

A PLEA FOR JUSTICE, II

By
Eduardo C. Flores

Publisher-Editor, THE NEW CAPITOL STANDARD

A letter entitled, "A Plea For Justice," dated Sept. 19, 1987, was forwarded on Oct. 5, 1987 to your honor by my sister, Evelina Flores Veces, a Sr. Public Health Nurse of the QC Health Department, and six of her colleagues, namely, Mrs. Wilhelmina A. Magsino, also a Sr. Public Health Nurse; Dr. Marla Tanabe, Sr. Clinic Physician; Dr. Winifreda Agudon, Sr. Clinic Physician; Dr. Yolanda Condenueno, Sr. Clinic Physician; Mrs. Cristina Francisco, Sr. Midwife; and Mrs. Liwayway Tionsgon, Utility Worker.

These seven personnel of the QCHD were among the 100 or so city government employees who were arbitrarily dismissed in October 1986 pursuant purportedly to Executive Order No. 17 of President Cory Aquino, an EO with a very unjust provision as it will be pointed out presently. They were reinstated about four months later by the Ministry of Justice which found no valid cause for their dismissal. But allegedly because of a provision of EO 17 (Sec. 9), they were not given their back salaries but were deemed on forced vacation leave during their illegal separation from the service.

In their above-cited "Plea For Justice" letter, my sister and her colleagues pointed out to your honor the unjustness of Sec. 9 of EO 17 and suggested that it was within your discretion to grant their back salaries. Unfortunately, their "Plea For Justice" letter fell on deaf ears or, perhaps, your honor did not have the time to act on it before you had to resign on Dec. 1, 1987.

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QC Atty. Does A. Pontius Pilate: Washes Hands Of Responsibility In Arbitrary Dismissals

By Ben O. Flores

Quezon City Attorney Nescito C. Hilario has done Pontius Pilate; He has washed his hands of any responsibility in the arbitrary dismissal of some 100 city government employees in October 1986 pursuant, purportedly, to Executive Order No. 17. Hilario made the disclaimer in a letter to this paper in which he said:

"I was informed that you are about to publish

a libelous article against my person in connection with the termination of some employees last November, 1986 under the provisions of Executive Order No. 17. To make the records straight, I had nothing to do with the said termination and I was not consulted before the termination was done. I came to know of this termination only after the

termination letters were sent and received by those concerned. As a matter of fact, when the cases (petition for reconsideration) were referred to me for answer, I told Mr. Kaimo (former City Administrator Edmundo Kaimo) that the City will not win in those cases. But as a lawyer, and as mandated by law, I have to defend the respondents whether their decisions were correct or not."

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A Proposal For Cooperative Ownership

By Benigno S. Aquino, Jr.

(Editor's Note: This article on land reform written by the President's late husband was published in the July-August, 1967 issue of SOLIDARITY. We learned about it in the MANILA STANDARD column of the late Celso Al Carunungan who invited members of Congress to write for their copy if interested. Celso kindly sent us a copy upon our request. We are publishing it in the hope that it may be of some relevance to current efforts of Congress to legislate a land reform bill that is acceptable to both landlords and farmers.)

LACK OF GOVERNMENT financing has been tagged as the greatest drawback in the successful implementation of land reform. But is it really? Or is it lack of competent farm management?

When the government

breaks up big landed estates into "family size" farms, a management vacuum is immediately created. The landowner who provides the unified direction, technical know-how, credit accommodations and other production

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COMPUTERS TO TEACH READING & WRITING

By Reynaldo F. San Diego
Division Educational Media
Supervisor

Computers are now being used to teach writing and reading in one public elementary school in Quezon City.

The school, Pinyahan Elem. School, is the pilot school in Asia of the INNOTECH "Writing to Read" Project. Through the assist-

ance of IBM Philippines, ten computers were installed in 1986 by INNOTECH in this school to develop the writing and reading skills of Grade I pupils.

The "Writing to Read" Project was designed to make

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(A Blow by Blow Account)

The New Capitol STANDARD

THE (OLD) CAPITOL STANDARD
Is Back As
THE NEW CAPITOL STANDARD

Vol. XVII, No. 1

Quezon City, Metro Manila, May 15, 1988

P2.50

FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR PAY HIKE INCREASED R. ESTATE TAX COLLECTION

City Treasurer Atty. Agustin C. Talavera told this paper that there are funds available for the proposed 10% across the board salary increase for Quezon City officials and employees. The amount needed, he said, is about P13 million. If the proposed P200 COLA increase is also implemented, an additional P17 million, more or less, would be needed for a total of P30 million.

"It's now up to the City Council," the Treasurer said.

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Drive To Restore QC As Capital Of The Country Launched

By Ben O. Flores

(AUTHOR'S NOTE: This article was written way back in August last year when we first planned to resurrect THE (OLD) CAPITOL STANDARD into this, THE NEW CAPITOL STANDARD. It should have come out very fittingly on Quezon Day (Aug. 19, Quezon's 109th birth anniversary). But due to certain constraints, it's only today that we could effect the resurrection - very fittingly too, in a different way, because today, May 15, is Ascension Day. The idea of restoring Quezon City as the capital of the country has long been stirring in our mind. In fact, before the May 11 Congressional elections last year, we wrote our good friend, then Congressional candidate Mel Mathay, Jr., suggesting that he includes said restoration in his platform. But Mel was so busy campaigning, he never found time to let us know how he felt about the idea. We hope, this time, he will give the idea more thought. In the meantime, we have found a sympathetic mind in Councilor George Canseco who had introduced a resolution "requesting Congress to repeal P.D. No. 940 and declare Quezon City as the capital of the Philippines."

A drive to restore Quezon City as the capital of the country is launched today by this paper, THE NEW CAPITOL STANDARD, to mark the resumption of its publication after more than a year in the sideline. The drive is launched with the OPEN LETTER hereunder, addressed to the four Congressmen/woman of Quezon City urging them to jointly sponsor the necessary bill to effect the proposed restoration. Ten reasons to justify the restoration are given in the letter.

It was the dream of the founder of Quezon City, the late President Manuel Luis Quezon, to make it the capital of the country.

Unfortunately, the late-er-the former President Ferdinand E. Marcos scuttled Quezon's dream of a "magnificent capital city": On May 29, 1976, he issued PD No 940 restoring to the City of Manila the capitalship of the country. His reason: Manila was better known internationally than Quezon City.

It was speculated, however, that Marcos was not too fond of Quezon City as the premier city of the country because, so it was said, of an unpleasant involvement with a daughter of Quezon and an uncomfortable feeling of being overshadowed too much by the memory of a man whose greatness Quezon City depicted as the "crowning jewel of the fame that was to outlast him."

Marcos' indifferent attitude towards Quezon City was borne by fact that during his 20-year reign, he had never responded favorably to repeated invitations of the city government to be the guest of honor and speaker on either Quezon Day (August 19, Quezon's birthday) or on QC Foundation Day (October 12)

Quezon City residents were not happy about PD 940 depriving their city of its distinction and honor as the capital of the country. They regarded the decree not only ulteriorly motivated but also shortsighted considering that Quezon City had the potential to be developed into the "magnificent capital city" that Quezon dreamed of while Manila, suffocated and strangled by congestion, was and is a dying city.

Strangely enough, there was not a squeak of protest from Quezon City residents, probably because they realized the futility of crossing the will of the dictatorship. Only THE (OLD) CAPITOL STANDARD with an article, "Death Of A Dream," in its July 28, 1976 issue, registered a protest - a voice in the wilderness.

Now is the time for the people of Quezon City to repudiate the fallen dictator for an act that would thwart the historical prerogative of Quezon City to be the capital of the country. Your signatures endorsing the proposed restoration will be solicited in a campaign this paper intends to undertake.

In the meantime, let us see the reaction of our Congressmen to this open letter in which the foregoing reasons for the restoration are elaborated and augmented.

OPEN LETTER TO:

The Honorable Congressmen: Ismael Mathay, Jr., Anna Dominique (Nikki) Coseteng, Antonio L. Aquino, and Renato A. Yap.

Before anything else, may we congratulate you - better late than never - for your election as Quezon City's representatives to Congress. We have refrained from saying "well-deserved election" because your meriting the phrase will depend on your performance in the coming three years of your term, which we will follow with interest and concern.

Our withholding the phrase does not necessarily mean that we have any misgivings as to your individual competences. Until proven otherwise, the presumption is that you are jointly and separately competent. In fact, with respect to you, Congressman Mel Mathay, it is not just a presumption. We have sufficient basis for our certainty as to your competence: your long public record as a government official. We have had the privilege of seeing at close range the virtues and qualities that made you tick as a public official. We had covered for this paper your office when you were Vice Mayor of Quezon City (1968-1971) and continued to do so, though not as intensively, when you were Metro Manila Vice Governor. We even served for some time on a consultancy basis in your staff.

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Rep. MATHAY, JR. Rep. COSETENG Rep. AQUINO Rep. YAP

Mayor Requests Extension Of C. Treasurer's Tenure

Mayor Simon has requested President Aquino to extend the tenure of office of the City Treasurer, Atty. Agustin C. Talavera, who was due for compulsory retirement on his 65th birthday last May 14. In his letter to

the President, Simon stated his reasons to justify his request, as follows:

"Treasurer Talavera has been very supportive of the policies, plans and programs of the city adminis-

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BLUEPRINT FOR A DREAM

Comprehensive Development Program For Quezon City

A Comprehensive Development Program for Quezon City designed to bring closer to reality Quezon's dream of the city he founded was presented recently to City officials and employees led by Mayor Brigido R. Simon, Jr., City Councilors, and the public in general.

Prepared by the City Plan-

ning and Development Office (CPDO) in response to Mayor Simon's desire for accelerated development, the Program was presented by CPDO Chief, Architect Gerardo G. Magat, through colored slides of statistical graphs, charts, and maps depicting the physical, demographic, social,

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A Cardinal Experience

By
Mayor Brigido R. Simon, Jr.

It was not an ordinary December morning.

The occasion was the blessing of "Our Lady of Consolation Church", Barangay Pasong Tamo, Quezon City. The sun was moving higher in the horizon and the cool morning air was getting hotter under the sun's rays. Candles and ribbons were being distributed and the ceremony began.

The Church was huge. It did not even look like a Church, it was a Cathedral to many. It was even more imposing outside than it was inside. (Later, I realized that there was a basement in the church). All our churches should look this, I said to myself. I felt it was a little bit secluded though. The second biggest Church in the

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Mayor SIMON



Cardinal SIN



We Are Back

THE (OLD) CAPITOL STANDARD is back! As THE NEW CAPITOL STANDARD. The new name is duly registered with the Bureau of Domestic Trade (No. 87-34714) and licensed, no longer in my name, however, as Publisher-Editor, but in the name of a son of mine who wants to follow in my footsteps. I will continue to be a columnist—er, columnist—as well as Editorial/Technical Consultant together with my brother, A.O. Flores, former TEMPO and MANILA BULLETIN columnist and member of the Movie & Television Review & Classification Board. He was forced to quit MANILA BULLETIN (often referred to as the “friendly newspaper” — friendly to you know Who) when management wanted him to write favorably on something he didn't believe in. Unlike me, he takes his principles rather seriously.

Now for a bit of looking back: I started THE CAPITOL STANDARD as far back as November 1971 shortly after the local elections for that year. I had helped the late Mayor Amoranto in his campaign by putting out a propaganda sheet — “shit” the Mayor's opponents called it — which I facetiously called QC FOOLITICS. Upon his victory, I put up THE CAPITOL STANDARD and with his help — we used to go around in his car soliciting ads from his businessmen friends — I was able to put out the paper fortnightly until 1976 when the Grand Old Man of Quezon City, after a reign of 22 years, was replaced by Mayor Adelina S. Rodriguez, dis-courtesy of the Great Dictator (not Chaplin).

I managed to continue putting out the paper but only monthly. Printing cost had escalated from ₱300 per 1,000 copies (50% discount for succeeding thousands) in 1971 to ₱5,000 in 1986. Mayor Rodriguez also helped the paper with Public Bidding and Auction Sale Notices as well as with Special Supplements on Quezon Day (August 19), QC Foundation Day (October 12), Independence Day (June 12) and State of the City Address which I put out for the city government. Several business establishments also helped the paper with ads solicited by friends.

As with THE (OLD) CAPITOL STANDARD, THE NEW CAPITOL STANDARD will be distributed free in City Hall, from the first to the 14th floors, and sent, also free, to government offices in QC including Congress which this paper will also cover; to public libraries, particularly the QC Public Library with its 12 branches; to the 142 barangays of QC; to civic, business, professional, and religious organizations in QC; to public and private schools in QC; to banks which provide newspapers for their clients to read while waiting for their names to be called, etc.

The last issue of THE (OLD) CAPITOL STANDARD before we closed shop was dated April 30, 1986 — the first and last under then OIC Jun Simon. November 1971 to April 30, 1986 covers a span of 15 years. Looking back through those 15 years, I can hardly believe that the paper survived that long considering that it was practically a one-man job and subsisted on meager resources.

Now, we are back — for another 15 years, I hope.

Mayor By The Will Of God

In his article, “A Cardinal Experience” on Page One, Mayor Simon gives the impression that he is mayor of Quezon City by the will of God. In this article which the Mayor had read to me obviously to test how well it sounded and for the punctuations, he tells of an audience he sought with His Eminence, Cardinal Jaime Sin, to ask his advice on his decision in December last year to stick it out in the mayoralty race. The Cardinal had answered him: “If you win, then God wants you to be mayor; if you lose, God has other better plans for you.”

Since he won, the implication is that he is mayor by the will of God. If Mayor Simon truly believes this — and I think he does — the people of Quezon City have reason to rejoice. As a God-elected Mayor, he can not do otherwise but administer the city government in accordance with what he thinks is right and just, for that is the will of God. I am sure the Mayor knows that the will of God is that he administers the city government solely for the public welfare, that he uses its resources, the taxpayers' money especially, in promoting that public welfare and never for personal or political reasons.

Much of the success or failure of the Mayor to administer the city government properly, in accordance with the will of God, will depend on the people around him — those personally and officially closest to him.

In the 16 years that I've been around in City Hall, I had worked, previous to the present mayor, under two mayors, the late Mayor Amoranto and former Mayor Rodriguez. It was my observation that it was always the people close to them — relatives, friends, political leaders — that embroiled them in anomalies that besmirched their public image. It was also so with Mayor Simon during the almost 20 months that he was OIC.

Fortunately, at present, Mayor Simon has two key officials, City Administrator Ernesto M. Villareal and Secretary to the Mayor Elizardo Aagsalud, who have very impressive credentials and are of unimpeachable integrity, according to Dr. Aniceto Q. Lazo's piece about them on Page 8.

— They will certainly protect the Mayor from getting embroiled in any irregularities. As to the many other Executive Assistants for this and that, I am not yet in a position to comment on them, not having inquired into their qualifications. But I know one of doubtful competence. I have a very strong proof of his incompetence. But I won't make any revelation now. Maybe next issue. But the presence of one or two or even three incompetents can't prevent the Mayor from administering the city government in accordance with the will of God.

Suggestions To the Mayor From A Fiscal

Our Spiritual Adviser, Dr. Aniceto Q. Lazo and I struck up an acquaintance with Assistant City Fiscal Jose N. Pacis, Jr. at the QC Cuisine where we now have our lunch now that they serve beer. Fiscal Pacis made some good suggestions which he would like to reach the Mayor's attention. Dr. Lazo and I suggested that he can do that through their boss, City Fiscal Jose “Pepe” Erestain, Jr. now that Pepe and the Mayor are on good terms after the Mayor had been guest of honor and speaker of the QC Prosecutor's League's inaugural affair at Aberdeen Court recently. City Fiscal Erestain is supposed to attend the weekly staff meetings of the Mayor where he can bring out Pacis's suggestions.

In the remote possibility that the Mayor cares to read this column, here are Fiscal Pacis's suggestions:

1) That the offices of the fiscals on the 7th floor be air-conditioned. Pacis said that it's hot as hell in the office of an Assistant Fiscal especially when the three fiscals that occupy the room jointly hold preliminary hearings at the same time. The body exhalations of the litigants and their lawyers make the room a veritable oven, a thermal condition that could adversely affect the course of justice, the fiscal said.

2) That City Hall be provided with fire escapes — a very timely suggestion, what with the recent fire at RTC Judge Jose de Guzman's sala. Fiscal Pacis said that the fire drills that are conducted now and then at City Hall are exercises in futility in the absence of adequate fire escapes. How many persons could be rescued with that aerial ladder which was demonstrated, Fiscal Pacis asked. He said that he and some fellow fiscals intend to provide themselves with ropes which they would utilize in sliding down to the ground in the event they are trapped by fire. I told the fiscal the Fire Department Chief, Major Romero, has a long standing recommendation for the construction of fire escapes. Paging the City Council.

3) That security measures be improved at City Hall. He said that every time he goes to the comfort room, he makes it a point to see to it that no bomb has been left there whenever he sees some suspicious looking characters in the comfort room. He deplors the fact that vendors of knives and bolos are allowed at City Hall. Suppose, he said, such a vendor is a take with a mission not to sell his lethal wares but to plunge one of them into the heart of some City Hall official? He suggested that the city government provides itself with a metal detector to be used by guards to be stationed at City Hall entrances to prevent any person getting in with a concealed weapon. Paging the Peoples' Patrol. Give a reason why you should not be disbanded as per resolution of Councilor Pangilinan.

Assistant City Fiscal Pacis said he has many other constructive suggestions for a better public service if and when given the opportunity to make them.

Necessary Evils: Bold Shows, Prostitution

No one in his right mind — or should I say, with a clean mind — can object to Mayor Simon's current drive against bold shows and prostitution. The City Council has passed a Resolution commending him for his courage in undertaking this herculean drive. The Resolution, however, failed to pass unanimously. Five abstained.

Now, I am not saying that this five are not in their right mind. Perhaps, they look at bold shows and prostitution with a pragmatic mind. With such a mind, bold shows and prostitution can be considered necessary evils, which they really are, especially in the light of present adverse economic conditions. If the drive succeeds in closing all night establishments that cater to sex, it would be a major economic disaster. Think of the thousands that will join the city's legions of unemployed. Thus, the success of the drive will mean the failure of the city government's employment and livelihood program. That paradox of a success causing a failure places Mayor Simon between the devil and the deep blue sea.

