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ISABELO T. CRISOST

Quezon City: 1954-1967

By

ISABELO

T.

CRISOSTOMO

J. KRIZ PUBLISHING ENTERPRISES
Quezon City

BOOKS BY THE AUTHOR

* THE LONELY ROOM AND OTHER STORIES
* MODERN ADVERTISING FOR FILIPINOS
* THE CHALLENGE OF LEADERSHIP
* QUEZON CITY: 1954-1967

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Isabelo T. Crisostomo

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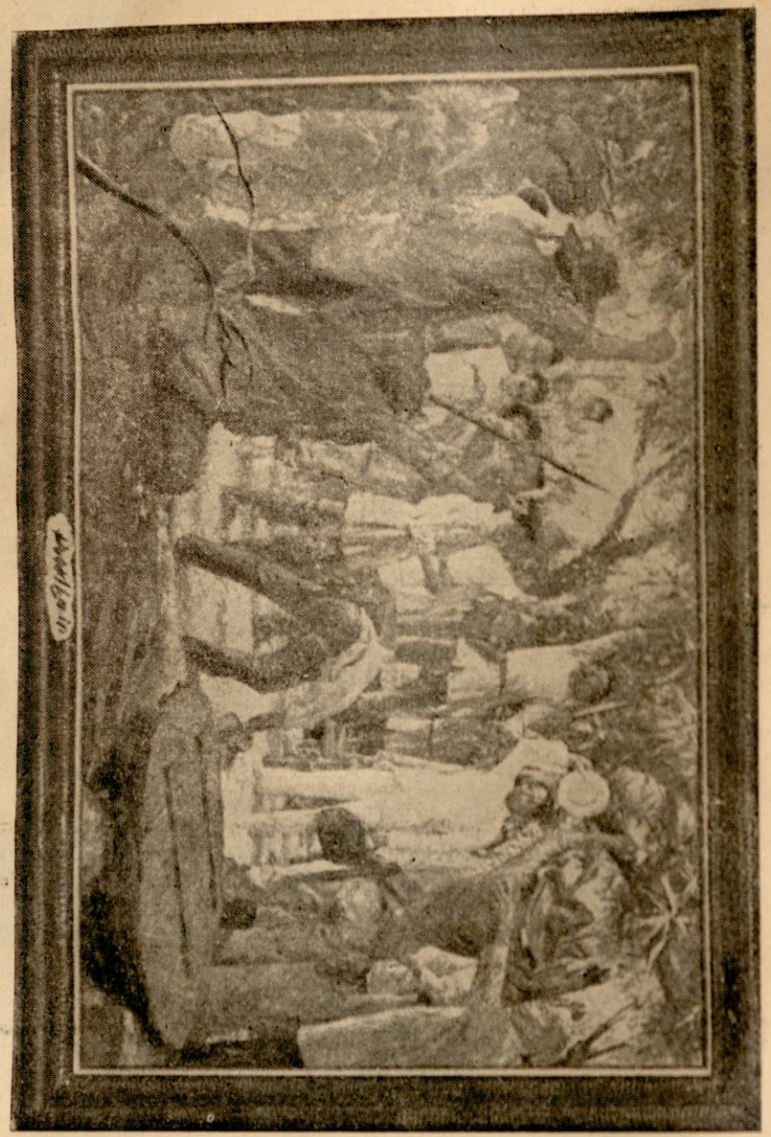

A painting depicting the "Cry of Balintawak" in Pugadlawin, Quezon City, on August 23, 1896. Andres Bonifacio, center, is shown on a low platform with torn cedula as he shouts, "Long Live the Philippines! Long Live the Katipunan!"

— ***Courtesy: National Historical Commission***

Dedication

To Andres Bonifacio, and the gallant heroes of the Philippine Revolution of 1896; to Manuel L. Quezon, the Other Revolutionary, who founded this city.

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As one of the aides of Mayor Amoranto from 1955-1959 I came to know more about him that I had imagined I would. Perhaps this accounts for the rather subjective portrayal I have made of his leadership. Though the book is not his biography it nevertheless focuses on his personality and performance; necessarily so because the period covered may be termed as the Amoranto Years in Quezon City.

Where materials, however, were available I did not hesitate to make mention of his predecessors; again, necessarily so, because I have tried to recount the past events that led to the making of this city.

Someday I hope to be able to write a book entirely devoted to Mayor Amoranto, a biography focusing, naturally, on his life, dreams, labors, achievements.

