barangay, Malibud, Gingoog City, Misamis Oriental. Added to this source are documented accounts prepared by the Apostolate on Tribal Filipinos of the Archdiocese of Cagayan de Oro — ED)

MAYOR PIMENTEL . . . from page 1

1. Pimentel and his Sangguniang Panlungsod may have assessed that the success of the projects will be credited to his predecessor under whose administration the projects were started.

2. Pimentel and his council would like the SIR projects to fail. The mayor has consistently offered protection to new squatters who "by Presidential directive must be evicted and penalized by the city government. If the projects fail, it will strengthen his political hold on all squatter families including those now within the project areas."

3. By discrediting the program, the mayor undermines the effectiveness of the Project Office and consequently the credibility of the senior staff of the Project Office.

4. The mayor has exerted pressure on NHA and Project Office to accommodate new squatters in the project. NHA resisted this pressure. The mayor has denied assistance to the Project Office in evicting from the project areas such new squatter families despite Presidential issuances which hold local governments directly responsible for the control of squatting per se.

The Tobias memorandum,

ASSEMBLYMAN . . . from page 1

cial in connection with the transaction that would lead to the construction of a subdivision for employees of the Palace, according to records shown to WE Forum by sources. (WE Forum, Feb. 28-March 6, 1981).

The subdivision would be constructed on 156 hectares of residential and industrial lands in Quezon City, Caloocan City and Marikina, Metro-Manila.

These lands were allocated by President Marcos to the employees. However, the titles of the lands have been transferred to the name of the real estate company under still mysterious circumstances.

The money for the construction of the subdivision would be borrowed from abroad by the employees' association, the Malacanan Homowners Association. President Marcos already has directed the Central Bank and the Philippine National Bank to guarantee the loans.

The money, \$444 million (or P3,374,400,000 at P7.60 to \$1 as of late February), would be turned over in full to the real estate company, according to a contract signed between the company and the employees' association.

The contract, however, does not provide that the \$444 would be returned to the real estate company.

The contract provides that the housing units in the subdivision, when completed, would be sold to the employees by the real estate firm.

The whole deal appears like it would end up with the real estate company owning the lands, as it already has them in its name, the \$444 million and the subdivision.

Since the government guaranteed the loan, it would end up paying for it.

required by Presidential Assistant Joaquin Venus, Jr., was forwarded to the legal counsel of the MLGCD who, in turn, informed the mayor of the move against him.

In his wire to the MLGCD counsel, Delfin Samson, Pimentel countercharged that:

1. Continuation of the projects would be at a great sacrifice to vital services in the city.

(As originally negotiated with the city government of Cagayan de Oro City in 1977, the Urban II SIR program in that city was estimated to cost P104 million of which about P14 million was to be shouldered by the city. For the projects, the national government has entered into a loan agreement with the World Bank.)

2. The NHA asked Pimentel to be the project action chairman without his asking.

3. Tobias' allegation that Pimentel was abetting squatting at the SIR areas "is nothing but a political ploy apparently prompted by our political opponents who find Tobias a convenient tool to stir up Presidential ire against us considering that our critical views as Opposition elective officials are well known."

4. The squatters in the projects area have long been there "before I became mayor and are merely seeking dialogue with NHA officials to beg relocation site which Tobias' own regulations require before eviction but to no avail."

5. Tobias apparently wanted to use strong arm tactics to evict people from SIR area "regardless of social costs."

Pimentel said that "if there is anyone who should be investigated, suspended and eventually discharged from office, it should be Tobias."

He said Tobias was "blatantly attempting to use his vaunted connection with the President to remove duly elected officials of the city on trumped up and imaginary charges."

Pimentel also wanted all SIR contracts investigated "for ignoring local priorities, unwarranted extravagance and other infortinities."

3rd FM . . . from page 1



DE GALA

3. Re-establish the House of Representatives and the Senate.

4. Make the elected vice president as the automatic Senate president.

De Gala said he would do all these in only six months because he would not sit as president for more than that period. His government, he said, "will expire the 31 day of December, 1981. (noon)."

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Hanggang sa hukay

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Sa sinundang kolum, dalawang panukalang amendments sa ating Saligang Batas ang aking binatikos:-

1. Ang pagtatakda ng "minimum age" ng presidente sa 50 taon; at
2. Ang paghahalal "by region", embes na "by district", ng mga myembro ng regular Batasang Pambansa.

Ngayo'y ilalahad ko ang aking mga puna at tutol sa iba pang mga proposed amendments.

Tutol ako sa labis na kapangyarihang ibigay sa presidente. Kapag napagtibay ang proposed amendments, ang mga kapangyarihan ng presidente ay magiging katumbas din ng diktador; at ang Batasang Pambansa, ang Prime Minister, at ang Cabinet ay magiging tautauhan lamang niya.

Nasa presidente pa rin ang mga kapangyarihang dulot ng 1976 Amendments. Samakatuwid, ang mahahalal na presidente ay magiging "one-man legislature" pa rin. Batay sa Amendment No. 6, makapagpapatibay siya ng batas kailanma't sabihin niyang, sa kanyang "judgment", may emerhensya o pangangib na magkaroon niyan. . . o ang Batasang Pambansa ay hindi tumutupad nang sapat sa tungkulin.