When President Cory Aquino — it was she who egged Mayors Lopez of Manila and Simon to undertake their present drives against bold shows and prostitution — was confronted with the question of what to do with the dislocated dancers and hookers, she replied: “There must be some other way they can make a living.” If so, then before the dancers and hookers are thrown out of work, that other way must first be found. The President herself should start and lead the search. She can not solve the problem with only a premise or a hypothesis. But it will be a mighty difficult search. The credentials of those for whom the search has to be undertaken are purely anatomical, not suited for other kinds of work.

Perhaps, the drive should be reassessed. At present the drive is directed solely at the dancers and hookers. They are being hauled to police stations like animals. You have seen those outrageous pictures in the tabloids. Fortunately, they were taken in Manila police stations. To the credit of Jun Simon, our raiders have been more kind and gentle, so it seems. Although there are reports reaching this paper of some instances of the arrogant and high-handed manner of the Mayor's Special Vice Squad.

Why should the girls of these night establishments bear the brunt of the raids? Why should they be punished for giving

The New Capitol
STANDARD

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(EDITOR'S NOTE: To give the paper a spiritual touch, we have requested Rev. Dr. ANICETO Q. LAZO to be our Spiritual Adviser. Dr. Lazo holds a Bachelor of Laws degree and a Doctor of Divinity degree. He also completed a Special Teacher's Course in the United States.)

EDITORIAL

Fair And Constructive Fiscalization

Former Councilor Andres V. Genito, Jr., Chairman of the old City Council's Fact-finding Committee, which was responsible for exposing anomalies in the city government, used to chide THE (OLD) CAPITOL STANDARD for being, to use his words, “too mild and tame” in the performance of its journalistic duty to fiscalize.

THE NEW CAPITOL STANDARD will strive to avoid the same censure, but while it will give its fiscalization more punch, it will always be fair and constructive. No fiscalization will be based on hearsay or bear any trace of malice or rancor. We will avoid the use of such speculative expressions as “It has been reported” or “It was learned from informed sources.” When a writer resorts to these journalistic props, he is not sure of what he is writing about. Especially, in the exposes of anomalies, the facts of the case will be thoroughly verified first. And, as much as possible, the “other side of the coin” will be presented simultaneously with the criticism or expose or, at least, in the very next issue.

For the task of fiscalization, we are heartened by Councilor Francis Pancratius Pangilinan's anti-graft and corruption resolution “supporting the present government's call for accountability, integrity, and responsibility in the public service by adopting the policy of full disclosure and transparency in all the City Council's activities, dealings and transactions and all other departments.”

It is our hope that through this policy of full disclosure and transparency, THE NEW CAPITOL STANDARD will be able to do its bit in keeping the city government to the straight and narrow path as well as in the dissemination of information on its projects, programs and activities.

what their customers want? Isn't the rule: “The customer is always right.” If it is to protect the customers from getting AIDS, there is that other rule called “caveat emptor”. The customer must be on guard. Let him have his pleasure at his own risk.

Now, who is more morally depraved: the girls who have to do their thing in order to survive or the customers who want to enjoy that thing for purely erotic reasons. So why haul only the girls to the police stations. Shouldn't the customers be hauled along with them too. Paging our City Councilors. How about an ordinance to that effect.

I call particularly on my good friend Councilor George Banal. As an ex-massage and sauna bath parlor manager, I am sure he shares my sympathy for the poor girls. Incidentally, the CZAR under George's management was the most decent of all such establishments in Quezon City. I know because during the past city administration, my good friend, the late City Attorney Jose Torcuator, was chairman of the Task Force monitoring discos and massage and sauna bath parlors in QC. Joe used to take me along when he made his nightly rounds. By the way, Joe was the uncle of Alma Torcuator, pretty receptionist of my not-so-good friend City Atty. Nescito Hilario.

But back to CZAR. As I was saying, it was the most decent. George went even dispaly his attendants for the customers to ogle at as they make their pick. You enter a cubicle and just wait for the attendant. Suerte mo na kung pangit ang ipadala. George always made it a point to send me the unsexiest attendant — probably because it was OTC (On the House) but I think it was more to protect my morals by discouraging me from asking for “extra service.” Which I never did ask, anyway. Now, please, spare me the laughter.

But back to the drive. I think the drive should be concentrated on the public, particularly the patrons of the night establishments. Time and again, the Mayor himself has said that “police action alone can not solve the problem of obscenity and pornography.” The public must cooperate by refraining from patronizing the offending establishments. So, instead of raids only, the drive should be directed at the patrons — an evangelization drive to instil moral discipline in them. Instead of holding rallies against the night establishments and their girls, those supposedly virginal nuns and self-annointed women members of religious organizations should undertake this evangelization drive. Once the patrons are morally uplifted enough to modify their tastes and desires so as to be content with not-so-bold dances, there will be no need for the girls to dance in their birthday clothes. So long as the choicest portions of their anatomies are covered even with the flimsiest garments, the dances they do, no matter how sensual, should

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STANDARD FARE . . .

be legally and morally permissible. In fact, in a recent decision exonerating some bold dancers, RTC Judge Jose de Guzman called the dances art. He wrote:

"When a dancer gyrates or attempts to make a movement around a certain point in a whirling or rotating manner, it is not indecent or obscene. To hold a performer liable while in that act would deprive humanity of art."

That, my dear readers, is the clincher.

Drop That Libel Suit, Madam President

You have made your point, Your Excellency. You have proven beyond the shadow of a doubt that you could not have crawled under *that* bed. Besides, even if you did, it is nothing to be ashamed of. It was a very normal, natural reaction. Self-preservation is the strongest instinct of man or woman.

Besides, *your* people do not expect physical courage of you, being a woman. What they want you to have and show is moral courage. You have shown plenty of that, Madam President. You showed moral courage when you vetoed the bill requiring you to submit all your appointments of public officials to the Commission on Appointments for confirmation. Right now, you are showing moral courage in defending your cabinet members against the assaults of Mitra et al and in sticking to your decision not to allow Mr. Marcos to come home for her mother's funeral.

What puzzles me is why you reacted so strongly against Louis Beltran's "you hid under the bed statement" but remained cool and indifferent to more nasty remarks made against you, like the following which appeared in the Daily Globe column of Kit Tatad:

"... she (Madame Aquino) who spent her first 20 months in office denouncing the frivolity, extravagance, and publicity-seeking of the Marcoses is now compelled to imitate the worst of what she had previously denounced, and use the very edifice (PICC Complex) that had been stigmatized as the symbol of profligacy and waste as the site of her latest media event (Asian Summit)."

May I reiterate, Madam President, drop that libel suit. It will be an act of moral courage to do so - and of magnanimity befitting your high position as President of the country. On the contrary, by pursuing it, you will look petty.

Legislative Piracy

My good friend and provincemate (Abra) Joe Paculdo has accused his colleagues of "legislative piracy." It seems that in a pre-inaugural session of the Council held at the QC Public Library, Joe composed and introduced a Resolution urging the abolition of the MMC and the creation of the MMA. It was duly approved and adopted.

But in a subsequent session, the Resolution was introduced, and sponsored anew but Joe's name as the original author was no longer included. Naturally, Joe stood up to protest and that was when he accused his colleagues of "legislative piracy." To resolve the protest of Joe, the Resolution was made to appear as having been sponsored by all members of the Council.

Joe grudgingly acceded but warned his colleagues that next time "credit should be given to whom credit is due." No, he did not file on ordinance penalizing "legislative piracy."

Councilor Banal Must Be Seeing Red

I would not be surprised if my good friend, Councilor George Banal, is seeing red these days. A harmless proposed ordinance of his has been sensationalized by media as a proposal for the establishment of a Red Light District in Quezon City. In a "Letter to the Editor," which appeared in THE PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER, the writer even expressed her regrets for having voted for George because of that proposed ordinance.

The ordinance merely designates certain areas of Quezon City to be tourist oriented zones to be developed under a program to be formulated by the Council. These areas are: 1) Quezon Boulevard, from Welcome Rotonda (West) towards the east; 2) EDSA, from the boundary of Caloocan (North) towards the South to end at the boundary of Mandaluyong; 3) West Avenue, from Quezon Avenue to end at EDSA; and 4) Timog Avenue, from Quezon Avenue to end of EDSA.

Among the more significant/interesting resolutions and ordinances filed by Councilor Banal are the following:

Ordinance requiring the publication in a newspaper of general circulation in Quezon City of ordinances enacted by the City Council as a requirement before its effectivity and providing the appropriation therefor. Referred to proper committees.

Resolution urging the City Mayor to request all Rotary Clubs in Quezon City thru their District Governors to adopt one Health Center each and to attend to their service needs. Approved.

Resolution requesting the Department of Education, Culture and Sports to make "Ecology and Environmental Protection" a subject in the school curricula. Referred to the proper committees.

Resolution directing the Public Libraries of Quezon City to open on Saturdays from 8:00 A.M. to 12:00 Noon. Approved and already implemented by the libraries concerned.

Ordinance providing for the proper staffing of the Committee on Laws, Rules and Internal Government of the City Council to include Technical Assistants and Professional Researchers and Appropriating funds therefor.

OUTSTANDING SENATOR . . .

army of 160,000 soldiers going against the rule of keeping the standing army small to assure civilian control. Some 65,000 policemen are still under the military chain of command . . .

"Above all these, the previous Secretary of National Defense (Rafael Ilet) was a General. So is the incumbent General (Fidel Ramos)... This gives the impression that the Department of National Defense is not under civilian control.

"And yet (Maceda concludes), in spite of such position of power, the military administrators have the courage or gall to propose strong measures - 'legal weapons' as they call it - to further strengthen the military hand."

Grandstander?

Because of the frequency of his privilege speeches - at this writing, he has delivered about 25 of them - keeping him in the limelight, Sen. Maceda has been called, rightly or wrongly, the grandstander par excellence. His critics would probably like to call this piece, "Most Grandstanding Senator," instead of "Most Outstanding Senator." They may have a point there, but if they mean it as a criticism, it doesn't count. Grandstanding is not discreditable or criticizable per se. Grandstanding is not always an empty, useless act or gesture. Definitely not with the acts and gestures of Sen. Maceda that have been called grandstanding.

When he said that he could do with 30 percent less than the budgetary allocation of P915,380.90 for the period July 1 to Dec. 31 last year for salaries and allowances of senators, his critics screamed grandstanding. But when he did make a refund of P261,163.79 which was exactly 30.57 percent of said total budgetary allocation of P915,380.90, the critics could only shake their heads in disbelief. In the vocabulary of public officials, there is no such phrase as "more or less." It is always more, more, more . . . Maceda did the unthinkable in asking for less, which is why it made good copy. And like Cris Cerdena

May I suggest that Councilor Banal, as Chairman of the Committee on Education and representative to the local School Board, deliver a privilege speech on Executive Order No. 189 which nationalizes high school teachers by virtue of which nationalization the national government pays for their salaries and COLA. At first glance, that payment by the national government would seem to be advantageous to the City Schools Division, but it is not, and is actually prejudicial because the funds with which the national government pays the high school teachers are taken from the Special Education Fund which is due the City Schools Division amounting to about P85 million a year. Before nationalization, this SEF was used by the Division exclusively for school buildings. The funds for the salaries of the high school teachers were provided for in the Executive Budget of the City Government but after nationalization, such funds were no longer included. After nationalization, the City Schools Division have only the little amount to use that is left of the SEF after the national government has taken the amount necessary to pay the salaries and COLA of the high school teachers. Thus, under EO 189, the national government gives the City Schools Division something with one hand what it had taken away with the other hand. A grand deception, if you ask me - a fund-tamental hocus pocus. In my talks with City Schools Superintendent Dr. Edna Azurin and Assistant Superintendent for Secondary Schools Dr. Ramos, both confirmed the prejudicial effect of EO. 189 on the City Schools Division. Incidentally, Dr. Azurin told me that she has written Quezon City's four Congressmen requesting them to donate part of their PAGCOR "pork barrel" to the City Schools Division.

A Creative, Ingenious Ordinance By Councilor Serrano

Of the 85 resolutions and 60 ordinances, more or less, generated by the Council after 17 sessions, most, if not all, are of the common, ordinary, and run-of-the-mill variety. An exception is that ordinance filed by Councilor Edgardo Serrano which would require movie houses, cinemas and theaters to issue to each patron one-half of the ticket used in gaining entry into their establishments. To encourage patrons to demand and keep their half of the ticket, the ordinance further directs the holding of a periodic raffle of the used tickets with a certain percentage of the proceeds from the tickets included in the raffle to be used in procuring the prizes to be given away. The ordinance is intended to prevent the recycling of tickets which has robbed the city government of income from the amusement tax.

in his *Manila Chronicle* column, People, said: "But, perhaps, people won't mind if other lawmakers grandstand the same way."

When Sen. Maceda in his capacity as Chairman of the Senate Committee on National Defense and Security went on his three-month odyssey to the various military camps/areas of the country, the impression it made was that it was another grandstanding act. The Senator has visited more than 35 such military camps/areas and at this writing is in the Cagayan Valley looking into the peace and order situation there. In his visits, Maceda got direct from the horses' mouth, so to speak - that is, from the officers and men in the field - the problems of the AFP which have made the fight against insurgency ineffective.

In his Jan. 26 privilege speech, Maceda revealed these problems in what is probably the most significant speech that has been delivered in the Senate, a speech which Senator Heherson Alvarez praised for its "extensive mastery of details and facts." It was certainly a speech that Senate President Jovito Salonga could not call a "saliva festival." If anything, it was a festival of "details and facts" which enlightened Congress and the country in general on the deficiencies of the military establishment which threaten the "stability of the Republic and the survival of this Administration and democracy."

The most astounding deficiency that Sen. Maceda exposed was this:

"While we have 159,000 men (in the AFP) . . . only 69,000 of that is actually deployed in the fighting of the insurgency, meaning to say that close to a hundred thousand are doing a lot of things other than fighting the insurgency. *There are too many armchair officers enjoying their air-conditioned rooms and mistresses in Quezon City.*" (Underlining supplied)

The Senator also revealed that a common complaint of the soldiers he talked to in the field was that they "do not have sufficient or enough personal equipment, not enough radios or communication facilities (as) in the Province of Pangasinan, out of 46 towns, the Provincial Commander, Colonel Odi, told me that 22 towns have no communications with him in Lingayen and that is a first class and a Central Luzon province."

Because the soldiers complained that "our boots give way after only one month,"

Sen. Maceda deduced that there must be something wrong in the procurement system of the AFP. He said:

"Sixty thousand boots are supposed to have been imported from the United States . . . But . . . we have a total of 159,000 authorized positions in the Armed Forces of the Philippines. So, probably, what they (the soldiers) are saying is that the 100,000 boots that are being produced locally are still defective"

(Turn to Page 12)



QC Annual Sportsfest. A moment of prayer, led by Rev. Aniceto Q. Lazo, starts the opening ceremonies of the inter-department volleyball and basketball tournament, an annual sports program of the QC government. With Vice Mayor Tito Sotto, Ramon Matabang, Councilors Alice Herrera and Francis Pangilinan, the sportsfest was joined by 33 teams from different departments of the city government.

COMPUTER . . .

3. WTR children read much better than the comparison groups. About 62.54% of them could read sentences and paragraphs, compared to only 37.2% in the other groups.
4. WTR pupils were also superior to the other groups in spelling. Out of ten test items, the WTR pupils had a mean score of 7.2% compared to 2.5%

and 5.27% of the other groups.

Superintendent Azurin further said, "The Writing to Read Program is a functional program. The children could use the technologies in the WTR center without much difficulty."

Mrs. Azurin also reported that parents, teachers and children were one in saying that the WTR program works effectively"

EXTENSION . . .

tration during my almost twenty (20) months of incumbency as Officer-In-Charge of Quezon City. If the city presently enjoys a relatively sound financial condition, Treasurer Talavera undoubtedly deserves some measure of credit therefor on account of his exemplary handling of the financial affairs of the city government.

"With my assumption of office as the duly elected City Mayor, we are now in the process of firming up the program thrusts of the city ad-

ministration. We are likewise undergoing a period of adjustment and orientation with the election also of the Vice Mayor and the twenty-four (24) Councilors now constituting the City Council. It is at this critical transitional mid-stream stage of the city government that we feel the need for the continued services of Treasurer Talavera."

Atty. Talavera assumed office as City Treasurer of Quezon City in March 1984. He was previously Provincial Treasurer of Bulacan.

CITY ATTY. . . .

to be thwarted by his City Administrator, OIC Simon got an adverse comment in the TEMPO column of Ruther Batuigas who said that it was Kaimo who was calling the shots at City Hall and that, as far as Simon was concerned, OIC stood for "Officer-in-Captivity."

We take exception, however, to the statement of Hilario in his letter that "as a lawyer, and as mandated by law, I have to defend the respondents whether their decisions were correct or not." We maintain that it is the duty of the City Attorney to see to it by all means that the city government sticks to what is legally, and if possible morally, right. It is just unfortunate that Hilario could not withstand the pressure on him to do something that was against his conviction,

that is, to oppose the petition for reconsideration which the arbitrarily dismissed employees elevated to the then Ministry of Justice which ignored the spurious defense Hilario was forced to make, ordered their reinstatement finding no valid cause for their dismissal. The honorable thing for Hilario to have done was to resign in the same way that, according to him, he quit a previous employment when his superiors tried to force him to do something against his conviction.

In the absence of a contrary word from either, Kaimo or the Mayor, however, we give full credence to City Atty. Hilario's allegation that he was never consulted on the arbitrary dismissals.

(Watch for Kaimo's and the Mayor's side in the next issue.)

COMPREHENSIVE . . .

economic, political, and institutional profile of Quezon City.

The presentation, which took all of two hours attesting to its comprehensiveness (only statistics on garbage collection and disposal and sidewalk vendors were noticeably lacking), was accompanied by a running commentary by Magat on the significance of the statistics presented. It was capped by the identification and enumeration of the developmental needs and problems of Quezon City and the corresponding potentials of the city to meet these needs and problems.