Acknowledgments

To publish this book I needed the support of patrons, to whom I am indebted. Their firms appear in this book. Their support was requested by some friends, new and old, among them Leonardo M. Cuyong, Bien Sandoval, Ester Baetiong, Leoncio Oliveros, "Anong" de Dios, Major "Papay" Ronquillo, "Caring" Nepomuceno, Julio Reyes, Aquilino Lopez, Chayong Bondame, Viring Mercado.

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Naturally I assume responsibility for any error in the book, factual or otherwise.

I. T. C.

Congressional Road
Project 8, Quezon City



The founder and first Mayor of Quezon City, the late President Manuel L. Quezon. This photo was taken in the Jorge Vargas compound on August 24, 1939.
Courtesy: *The Manila Times*

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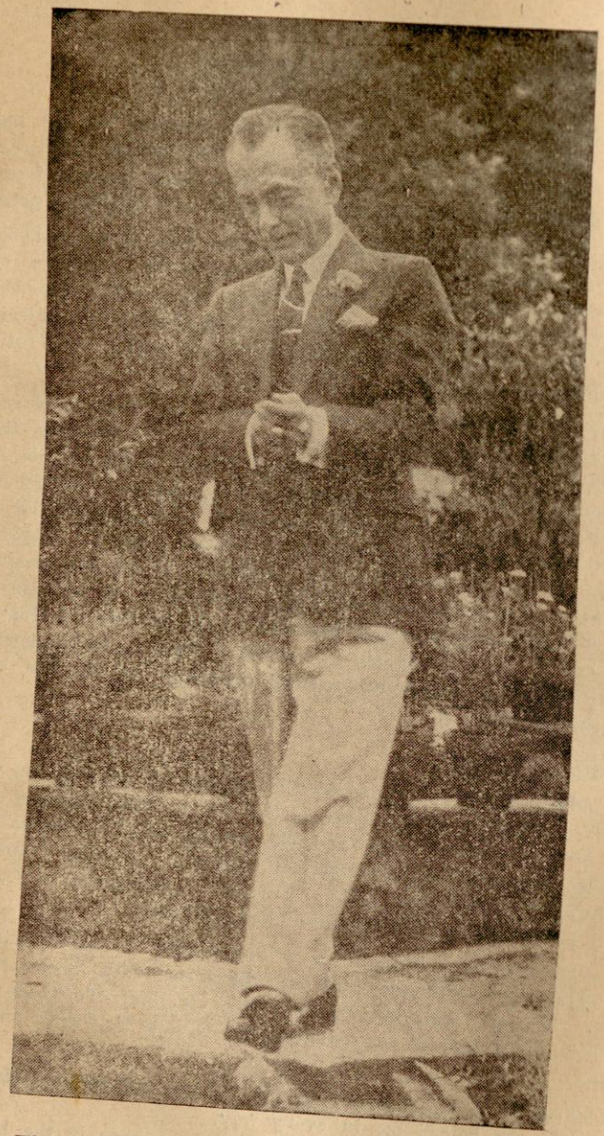

The founder and first Mayor of Quezon City, the late President Manuel L. Quezon. This photo was taken in the Jorge Vargas compound on August 24, 1939.
Courtesy: *The Manilo Times*

1

Bonifacio, Quezon and a City

"Let us cast away pretense and futile pride. Let us look at ourselves, stripped of the veil and trappings with which, in our vanity, we often cover ourselves."

— PRESIDENT QUEZON

I HAD always wanted to write a background sketch of Quezon City because many are not aware of it, particularly the young. It is even safe to assume that a great majority of our officials have no clear idea why and how the city came to be. To provide readers with some information is my purpose in writing this little book.

The past of Quezon City is rich in historical value. It was the original cradle of the Philippine Revolution of 1896. As recorded by the historian Teodoro A. Agoncillo, in his book *The Revolt of the Masses*, it was in Balintawak that Andres Bonifacio and the other *Katipunan* leaders first gathered after the society was discovered by the Spaniards. They gathered first on August 19 in Balintawak, staying there for one night and one day. "In the afternoon of August 21," writes Agoncillo, "the rebels, numbering around 500, left Ba-

lintawak and proceeded to the neighboring hamlet of Kangkong where Apolonio Samson, a *Katipunan* man, gave them food and lodging. Here, the next morning, the revolutionists exchanged views on the revolution but did not pass any resolution. It was in Pugadlawin, where they proceeded upon leaving Samson's place in the afternoon of the 22nd, that the more than 1,000 members of the *Katipunan* met in the yard of Juan A. Ramos, son of Melchora Aquino, the famed 'Mother' of the *Katipuneros*, in the morning of August 23rd. Considerable discussion arose whether the revolt against the Spanish government should be started on the 29th.