Nasa kanya din ang mga kapangyarihang dulot ng PD 1737 (Public Order Act). . . kabilang ang kapangyarihang mag-utos ng "preventive detention" at magpasara ng mga per-yodiko at iba pang mass media.

Ang mga kapangyarihang iyan ay hindi ibinigay ng 1935 Constitution sa presidente. Kaya't hindi totoo ang pahayag ng KBL na ang kapangyarihan daw na ibinigay sa presidente sa pamamagitan ng proposed amendments ay hindi hihigit sa 1935 Constitution.

Samantalang daragdagan nang malaki ang kapangyarihan ng presidente, babawasan naman ang kapangyarihan at katatagan ng lehislatura o Batasan. Dahil diyan, hindi iiral ang "check and balance", sapagkat ang Batasan ay magiging kapos-na-kapos ng lakas at katatagan upang sansalain ang ano mang abuso ng pangulo.

Kung napagtibay at umiral ang proposed amendments, ang Batasan ay mistulang hawak ng presidente sa leeg.

Mapapasa-kamay ng presidente ang kapangyarihang gumunaw (dissolve) sa Batasan at tumawag ng panibagong eleksyon; ngunit, ang tanging magkakandidato at haharap sa nasabing eleksyon ay ang mga myembro ng Batasan. . . hindi ang presidente. Ang presidente ay patuloy sa kanyang puwesto.

Dahil diyan, ang presidente ay parang may hawak na punyal na laging naka-akma sa dibdib ng Batasan. Matatakat sa kanya ang Batasan. Kaya't paano siyang masasansala nito? Paanong iiral ang "check and balance"? Sino ang pe-preno sa presidente?

Ang Batasan, segun sa proposed amendments, ay ni walang kapangyarihang pumili ng Prime Minister. Ang tanging mahahalal ng Batasan ay ang "nominee" ng presidente.

At, isa lang ang nasabing "nominee". Ni hindi man lang ginawang "nominees" (plural) - tatlong (3) nominees, halimbawa - upang may mapagpilian naman ang Batasan. Hindi. Isa lang. Take it or leave it.

Kapag tinanggihan ng Batasan ang nasabing "nominee", ang tanging mangyayari ay maghaharap ng isa na namang "nominee" ang presidente.

Pangit ang katayuan ng Batasan. Ang katulad ay batang munting kung bigyan ng kendi ay paisa-isa lang.

Ang presidente ang tanging may ganap na kapangyarihang mag-alis sa Prime Minister. Ang tangi niyang kailangang gawin ay magpadala ng panibagong "nominee" sa Batasan. Minsan ma-submit iyan sa Batasan, kaltas na sa puwesto ang Prime Minister.

Sa kabilang dako, ang Batasan ay walang sapat na kapangyarihan upang alisin ang Prime Minister. Ang tanging magagawa ng Batasan ay bumoto ng "no confidence" laban sa Prime Minister; ngunit, kapag ginawa niya, maaaring balikan sila ng presidente sa pamamagitan ng pag-gunaw sa Batasan at pagtawag ng bagong eleksyon. Mamimiligrong maalis sa puwesto ang mga congressman, sapagkat baka matalo sila sa eleksyon. Pero, hindi ang presidente. Patuloy ang ligaya niya.

Kaya't paanong mahihintay na magkaroon ng "no confidence vote" laban sa Prime Minister? Hindi ibabangga ng mga myembro ng Batasan ang kanilang ulo sa bato.

Dahil diyan, bale wala ang umano'y kapangyarihan ng Batasang magpatibay ng "no confidence vote". Samakatuwid, walang magagamit na "check" o preno ang Batasan laban sa abuso ng presidente at ng prime minister.

May isa pang proposed amendment sa lubhang katuwa rin. Ito ang amendment tungkol sa pagtatatag ng "Executive Committee" na siyang hahalili sa presidente, sakaling ito ay mamatay, maging incapacitated, etc.

Ang presidente ang magnonombra sa lahat ng mga myembro ng nasabing "Executive Committee". Ang chairman ay ang Prime Minister, na "nominee" ng presidente. Ang mga myembro, na hindi hihigit sa labing-apat (14), ay pawang ang presidente ang magnonombra. At, ang sino man sa kanila ay makakaltas ng presidente sa puwesto, kailanma't naisin nito.

Sa madaling sabi, ang "successor" o tagahalili sa presidente ay isang komiteng ang mga myembro ay pinili at hinirang ng presidente mismo.

Lubhang katuwa at pambihira ang ganayang katayuan. Ang dapat pumili at humirang sa "successor" ng presidente ay ang bayan o mga kinatawan ng bayan. . . hindi ang presidente na rin.

Halimbawa, ang karaniwang "successor" ng presidente ay ang bise-presidente. Ang bise-presidente ay halal ng bayan.

Sa iba namang mga bansa, tulad ng South Korea, ang "successor" ng presidente ay ang prime minister. Ang prime minister doon ay halal ng parliament; at ang naghirang ng parliament doon sa prime minister ay hindi limitado sa "nominee" lang ng presidente.