Aside from the peace and order situation which the Crime Statistics Graph showed to be very unsatisfactory, the most serious problem of the city as presented in the Program is widespread poverty as vividly depicted in the Program's Map of Depressed Areas. No less than 157 such areas are shown in the map classified under four categories: Area for Priority Development (APD) 66; Other Identified Squatters Area, 35; Comprehensive Urban Redevelopment Program (CURP), 32; and Identified ZIP Areas, 24. Some 80,000 squatter families live in these depressed areas, the Program indicates.

In its Areas Requiring Positive Action Map, the areas indicated are classified under nine categories: Health Hazard Areas, Roads requiring immediate repair and maintenance, Urban blights needing innovation, Major roads requiring immediate repair, Construction of major thoroughfares, Flood-prone areas, Areas with defective or incompatible land use, Areas requiring control of land and building use, and Slum/Squatter areas.

Among the other maps and charts showing salient statistics and conditions presented were as follows:

Existing Land Use Map showing the various land uses and their respective percentages: Residential (52.21%); Commercial (3.74%); Industrial (4.97%); Institutional (3.55%); Open Spaces/Parks & Playgrounds (24.47%); Utilities (0.51%); and Watershed Reservation Area (11.45%).

Population Distribution Map of population densities in different parts of the city, showing uneven distribution.

Population by Sex and Age Group Graph showing that Quezon City has a young population with an average age of 22 years and a slight predominance of females in number.

Population Projection, 1990-2,000, Map showing that at a growth rate of 4.37%, highest in Metro Manila, QC's population of 1,165,865 as per 1980 census could increase by 1990 to a low of 1,745,821, to a medium of 1,888,559, and to a high of 2,031,406.

Road Classification and Condition Map and Graph showing that Quezon City has a total kilometrage of 1,142.14 kms., of which 53% or 602.752 kms are classified as city streets, 19% or 219.548 kms as national roads, and 28% or 320.028 kms as private roads. As to the condition of the existing roads in the city, 64% or 730.813 kms, are asphalted, 30% or 340.499 kms, are concreted, and 6% or 70.358 kms, are unpaved.

Projected Population Density (Persons/Hectare) Medium Projection Graph showing that from a population density of 76 persons per hectare in 1980, Quezon City will have a population density of 122.96 persons per hectare

in 1990, 140.81 persons per hectare in 1995 and 160.29 persons per hectare in 2,000.

Health Facilities Map showing that Quezon City has 46 Health Centers, 16 public hospitals, 27 private hospitals, 14 funeral parlors, and 5 Memorial Parks/Cemetery.

Health Center Service Area Map showing that 61% of the city's populated area or 71.68 sq. kms. are served by Health Centers while 39% or 45.83 kms. mostly in depressed areas in the National Government Center and in the Payatas area are not served.

Mortality/Morbidity Rate Graphs showing that the leading causes of death in Quezon City are pneumonia, tuberculosis, and cancer in that order; 11.85 per 1,000 residents for pneumonia, 92.00 per 1,000 residents for tuberculosis and 64.14 per 1,000 residents for cancer.

Educational Facilities Maps showing Quezon City's 34 public high schools and 85 elementary schools and 31 private elementary schools, 31 private elementary/high schools, 9 private high schools, and 24 private colleges. The U.P. is the only public college/university in QC.

Historical and Tourist Spots and Other Major Landmarks Map showing 36 such places.

Recreational Facilities Map showing 4 private recreational facilities, 64 public parks with basketball courts, 96 developed/partially developed parks/playgrounds, 3 swimming pools, and 121 donated underdeveloped parks/playgrounds.

Religious Facilities Map showing 38 Catholic churches, 36 non-catholic churches, 76 chapels, 8 convents/seminaries, 14 funeral parlors, and 5 memorial parks/cemeteries.

Government Buildings Map showing the 47 government buildings in QC.

Protective Services Map showing the NPD headquarters and Central Police Station, 8 Police Sub-Stations, 18 Police Detachments, and 19 Fire-Sub-Stations

Crime Statistics Graph showing the rather unsatisfactory peace and order condition in Quezon City.

Economic Map showing Quezon City's 9 public markets, 32 private markets, 30,219 business establishments, 61 industrial establishments, and 31 vending sites.

Family Income and Expenditure Graphs: 1985 showing an average monthly family income of P5,450, which is above the poverty line of P3,282/month set for the National Capital Region by the National Census and Statistics Office; main sources of income to be wages and salaries (57.86%), entrepreneurial activities like wholesaling, retailing, and manufacturing (17.40%), and others (24.74%); and percentage distribution of household expenditures as follows: food, beverage, tobacco (42.9%), housing (19.5%), fuel, light, and water (6.0%); education (4.1%); miscellaneous (3.8%); household operation (3.5%); clothing and others (3.2%); personal care and effects (2.4%); medical care (2.1%); special occasions (2.1%); taxes paid (1.6%); and others (1.1%).

Employment Status: 1985 Graph showing number and percentage of employed, 571,011 (51.78%); unemployed, 89,893 (8.15%); and not in the labor force, 441,468 (40.07%).

QC Government Income and Expenditure Graphs: 1983-1986 showing yearly increase in income from P405 M. in 1983 to P468 M in 1984 to P508 M in 1985 and to P520 M in 1986; corresponding yearly increase in expenditure (but never exceeding income) from P394 M in 1983 to P465 M in 1984 to P505 M in 1985 and to P502 M in 1986; sources of income, Real Property Tax (44.41%), Business Permit and License Tax (17.91%), Other Taxes (8.2%), Grants/Aids from Other Levels of Government (20.46%), Grants/Services (7.56%), and Others, (1.38%); percentage

(Editor's Note: Upon our request, Senator Saguisag sent us a copy of his Report No. 1 entitled "My First Semester and the Year Ahead" from which the following are excerpted. In reading them, please remember that the Report is dated Jan. 7, 1988.)

(Like the other Senators, Senator Saguisag started his term on June 30, 1987 but took his oath of office only on July 27, 1987.)

My holdout on Bobbit Sanchez and my walkout insured a colorful debut, to mixed reviews. Standing by a possibly depressed friend, in itself, is not bad; I did it in fact for the millions who had voted for Bobbit. When the Comelec provisionally reversed itself on July 24, 1987, I was able to take my oath the following July 27.

I was never absent in our sessions.

I gave instructions that gifts are not to be accepted, as a rule; we had to return a number of these . . .

Our bill on nuisance candidates became part of the electoral reform package;

Our bills on franking privilege and ethical standards were passed by the Senate; these are now in the House . . . ;

Our bill on the right to privacy and freedom from disinformation and misinformation is still in Committee. If it passes, there will be no more unfair dossiers, or so, it is hoped.

On our tariff bill, our criteria were, *inter alia*, nationalism, health and ecology. We successfully fought the effort to reduce the tariff on toxic asbestos, which is banned in many

"It is our duty to hear from our constituents despite our strong set positions. That is what democracy is all about. The fixed star we go by is to do the right thing, in the right way, at the right time, and for the right season, in the national interest."

"I plan to remain onion-skinned when my personal integrity is at stake. I am the famous founder, charming chairman and lone member of the "Lapiang Balat Sibuyas" — and proud of it."



parts of the civilized world.

On the Ninoy Aquino airport bill, I abstained. What we criticized when out of power, we should not do when in office.

I initially abstained, and then voted no, on the question of expanding the powers of the Commission on Appointments. If there is abuse of the appointing power, that may be the time to amend the law (Constitution). But, not now. There is no track record of abuse yet. The vast and vague powers that the people did not clearly give the Commission in the Constitution last Feb. 2, we should not now or this soon clearly give to it.

I was not persuaded that anti-dynasty laws, save when applicable to the presidency and vice presidency, would amount to anything much. It is really best left to the people... It should be decided at the polls.

As an interim measure, we have helped create a new body to assume responsibility for the Bataan nuclear power plant, headed by Sec. Ordonez, via an Executive Order . . .

We were able to save the government a big sum (millions of pesos) by our free assistance to the defense of the Republic in a damage suit in Seattle, Washington, U.S.A. involving the 1981 murder of two unionists.

We have rendered a number of admonitory opinions on ethics; we have issued statements, written articles, guested in talk shows and given interviews to present the side of government and its institutions such as the Senate.

We have responded and written to our constituents, to editors, to the public and to our colleagues. We have tried to reply to all those who write to us.

Fanatically Pro-Palace?

Let us review the record in the interest of truth:

I did not support its presumed position on the airport renaming bill. ("Presumed" because the President just allowed the bill to lapse into law.)

I voted against Jan. 18, 1988 elections; I wanted same last year, as promised, and to avoid Comelec disruption.

distribution of government expenditures in 1986, Social Improvement (29.2%), Inter-government Aids (29.2%), General Administration (14.3%), Economic Development (9.0%), Protective Services (5.1%), Government Finance (4.1%), Real Property (4.0%), Adjudication (2.3%), Equipment (1.3%) and Others (2.3%).

Traffic-Prone Areas Map showing areas, mostly intersections, where traffic congestion is most critical, 7 along EDSA, 10 along E. Rodriguez Ave. continuing thru Aurora Blvd., and 7 along Quezon Avenue.

Speaking of the rationale of the Program, Magat said: "The smooth, fruitful and productive sailing of any given undertaking proceeds from a well thought framework of goals, objectives, policies and strategies. The framework constitutes the plan, which is an abstract manifestation of total and equitable growth."

MY FIRST SEMESTER AND THE YEAR AHEAD

By Senator R.A.V. Saguisag

I resisted its position on allowing voters, virtually at the last minute last Dec. 18, in certain component cities, to elect provincial officials on Jan. 18. It would be unconstitutional, unfair and unsporting to change the rules in the middle of play.

I joined Sen. Enrile in denouncing the Clark Field off-base armed patrols by the Americans and the plan to deport Michael Byrnes.

I believe the libel suit against Louie Beltran should be dropped. (Amen to that — Editor)

I was against the Senate session of December 28 and 29 which the Palace favored. My objections were based on technical grounds.

I did not agree to co-sponsor the popular and populist bill granting an across-the-board wage increase in the public and private sectors. This would be inflationary and could bankrupt some employers and hurt the jobless.

We have tried to be, not pro-Palace, but pro-people. We are proud to belong to a hardworking Senate untainted by corruption. It has been a learning process the last semester; we have to do better this year. We certainly will try.

(In the above Report, Sen. Saguisag does not include other bills of which he is the co-author. In Annex B, which he attaches, is a list of 16 Senate bills showing his voting record. He voted Yes on all except three on which he voted No and two on which he abstained. He voted No on SB 137, An Act providing for the confirmation by the Commission on Ap-

pointments of all appointments made by the president of the Philippines; SB 92, An Act resetting the local elections from Nov. 9, 1987 to Jan. 18, 1988 . . . ; and SB 82, An Act prohibiting the establishment of political dynasties. The bills on which he abstained have to do with reforms in the electoral system.)

THE YEAR AHEAD

Ethics

We will press for the appointment of the Ombudsman, the overall Deputy Ombudsman and the Deputy Ombudsmen for Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao. We were instrumental in seeing to it that the new Office of the Ombudsman was properly funded in the 1988 budget: from P2 million to P17 million.

We will go around the country to help elevate ethics in public service. We will also help enforce strictly the law on lobbying.

We will try to help resolve definitively the question whether lawyer-members of Congress should practice their profession. For my part, I have virtually liquidated my own modest practice.

We will ask for a study or review of the outer limits of our power of inquiry, particularly where there are pending criminal proceedings.

Human Rights

We will press for the passage of the bill on a revitalized Commission on Human Rights, as well as the bill on the right to privacy and freedom from misinformation and disinformation.

Ecology, Energy, and Environment

We will put up a Commission or Authority, by law, to take care of the Bataan nuclear plant and all its problems.

Smokey Mountain and all it means to us here and in the outside world must go, eventually. (It is an international shame, the sorry metaphor for our socio-economic situation.

Amnesty

We will look at the possibility of granting amnesty to public officials, particularly innocent scholars, who accepted gifts or grants from foreign governments not knowing it is punishable by law, and, also, members of Congress who may have misused the franking privilege which expired last Aug. 30.

No amnesty is prudent in the foreseeable future for the violent, unrepentant coup plotters.

Communications

We have to look at the telephone situation. Why is there resistance to competition in the cellular field. Are we monopoly?

Constitutional Amendments

We also need to start looking at possible constitutional amendments on the basis of our experience with the year-old Constitution. For starters —

a) The composition of the Electoral Tribunal. We should make possible the substitution of other members (maybe members of the either House, or Justices, et al.).

b) Should the term of the President (not necessarily the incumbent) be amended to allow re-election?

c) Elections should not be synchronized in 1992. There will be too many candidates in the 1992 election.

d) Perhaps, Senators should be elected by regions, to democratize the composition of the Senate.

c) Both the House and the Senate should at all times be represented in the Judicial and Bar Council, instead of only one member of Congress sitting there in alternation.

SEN. ERNESTO M. MACEDA

MOST OUTSTANDING SENATOR

By Ben O. Flores

My choice of Sen. Ernesto M. Maceda as "Most Outstanding Senator" — at this writing — is, for me, the height of irony. I did not even vote for him. I suppose, I was so biased and unfair that I did not accord him the benefit of presumption of innocence with respect to the alleged anomalies attributed to him. But what turned me off even more was his closeness to the Aquinos. I thought: If elected, this is one senator who will be the "Cory can do no wrong" kind.

In a very personal way, I knew that Cory can do wrong. It was because of a wrong she had done, wittingly or unwittingly, that a daughter of mine, a Sr. Public Health Nurse under the Quezon City Health Department, was arbitrarily dismissed. (But this is out of place here. If interested in the details, please read the piece, "A Plea For Justice," on Page One.)



This picture and the others on this page were taken in the course of Sen. Maceda's visits to military camps/areas.

To return to the once "much maligned" and "persecuted" Senator. Congress had not been in session more than a week when I realized, to my great surprise and delight how wrong I was about him. Instead of the psychopathic senator I had expected, Maceda, in his very first three or four privilege speeches took Cory to task for her midnight Executive Orders and for making appointments without referring them to the Commission

Previous to this, Cory was reported to have said to unympathetic colleagues of Sen. Maceda: "Whatever you say about Ernie Maceda you need him on the Senate floor to balance off Enrile." But, as it turned out, Ernie Maceda did not serve to "balance off" Enrile. Instead, he served to reinforce him and eventually pushed him off the Senate floor as main oppositionist.

Constructive Fiscalizer

Maceda kept a critical — not necessarily adversarial — eye on the Cory Administration and earned a repu-

tation as a constructive fiscalizer of that administration. He took a stand on almost every issue and made that stand known in sometimes brutally frank and direct words in a continuing series of privilege speeches. He spoke lengthily and eloquently against the postponement of the local elections (though ultimately to no avail); he denounced as unconstitutional Executive Order No. 219 which appropriated P620 million to be applied on the \$57 million (roughly P1.14 billion) private debt of the Planters Products Inc.; he objected to reports (in August last year) of an impending 27% provisional increase in PAL domestic fares and cargo rates exposing in the process the falsity of PAL's claims that it had not effected any increase since 1979 and that it stood to lose P523 million; as Vice Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, he battled

for a reduction of the P169 billion 1988 National Budget and pointed out a constitutional defect in the allocation of 36% for debt service and only 13% for education which was contrary to Section 5(5), Article XIV of the Constitution which mandates the State to assign the highest budgetary priority to education.

Boldest Privilege Speech

In one of his boldest privilege speeches delivered on September 9, 1987, Sen. Maceda virtually hit at the President herself when he unleashed a tirade against her Alter Ego, Executive Secretary Joker Arroyo, whose ouster he demanded, accusing him of inefficiency, lacking in political acumen, and of having lost the support and respect of many of his colleagues in the government. The Cabinet as a whole was not spared from Maceda's tirade. Except for Vice President Salvador Laurel, he said, all Cabinet members had not held political office; they were technocrats incapable of feeling the sentiments of the people. In a subsequent pri-

vilage speech on September 16, after Laurel's resignation from the Cabinet, Maceda said that the Vice President was the only Cabinet member with political orientation who did very well as Minister and Secretary of Foreign Affairs and that his resignation was an "unwelcome development." Maceda commended Laurel despite the fact that he had resigned from Laurel's UNIDO and that the UNIDO President had objected to his appointment as Ambassador to the United Nations.

Traditional Politician

Admitting to only one tag, that of "Ernesto Maceda, Traditional Politician," even in the May 11 Congressional campaign when it was not fashionable to be one, Maceda stressed "the need for more politicians to run this country for it can be said that a traditional politician has the capacity to understand the left and the right and to fashion out, based on sound ideas, what is the best compromise for the good of the country."

over the apprehension of alleged illegal importation of knocked down vehicles; and 3) the unabated illegal barter trade in the South bringing in shipments of the kind and quantity of goods not allowed under the law.

Maceda's next privilege speech was against the Presidential veto of two items in the Tariff bill: 1) going beyond 50% in increasing to 75% the tariff on fabrics and garments and 2) reducing to 5% the importation of raw materials for the manufacture of polyester fiber. These two provisions were amendments introduced by both the House and the Senate upon the insistence of Maceda at the Conference Committee to protect the garments industry. But the President had to veto them because they violated guidelines set by the IMF. Maceda assailed the President and her economic advisers for being subservient to the IMF.

Mini-Privilege Speech

It was what Maceda called his mini-privilege speech that



Department of Budget and Management wanted to be refunded within three months. Since the payment was made during the Christmas season coinciding with the campaign period, Maceda said that whoever authorized it did so to entice the government employees to vote for certain candidates.

4) He stated that business reports on the continuing undervaluation of garment exports, using two sets of documents in order to salt dollars abroad, attested to the deficiencies in the policies of the Central Bank and the Department of Trade and Industry.

5) He disclosed that per testimony of the AFP Chief of Staff before the Committee on Games and Amuse-

ment was stressed, Maceda said, by Benigno's statement according to Locsin, that "the usual approach to throw back communist insurgency was always a strongman or an authoritarian regime." The Senator queried: "How many businessmen and tourists cancelled plans to invest or visit just because foreign newspapers carried reports that the Philippine Government was contemplating the imposition of martial law?"