"Only one man protested against the plan of revolt at such an early date, and it was Bonifacio's own brother-in-law, Teodoro Plata. But he was overruled . . . Bonifacio then announced the decision and, standing on an improvised platform, shouted: 'Brothers, it was agreed to continue with the plan of revolt. My brothers, do you swear to repudiate the government that oppresses us? And the rebels, shouting as one man, replied: 'Yes, sir!' 'That being the case,' Bonifacio added, 'bring out your *cédulas* and tear them to pieces to symbolize our determination to take up arms!'

"There was a rustle of papers and in a minute the yard was littered with torn *cédulas*. Amidst this ceremony, the rebels, with tear-stained eyes, shouted: 'Long live the Philippines! Long live the *Katipunan!*'

Among those present were Briccio Brigido Pantas, Francisco and Nicomedes Carreon, Patricio Belen, Alejandro Santiago, Ramon Bernardo, Apolonio Samson, Enrique Pacheco, Guillermo Masangkay, Sinforoso San Pedro, Cipriano and Alfonso Pacheco.

Cry of Balintawak

This was the true "Cry of Balintawak" and it occurred not on August 26, 1896 as we have been made to believe but on August 23.

After the "Cry" some *Katipuneros* arrived from Manila, informing Bonifacio that the Spanish civil guards were hot

on their trail. Bonifacio took immediate command of the situation; he ordered his men to get ready to deploy. The night was dark and there was much confusion. According to Agoncillo, some of the men "thoughtlessly grasped the pots of boiling rice, poured the half-cooked contents into their hats containing cut tobacco leaves, and ate the black mixture of rice and tobacco as they marched toward Pasong Tamo. For these men were hungry, tired, sleepy and suffering from cold weather."

The *Katipuneros* arrived at the house of *Tandang Sora* (Melchora Aquino) on August 24. But at 10 a.m., August 25, the civil guards arrived at the scene while Bonifacio and his men were discussing strategy. Bursts of rifle-fire rent the air. The Filipinos instinctively flung themselves on the earth. Shortly afterwards Bonifacio ordered them to deploy and encircle the attacking Spaniards, numbering about 40. In the ensuing fight two revolutionists and one civil guard were slain.

First Casualty

One of these two first *Katipunan* casualties was Simplicio Acabo. In an interview with a writer-friend and me, one of the revolutionists who survived that fight, Hermogenes Constantino, revealed that Acabo was then only 18 years old. Acabo, according to Constantino (see *Philippines FREE PRESS*, August 20, 1955, page 66), "was an aggressive young man who always wanted to be out in front." The young victim was buried in a mudhole by Constantino and another man "because we had no time to dig a grave for him."

In 1954 Mayor Amoranto and officers of the "*Katipunan ng mga Alagad ni Bonifacio*" laid the cornerstone of a monument for Acabo in Barrio Banlat, Tandang Sora, where Acabo was presumably felled and buried. On the bronze plaque are these words:

To the memory of the unknown but never to be forgotten patriots who in 1896 in these plains planned with fore-

sight the war of liberation, fought with dash and died heroically, that our country might be freed from oppression, be forever independent, and be respected by the whole world.

Constantino also revealed that they were alerted with the arrival of the *guardia civiles* by a lookout who was perched atop a large tamarind tree. Upon sight of the arriving Spaniards the lookout blew his *tambuli*, or carabao horn.

Retreat and Withdrawal

Inexperienced in warfare, the *Katipuneros*, though superior in number, were unable to deal the decisive blow on the Spaniards. To be sure they were, besides being inexperienced and young — many were in their teens; Bonifacio however, was already 33 — armed only with bolos, sharpened bamboo poles, and assorted primitive weapons. The Spaniards, under cover of the lush cogon and talahib, decided to retreat. The *Katipuneros* did not pursue them, writes Agoncillo; they seized the lull to withdraw to Balara.

This was the first real battle waged by the *Katipunan*, though a defensive one.

Next day, August 26, the Spanish authorities in Manila sent a contingent to Pasong Tamo. They hoped to finish off the *Katipuneros*. But they found the place deserted. Perhaps in embarrassment they shot, instead, two farmhands who were walking home on foot. In the words of Agoncillo:

"At last the officer and his men had something to report to their superiors. With characteristic Spanish flair for the dramatic, the officer reported that a severe battle had taken place at Pasong Tamo on the 26th and, true to the tradition of Spanish bravery and devil-may-care attitude, the prancing Don Quixotes had driven the cowardly rebels to the hinterland. Hence, the origin of the widely circulated story of the 'Cry of Balintawak' supposedly occurring on the 26th of August."