Sa Pilipinas lang unang masasaksihan marahil ang pangit na katayuan ang pipili sa magiging "successor" ng presidente, sakaling may mangyari sa kanya, ay hindi ang bayan; ni hindi ang Batasan. . . kundi ang Presidente mismo.

Ito'y hindi lang diktadura habang buhay, kundi diktadura hanggang sa kabila pa ng hukay!

Pope in Iloilo

By Fr. DEXTER IRISARI

Pope John Paul II has left Iloilo - but we still do feel his presence.

He said he has come to Iloilo to tell us of his love for us in Christ Jesus.

In a special way, he addressed our lay people thus: "And this is why I have come: to speak to you about your Christian dignity - what it means to belong to Christ, about the responsibility of your mission and about the urgency of the task that Christ has entrusted to you."

True, we have been hurt by the irresponsible and biased statement of a certain columnist who berated and belittled our



Photo sent by author shows Ilongos in an orderly fashion to greet Pope John Paul II during his visit to Iloilo City.

collective and honest efforts to welcome the Pope.

Following Pope John Paul II, we have expected from that columnist "a professionalism that is demanded by the respect to which the readers are entitled, a professionalism which admits of nothing carelessly prepared."

We have never said that our preparations for and reception of Pope John Paul II are the best. We, Ilongos, are not pompous. We did understand we were preparing for a pastoral visit, not a state visit. We did understand we were welcoming the Pope, not anyone else.

And so, millions of our people lined the streets, prayed the rosaries, lit the candles, sang religious hymns, kept vigils in churches, heard masses, went with dawn processions - outpouring all our open hearts and open minds for Pope John Paul II.

Still and all, we can forgive. As Pope John Paul II told us in his address: "This is your dignity and your strength: to remain united with Christ, sharing his salvific mission, promoting his cause, building up his kingdom of truth and life, holiness and grace, justice, love and peace."

WE the national weekly **FORUM** of free expression

10 FOR THE WEEK MARCH 7-13, 1981

DEAR EDITOR

This is in connection with the letter of Atty. Rafael G. Suintay. (Feb. 14-20, 1981, of WE Forum). He viewed that the Opposition's not fielding its candidate for presidency in this coming election is "a defeatist attitude".

As I observed and analyzed, the Opposition's move is just the right thing to do. There is no "defeatist attitude" in it. Instead, there is wisdom which others failed to realize. Readers of "The Prince" of Machiavelli, who correlate their political principles with the turn of events since 1972, will agree that the Opposition is right.

The present political setup is tuned to serve "The New Society" as outlined by the President and will not serve to build/support "A Just Society" as envisioned by the Opposition. Additionally, the Opposition can not expect any fairness from the COMELEC. As Mr. Francisco "Soc" Rodrigo asks, why is the COMELEC Chairman in-

cluded in the KBL caucus?

The Opposition is aware of the shrewd maneuver of political events by the Administrator. Every move of President Marcos is sure to exalt

Order from Tacloban

After reading your Publisher's Notes column in the February 7-13, 1981 issue of WE Forum, I was encouraged to get my typewriter and write you.

Out here in Imelda Country, I feel that someone should start lighting candles in the midst of what you say "face-lifting of Martial-Law" darkness.

As such, please book me for ONE HUNDRED COPIES of WE Forum - as my first order of the next issue.

Even though I still have a case filed against me for "Inciting to Rebellion" because of my alleged distribution of Former President D. Macapagal's handbills - "Election or Chaos" - which case is now currently being tried in the CFI Branch II of the Leyte Courts, I think that somebody, yes SOMEBODY should take up the cudgels to let people know the real issues in the country today.

And what better method of disseminating information than the distribution of WE Forum?

More Power to You!

TENTE U. QUINTERO
Tacloban City

Sabena pollutes farm

NEW BATAAN, Davao del Norte - Sabena Mining Corporation has been found guilty of causing environmental pollution and siltation of farmlands near its mining and milling plant site in barangay Camalanga, here.

The National Pollution Control Commission (NPCC), through Commissioner Guillermo A. Pecache, ordered the Corporation to pay the government a penalty of P1,000 per day for every milling operation from Dec. 4, 1979 to May 31, 1980.

It also directed the mining firm to immediately improve its waste disposal system such as properly maintaining its tailings disposal and silting ponds.

The suit against the mining firm was filed by the National Irrigation Administration (NIA) and some 2,000 rice farmers for violation of PD 984 and its implementing rules and regulations.

The complainants said Sabena Mining has polluted and silted the NIA irrigation system and polluted about 3,000 hectares of cultivated ricelands in New Bataan and neighboring towns.

The NPCC found that the mining firm excessively dumped its delineated limit, thus causing pollution in the environment and silting the government irrigation system.

This finding was confirmed by waste-water sampling test showing the presence of heavy metals. (RJP)

himself, to the detriment of the Opposition and its aspirations for the people. Therefore, it is not timely for the Opposition to participate in this coming election. Any participation seems to be a political suicide.

(Sgd.) Menrado D. Martinez
Free Telephone Workers
Escolta, Metro Manila