Civilian Supremacy, A Myth

I consider the privilege speech delivered by Sen. Maceda on Feb. 24, 1988 one of his most significant, candid speeches. The main thrust of this speech was

Civilian Supremacy, A Myth

"Ironically . . . while it was very clear that military support kept the (Marcos) dictatorship in power, it is probably equally true that in the light of the insurgency and the series of attempted coups in the last 18 months, a majority of the military establishment believe that they have installed the incumbent (Aquino) administration and have kept it there. It is probably not far-fetched to presume that they also believe that having kept it in power, they could just easily remove it."

Armchair Officers and Mistresses

"While we have 159,000 men (in the AFP) . . . only 69,000 of that is actually deployed in the fighting of the insurgency, meaning to say that close to a hundred thousand are doing a lot of things other than fighting the insurgency. There are too many armchair officers enjoying their air-conditioned rooms and mistresses in Quezon City."

In his subsequent privilege speeches which had become his trademark, Maceda continued his fiscalization. Following Vice President Laurel's flaunting of a list of alleged Communist public officials furnished by NICA Director General Caniesco, Maceda urged the abolition of NICA, maintaining that NICA has no room in a democratic government. The NICA, he said, was a recreation of NISA which was a Marcos creation for oppression and to perpetuate the Marcos practice of appointing retired generals to head a civilian intelligence agency.

In his Nov. 18, 1987 privilege speech, Maceda did not directly assail Customs Commissioner Salvador Mison but it amounted to that when he deplored 1) the *Asian Wall Street Journal* editorial assailing Mison's statement that after taxes or duties have been collected, it is all right to receive gifts; 2) the reported clash between Col. Guerrero of the Office of the Customs Commissioner and Col. Pedro Mendoza, Chief of the Customs Police,

followed. Though it dealt on 7 different subjects, it was very brief:

1) The almost simultaneous resignations of DND Secretary Rafael Iletto, DBP Vice President Roberto Anonas, and Postmaster General Angelito Banayo indicated that there was something wrong with the Cory Administration, Maceda said.

2) The importation of rice and corn, he said, confirmed the continuing failure of the country's agricultural productivity program and raises serious questions on the competence of the Department of Agriculture. He also disclosed that his friends in Hongkong had told him that a Hongkong banker admitted that proceeds from the overprice in the importation of sugar in the amount of P80 million was deposited in his bank.

3) He wanted to know who authorized the payment of the P2,500 medical allowance for certain government employees which the Executive Secretary said was a mistake and which the

ments, P50,000 per mayor was the current rate for the operation of *jueteng* in many towns of the country.

6) He urged the discontinuance of the current government reorganization and mass lay-offs which has resulted in turmoil and which has not improved the efficiency of the government as well as the national economy.

7) He scored the government's continuing neglect of the local movie industry.

In his Nov. 12, 1987 privilege speech, a month before Honasan's capture on Dec. 9, Sen. Maceda pointed out the absurdity of Malacanang's action in killing Channel 13's Danny Buenafe TV interview with Honasan because the story was sent by the foreign news agencies to all over the world resulting in a situation when Filipinos abroad and foreigners were ahead in learning of certain happenings in the country. He expressed concern that the incident would bring back fear of the censorship which was the complaint against the old regime.

The Malacanang Press Office, headed by Teddyman Benigno, was the next object of Maceda's censorious remarks. It was its inefficiency, he said, its failure to make a clarifying statement, that was responsible for the false impression that President Aquino was in favor of declaring martial law during that time last February when the nation was agog over talks on the existence of a state of national emergency and the military's demand for tougher measures. The im-

pression was stressed, Maceda said, by Benigno's statement according to Locsin, that "the usual approach to throw back communist insurgency was always a strongman or an authoritarian regime." The Senator queried: "How many businessmen and tourists cancelled plans to invest or visit just because foreign newspapers carried reports that the Philippine Government was contemplating the imposition of martial law?"

Sen. Maceda gives the reasons why this is so:

"The problem in the local context is the reality of an active, serious insurgency on 3 fronts — from the communist New People's Army, the Muslim Separatist Movement, and the loyalists Marcos group.

"The problem is probably complicated by the perception that the civilian leadership (Cory Aquino), rightly or wrongly, is not strong enough to impose or insist on its control over the military establishment.

"Ironically . . . while it was very clear that military support kept the (Marcos) dictatorship in power, it is probably equally true that in the light of the insurgency and the series of attempted coups in the last 18 months, a majority of the military establishment believes that they have installed incumbent (Aquino) administration and have kept it there. It is probably not far-fetched to presume that they also believe that having kept it in power, they could just easily remove it.

"We see a continuous recruitment of officers and men. Six thousand are being added this year to a standing



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CITY COUNCIL IN SESSION

(Covers the first 17 sessions)

(Editor's Note: This critical review of the sessions of the City Council is based partly on the reports of our staff member who is assigned to attend and observe the sessions but mainly on the minutes of the sessions prepared by the Office of the City Secretary headed by Atty. Vicente Alvarez and Atty. Rodriguito Saet. We take this opportunity to commend the efficiency of the office. Though it has to prepare two agendas and two minutes for the two sessions held each week, not to mention the Journal of the Proceedings, the office has not incurred any backlog. The minutes are finished very promptly, a day or two after each session, and, despite the time pressure, they are very well prepared — clear and complete accounts of what transpires in the sessions.)

Feb. 18, 1988 was a historic day for Quezon City. On that day, after 12 years of suppression, a new and bigger City Council emerged and held its inaugural session, "the final act in the restoration of democracy in our city," in the words of Mayor Jun Simon in his State of the City Address he was to deliver to the resurrected Council.

The first act of the Council was to acknowledge a legacy from the old Council. It passed a resolution adopting in toto the House Rules of that old Council. It then elected its officers who took their oath of office before Vice Mayor Vic "Happy House" Sotto III. The appointment of Atty. Vic Alvarez as City Secretary was confirmed and a certain Captain Jesus M. Lipuna was designated Sgt.-at-Arms.

Bumper Crop

After 17 sessions (at this writing), the City Council has already produced a bumper crop of about 85 resolutions and some 60 ordinances. But only one self-serving ordinance has been approved so far — an ordinance appropriating ₱5,280,000 for the "urgent and essential outlays of the City Council for its operations" sponsored by Councilors George Canseco, Ricardo R. del Rosario, and Alberto M. Galarpe. The other ordinances are still with the committee to which they had been referred. As to the resolutions, about 30 have been approved, many of them with no lasting significance like birthday greetings, congratulatory messages and condolences; the rest are also with the committees. Two have been rejected: Councilor Pangilinan's resolution which would require the committees to prepare statements of their respective legislative "thrusts" and Councilor Paculdo's resolution urging President Aquino to allow the return of Mr. Marcos.

Snail's Pace

In a privilege speech, Councilor Reynaldo A. Calalay deplored the snail's pace of the committees in acting on the ordinances and resolutions referred to them. To which the majority floor leader, Councilor George Canseco, responded with a queer, puzzling statement: "The City Council works the fastest but relatively slower in action." We have yet to decipher this paradoxical hieroglyphics.

We suggest that the Council take a respite from holding sessions and wait for the committee reports to come out. If the committees continue to be swamped with ordinances and resolutions, they might get buried so deeply they would be suffocated to death.

Eager Beavers & Drones

Based on the number of ordinances and resolutions filed (counted up to the 17th session only; we haven't had the time to review the succeeding sessions yet), Councilor Altuna (7 ordinances, 12 resolutions) and Councilor Banal (10 resolutions, 6 ordinances) seem to be the most active and prolific while Councilors Alice Herrera, Ricardo R. del Rosario, and the actor — what's his name? — Mitchel Gumabao alias Dennis Roldan — seem to be the drones of the Council. Everybody had been expecting Roldan to push through some Anti-Drug Abuse resolutions and ordinances.

It must be stressed, however, that, in the long run, a Councilor's performance rating will not be based on the number of resolutions and ordinances he introduces or sponsors.

Councilor Altuna and Banal, however, have filed a number of fairly significant/interesting ordinances and resolutions. Those of Altuna will be cited here shortly while those of Banal are cited in the Standard Fare column on Page Two.

Significant/Interesting Ordinances & Resolutions

None of the 60 resolutions are of any special interest or exceptional significance, although some are interesting and significant enough, like the following:

Councilor Altuna's resolution constituting the Committee on Laws, Rules and Internal Government as the Internal Accounts Committee of the City Council. This is something new in the organizational set-up of the Council.

Councilor Wilma A. Sarino's resolution re-adopting Resolution No. 8944, S-72 of the old Council requesting Congress to authorize the city government to establish and operate a University of Quezon City. This was a pet project of her husband, Steve Sarino, when he was a member of the old Council.

Councilor Dante V. Liban's resolution expressing the Council's "appreciation and admiration for his courageous act in closing down certain establishments violating laws and ordinances on public morals, health and safety." The resolution was not approved unanimously — Five abstained. One of the abstainers, Councilor Paculdo, in a privilege speech, declared that the Council was too hasty in praising the Mayor for his so-called "courageous act." He cited certain news items criticizing the way the drive was being conducted, some even claiming that what the Mayor's men

were actually doing was "Money-toring" the establishments featuring lewd shows. Another abstainer, Councilor Isidro R. Saludes, also in a privilege speech, denounced the closure orders of the Mayor as unconstitutional because they violated due process as well as the liberty of abode in-as-much as the dancers reside in the establishments where they work. He also cited the loss of revenue to the city government.

Councilor Pangilinan's antigraft and corruption resolution "supporting the present government's call for accountability, integrity, and responsibility in the public service by adopting the policy of full disclosure and transparency in all of the City Council's activities, dealings and transactions, and all other departments of the city government." We consider this a very significant resolution.

Councilor Altuna's two-in-one resolution authorizing the dismantling of the QC incinerator and its sale to the highest bidder and authorizing the use of the incinerator building as office of the Manpower Development Training and Livelihood Program of QC. It's about time something is done about this "White Elephant" of the city government.

Indigents Have To Die First

With respect to appropriation ordinances, the City Council has given priority concern to the indigents — but they have to die first. The first appropriation measure introduced in the Council by Councilor Altuna appropriates ₱300,000 for the purchase of "dignified and presentable reusable outer coffins with detachable casket to be deposited in trust among the different funeral parlors in Quezon City for the exclusive use of indigent deceased residents." This was followed by Councilor Castelo's proposed ordinance appropriating ₱1 million to be made available as financial assistance to deceased residents of Quezon City in covering certain funeral expenses. To cap the Council's morbid concern for the indigent dead, Councilor Reynaldo Calalay proposed an ordinance providing that funeral parlors be established, operated and managed by the city government in all four districts. This ordinance will make the city government an undertaker. Naturally, there will be an opening for the position of Mortician or Funeral Director.

Appropriation For The Living

Subsequent proposed appropriation measures, how-

ever, were for the living, such as:

₱7 million for the creation, construction, staffing and operation of a complete Drug Rehabilitation Center under the auspices of the QC General Hospital, introduced by Councilor Tomas P. Castro.

₱5 million for the establishment of a general hospital in Novaliches, introduced by Councilor Edgardo S. Serrano.

₱4,200,000 for the payment of allowances of Barangay Tanod in all 140 barangays covering the period Jan. 1 to Dec. 31, 1988, introduced by Councilor Elizabeth Gaba.

Councilor Fred Montilla's ordinance providing that one pilot health center in every district of Quezon City should be operated by the Quezon City Health Department on a 24-hour basis and appropriating ₱400,000 for the purpose.

Councilor Altuna's, Castelo's, Pangilinan's and Liban's ordinance appropriating ₱500,000 to finance initial livelihood and manpower training activities initiated by the Community Relations Office.

₱30,000 to cover the expenses of the official visit of Conrado Balweg and entourage to Quezon City, introduced by Councilor Elizabeth Gaba. This is a very questionable measure. With so many problems besetting it, why should Quezon City spend its taxpayers' money to entertain the likes of Balweg! What, in the first place, is this renegade priest's official business in Quezon City? His business is in the Cordilleras. Councilor Gaga—er—Gaba should have a more considerate regard for the people's money.

Other proposed ordinances of some significance and interest are the following:

Ordinance providing that only registered voters of Quezon City be employed in all private business establishments in Quezon City, introduced by Councilor Isidro R. Saludes. This is an ordinance that comes close to the brink of unconstitutionality.

Ordinance providing for the privatization of any or all public markets owned and operated by the city government, introduced by Councilor Altuna.

Ordinance requiring movie houses, cinemas and theaters to issue to each patron one-half of the ticket used in gaining entry into their establishments. To encourage patrons to demand and keep their half of the ticket, the ordinance further directs the conduct of a periodic, regular raffle of said used tickets, introduced by Councilor Serrano. Intended to prevent the recycling of tickets, this is one of the more innovative ordinances proposed in the Council. We commend Councilor Serrano.

Ordinance creating a special Futuristic Commission to study, recommend, and map out plans and visions of a progressive Quezon City by the year 2000, providing mechanisms and appropriation therefor, introduced by Councilor Dante V. Liban. We suggest that Liban gets a copy of the QC Compre-

hensive Development Program or read our article on this Program on Page One.

Ordinance requiring the Bidding Awards Committee to condition the award of any infrastructure project on the winning contractor utilizing the available manual labor at the project site, providing mechanisms and penalty for violation therefor, introduced by Councilor Liban. This is another ordinance that hovers on the brink of unconstitutionality.

Ordinance prohibiting the use of cubicles or private compartments in sauna parlors regardless of the date when they started operations in order to prevent such saunas from being used as prostitution fronts, introduced by Councilor Liban.

Biglang-Awa, Pancratius, Saludes

If all the ordinances filed by Councilor Vicente D. Biglang-Awa are approved, he'll be getting a huge slice of the city's income. The ordinances are appropriations for putting up four or five Health Centers, Clinics, and Laboratories — all for Novaliches. Very laudable but very parochial. He has no other kinds of ordinances or resolutions for the benefit of the city as a whole. Incidentally, has Biglang-Awa come out yet with a report on the charge of the widow of Lean Alejandro, as brought out by Councilor Wilma Sarino, that their car had been cannibalized by the QC Police?

Councilor Francis Pancratius N. Pangilinan is one of the brightest Councilors but he has come up with a not so bright resolution: To declare Quezon City a nuclear weapon-free zone. Does he not remember how then OIC Simon was pelted with brick bats for issuing an Executive Order of a similar import? The matter of nuclear weapons is best left to the current negotiations on the American bases.

Pancratius, however, has filed a very significant resolution: To disband the "People's Patrol." He gave two reasons to justify the resolution: It is constitutionally mandated that all paramilitary groups as well as the CHDF be disbanded and there have been allegations of abuse committed by the People's Patrol. This paper agrees with the Councilor not necessarily for the same reasons. Our reason is the People's Patrol are very dispensable. The ₱1.2 million spent on them per month — repeat, per month — can be put to much better use. Incidentally, what happened to the motorcycles with sidecars in which the Patrols used to ride around aimlessly sometimes with a "chick" or two in tow?

Councilor Isidro R. Saludes is a former judge. But his proposed resolution to build a perimeter fence for the City Hall compound and officials residences for the Mayor and Vice Mayor within the compound does not show a judicious mind. During the turnover ceremonies on April 14, 1986 when Simon took over the city government as OIC, his rah rah boys hang a streamer which proclaimed in big, bold words: BUKAS NA SA MAMAMAYAN ANG QC HALL." Outgoing Mayor

Rodriguez, in her turnover speech, ripped the streamer verbally: "Under my administration, the QC Hall was always open to the people" she said. Incoming OIC Simon had the offending streamer removed. Now the good Judge would close City Hall to the people by making a sort of a fort or garrison out of the compound. His reason for the fence and residences is to provide security for the Mayor and Vice Mayor by fencing them in. We would not be surprised if Simon and Sotto would each send Saludes a tape recording of the old song: "Don't Fence Me In."

Privilege Hour

Council sessions open with the Privilege Hour after the prayer, of course, for which the Councilors take turns. Councilor Eduardo David was the first to deliver a privilege speech on what he called the sacredness of the session hall which calls for proper decorum. In a subsequent session, Councilor Liban took his turn in delivering a privilege speech on the sanctity of the session hall. He was even more impassioned than Councilor David in extolling the sanctity of the session hall which, he said, represented the feelings, views and dreams of the people. To stop people from coming to see their Councilors during formal sessions, Liban suggested the appointment of an official page who will be the only one allowed to bring documents in and out of the session hall. He also suggested the construction of a visitors lounge where Councilors can meet and interact with their constituents. He had a rather drastic suggestion which may earn him some hostility: He would prohibit the use of the session hall for conferences and visual presentations by other offices.

After Councilor David, the second Councilor to deliver privilege speech was Councilor George L. Banal. He had to refute a sensationalized news story on his proposed ordinance designating certain areas in Quezon City for tourist-oriented establishments. The news story was headlined "Red Light District in QC?" Banal also cited the economic role of the entertainment industry and pointed out how his proposed ordinance could be the needed "shot in the arm" for the city's economy.

In the March 14 session, Councilor Pangilinan delivered a privilege speech defending his rejected resolution requiring the Chairmen of committees to prepare the legislative "thrusts" of their respective committees in order to determine priorities and set a direction. Majority Floor Leader George Canseco doused Pangilinan's argument with the observation that "the city government, as life itself, is in no way routine, and priorities vary each passing day. To Pangilinan's plan to push through his resolution in a less rigid form, Councilor Ramos countered that "in a democratic process, once a resolution has been voted down, there is no way to revive it."

Of the four women in the Council—the first time, by the way, in the political history of Quezon City that the distaff side is represented in

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OPEN LETTER . . .

As to you, Congresswoman Nikki Coseteng, if your fight with Speaker Mitra over how officers of the House of Representatives should be selected and your fight against the MICT award are any indication at all, we have in you a legislatrix with guts, brains, principles, and — as a lover of feminine pulchritude — we have to add “and beauty,” although we have no specific idea as to how that could be an asset to you as a lawmaker, except perhaps to entice greater attention from the Congressmen (I'm not too sure about the Congresswomen) whenever you stand up to speak which, by the way, you do very eloquently as shown in your Womanwatch TV program and your many other TV appearances.