The authentic "Cry of Balintawak" took place, then, on August 23, 1896, when Bonifacio and his men tore their *cédulas* to symbolize their armed defiance of Spain. The first battle occurred on August 25, 1896, in Pasong Tamo. The so-called "Cry" on August 26, 1896, was a historical lie fabricated by the Spaniards to save face.

In Balara

In Balara Bonifacio, with his generals, planned the assault on Manila. With him were Andres Soriano, Laureano Gonzales and Romualdo Vivencio. But he did not stay long in Balara; he and his men proceeded to Marikina, then to Hagdang Bato. On August 28 he issued a proclamation urging his countrymen to take up the nation's cause. He set the date, August 29, Saturday, as the day of the general uprising.

A Manileno, but . . .

Bonifacio was a Manileño, it is true, and the *Katipunan* was born in Manila as an idea. But the Revolution itself first exploded in Quezon City. The first real cry of Filipinos for freedom occurred in Quezon City. The first heroine of the Revolution, Melchora Aquino, was a native of the city. The first real battle for freedom of the Filipinos took place in Quezon City. All this is history.

So Quezon City could rightly claim Bonifacio as its hero. City officials could do no less than give him official recognition. If Quezon City really should have a place in history it should be, first of all, because of the role it played as the true cradle of the Revolution. The officials must be conscious of this. They must be aware that even the first *Katipunan* casualty — Simplicio Acabo — was a native of the city.

The Other Revolutionary

At the time that the historic Philippine Revolution exploded, the city was not really what it is now. It was a wilderness — farmlands, stretches of *cogon* and *talahib* and wild

trees. It was not known by its present name. It was a composite of barrios and sitios. So near to Manila, yet seemingly so far from civilization — a jungle.

But into this wilderness, into this jungle, would burst forth a leader, another revolutionary — Manuel L. Quezon. He, too, would, like Bonifacio, demolish the old and establish something new. He would scan the wilderness, in his smart riding attire, going across the cogon and into the trees, seeing in this vast, rustic, historic place the vision of a new city.

The first meeting of the *Katipuneros* in Balintawak was on August 19, 1896. This day, by coincidence, was to have another significance to the city. For Quezon was born on August 19, 1878 in Baler, Tayabas. He was eighteen years old when the Revolution broke out. Though he was not among the original members of Bonifacio's group, he was to fight in the Revolution, too, in its second epoch, when its leadership had been won by General Emilio Aguinaldo.

He was a colorful leader, a staunch nationalist. To him would be attributed the fiery statement, "I prefer a government run like hell by Filipinos to a government run like heaven by Americans!"

Such a fire-breathing slogan was true to the Quezon character. For he was, we are told, a man of mercurial temper. He could be passive and unfathomable at a moment then volcanic and irrepressible at the next. He was intolerant of weaknesses disguised as "cultural traits." Thus, he instituted his famous "Quezon time," which meant promptness and punctiliousness. He was a stickler for efficiency. He abhorred indecisive executives and employees; he fired "yes-men" who did nothing but scrape and fawn at his feet.

If Bonifacio was a strong-armed *Supremo*, Quezon was a strong President. He was a legend even before he died.

The story is told, for instance, that he would not hesitate to use his riding stick on any government official found derelict on his job. Or that he never minced words when talking to Americans, often using Spanish cusswords — *Puñeta! Leche! Torpe! Sin cojones!* — etc. Once, it is said, Quezon was nettled by a critical newspaperman. He invited him to Malacañang — right into the comfort room. Inside, Quezon reportedly complied with the call of nature. The newsman felt uneasy, but the President would not let him out. Finally, Quezon told him: "If you don't stop attacking me, you'll experience more of this!"

He was, we are also told, a lover par excellence. Perhaps it was not surprising, for men with great courage, men of leadership, men of great ability, are generally noted for exceptional virility. Bonifacio himself, it must be recalled, married more than once. And so did Aguinaldo.

He loved power and knew how to use it. Perhaps he was the first true Filipino statesman. As such he knew what to do. There was, for example, the quarrel over the issue, among Filipino leaders, over independence — the Hare-Hawes-Cutting Act and the Tydings-McDuffie Act. Osmeña and Roxas were for the former, Quezon for the latter. They actually had the same provisions. Quezon won. They acted on and accepted the latter law, which eventually led to the drafting and enactment of the Philippine Constitution.