As to you Congressmen Aquino and Yap, we regret that we are not privileged to know much about you yet (you ignored our letters requesting your bio-datas and pictures) except that you were sponsored by Quezon City's Mayor Brigido R. Simon, Jr. and that is our basis for presuming your competence. We look forward, however, to meeting and knowing you more enlighteningly.

Now that we are done with the foregoing preface, may we now go into the heart of this letter:

May we suggest Congresswoman Coseteng and Congressmen Mathay, Aquino, and Yap that you jointly sponsor a bill restoring Quezon City as the capital of the country. In support of this suggestion, may we present the following reasons for your consideration:

1. In founding Quezon City, it was the dream of the late President Manuel L. Quezon to make it eventually the capital of the country. (Incidentally, it was your Speaker's father, then Assemblyman Ramon M. Ara, Sr. of the 2nd district, Mt. Province, who in 1939 fathered House Bill No. 1206 creating the new city.) It is true that, at first, Quezon envisioned the new city as a “Workingman's Paradise” where each workingman would have a house and lot of his own; hence, his Barrio Obrero project in what is now Kamuning district, the first — and some say the last — truly low-cost housing project.

But after the completion of Barrio Obrero, Quezon saw the vastness of the area (15,359 hectares) acquired for the new city consisting of cogonal land, rice paddies, hills, and forests. He remembered how the capital cities of Washington D.C. and Brazilia had been built out of similar terrain. Accordingly, he modified and expanded his vision from a mere “Workingman's Paradise” to a “magnificent capital city” of the country.

Unfortunately, the outbreak of World War II interrupted the development of Quezon City, shattering Quezon's dream. After the war, Manila could no longer continue to be the capital of the country because it was the most ravaged city in the world. A new capital city had to be found quickly. On July 23, 1946, then President Manuel Roxas created a Capitol Site Special Committee to find a proper site for the capital city.

2. The choice of Quezon City and the Ipo-Novaliches area to its north as the ideal site for a capital city was not the result of a snap decision. The Special Committee chose this site after careful evaluation of no less than 26 proposed sites.

A Capitol Development Commission was created to prepare and implement a master plan for the development of Quezon City. On July 17, 1948, then President Elpidio Quirino signed into law R.A. 333 designating Quezon City “the capital of the country and the permanent seat of the national government.”

Quezon's dream was finally realized but 28 years later, it was shattered a second time by the issuance on May 29, 1976 of PD No. 940 by then President Marcos returning to Manila the capitalship of the country.

3. PD 940 restoring Manila as the capital of the country was ill advised because Manila was no longer fit to be the capital of the country; it was and is already a dying city, suffocated and strangled by congestion. In fact, as far back as 1936 the Department of Public Works and Communications of the Commonwealth government under Secretary Mariano Jesus Cuenco had recommended to Quezon the transfer of the capital from Manila to Tagaytay because “Manila was becoming so congested that pursuing the chores of administration was becoming to be difficult and unpleasant.”

4. In contrast to Manila, Quezon City, which is almost five times bigger than Manila and has vast open spaces, has the potential for growth and development into the “magnificent capital city” of Quezon's dream (Please read on Page one the Five-Year Comprehensive Development Plan for Quezon City which is designed to bring the city as close as possible to the “magnificent capital city” of Quezon's dream.)

5. Though not the capital of the country, Quezon City is still officially the National Government Center (47 government buildings led by the House of Representatives Complex as well as, by popular acclaim, the Institution Center (24 colleges and universities led by the University of the Philippines and 27 private hospitals and 16 government hospitals led by the Philippine Heart Center for Asia) and Communications Center (5 TV Stations and 12 Radio Stations) of the country.

6. Quezon City is rich in history. The Revolution of 1898 started in Quezon City with the “Cry of Pugad Lawin” (Aug. 22), formerly “Cry of Balintawak” (Aug. 26) until the historical error was discovered and rectified. The FDSA revolution put Quezon City in the eyes of the world, discrediting Marcos' reason for PD 940 that Manila was better known internationally.

7. Manila may still be well known internationally but its image has been tarnished by Smokey Mountain and the Ermita Tourist Belt.

8. Quezon City is rich in existing and potential tourist spots and historical and other major landmarks which only need to be developed and promoted for a thriving tourist industry. Thirty six (36) of them are listed in the Five-Year Comprehensive Development Plan for Quezon City.

CITY ATTY. . . .

The “libelous article” mentioned by Hilario was written by us upon the urging of some of the arbitrary dismissed employees, among whom were our daughter, a Sr. Public Health Nurse of the QC Health Department and several of her colleagues in the department. In the article, we stated that the dismissed employees urged this paper to initiate disbarment proceedings against the City Attorney on the presumption — a mistaken presumption, it now appears — that, as the city administration's legal counsel/adviser, he had provided then OIC Jun Simon the erroneous legal opinion that under the provisions of EO 17, employees could be dismissed on unsupported and speculative grounds and without due process.

In the light of the foregoing letter of Hilario, however, it appears that there is no cause for initiating disbarment proceedings against him because, as he categorically avers, he had never been consulted on the arbitrary dismissals. We are inclined to believe the City Attorney's denial because he even suggested that we call up Mr. Kaimo for confirmation which, for lack of time, however, we have not been able to do so, yet, but we will, in due time. Even City Treasurer Agustin C. Talavera vouches for the truth of Hilario's denial because he himself, Talavera said, has been involved as a respondent in the damage suit filed by the employees of the City Treasurer's Office who had been arbitrarily dismissed despite the fact that in a note to Kaimo, he had opposed the dismissal of said employees.

With respect to Mayor Simon who can not escape legal responsibility for the arbitrary dismissals by virtue of the principle of command responsibility, Hilario, in a talk with the Spiritual Adviser of this paper, Dr. Aniceto Q. Lazo, implied that the Mayor did not have any moral responsibility for the arbitrary dismissals. His mistake obviously was his over-confidence and over-dependence on Kaimo who, it now appears from the letter of Hilario, was the brains behind the arbitrary dismissals.

We ourselves are inclined to believe Simon's lack of moral responsibility — at least, not very much — because in a dialogue he had with our daughter and her colleagues shortly after their dismissal, he was ready to reinstate them after realizing that their arbitrary dismissal was a mistake. But, alas! Kaimo, the tough Peninsular, objected, saying the reinstatement would be a bad precedent. We recall that when we went to confront Kaimo, who had a pending criminal case when he was appointed City Administrator, he truculently answered that “with or without cause, under the revolutionary government, the city government could dismiss employees.” For allowing himself

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9. As the capital of the country, many economic benefits would accrue to Quezon City. The development of Quezon City would become a national concern, so that it is not unlikely that national economic aid would come in more generous amounts.

10. With the ongoing review and junking of Marcos' bagful of PDs, the inclusion of PD 940 is quite timely.

It is my hope that you will find the foregoing reasons valid and sufficient enough to be the basis of a bill restoring Quezon City as the capital of the country. In the event that you agree and decide to do something about it, the staff of this paper offers its services in undertaking further research that may be needed in the preparation of the bill.

Thank you and more power to you all!

CARDINAL EXPERIENCE . . .

whole of Quezon City (next only to Sto. Domingo) and it was right in the middle of a little subdivision. It turns out that the Church is part of the complex owned by the Recoletos. The Recoletos have always been a rich order: San Sebastian College, San Sebastian's all-steel Church and, of course, all those shares of stocks in San Miguel Corporation.

I entered the Church. The feeling of *mysterium tremendum* gripped me when I found myself sitting in the front row beside Dona Aurora Aquino. I was no longer mayor at that time. It was that moment which you call limbo. The time when we, the OICs, were asked to resign and present ourselves to the people for election. It was also that time when the world did not know, or was not sure, whether I was running for mayor or for vice mayor. I was struggling with myself for guidance and proper discernment. It was finally decided that it was still legally possible for me to run for mayor.

I was frozen in my seat. I was not prepared to be sitting there that morning with Dona Aurora Aquino. I was not prepared to be sitting there with any of Nanay Albert's friends and relatives. I was only prepared to witness and attend a simple Church blessing to which I was invited a few weeks before, while I was still Officer-in-Charge of Quezon City.

The blessing of the Church started. Incense, music and songs filled the air. The relics of the saints of the church were placed inside the altar. Holy oil was sprayed on top of the altar. And the Holy Sacrifice of the mass began.

His Eminence, Jaime Cardinal Sin, was officiating. The mass was very solemn, befitting the occasion. Then the time for the homily came and the good Cardinal delivered a stirring homily.

Jaime Cardinal Sin is the envy of most politicians when it comes to delivering homilies. If only we can deliver our political speeches that way. The pulpit and the rostrum are the same. You are there to deliver a message. A message that will strike at the hearts of the people. A message that will hopefully change our lives for the better. I listened intently to that homily. Its message was a condemnation of the sin of pride and a commendation of the virtue of humility.

There must have been more than a thousand people in the church at that time.

But I doubt very much if anybody was being affected more by the sermon than it was affecting me. I had just made a very crucial decision, a decision to run for mayor instead of running for vice-mayor. And now I was hearing the words that were echoing in my ears based also on my own personal reading of the Holy Bible. “He who humbles himself shall be exalted and he who exalts himself shall be humbled. The first shall be last and the last shall be the first”. I felt that the whole sermon was directed at me. I suppose all of us in that Church were listening to the sermon and digesting it according to our own individual experiences. I felt terrible, however, that here was My Cardinal who might have misinterpreted my decision to stick it out in the mayoralty race, as a decision based purely on pride.

Getting an appointment with the Cardinal is not as difficult as it may seem. I was to get one a couple of days later. The Cardinal's Palace Villa San Miguel is smaller than the name connotes. A short winding driveway will lead you to a lobby where a nun and a lay person sit as receptionists. I was asked to proceed to the second floor where I waited a few more minutes for the Cardinal to be free. Again there was nothing spectacular with that ante-room. A few paintings, simple sofas, a lot of red color, a large staircase and that was it. A few minutes later, the Cardinal's assistant ushered me into the room. It was far from the gigantic monstrosities that you see in Italian movies. There was a mahogany table, a sofa, some chairs for the visitors to sit on, the Cardinal's swivel chair, and, of course . . . the Cardinal.

He greeted me with that familiar impish smile and an extended arm for a handshake. I, however, genuflected to kiss the ring of the Prince of the Church. And then he asked me to sit and so I sat. And he sat or, should I say, slouched into his chair.

And so that was the scene, there was this visitor, so stiff, and the visited, so relaxed.

I opened up by stating the problem. That I had been asked to run for Vice Mayor instead of Mayor. But after thorough reflection and praying over the matter for so long, I had decided to run for Mayor. And then there was that sermon at the Church of Our Lady of Consolation and the talk on humility and the evils of pride, the only sin that the Lord can not forgive.

Struck by the coincidence of the message of the homily and the implication of pride in my decision, I explained that pride was not involved in any way in my decision. In fact, I said to the Cardinal, for the sake of unity I had abided by the wishes of the political leaders and had actually gone to the Commission on Elections, seven (7) minutes before midnight, the December 1 deadline, to alter my certificate of candidacy from Mayor to Vice-Mayor. I remembered Abraham who was asked to kill his only son as a sacrifice but the angel of the Lord intervened at the final moment by holding Abraham's arm as he lifted the dagger in humble obedience to what the Lord had asked him to do. My case is not different. My lawyers had studied the matter and it was their opinion that in spite of what I did, I was still a legitimate candidate for Mayor of Quezon City. Of course, this was our opinion, not the COMELEC'S.

Then words started to flow from the Cardinal's mouth. Words of the wise and the learned. Words that uplifted me and removed my doubts and anxieties. Words that made me want to go on in spite of the difficulties ahead. But also words of caution. If there was the possibility of victory, there was also the possibility of defeat. And one had to be practical. There was need for the COMELEC'S decision. If they said No, you were no longer a candidate for mayor. You had to accept it. However, if they said YES, you were still a candidate for mayor, then FIRE.

It was almost twelve by that time. And unexpectedly, he asked me if I wanted to stay for lunch. I thought I had a ten-minute appointment. And to stay for lunch was really something extra I never expected. Mavic (my wife) and Doris Espiritu (our friend) were outside and he also asked them to join us.

Before he sat, he told everybody where to sit. The mayor beside him, Monsignor Gabby Reyes in front of him, and the ladies, their proper seats. I was in that dining room once before, and I witnessed him do the same thing of assigning the seats. I think this gives him simple joy in telling everybody where they should sit.

And as we finished the meal and stood up to walk towards the door, he took me to his side and said, “IF YOU WIN, THEN THE LORD WANTS YOU TO BECOME MAYOR; IF YOU LOSE, THEN HE HAS OTHER PLANS FOR YOU”. Simple words, but words that give you a glimpse of the depth of the Cardinal's character. Words that explain the impish smile and the joyful look. All of us are, more often than not, overwhelmed by our personal desires, wants and ambitions. And a lot of times we do not achieve what we want. What follows, of course, is frustration and loneliness.

But not if we follow the Cardinal's simple dictum, which paraphrased can apply to our daily lives: IF WE WORK HARD ENOUGH FOR SOMETHING AND WE GET IT, THEN THANK THE LORD, FOR THAT IS WHAT HE WANTS; IF WE WORK HARD ENOUGH FOR SOMETHING AND DO NOT GET IT, THEN THANK THE LORD, FOR HE HAS OTHER BETTER PLANS FOR US.

Two months later. In the same room with the same Cardinal. This time, however, with my father and mother, my sister and my wife Mavic. My parents had flown in from the United States, where they are residing, to witness my inaugural. I took the opportunity of getting another appointment with the Cardinal to personally thank him and introduce my Father and Mother. It was a memorable occasion. A happy father, a happy mother, a happy sister, a happy son (me), a happy wife and, of course, a happy Cardinal.

Two more months later. In the Church of the Holy Redeemer. Father had died and he was lying in state at the Church's Vigil Chapel.

As I entered, I saw a note on the guest book's stand which read “Mass by Cardinal Sin tomorrow at 11:00 o'clock.”

It never really occurred to me to invite him to say mass for my father and the note came as a pleasant surprise.

Eleven o'clock. The Cardinal alighted from his car very prompt as usual. I went out of the Chapel to meet him. . . . extended his arm for a handshake. There was the same impish smile and that boyish grin. No matter how varied the occasion is, it will always be the same with the Cardinal. His next remark shook and jolted me. To say the least, it was profound.

“Why only last month your father was in my office and now he is dead. TOO MUCH JOY . . .”

Very truly yours,

BEN O. FLORES

KNOW YOUR CITY OFFICIALS

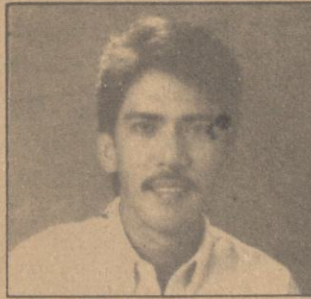
By AQL

When City Administrator Ernesto M. Villareal and Secretary to the Mayor Elizardo Agsalud assumed office, City Hall people asked: "Who are they?" As far as they knew, the new officials had no previous involvement with Mayor Simon and the city government. We have it from the two officials themselves, however, that they were the personal choices of the Mayor and not imposed on him by some political bigwig. In any case, no matter how they have come to their positions, one thing is certain: they have very impressive credentials as may be seen from their bio-datas hereunder. Much of the success of the city administration will be attributed to them.

As a comedian on TV or in the movies, Vice Mayor Vic Sotto, III can do many non-sensical antics but he is a no nonsense Presiding Officer of the City Council. That makes him a person with a dual or split personality, but not the schizophrenic or Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde kind. The dual personality stems from the fact that he has both histrionic and parliamentary ability. He has managed to make the 24-man/woman Council a "Happy House" in the sense that the Councilmen are quite happy with the way he has been presiding, giving each and every Councilor his due on the floor and keeping things perfectly under control.