Quezon was nationalistic, but his nationalism was pragmatic. He believed in and advocated Filipinization of business and industry; he despised foreigners and suspected their motives; yet, in 1939, he told his people in a NEPA statement: "We cannot, we must not, adopt a policy that may in any way be interpreted as antagonistic to foreigners. We do not underestimate what they are doing and can do to aid our material progress. The attraction of foreign capital has been one of my main concerns . . ."

Like Bonifacio, Rizal, Mabini and the other Filipino heroes, he was rationalist in his religious views. His famous "Code of Ethics," memorized by all Filipino students and civil servants, revealed this. It begins, "Have faith in the Divine Providence that guides the destinies of men and nations." But apart from this, the Code, like Mabini's *True Decalogue* and Bonifacio's own *Decalogue*, states his philosophy of nationhood: independence, nationalism, self-sacrifice, thrift, education, family unity, economic development, morality. The Code contains 14 provisions.

Quezon was a believer in public opinion. We are told, for example, that when he failed to become a co-publisher of a prewar Manila newspaper, he talked a group of friends, who were rich, to publish another paper. This would be known as the *Herald*. In this trying years as leader of the people the *Herald* was to support his fight with the Americans.

Bon vivant, nationalist, pragmatic statesman, strongman, — these are only some of the attributes of Quezon. His penchant for drama has been unequalled, not even by President Magsaysay and all his coterie of image-makers. As this writer observed in previous works, only President Marcos, perhaps, could equal him in point of dramatic ability, in the love of epic language and heroic stances. He was a leader of the people yet quite apart from them.

From out of the very complications of his nature, perhaps as a gift of wisdom, or an eye on posterity, if not real concern for the common tao he so learned to love, Manuel L. Quezon built a city. It would carry his name.

2

The Capital City

"Progress necessarily requires change. It implies the overthrow of the past, there deified, by the present; the victory of new ideas over the ancient and accepted ones."

— JOSE RIZAL

THE QUEZON CITY story is a story of progress. It is the story of an idea and a vision. It is the story of a man and his idea, and of different men who helped transform that idea into reality.

From one man's idea, that of the late President Manuel L. Quezon, a workers community, a little barrio obrero, was hacked out of the breast of the wilderness. The tiny community began to breathe with life, its veins and arteries began to pulse with life, until it developed a life of its own, and became a self-contained city — throbbing, moving, expanding.

Gone is the man, the pioneer, who fathered the idea. But from his blood and from the blood of those who had

fallen with him, new and vigorous offspring, to paraphrase Rizal, have risen. Progress continues on its own inexorable way.

Thus, when Quezon said: "We are engaged in the epic task of building our nation, to live and flourish, not for a day, but for all time," he was speaking with the same sense of timelessness and impelled by the same vision and foresight that infused his imagination when he first thought of founding Quezon City. In fact this keen sense of the future, perhaps the sense of immortality with which great leaders are born, influenced all of President Quezon's acts and decisions more than anything else.

Then And Now

The intervening years from the death of Quezon in 1944 to the present have left their imprint on the city. The wilderness which used to surround the city has receded farther and farther away. The handful of pioneer residents who in 1939 could not even congest the original barrio obrero — Kamuning — have multiplied to more than 600,000 strong. The city boundaries have continued to move sideward. Thus, the original 1,527 hectares of land purchased from the Diliman Estate that constituted the nucleus of the city, which was increased to 7,355 hectares by 1939 as provided in the original Charter of Quezon City, has risen to approximately 15,359 hectares! This makes the capital city more than five times larger in land area than the city of Manila.

The old, original barrio obrero homes are rapidly giving way to modern, towering buildings and large residential homes. The narrow, ill-paved streets of pioneer days have been replaced by a vast network of roads — 431.65 kilometers in all, consisting of 116.16 kilometers of national secondary roads and 315.49 kilometers of city roads — making road maintenance alone a gargantuan task of the city administration.

Schools — elementary and secondary — have been mushrooming all over the city, with the years 1954-1967 under the

administration of Mayor Norberto S. Amoranto registering the most increase, both in the number of school buildings and libraries constructed, and in the total teaching force and school population. The nation's leading universities and colleges are establishing their main campuses in Quezon City.

Also during this period, from 1964 to 1967, the health services have been vastly improved. Physicians, dentists, nurses and other specialists have been increased to cope with the growing problems relating to health, sanitation and hygiene. The health department now has approximately 200 employees. The administration has established 23 health centers with two specialized services — domiciliary obstetrical service and premature infant home care service. It has also expanded its services to the rural areas with the organization of mobile medical clinics, a thing unheard of in the past.