Villareal



Vice Mayor SOTTO

ERNESTO M. VILLAREAL City Administrator

Bachelor of Laws - Ateneo de Manila
 Bachelor of Science in Commerce - Colegio de la Purisima Concepcion
 High School - University of the Philippines
 Elementary School - Mambusao Elementary School
 Travel Grantee - National Economic Council - US International Cooperation Administration Re: Agricultural Finance
 Participant - Marine Loss Adjustment Course - held at King's College, London

PRESENT AFFILIATIONS:

General Manager - Big Earth Corporation - (Realty firm)
 Manager/Director - Jose E. Desiderio, Inc. - (Realty firm)
 Proprietor - Villareal Rice Seed Farm
 Member - Integrated Bar of the Phil.
 Member - Tamaraw Toastmasters Club
 Member, Board of Directors - ARB Corporation

PAST AFFILIATIONS:

President - Rural Bank of Roxas City, Inc.
 President - Philippine Countrywide Sales and Marketing Corporation
 President - Philippine Horticultural Society
 Chairman - Wednesday Insurance Breakfast Club
 Grand Knight - Knight of Columbus-Council No. 7178
 Executive Vice-President - Country Bankers Insurance Corporation
 Executive Vice-President - Country Bankers Life Insurance Corporation
 Vice-President - Good Shepherd Parish Council
 Chairman - Good Shepherd Parish Church Fund Raising Drive
 Secretary-Treasurer - Rural Bankers Association of the Philippines
 Director - Rural Bankers Association of the Philippines
 Council Secretary - National Food Authority
 Corporate Secretary - Philippine Journalists Inc.
 Member - Claims Committee, Government Service Insurance System Bond Treaty
 Member - Philippine Insurance Institute Program and Fellowship Committee
 Representative - Philippine Contractors Association

SEMINARS:

Marine Loss Adjustment - King's College, London
 Fire Underwriting and Reinsurance - Special Services Corporation
 Non-Life Insurance Agency - Insurance Training and Development Center
 Effective Speaking and Leadership Training - Dale Carnegie
 Mass Communication - Georgia State University
 Fire and Insurance - Philippine Insurance Club
 Townhouse and Socialize Housing Projects - Philippine Association of Realtors Board Incorporation
 Real Estate - Manila Realtor Board
 Real Estate - Philippine Appraisers Association
 Agricultural Finance - Oregon State University
 Risk Management - Winternitz and Association
 Management and Administration - Knight of Columbus

PERSONAL DATA:

Place of Birth - Mambusao, Capiz
 Date of Birth - July 1, 1928
 Residence - //60 Ernestito Street, Don Jose Heights, Quezon City
 Telephone Number - 90-45-31

BIO-DATA

NAME : VICENTE "TITO" SOTTO III
 DATE OF BIRTH : August 24, 1948
 PLACE OF BIRTH : QUEZON CITY
 CIVIL STATUS : Married to Helen Gamboa with whom he has 3 daughters and a son
 PRESENT ADDRESS : No. 2 Grestone St., White Plains, Quezon City

EDUCATION	SCHOOL	YEAR
ELEMENTARY	Ateneo de Manila	1954 - 1960
HIGH SCHOOL	San Juan de Letran	1960 - 1964
COLLEGE	San Juan de Letran	1964 - 1968

PROFESSIONAL ATTAINMENTS

- Former Board Member of Araullo University, 1971 - 1975
- President, Magallanes Bowling Association, 1975
- Vice President, Vicor Music Corporation, 1976 - 1981
- President, Ham Radio Philippines, Inc. 1984
- Presently VP for Special Projects - Television and Production Exponents, Inc.
- President and General Manager of Tasha Recording Studio
- Consultant, Sports and Cultural Affairs, Araullo University
- Multi-Awarded Composer and Record Producer
- Multi-Titled Bowling Champion
- International Gold Medalist - Bowling

OTHER PERTINENT INFORMATION/BACKGROUND

- Son of the first Philippine Medical Commissioner Com. Herminia Castelo Sotto, M.D.
- Grandson of the late Senator Vicente Sotto



Agsalud

ELIZARDO AGSALUD Secretary to the Mayor

I. PERSONAL

Address: 16 Apitong, Proj. 3, QC
 Tel. No.: 922-1535

II. EDUCATION

Mabini Elementary School, Honor Student
 Mapa High School, Honor Student

B.S. Foreign Service, LYCEUM OF THE PHILIPPINES

MBA candidate, La Salle Graduate School

Special Courses taken:

1. Management by Objective Economic Development Foundation
2. Management Accounting for Non Accountants Economic Development Foundation
3. Systems, Methods & Office Automation KIENZLE Training Centre
4. Systems & Methods DODWELL Training Centre Tokyo, Japan

III. WORK EXPERIENCES

- A. Systems Sales Supervisor Smith, Bell & Company
- B. National Sales Manager Business Machines Corporation 1970-1975
- C. VP & General Manager Maritech Marketing Corporation 1976-1982
- D. VP for Sales & Marketing Integrated Systems Services & Equipment Corp. 1983-1987
- E. VP for Special Projects Integrated Systems Services & Equipment Corp. 1988-

SAGUISAG...

Culture

... to press for our transfer to the PNB Bldg. on Roxas Blvd. and turn over our space for a Museum. (The move will also enable the two Houses to work together better.)

Education

We are for free high school education. But, should not we be concerned too, over quality education? That is why the Jan. 15-24, 1988 break is disturbing. It will politicize even our children. The "bar operations" anomaly is another blot on the educational landscape.

Gambling

We saved the Task Force Against Gambling last year. Do we want government out of gambling? Do we legalize jueteng? Do we avoid greater evils? (Casino money was used to roll back oil prices last year.)

Health

A recent study shows a possible link between asbestos and filter cigarettes. This should be looked into.

We should also look into the recurrent clamor to compel hospitals to accept emergency patients who cannot make the required deposit. If we compel these hospitals by law to do so, should not government pay and reimburse them?

Lessors and Lessees

We will press for the amelioration of the lessor's status. He supplies what government can't. He needs help too, e.g., a tax break. A lessee who religiously complies with his obligations should recover his deposit with interest, however.

Miscellany

We will continue to press for a resolution of the difficult issues of Sabah, military bases, foreign debt and land reform. It is our duty to hear from our constituents despite our strong set positions. That is what democracy is all about. The fixed star we go by is to do the right thing, in the right way, at the right time, and for the right reason, in the national interest.

BARBECUE MURDER...

lance; it was as sharp as when he first made it. With the lance in one hand, Jhon moved to where he was directly under the conjugal room. He knew from the way the bamboo slats of the floor creaked and groaned that the couple were already in the final act of their adulterous love. He gripped the lance with both hands, stood it upright, and pushed it upward with all the might that his pent up rage generated. The pointed end of the lance ripped through the bamboo slats and pierced the bodies of the cohabiting couple who were atop each other in the orthodox way of making love.

Jhon went up the hut to take a look at the lovers he had barbecued. They were in their birthday clothes wallowing in blood.

The morning had progressed considerably by the time John finished his story. Our friend the policeman and the policeman who came to relieve him boarded their jeep and, together with John, they proceeded to barrio Sarabsab. Before leaving, they had sent somebody to the town's funeral parlor with instructions to send a funeral hearse to the barrio. The residents of the barrio, attracted by the arrival of the jeep and the hearse came en masse to the fatal hut. They had hoped to see how a human barbecue looked like but when the bodies were brought down and placed inside the hearse, they were covered with cloth and the barbecuing bamboo lance had already been removed. The two policemen placed the fatal bamboo lance inside their jeep and drove away from the scene of the most gruesome, bizarre, and bloodcurdling murder.

FUNDS AVAILABLE...

The Treasurer's Real Estate Division Chief, Froilan de Guzman, told this paper that this year's first quarter (Jan.-March) collection of real estate taxes in the amount of P82,432,035.56 surpassed by P16,152,320.53 last year's first quarter collection of P66,279,715.03. De Guzman attributed the increase to the higher assessed valuation of real properties enforced this year over last year's. The average increase is 27%, he said.

With the expiration last March of the amnesty on the payment of real estate taxes, De Guzman said that the City Treasurer's Office is preparing to hold an auction sale of delinquent real properties sometime in September or October which will be another source of income for the city government.

PERPETUAL CALENDAR

Are you interested to know what day of the week falls on a certain date between the years 1967 and 2066 A.D.?

A set of fourteen (14) authentic calendars with a 200-year calendar index can tell you. This perpetual calendar is the only one of its kind known to be existing in the Philippines owned by VICZAQUI* who has applied a copyright for it.

This perpetual calendar may be needed: for a legal purpose, a memorable date, your birthday or any future date until 2066. It is a must reference for calendar printers.

*Acronym of VIC ZACARIAS QUINTOS

Magazine Ads & Subscription Specialist

Accountant Executive of The Lawyers Review

P.O. Box 161, U.P. Campus, 1101, QC

BE WELL-INFORMED TO BE A BETTER CITIZEN OF YOUR COMMUNITY - VICZAQUI

(EDITOR'S NOTE: We would like to acknowledge with thanks the Accomplishment Report sent to this paper by the Office of the Vice Mayor through Dr. Aniceto Q. Lazo. The Report covers its Livelihood, Youth Affairs, Amateur Boxing Development, and Anti-Drug Abuse Drive Programs. Offhand, we find the Report quite impressive, but due to its late submission, we can not include it in this issue. We will do so in our next issue.)

A PROPOSAL . . .

tools is immediately ousted once an area is proclaimed under leasehold.

Proper irrigation and soil management are left to the individual farmers who more often than not are deficit farmers. Under the program envisioned by the Land Reform Code, government technicians are supposed to supervise the construction and/or maintenance of irrigation facilities, and government soil technicians to advise farmer-lessees on proper soil care and fertilizer usage. Not only these, but government credit supervisors are expected to help farmer-lessees secure production loans and other credit accommodations. Government lawyers are also made available to help the farmers finalize their leasehold contracts with the landowners and protect their rights in case of legal disputes. All these management tools have been provided for under the Land Reform Code. And yet, in spite of all these elaborate preparations, land reform is not being implemented as fast as it should be.

"The vehicle has been properly provided for" "many contend, "but the vehicle has no gas." The gas is the financing. As the saying goes, have gas, will move.

While it may be claimed that there is no gas in the government "gasoline station," it is possible that the gas needed may be secured elsewhere, for instance, from some private financing institution. Given a sound bankable project that is supported by a competent management team, there is no reason the resources of private investment banks may not be tapped to finance a new approach to land reform.

This new approach, for want of a better name, may be called a "Free Enterprise Commune." Instead of breaking up big landed estates into "family size" farms, these estates should be consolidated into large-scale "land development corporations" or "Free Enterprise Communes" with the farmer-tenants becoming farmer-stockholders of the new corporation.

The advantage of such an approach is obvious. A "Free Enterprise Commune" satisfies the demand for large-scale operations to bring down production costs, while at the same time fulfilling the primary psychological want of the farmer to become a "landowner".

A group of farmer-stockholders can hire a first-rate management team that will provide technical competence, arrange for credit accommodations, draw up amortization tables, etc. This independent team in effect, will fill up the void that is created by the withdrawal of the landowner or landowners from the economic life of the farmer-tenants.

For a better appreciation of the proposed "Free Enterprise Commune", an outline is provided here below together with a feasibility study for a 1,000-hectare commune to be composed of 250 farmer-stockholders:

1. The "Free Enterprise Commune" will be a land development corporation properly registered with SEC. It

(See Page 11)

will be a stock corporation with all the attributes of a private corporation.

a) The corporation will be organized for tenant-farmers who, upon incorporation, will become farmer-stockholders.

b) One hectare of land will be allocated one share and no farmer can own more than 10 shares.

c) Each farmer will pay a nominal amount of P50 per share (This figure is circa 1967, so to update it, multiply by perhaps 8 to 10.) and this money will be used to meet pre-organization expenses, incorporation fees, etc.

2. The Government will initially buy the agricultural land.

a) To refinance itself, the Government in turn will mortgage the property to a private investment bank, the mortgage to be assumed by the Free Enterprise Corporation, jointly or severally with the Government.

b) The land will be amortized between 15 to 20 years at 6% interest per annum.

c) For the duration of the amortization period, the land may be encumbered without prior consent of the private investment bank.

d) Acceleration of amortization payment may be availed of by the debtor corporation.

3. The Free Enterprise Commune will have the following rules:

a) During the amortization period, the Free Enterprise Commune will be managed by a competent management company to be approved by the private investment bank and this management company will receive a compensation not to exceed 5% of the gross income of the corporation.

1) The management company will provide the technical know-how, arrange for credit accommodations for the corporation, and perform liaison work with the different government institutions engaged in land reform. It will be composed of a General Manager, Farm Technician for every Accountant, Cashier, Liaison Officer, Motor Pool Officer, and Auditor.

2) At the start of each agricultural year, the management team will prepare a program of work to be approved by the Board of Directors which will be composed of nine members elected by the Commune with the General Manager of the management team, a representative of the private investment bank, and/or the Land Authority as ex-officio members.

3) The management

team will also prepare a projected profit and loss statement of the corporation as well as all labor contracts and/or labor policies that will be adopted for the incoming agricultural year.

4. No farmer-stockholder may sell his holdings to outsiders. If he wants to retire from the corporation, he must turn in his share or shares to the corporation and he will be paid the book value of the said share or shares as reflected in the latest audited statement of the corporation.

Upon approval of two-thirds of the entire membership of the Commune, a new farmer-applicant may be accepted provided he pays for the book value of the share turned in. The farmer-applicant must conform with all the rules and regulations governing "new members."

Two-thirds of the members of the corporation may expel a member, the share to be paid as computed in No. 4.

5. Computation of Profits
From the gross income, the following will be deducted: Management fee, annual amortization plus interest to the Land Bank, and direct costs which will include the cost of money and/or depreciation of capital equipment due the particular year.

The net income of the corporation means the income that remains and is distributable after all deductions allowed by the BIR as legitimate deductible expenses and payment of income tax. The net income will be disposed of as follows:

Thirty percent will accrue to the surplus reserves of the corporation; 35% will be divided equally among all shares of stock outstanding; 35% will be divided as per the following formula; 35% over total man-hours put in by the farmer-stockholder for the given agricultural year. The factor or coefficient multiplied by the total man-hours of each individual farmer-stockholder.

6. Other Functions of the Corporation:

Set up cooperative stores, warehousing facilities, equipment pool, marketing companies and other agriculture-related activities.

Set up loans and savings associations and/or rural banks, or may join other corporations to set up a larger federation in the area.

May apply for irrigation facilities from the National Government and/or borrow credits either from local or foreign sources for the construction, repair, or expansion of irrigation complexes.

May also engage in transportation, hauling and other allied services.

Engage in urban development to provide housing for the farmer-stockholders and may even subdivide certain idle lands for resale to farm workers supplying labor to the Commune.

7. Income Tax
Since this is a farmers' cooperative, studies should be made that the Free Enterprise Commune be free from any corporate taxes and for a period of five years be extended cooperative privileges, i.e., tax free privileges in importation of farm needs and/or machinery and equipment.

Major infrastructure expenses like farm-to-market roads, river-control projects, and major irrigation facilities should be borne by the national government.

8. Continuity of Management

COMPUTER . . .

pupils learn to write what they can say, and read what they have written. This project has six components:

1. Computer. - Children have auditory discrimination of sounds (42 phonemes) throughout the ten cycles or lessons. They gain further skill in forming new words with the use of these phonemes.

2. Work Journal. - The work journal follows up in written form the words developed repetitively in the computer. In the ten journals, the children develop visual discrimination as well as handwriting skills.

3. Listening Library. - In this station, the children listen to stories told by the computer. As they listen, then follow the stories with their eyes.

4. Make-words. - This develops manipulative skills by making words out of different media, such as molding clay, blocks, sand paper, newspaper and crayons.

5. Writing. - This is where the children develop composition and organization skills through creative writing.

6. Browsing. - Children are finally given the chance to handle books, pictures, and magazines.

The project is now entering the third year of experimentation. In the program's first year, six Grade I classes were chosen as experimental classes, whereby one-half of each class of 40 or more go to the computer center, and stay there for one hour going through the five to six stations. Every hour, one group of 20 to 24 stays in the center until all the experimental classes are through, which spreads from 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The control groups are Grade I classes using their regular lessons based on the regular instructional materials, while the experimental groups have the "Writing to Read" program. Two teachers were trained in the management of the program.

At the end of the school year 1987-1988, according to Schools Superintendent Edna B. Azurin and Asst. Superintendent Cleofe Mendinueto, the program showed promising results. Among these good results are:

1. "Writing to Read" pupils achieve better in Communication Arts-English as measured by the achievement tests for Grade I developed by the Division of City Schools.

2. WTR children write simple short stories far better than other groups for comparison. More than two-thirds, or 67%, of these children wrote simple stories that were at least "fairly well-developed and expressed." Only 3% to 4% in the other groups could do the same.

(Turn to Page 3)

It is envisioned that within the period of five to ten years, the children of the farmer-stockholders would have acquired "enough competence and/or formal education to take over major management functions. The management team should lay out a program for the education of the children of the farmer-stockholders with a view to developing managerial skills within the community.

The Free Enterprise Commune idea is not being proposed as a substitute for the family-sized farm plan. Rather, it should be field-tested together with the other land reform schemes and only when found successful and acceptable should it be carried out in a bigger scale.

The commune idea, however, should satisfy the need for "ownership" of the farmer. Under

PLEA . . .

Now that your honor is back, allow me to take up the cudgels for my sister and her colleagues. My father, Mr. Ben O. Flores, is either too timid or too loyal to you, being attached to your office, to do anything about it. Atty. Pedro Martinez has repeatedly urged him to allow my sister to join Chief Nurse Florida Martinez in her multi-million damage suit vs | your honor et al. But my father would give his consent only on one condition: that your honor be excluded from the suit - a condition which was not possible because of the principle of command responsibility. My father wants to go only after Dr. Reynaldo Lupisan, former City Administrator Edmundo Kaimo and others.

If my father is estopped from taking up the cudgels for my sister and her colleagues because of his principle of being loyal to the organization he belongs to, right or wrong, I am not under such constraint because my loyalty is only to truth and justice. And, as Publisher-Editor of this paper, I have endowed myself with a valid journalistic duty to help obtain redress for victims of injustice, regardless of whether a kin is involved or not. Your honor may think I am just a dummy Publisher-Editor. Time will tell that I am not. My father and I have a covenant that this paper will fiscalize - in a fair and constructive way.

I will start the fiscalization by pointing out how the injustice done my sister and her colleagues becomes even more gross in the light of the favored treatment given Mr. Francisco Alvarez, former Chief of the Cultural and Tourism Office. Alvarez was the very first city government employee to be dismissed pursuant to EO 17, the same EO under which my sister and her colleagues were dismissed. But there was a big difference in the dismissal order of Alvarez and those of my sister and her colleagues. In the case of Alvarez, the dismissal order cited *specific charges* against him like "falsifying the Disbursement Vouchers" in connection with a P90,714 ghost project and "failure to explain the official complaint/resolution of the Executive Board of the Boy Scouts of the Philippines, Metro Manila" involving malversation of funds also.

In the case of the dismissal orders of my sister and her colleagues, there were no specific charges against them - just the general and speculative charge: "Existence of probable cause for violation of the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act" No wonder, the Justice Ministry reinstated them after the City Attorney, Nescito Hilario, submitted "numerous verbal complaints" as the "specific charges" against the respondents which the Justice Ministry ordered him to submit.

Alvarez did not avail himself of his right to appeal the specific charges against him to the Justice Ministry as he was advised to do in his dismissal order. By foregoing that right, he was virtually admitting his guilt. Instead of seeking to clear his name like an honorable man should, Alvarez tendered his resignation. Why he was allowed to do that - he was a dismissed employee, was he not? - and, worse, why he was allowed to collect his retirement pay despite the charges of graft and corruption against him is a mystery that I would like to unravel. If my information is correct, it was a certain Ret. rGeneral who prevailed upon your honor.

But the acceptance of his resignation and his collecting his retirement pay is not the most mystifying part of the fantastically benevolent treatment accorded Alvarez. This man who was dismissed on charges of graft and corruption was rehired as Consultant at the staggering rate of P5,000 per month. The irony of it all is that Alvarez was not even capable of gratitude. I understand he campaigned against you in the Jan. 18 elections, and so got sacked again.

In the light of the Alvarez case, it will be hard for your honor to deny the "Plea For Justice" of my sister and her colleagues! All they ask is what they are entitled to: the grant of the emoluments (salaries and COLA) due them for the more than four months they had been unjustly separated from the service. That is not even full justice because they should also be paid for moral damages for the mental anguish and financial difficulties they suffered. But they are willing to forego full justice provided they get the *full* amount due them - not one-half as is being bruted about.

Thank you, your honor, for whatever attention and consideration you may give this "Plea For Justice, II."

Very respectfully,

EDUARDO C. FLORES

the commune idea, he is a corporate owner and, together with the majority of his fellow farmer-stockholders, fully "sovereign" in the affairs of the commune.

It will provide him with a greater feeling of security because, as a farmer-stockholder working as a farm laborer, he is guaranteed a monthly take-home pay in addition to whatever dividends and bonuses due him at the end of the agricultural year.

It should also satisfy his need for "clan protection" - a long-over from his tradition of tribalism. Finally, the corporate commune of which he is a part will benefit from all the advantages of modern large-scale farming, i.e., unified marketing and financing, centralized production planting, bulk handling and sales, mechanization, en-

gineered irrigation complexes, etc.

The theoretical Marxist will find the plan "heretical, adventurous, and unworkable" for the simple reason that it deviates from the standard state-owned collective farm scheme of communism. But in a pluralistic society like the Philippines, there should be room for such a plan. And it should be given a chance to be tried.

Some may even doubt that the Filipino farmer will accept "corporate ownership" as a palatable substitute for individual land ownership. It cannot be denied that some farmers who have longed to "own a piece of land" for decades will find "corporate ownership" an unsatisfactory relief to their "age-old serfdom and bondage." Admittedly, the psychological block will be difficult to surmount, but it is not insurmountable.

(See Tables on Page 11)



WISE AND OTHERWISE

By Eddie C. Flores

Don't Fence Me In

"Don't Fence Me In". Yes, MARIA, this is the current hit song in HAWAII, the favorite of the ertswile "SUPERLADY", IMELDA ROMUALDEZ MARCOS.

It is also the favorite tune of QC Councilor ISIDRO SALUDES in the reverse. Recently, Saludes, who seems to be obsessed in providing for the safety and security of QC Mayor BRIGIDO R. SIMON, JR., has introduced a resolution in the City Council, which provides for the construction of a perimeter fence around the QC Hall compound and an EXECUTIVE HOUSE inside the compound to serve as the official residence of Mayor Simon.

The over solicitous Councilor Saludes, in his brief sponsorship speech, justified his resolution, in the light of the recent spate of assassinations of government officials. Apparently, Saludes was adverting to the near fatal ambush recently of Malabon Mayor PROSPERO PENG ORETA which resulted in the slaying of his 7 bodyguards.

The rationale of the Saludes resolution is, to our mind, a crazy one. For how, in heavens name, do you suppose, can a perimeter fence and an executive house prevent or stop a grimly determined assassin from pumping a bullet into the head of his intended victim. Does Saludes expect the Mayor to stay put in his Executive House within the fenced in compound? Is it not the paramount duty and moral obligation of all duly elected officials as public servants to get out of their air-conditioned offices, in order to meet and mingle freely with their constituents to enable them to learn first hand their needs and problems and see with their own eyes the actual conditions obtaining in the various areas within their jurisdiction?

In short, whether they like it or not, they have to make themselves visible and available most of the time.

Unfortunately, Councilor Saludes thinks otherwise, and if he will have his way, he would fence in and coop up Mayor Simon inside the QC Hall compound, virtually making him a captive Mayor.

Mind you, not even the most air tight and elaborate security arrangement can alter your fate; when your time is up, you will have to go, only divine intervention can stay it.

Let us exercise utmost prudence in the expenditure of the hard earned taxes paid by the good people of QC whose welfare, more than that of any individual or group, should be the priority concern of the city government. They, too, have long been the hapless victims of ruthless criminal elements that stalk our streets and alleys 24 hours a day. The irony of it all is that, unlike Mayors, Governors, Congressmen and other high ranking government officials, they can't afford to pay for the services of bodyguards or allowed to bear firearms for their protection, thereby exposing them to the eternal mercy of the evil forces that infest our society.

While I was listening to the exchange of views of our Councilors on the Saludes resolution, I overheard somebody at my back muttering in apparent disgust: "LINTIK, MUK-HANG MALAKING PAGKAKAGASTOSAN AT PAGKAKAKUWARTAHAN NA NAMAN ITONG PINAGTATALUNAN NG ATING MAGIGITING NA KONSEHALES. MAKAAALIS NA NGA, BAGO AKO MAINIS."

In the event that the Saludes resolution, which will surely require a huge appropriation, is enacted and implemented, QC Hall will look like a military camp or garrison. Let us just hope and pray that the more sensible and practical-minded members of the Council will see the absurdity of the resolution and act accordingly and courageously.

Nevertheless, we salute Saludes for his extraordinary and unusual concern for the safety and security of Mayor Jun Simon. Perhaps he can think of some other ways to protect the mayor like that bullet-proof car, I understand, the city government wants to purchase.

ANYTHING GOES

By Jaime O. Oliver

Anything goes in the RP-US military bases agreement now under review. As I see it, talks on the issue are going on at a slow knot. "Nuts" I say to those who believe US military bases in the Philippines will be terminated come 1991. The Americans were not born yesterday.

Quezon City residents are disgusted over the poor performance of some Councilors. More often than not, they are mere ornaments during sessions. They should be there to prove their worth, not just receive their P1,600 allowance per session, four times a month.

Councilor Jose Paculdo, my *kailan* from Abra, is plain Pepe or JOEPAC to his friends. He was won praise from

MIKE ROMERO

Ninoy Recruited Him Into Politics

By Eddie C. Flores

Recently, I attended a dinner given for the press by Congressman Miguel L. Romero (Lakas ng Bansa) of the 2nd district of Negros Oriental at his plush Villa Verde residence. I was with my good friend Fred Pobre, President of the Free Lance Writers of the Philippines. In the course of the dinner, the Congressman talked of how it was the late Ninoy Aquino who had recruited him into politics and how he rose from initial defeat to victory in the May 11 elections against formidable opponents.

In the 1967 elections for local officials, then Sen. Aquino went to Negros Oriental in search of an official candidate for the Liberal party for the governorship of the province, then in the grip of incumbent governor Mariano Perdices. Ninoy was talking to a group of his supporters in the province. He told them that he was looking for a candidate who was willing to run against the politically entrenched Perdices even at the risk of almost certain defeat. He looked in the direction of the young Romero and hurled the challenge:

"How about you, young man?"

The young man, then only 27, was taken aback and hesitated. He knew that to run against the political Goliath, Perdices, was tantamount to committing political harikiri. It would be a David-Goliath battle where the outcome would be a reversal of the biblical story. But Mike hesitated only for a moment. He picked up the gauntlet hurled at him by Ninoy.

With P10,000 and a dilapidated jeep, courtesy of Ninoy, Mike hit the campaign trail with missionary zeal. But he was up against a political Rock of Gibraltar. As expected, he lost but the total of more than 20,000 votes he garnered against the mighty Perdices was already considered a rare political feat. Ninoy himself told Mike that even if had obtained only 5,000 votes, he would have been pleased. Ninoy considered the experience and exposure Mike got was worth the defeat. It would be a case of one step backward

to be followed by two steps forward in accordance with that ancient Chinese proverb.

But the declaration of martial law obstructed those two forward steps. Mike, disillusioned like many idealistic young men like himself, left the country.



Rep. ROMERO

Twenty years later, under a promising new era ushered in by Cory Aquino, Mike returned to his hometown to pick up his aborted political career. He consulted various political leaders, relatives, and friends about his plan to run for Congress in the May 11 elections. They gave him their collective nod but cautioned him that his long absence could be a drawback since he would be looked upon as a political "deserter."

But Mike, with his characteristic fighting spirit, disregarded the alleged drawback and threw his hat into the Congressional ring. He squared his shoulders, flexed his muscles and launched a massive, concerted campaign. Staying on the campaign trail on a 24-hour basis, Mike covered the entire length and breadth of the second district of Negros Oriental. Virtually knocking on every door, he said his piece: I, Mike Romero, am back! I lost 20 years ago. This time, I am going to win — with your help.

Mike's personal and straightforward approach plus his matinee idol looks disarmed the Negrenses. To make a long story short, Mike won handily. The man who threw the gauntlet at him must be smiling up there.

Congressman Miguel L. Romero is easily one of the most active and capable members of the House today.

critics for his very commendable performance. The Minority Floor Leader says: "Constructive fiscalization is good, but if nothing constructive comes out of it, it is just an exercise in futility."

There is no truth to the rumor that the actor, Councilor Dennis Roldan, is playing the role of "bench warmer" in the City Council. He has appeared only in minor roles in the movies but he should not overdo it in the City Council. He is so quiet during sessions, he doesn't want to be disturbed. I once handcarried a letter to him from the Publisher-Editor of THE (OLD) CAPITOL STANDARD. While all other Councilors received the letters I handcarried to them and even started reading them, Roldan refused to be disturbed. He told me to bring the letter to his secretary. Does he need a secretary?

The leftists, rightists, separatists and other "tists" continue to threaten the country's political and economic stability. The military should adopt and implement a more effective anti-insurgency policy. It is not enough to say: "Everything is under control."

TRUE STORY

THE BARBECUE MURDER

By Eddie C. Flores

This is a never-before-told story of what could be the most gruesome, bizarre, and blood curdling murder in the annals of crime. It was told to us by a former policeman friend who figured prominently in the investigation of the crime. That memorable night of the crime, our friend was in the night shift at the Ilagan, Isabela Municipal Hall Police Headquarters. It was a dreary, uneventful night with no unusual occurrences to disturb the peace, thus lulling our friend into a state of drowsiness. But early in the morning, he was jolted out of his somnolence when a somber looking man with blood stained hands appeared at the police station and announced calmly:

"I have just barbecued a man and my wife."

The policeman was stunned and perplexed. This man must be crazy, he thought. It was only after hearing his story that the policeman believed and understood what he had said.

The man, we shall call him Jhon, lived with his wife Marsha, not her real name too, in the little barrio of Sarabsab about 70 kilometers from the poblacion of Ilagan. Jhon and Marsha, who were in their early 20s, were very much in love and at peace with the world until . . .

Jhon worked as a foreman at the Bureau of Public Highways (now defunct) in Ilagan. To save on transportation and the trouble of commuting daily, John lodged at the BPW motorpool, Monday to Friday, going home only on Saturday and staying up to Sunday.

To shake off boredom Marsha, who was still childless, took to reading Pilipino komiks and erotic Tagalog novels which aroused desires that yearned to be satisfied when Jhon was away.

One day when she went to the nearby sari-sari store to buy or rent her favorite komiks and novels, Marsha saw a middle aged man sporting an Elvis Presley haircut. His hair glistened with pomade the same way his eyes gleamed as he ogled at her. When she started to leave, the man followed her and struck up a conversation with her. He was quite a charming, glib tongued fellow and soon he had Marsha in an animated conversation.

The street meetings continued until they became very good friends — and eventually more than good friends. It was late one night amidst a heavy downpour that Andres Salisi (not his real name) decided that the time was ripe for him to see Marsha in her house. It was a Wednesday, so he was certain Marsha was alone — and receptive, he hoped.

Salisi knocked gently on the door to Marsha's room calling out her name softly, endearingly. Marsha, who was only half asleep, heard the call and immediately got up from the mat on which she was lying on the bamboo slats floor of the room. She let Salisi in: She was not to be cold and lonely that night.

The nocturnal trysts continued until, inevitably, the barrio got wind of the illicit relationship. It was the subject of hushed conversations in barrio Sarabsab. They finally reached Jhon's ears. But he kept his cool. He went about his business as if there was nothing wrong. He did not even confront Marsha who was emboldened to continue her clandestine assignations with Salisi in spite of the barrio gossip.

But beneath the unperturbed mien of John, was a mind that was seething and scheming. One late afternoon in the BHW field office, Jhon was rushing his quarterly accomplishment report. He checked something on the calendar and as he ran his index finger along the dates, he noted from the lunar notations that it was going to be a moonless night. He paused in deep thought before going back to his report. It was already late in the afternoon when he finished it.

He went to the motorpool and laid himself on his folding cot smoking cigarette after cigarette. It must be tonight! It must be tonight! The thought pulsated in his mind. He finally got up and counted the cigarette butts on the floor. Seven. What a strange coincidence, he mused. It was already seven o'clock by his watch. And he recalled that it was his seventh year at the BHW where he had started as a mere laborer. From the motorpool he proceeded to the road where he flagged down a six wheeler cargo truck laden with golden leaf tobacco. He hitched a ride up to the junction of the barrio road leading to Sarabsab.

It was pitch dark — a moonless night alright as indicated in the calendar. But Jhon had traversed this road countless times, he knew its every twist and turn, its every ascent and descent. After about half an hour's walk, he saw his hut in the distance illumined flickeringly by a kerosene lamp. He stopped beside the sampaguita bush which grew a few meters away from the hut. He and Marsha had planted this bush when they were recently married. It was now in flower and the fragrance assailed his nostrils. The sampaguita bush was the only beautiful thing, now that his hut had been defiled by his wife's infidelity, John mused. And a feeling of vast emptiness overwhelmed him.

After a while, Jhon discerned the dim outline of a man coming from the left side of the hut. He crouched behind the sampaguita bush and watched the intruder intently. He went up the hut and knocked on the door. Through the window and by the light of the kerosene lamp, Jhon saw Marsha walk to the door to open it. Once inside, the lovers embraced and hugged each other with passionate intensity. Then they disappeared into the conjugal room. In his rage Jhon wanted to scream an invective at the adulterous pair but checked himself.

He recalled fashioning a five-foot bamboo lance months ago for no particular purpose — just to while away some idle moments on a Sunday afternoon. The lance was now lying somewhere under the hut where he had put it. Still in a crouching position, Jhon went under the hut and groped about for the lance until he found it stacked against a post of the hut. He got hold of it and felt the pointed end of the

(Turn to Page 8)

Tables for the article "A Proposal for Cooperative Ownership" by the late Sen. Benigno Aquino, Jr.

(AUTHOR'S NOTE: The figures in these tables are circa 1967 so to get their present values, multiply by, perhaps, 5 to 10 depending on the item.)

**A MODEL 1,000-HECTARE
FREE ENTERPRISE COMMUNE CORPORATION, INC.
for 250 Families (4 has. to 1 Family)**

ANNUAL INCOME:

Rice - First Crop - 800 has. x 80 cavan x P16.00	P1,024,000.-
Rice - Second Crop - 500 has. x 80 cavan x P16.00	640,000.-
Sorghum - 200 has. x 50 cavans x P20.00	200,000.-
Vegetable Program - 80 has. x 1,000 kgs. x P 0.30	24,000.-
	<u>P1,888,000.-</u>

DIRECT COST

640 Man-hours Farm Hand per ha.	P320.00	
Plowing & Harrowing	45.00	
Seeds	17.50	
Fertilizer	142.00	
Pesticide	139.00	
Water Maintenance	6.20	
Harvesting	50.00	
Threshing	60.00	
Miscellaneous		800.00
Add: Cost of Money	50.00	
Cost per hectare	<u>P850.00</u>	
Effective has. per year	x 1,300	
Total Direct Cost of Rice	P1,105,000	
Add: Cost of Sorghum-200 has. x P200.00 ...	40,000	
Cost of Vegetable Program	16,000	
80 has. x P200.00		<u>1,161,000.-</u>
		<u>P 727,000.-</u>
Less: Salaries & Wages - Gen. Adm.	P 79,700	
Salaries - Medical	55,000	
Office Supplies & Materials	17,000	
Medical Supplies	15,000	
Rep. & Maintenance - Motor Pool	21,000	
Rep. & Maintenance - Social Svs.	20,000	
Depreciation-Motor Pool	10,500	
Depreciation-Social Svs.	17,750	
Depreciation-Housing	50,000	300,950.-
Net Income	P 441,050.-	
Add: Depreciation	78,250.-	
Net Cash Income	P 519,300.-	
Less: Provision for Amortization	376,773.55	
Net Excess Cash after Amortization ...	P 142,526.42	
Less: Surplus Reserves	30,000.00	
Net Cash Available for Dividends	P 112,526.42	

**AMORTIZATION TABLE
of P3,660,000 for 15 years at 6% Interest**

Year	Principal	Interest	Total	Balance
1	157,173.55	219,600.00	376,773.58	3,660,000.00
2	166,603.99	210,169.59	376,773.58	3,336,222.43
3	176,600.23	200,173.35	376,773.58	3,159,622.20
4	187,196.25	189,577.33	376,773.58	2,972,425.95
5	198,428.02	178,345.58	376,773.58	2,773,907.93
6	210,333.70	166,439.88	376,773.58	2,563,664.23
7	222,953.73	153,819.85	376,773.58	2,340,710.50
8	236,330.95	140,442.63	376,773.58	2,104,379.55
9	250,510.81	126,262.77	376,773.58	1,853,868.74
10	265,541.46	111,232.12	376,773.58	1,588,327.28
11	281,473.94	95,299.64	376,773.58	1,306,853.34
12	298,362.38	78,411.20	376,773.58	1,008,490.96
13	316,264.12	60,509.46	376,773.58	692,226.84
14	335,239.97	41,533.61	376,773.58	356,986.87
15	356,986.87	21,419.21	367,406.08	

AVERAGE INCOME PER FAMILY

I. Income per Family as Farm Hands	P1,664.00
II. Equivalent Income on Amortization of land and house (including interest payments)	1,317.68
III. Average Income per Family as Dividends*	450.11
TOTAL AVERAGE INCOME	P3,431.79

*Provisions for surplus reserves not included in this income computation which is P30,000. annually or about P120.00 per family, per year.