The peace and order problem of the city is relatively secure, compared to that of other suburban cities, and is certainly better than what is prevailing in Manila. Although it is admitted that there is need to increase manpower, it is also accepted that the batting percentage of the police department in the solution of crimes reported by the citizens has been fairly high — from 80% to 85% of the total crimes reported have been solved. This is partly because of the increased efficiency of the force, now numbering nearly 800 officers and men, not to include the civilian employees, and the acquisition of modern police equipment and introduction of training programs.

The law department, also known as the City Fiscal's office, has been meritorious in the prosecution of cases. This department is credited with the successful prosecution of the notorious "Big 4" crime syndicate under the leadership of the scions of prominent politicians and business leviathans. Earlier the fiscal's office had had its share of handling other sensational criminal cases, including the Salgado murder case, the Murray case, the Lilian Velez case and the Consunji

murder case. The city's law department is a credit to the administration and equals, if not surpasses, the performance of similar departments in other principal cities.

The city's judiciary department, which began to function in 1939 with only one justice of the peace appointed by President Quezon, has been greatly expanded. After the war two other judges were appointed. In 1956 Mayor Amoranto recommended to the late Congressman Eulogio Rodriguez, Sr. the creation of the third branch of the municipal court. Through Amoranto's subsequent representations more judges were appointed so that today there are in Quezon City three judges of the Court of First Instance and four city judges.

Similarly the city now boasts of a fully-equipped fire department. Up until 1947 the firefighting force of the city had been just a unit under the engineering department, becoming a separate department only on January 23, 1950. Today, the Quezon City Fire Department, which grew enormously during the years 1954-1957, has become an efficient firefighting group with fire stations established in strategic parts all over the city. This is a far cry from the original force of only two fire units and one water tank truck.

The department of assessment, known as the City Assessor's office, has been performing its responsibilities and functions creditably. Today it is a large office by itself which is diligently overseeing the tax requirements of the city on all taxable properties.

New City Hall

One of the most impressive additions to the city's growing skyline is the new City Hall, an imposing building which when completed will be fourteen stories high. While this cannot be considered as the city's most magnificent structure it will certainly stand as an enduring monument to the incumbent City Mayor. By the early part of 1968 many of the offices now housed at the old City Hall will be transferred to the new building.

The new building will cost the city ₱5,250,000 with an additional amount of ₱1,560,000 for electrical installations. These installations will include fire alarms, telephones, time and lighting systems. The entire building will be air-conditioned to obtain maximum efficiency of the employees and to provide convenience to the public.

The construction of the new City Hall has been made possible by the great increase in the city's revenues. In 1955, first year in office of Mayor Amoranto, the city's annual revenue was less than ₱5 million. By 1965 this had risen to over ₱30 million.

The Trend

The city's skyline, as any passerby will note, has vastly changed. As noted the wilderness has all but disappeared. The wide, open spaces, the vast ricefields, the undeveloped plains and weather-beaten hills, the wild bushes and makeshift roads, the stench and decay of a once-jungle community — all of these have vanished. In their place has risen a young city with its imposing business structures and handsome residiential buildings, wide cemented or asphalted roads, modern school buildings and health centers.

True the city, the idea, has not been transformed to the ideal. Not yet. But even Rome was not built in a day. Rome had to take centuries before it could dazzle the world with its splendor and grandeur. Quezon City is not an old city. From its founding to the present it has spanned only a period of 28 years, less than three decades. What is impressive is that within that brief period of time, and specifically from the period 1954-1957, or roughly 13 years, it has already acquired its present standing as a community, as a suburban city.

Many other cities in the country have been deprived of the progress that Quezon City has enjoyed. Many other cities have remained stagnant, suffering the stench and squalor and decay of indifference, ignorance and inaction. Many other cities have remained primitive in this modern age, unwilling

to move, unwilling to expand, continuing to exist and survive in isolation. But not Quezon City. It is true that much is still to be done, much has to be accomplished. A full-fledged development of the city, for instance, along the most modern techniques of urban development and planning, must be foreseen and anticipated. But the fact cannot be denied that Quezon City has moved, and is continuing to move. It cannot be said that it has stood still, pinned down by its own weight, or by the apathy of its leaders.

Certainly, Quezon City is moving to the measure of our time. As long as it is continuing to expand, as long as more and more residents are pouring into it, as long as its population is increasing — which it is at an amazing pace — it will have its share of problems. It will be wrong for the city administration, the City Mayor, particularly, to ignore these problems. It will be wrong for the leaders to be complacent. Complacency will retard progress. It will push the city back where it began.