EXPLANATORY NOTES:

- I. *Income per Family as Farm Hands*
This was arrived at by dividing the total expenses for Farm Labor into the 250 families. It is further premised on 640 man-hours needed by one hectare on an effective number of hectares of 1,300 at P0.50 per man hour, which will give you P416,000 total Farm Labor cost per year divided into the 250 families for an average income per family as Farm Hands of P1,664.00.
- II. *Equivalent income of Amortization of Land and House*
Annual Amortization of cost of

Land and Housing of P3,200,000.- over 15 years is P329,419.52, which divided into the 250 families will give an equivalent income per year of P1,317.68.

- III. *Average Income per Family as Dividends*
After paying the annual amortization on the initial loan of P3,660,000.- and providing for an annual surplus reserve of P30,000.-, there will be available for distribution as dividends, the sum of P112,526.42, which distributed into the 250 families will amount to P450.11 per family.

A Proposal for Cooperative Ownership
COST OF CAPITAL ASSETS

I. Land - 1,000 has. at P2,200 per ha.		P2,200,000.-
II. Housing -250 houses at P4,000 per house (with 1,000 sq. m. lot)		1,000,000.-
III. Motor Pool:		
Cost of Motor Pool Shed	P 60,000.-	
Cost of Bodega	60,000.-	
Cost of Equipments (Sch. I)	105,000.-	225,000.-
IV. Social Services:		
Dep. 5% Cost of School House	P 60,000.-	
5% Cost of 2 clinics with 15 bedspace each	100,000.-	
20% Cost of clinic equipments and Laboratory facilities	40,000.-	
5% Cost of 2 Recreational Halls	20,000.-	
5% Cost of Playground	10,000.-	
5% Others	5,000.-	235,000.-
TOTAL COST OF CAPITAL ASSETS		P3,660,000.-

**MOTOR POOL EQUIPMENTS
(Sch. I)**

-2- Irrigation Pumps	P10,000.-	P 20,000.-
-2- Threshing Machine	15,000.-	30,000.-
-6- 5-gallon Sprayers	1,000.-	6,000.-
250- Rotary Weeders	30.-	7,500.-
-2- Dump Trucks (2nd hand)	15,000.-	30,000.-
-1- Jeep (2nd hand)	4,500.-	4,500.-
-4- Motorcycles - Honda	1,000.-	4,000.-
-2- Typewriters (2nd hand)	400.-	800.-
-1- Filing Machine	200.-	200.-
-1- Calculator (2nd hand)	600.-	600.-
-3- Desks	250.-	750.-
-1- Set of tools	650.-	650.-
TOTAL		P105,000.-

Here's more on Land Reform which could be Cory's Frankenstein if the CARP bill turns out to be a Lex Hortensia.



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
Senate
MANILA

Rene S. Saguisag
SENATOR

February 26, 1988

MEMORANDUM

TO: Sonny A and Butz A, et al.
FROM: Rene S
RE: The Gracchi and the Lex Hortensia

Cardinal Sin underscored yesterday the urgency of land reform. We must heed his warning. At the same time, it would not hurt to look at certain historical parallels as we prepare to meet in caucus on Monday, Feb. 29, on land reform, just before the month turns. (Beware the Ides of March?)

In ancient Rome, "the management and distribution of the public lands" was among the "exclusive functions of the Senate."

We might be well advised to go back to the passionate land reformers of ancient Rome, the Gracchi, Tiberius and Caius, the famous Tribunes (i.e., Tribal Representatives). Both were murdered when they annoyed some Senators. Here, we could murder our Gracchi, Sonny and Butz, with our "killer amendments."

Cornelia, the mother of Tiberius and Caius, has gone down in history as one who, despite her many-splendored talents, preferred simply to be known as the "mother of the Gracchi," her famous "jewels." The Gracchi advanced the cause of the peasants. In 133 B.C., Tiberius "passed the agrarian law that opened the Roman revolution." The Agrarian Revolt lasted 67 years.

In another twist, the Senate diluted, under pressure, its own immense clout in 287 B.C. It agreed that the decisions of the Tribal Assembly of the People should have the force of law. This was the lex Hortensia. By 200 B.C., it had become the chief source of private law in Rome. Since, in that Assembly, the plebs could easily outvote the patricians, this lex Hortensia has been hailed as "the capstone and triumph of Roman democracy."

Today, our good friend in the Bigger House, Ms. Hortensia (Starke) and her bloc have come up with a land reform bill which historians (read: winners) may label, fairly or otherwise, as a lex Hortensia unduly favoring the patricians.

Rene S. Saguisag
R. A. V. SAGUISAG

SUCCESS STORY

THE SAGA OF EL NIÑO

By Eddie C. Flores

From a tiny house by the railroad tracks for a school building to a magnificent two-story concrete edifice in the heart of the town — that in a capsule is a physical portrayal of the saga of the CASA DEL NIÑO MONTESSORI SCHOOL at the Pacita Complex Subdivision, San Pedro, Laguna.

Starting as a nursery and kinder school attended by a few of the children in the Complex, CASA DEL NIÑO MONTESSORI SCHOOL, or EL NIÑO, for short, is now the biggest and most progressive learning institutions of the Complex offering not only nursery and kinder classes but also Grades I to VI classes — all recognized by the government.

Behind the phenomenal growth of the school is a courageous and enterprising couple, Mr. and Mrs. Jose Acierto, fondly called Peping and Ching by friends. When they ventured into this business of putting up a school, they knew that it was risk-laden. But they threw caution to the winds because they were imbued with a noble mission to provide cheap yet quality education the Montessori way for the children of Pacita Complex.

What they lacked in logistics, Peping and Ching made up with a lot of prayers and faith in divine Providence plus an indomitable will to succeed. During their initial years of operation, they were rewarded, not with big profits but with a big number of letters from elated parents expressing in glowing terms their appreciation and gratitude for the excellent education and training their children were getting from EL NIÑO.

Encouraged by the favorable reaction of the parents, the doughty couple decided to expand. The opportunity came when two adjacent houses in the subdivision were up for lease. Peping and Ching negotiated with the owners and in no time a contract of lease between them was finalized.

The couple were hobbled by insufficient capital. But they were not daunted; they believed in the old adage: "IF THERE IS A WILL, THERE IS A WAY."

Indeed, they soon found a way: By carefully husbanding their available resources, they were able to put up a tidy sum, enough to renovate the houses into the semblance of school buildings.

The response of the community was fantastic. Parents by the hundreds trooped to the school to enroll their children. The enrollees were given oral and written tests. Pacita Complex Subdivision was obviously blessed with talented children. Only a few flunked the tests but even these flunkers were not rejected. They were put in a special class and given special lessons and tutorial sessions. After they have reached a certain level of ability and comprehension, they were integrated into the main stream of the school population.

The reputation of CASA DEL NIÑO MONTESSORI SCHOOL spread like wildfire. It was at this point that the school became known simply as EL NIÑO, a personification that was quite apt considering that the school was devoted to children. Unfortunately, it was not smooth sailing all the way for EL NIÑO. The couple got embroiled in a court litigation that dragged on for years before it ended in an amicable settlement. Scarred but not scared, emotionally and financially drained, the couple, with characteristic grit and energy, exerted their way to recovery and before long they were in the process of realizing another dream of expansion: a bigger school building, their very own, not merely leased. Costing millions of pesos which they managed to raise by putting in all their lifetime earnings and savings, augmented by a bank loan, the dream slowly but surely rose to become that magnificent two-story concrete edifice cited at the start of this piece. Today CASA DEL NIÑO stands as a tall and proud symbol of the courage, energy, grit, and faith of a couple in pursuit of a noble vision.

(Enrolment is going on at CASA DEL NIÑO. For particulars, please see the School Directress, Mrs. Ching Acierto, at Bk. 1, Ph 6, Pacita Complex Subdivision, San Pedro Laguna.)

CITY COUNCIL . . .

the Council — only Councilor Cielito "Mahal" del Mundo has delivered a privilege speech. Citing records, she brought out the fact that sessions always started later than the 2:00 P.M. provided in the House Rules. She enjoined her colleagues to instill in themselves the virtues of discipline and punctuality. The Presiding Officer said that he could not start a session in time for lack of quorum. He suggested that the session hall be provided with a wall clock — as though that would solve the problem of tardiness.

"Mahal" has a kindred

soul in Congressmen Isidoro F. Real, Jr. of Zamboanga del Sur who has filed House Bill No. 278 penalizing tardiness in "official, social, cultural and other activities." With public censure for the first offense and, for succeeding offenses, imprisonment not exceeding one year, at the discretion of the court.

As it begins, so a session of the Council ends, with another prayer.

Hereunder is a typical opening and closing prayer of the Council, this one by Councilor Montilla:

Opening Prayer

Panginoon, kami po ay nagpapasalamat sa inyo, kami po ay binigyan ninyo ng pagkakataon na makapag-lingkod sa inyo at sa mga taong masasakupan namin dito sa Lung-sod Quezon, kami po ay humihingi sa inyo ng tulong upang kami po ay inyong gabayan sa aming gagawing pagtatalakay sa hapong ito, at sa mga darating pang mga araw, kami po ay tulungan mo na kami ay makagawa ng kabutihan at makatulong lalung-lalo na po sa mga mahihirap at maliliit na siyang nakararami dito sa aming lipunan, kami po ay turuan mo na rin na makapaglingkod ng isang paglilingkod na malinis at marangal.

Closing Prayer

Panginoon, salamat po sa ginawa ninyong pag-akay sa amin at pagsubaybay sa ginawa naming pagtatalakay sa hapon na ito. (Sa agalan ng ama . . . amen).

OUTSTANDING SENATOR . . .

With the ₱14 billion that has been given to the AFP in the 1988 budget, Sen. Maceda enjoined the new Secretary of National Defense, Gen. Fidel Ramos, "to come to grips with the procurement system of the AFP," so that anomalous purchases may be avoided and proper priorities determined, that is, before getting more helicopters, howitzers, and M-35s, the personal needs of the soldiers must be taken care of first.

Another problem that Sen. Maceda found out is that the AFP is short of 2075 lieutenants. This is a very serious deficiency, he said, because it is the lieutenants who do the actual fighting. The lieutenants complain, Maceda said, that "we have too many Generals and too many Brigade Commanders." He suggested that since it costs ₱70 million to graduate 100 lieutenants a year from the PMA, the amount can be increased, if need be, to ₱300 million in order to graduate 500 PMA lieutenants a year and in five to six years cover up the shortage of 2075 lieutenants.

Sen. Maceda also suggested — and this I consider a very important suggestion — the training of more Scout Rangers and Marines because of their proven superior fighting ability. "My God," Ma-

ceda said he had exclaimed to the military when told that it was a Scout Ranger battalion that had neutralized the Bicol area when bridges were being blown up there while it was a Marine Battalion that was responsible for the retaking of Camp Aguinaldo during the Aug. 28 rebellion, "by all means, tell us how much it costs to add 5,000 Marines and 5,000 Scout Rangers. Let us forget all the other trainings that you have and concentrate on just having Marines and Rangers if they are the ones who are effective."

It is not only his enlightening and fiscalizing privilege speeches that have projected Sen. Maceda to us as "Most Outstanding Senator" but also the quantity and quality of actual legislative work he has put in. I don't think it can be disputed that he has been the most active, energetic, and industrious member of the Senate. Jaywalker Art Borjal of THE PHILIPPINE STAR agrees with me. Wrote he: "The reason why Maceda is such good copy for media is his being a workaholic. He really works hard as a legislator and there is solid proof of this." The "solid proof" is the following Statistical Performance Report of Sen. Maceda:

PERFORMANCE REPORT
(July 27, 1987 to March 17, 1988)

No. of Days Present	134
No. of Sabs Absent	0
Privilege Speeches Delivered	22
Sponsorship Speeches Delivered	2
Sponsorship Remarks	5
Senate Bills Filed	
Authored	60
Co-Authored	22
Senate Resolutions Filed	
Authored	21
Co-Authored	11
Interpellations	16
Question of Privilege	12
Point of Order	5
Point of Clarification	1
Amendments Made	24
Parliamentary Inquiry	4
Floor Participation	259
Committee Meetings Attended/Represented	416
Committee Meetings Presided	58
Official Visits to Various Military Camps/Areas	18*
*The Number has doubled since	

Of the above statistics, the most telling proofs of Maceda's being a "workaholic" are: 1) his perfect attendance record; 2) Senate bills filed, authored/co-authored, 60 and 22, respectively; 3) Floor participation, 259; 4) Committee meetings attended, 416; and Official Visits to Various Military Camps/Areas, 20. (It's actually about 35 now.)

His Committee meeting attendance record, unsurpassed by any other Senator, is particularly telling, because more than 60 percent of the work in legislation is done in the Committee hearings. As to the visits to the military camps/areas, only a man of some physical stamina — and courage — can do that. Maceda has also the distinction of having filed the first two bills in the Senate: a Magna Carta for Barangays and an Act to grant special compensation to the family of any police or military officer slain while on duty. Other significant/interesting bills filed by Senator Maceda (as principal author) are the following in chronological order:

- 1) An Act to declare unlawful the practice of matching Filipino women for marriage to foreign nationals on a mail order basis and other similar practices.
- 2) An Act providing for a moratorium in the payment of foreign debts except interests thereon for a period of three years.
- 3) An Act to provide compensation to any civilian who may have been killed or wounded as a result of/or during a military or government operation.
- 4) An Act providing for a general increase in salaries of government employees including military and Police personnel from the level below the position of Assistant Secretary or Regional Director and Providing necessary funds therefor.
- 5) An Act increasing the salary of elementary and secondary public school teachers and authorizing the appropriation of funds therefor.
- 6) An Act abolishing the National Intelligence Coordinating Agency or NICA and transferring its powers, functions and duties to the National Bureau of Investigation.
- 7) An Act increasing by twelve pesos per day the present minimum wage for all workers and employees in the government and the private sector.
- 8) An Act to establish new rates of base pay for military and civilian personnel of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, appropriating funds therefor.
- 9) An Act to provide for the longevity pay to all government employees.



a capitol idea

a.o. flores

Music For Media?

WHAT'S this music Councilor/Songwriter George Canseco is composing in Council hall? The tune, so I hear, is five hundred thousand notes and is specially dedicated to media people.

Now if the Canseco opus were a bill in Congress filed by Rep. Hortensia Starke it would be understandable. Remember Donya Hortensia, the woman solon who once described media as hungry, so hungry that they can easily be bought? The idea is to get media on the side of the landlords in their fight against the CARP.

Donya Hortensia's regard of media is not exactly flattering. Truthful perhaps on that part about media being famished (referring to the low pay that the average media member gets) but not on that part about being so famished as to throw all principles overboard. It's like saying that the Cory government is corrupt because of a few corrupt officials, that the Armed Forces basket is rotten because of a few bad eggs. However, I don't know about the House. Since a clear majority of the members are landlords or pro-landlords, maybe they are ultra Rightists who don't give a hoot, rather, hoot to the plight of the peasants. So they'd rather part with a fraction of their multi millions than part with their ancestral lands which have made id possible for them to live in style without working a sweat, so to speak.

Back to the Canseco proposal for media. The idea, so I hear, is to maintain a good image of the Council through good old PROing. I admit words can do it but not for long. In the end the public will ask that those words be translated into action. Action, it need hardly be said, speaks louder than words. If Canseco and company want a good image of their Council, they don't have to spend a single centavo of the taxpayer's money. Action is all they need.

But I must withhold further comment on George's proposal. I would like to know all about it before I can fully discuss its merits or demerits. The discordant note I hear in the music is probably not there. Good music is uplifting. Spiritually, that is. And I know George can compose that kind of music. Whether or not, he can propose a resolution or ordinance of the same kind is a different matter.

10) An Act removing the limitation on the number of childbirth for the enjoyment of maternity leave benefit, repealing Sec. 14-A (D) of PD 202.

11) An Act granting retirement benefits to Barangay Officials.

12) An Act to provide heavier penalty for habitual wife beating, providing protection to the wife thereafter and grant her temporary support and other rights and for other purposes.

13) An Act establishing a Two-Year Integrated Pre-School Education Program in all public schools and for other purposes.

14) An Act to amend certain provisions of the Social Security Law by providing for increases in sickness and funeral benefits, redefining dependent and beneficiary coverages, and for other purposes.

15) An Act mandating the immediate establishment of a public high school in every municipality, appropriating funds therefor and for other purposes.

16) An Act creating a Department of Interior and Public Safety with supporting agencies such as the Philippine National Police, National Fire Protection Service, People's Arm for Community Development, Bureau of Local Governments and Philippine Safety College, abolishing for the purpose the Department of Local Government, the Philippine Constabulary, and the National Police Commission.

17) An Act to phase out all gambling casinos by December 31, 1992, requiring meanwhile their privatization and for other purposes.

18) An Act instituting measures to minimize red tape in the government.

Sen. Maceda's concern for the welfare of government as well as private employees/workers, whether civilian or military/police, is shown in the above bills, Nos. 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, and 14. The same concern is shown in a Resolution he co-authored "Requesting Her Excellency, the President of the Philippines, to suspend the implementation of government reorganization plans resulting in the separation and demotion of civil service employees pending enactment of legislation establishing the rules and guidelines to govern the reorganization process and ensuring compliance therewith.

In Centerstage — Indefinitely

When Congress opened in July last year, Sen. Maceda immediately preempted centerstage by delivering four privilege speeches in four consecutive days in which he gave notice in no uncertain terms that he was not going to be the "Cory can do no wrong" type of Senator that I had feared he would be. He continued to hold centerstage with the series of more than 20 fiscalizing privilege speeches that followed the initial four coupled with the "workaholic" way he discharged his duties as lawmaker. In his latest privilege speech — at this writing — Maceda once again repudiated the President when he expressed strong doubts over her claim, based no doubt on the say so of her defense and military advisers, that the "government was winning the war against the NPA." Frontally countering the President's claim, the "Bad Boy of Malacanang", as libel-indictee Louis Beltran calls Maceda, declared: "The military establishment is still wracked with factionalism and that at this stage the insurgency situation is very critical."

I stated in the beginning that my choice of Sen. Maceda as "Most Outstanding Senator" was only "at this writing," but by the way he continues to conduct himself, I think he'll be at centerstage — indefinitely — and so I may not have to change my choice — indefinitely.