Happily, as noted and as will be seen in the succeeding chapters, the city has been moving. For its residents the years 1954-1957 have been most fruitful and beneficial. Fortunately its present leaders are aware that they do not represent privileged classes in the city, as pointed out by President Quezon, but that they represent the people to whom they are answerable for all their acts. Consequently, Quezon City is on the move. It is on the move because from the blood of its founder has risen new and vigorous offspring — the successors of Quezon who are carrying on where he had fallen.

3

The Administration

"We do not represent privileged classes which, fortunately, do not exist here. We represent the people in general and to them we shall be answerable for our acts. It is the interest of the people which we have to safeguard and it is the people as a whole whom we have to serve."

— PRESIDENT QUEZON

IT WAS only in the year 1959, with the passage and approval of Republic Act 2259, that the highest officials of Quezon City became elective. As such the city government became more representative of the popular will. Where in the past the City Mayor, Vice Mayor and the eight Councilors, together with all heads of departments, were appointed by the President and were therefore not direct representatives of the electorate the passage of the bill changed the scheme of things. For the first time the people of the fast-growing metropolis were given the privilege of choosing their own officials.

The passage of that election law had been the result of persistent popular clamor. Representations by incumbent Mayor Norberto S. Amoranto himself, by other political leaders, and by the private sector, had been made with increasing frequency and intensity. As early as 1955 Mayor Amoranto and his NP-dominated council had realized that as appointive officials they did not have the necessary leeway and freedom of action and decision to govern the city in accordance with the dictates of good administration. The hand of Malacañang was evident in every decision made by the Mayor. Public projects could not be pushed through, improvements could not be carried out, without sanction by the appointing power, the President himself, whose appointees are subject to confirmation by the powerful Commission on Appointments.

More Freedom Granted

Republic Act 2259, however, brought forth the winds of change. Now the city officials were no longer hamstrung. They were granted more freedom, a wider latitude of action. The growing thousands of the city's population were empowered to choose their leaders.

As a consequence of this direct participation of the residents in the choice of their leaders, the city leadership became more active. The leaders, notably Amoranto and his elected council, knew they were, in the words of Quezon, answerable for their acts to the people who had elected them. Their duty now to the public was no longer shared by obeisance to Malacañang. For the first time they were representing the people in general, a manifestation of the democratic system. They no longer feared to act because the fear of displeasing Malacañang and the Commission on Appointments, formerly a sword poised over their heads, had been removed.

One need not detail the beneficial effects of this change. The people of Quezon City themselves, who had elected their officials through their ballots, were to become the best judge

as to whether their elected leaders were measuring up to their expectations. If in spite of their newfound freedom of action and leeway in administering to the needs of the community, the elected leaders fell short of the public expectation, the residents would have their day of vengeance. They would repudiate the elected leaders if they did not come up to what was desired; they would reinstall those who had measured up to their standards.

Renewed Mandate

The victory of Amoranto in the 1959 elections, first ever to be held in the city under Republic Act 2259, was an evidence of the desire of the residents to put Amoranto to a test. It was this that prompted them to elect him, as much as their desire, too, to reward him for what he had done since 1954 as an appointed City Mayor who naturally had to make certain that he did nothing that might displease the appointing power.

After his first elective term, the best gauge of his performance was his bid for another elective term. This was in 1963, when he had to face the population again to ask their mandate. If he had failed to give them what they wanted, if he had not lived up to the measure of their expectations after giving him his first elective term as City Mayor, the voters of the city, presumably dominated by the intellectual voters and are an ideal audience for the mass media, would certainly deny him another chance. To be sure, Quezon City voters are not captive voters. Except for the outlying areas, such as Old Balara, Novaliches, the barrios of Balintawak, no place in the city could be considered really rural. The city's population is heavily dominated by residents of government housing districts — Roxas District; Quirino Districts 2, 3 and 4; Project 7, known as Veterans Village; Project 6, in which can be found the popular Newsmen's Row; Project 8, which is divided into no less than three large areas — and also by upper middle class and upper class residents, such as those living in Sta. Mesa Heights, New Manila, Philamlife

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Certainly, with this quality of voters, mandate is difficult to get. Promises are not enough. Their main yardstick is performance — what has been achieved. If Amoranto, during his elective term, 1960-1964, failed to achieve enough, if his performance had fallen short, and if his administration, as it were, had been plagued by a bankruptcy of accomplishments, the next election would have been the best time for the residents to withdraw their support from him. They would replace him.

But the people of Quezon City decided in his favor. In fact, during his second bid for election his victory was more impressive. Whereas during the first election he was able to carry to victory only his Vice Mayor and a solitary Councilor, in 1963 he carried with him his Vice Mayor, Mariano Sta. Romana, and six of the eight candidates for the council!

It is interesting to note here that the much-vaunted civic group, the Citizens League for Good Government, which succeeded in electing all of their six candidates for the council in 1959, failed to have them reelected, except for two. In fact, perhaps emboldened by their victory in 1959, the League, which professes to be nothing but a civic group and not a political party, fielded its complete ticket in 1963. Considering that only two of their candidates survived, and that their candidates for Mayor and Vice Mayor only landed third in the elections, it is apparent that the first term of the League's councilors, who dominated the Council from 1960 to 1964, had not met with the satisfaction of the electorate.

For, as we have said, the yardstick used by the residents of the city in choosing their officials is performance or accomplishment.

The Web of Authority

The importance of the Mayorship of Quezon City defies limitation. It is like the Presidency of the Republic on a

small scale. To be sure, the Mayor is the Chief Executive of the city and, as such, has *immediate supervision and control* over the executive functions of the different departments of the city government.

The powers of the City Mayor are awesome and too numerous to enumerate. One of these is the execution of all laws of the Republic, the City Charter, and the ordinances and resolutions enacted by the City Council. He has immediate and direct supervision over all executive officers and employees of the city, and the power to suspend or dismiss any of them in accordance with the law. The Mayor has the power to appoint all officers and employees of the city whose appointment is not otherwise provided by law. Like the President he also enjoys emergency powers, such as in the case of floods, fires, storms and other public calamities.

While it is true that the Mayor may merely recommend measures to the Council for enactment, it is equally true that because of his office, the Mayor has more than persuasive influence on that body. Furthermore, while appropriations emanate from the Council, it is the Mayor who has the power to determine when to release the required appropriations.

The Mayor's Office

The Mayor's office is the core of the web of power and authority in the city. The Mayor has his own staff to carry out its functions. Among the routine functions of the office are the handling of communications, including those which are policy determining, appointment of personnel — along which there is a "Quezon City residents first" policy — supervision of barrio councilors of the duly created barrios in Quezon City, issuance of permits, both business and social, organization and supervision of youth councils and junior police councils as a means of solving juvenile delinquency, and general supervision and coordination of the functions of the various departments and offices of the city.

To fulfill these functions the Mayor's office has divisions and offices under it. Among these are the Division of City

Public Services, which is in charge of garbage collection and disposal. This was formerly under the City Health Department but for more effective supervision, Mayor Amoranto transferred this function to his office. Under the set-up this division is also in charge of janitorial services, market and street sanitation, evacuation of the septic vaults, and the city pound.

During Mayor Amoranto's term, this division has been considerably strengthened, both in manpower and equipment, in order to cope effectively with the growing garbage disposal problems of the city. Yearly the number of dump trucks is being increased. These dump trucks are city property, thus doing away with the old practice of hiring contractors' trucks and Army trucks for the purpose.

Financial Staff. This section prepares the city's annual budget and plantilla. It is also in charge of the meetings of the Committee on Awards (public biddings) and all matters pertaining to appropriation.

Personnel Staff. This section prepares all the appointments of the personnel of the Mayor's office, and all appointments of Quezon City employees. It selects and screens personnel who will undergo training, takes charge of personnel organization and programming, initiates methods of recruitment, handles employee relations and development, and keeps personnel records and other matters relative to personnel management.

Administrative Division. This division is the center of communications. Here all correspondence, including those which are policy-determining, are handled. It records and releases all papers received, and acts on approved city ordinances and resolutions for implementation by the Mayor. This division also manages executive conferences or staff meetings and other special meetings. It maintains a committee on housing and community development, handles public relations and social activities of the city, and coordinates the functions of the various departments and office of the city administration.

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Secretary to the Mayor. The yeoman responsibility of overall supervision of the functions of the departments and offices of the city, including the approval of social permits, business licenses, etc., falls on the Secretary to the Mayor, the city chief executive's principal alter-ego. This position was formerly occupied by Felino Landicho, then by Eduardo T. Paredes (now Councilor). The present Secretary to the Mayor is Anacleto Madrilejo, former Councilor and Nacionalista political leader from Balintawak. Working with him is a confidential advisory staff which performs confidential missions for the City Mayor.

Permits and License Division. This division is entrusted with the responsibility of issuing Mayor's permits to all businesses in the city. It maintains an up-to-date statistical business record as basis for forecast and references, conducts inspections of all business establishments in the city. Headed by Leonardo M. Cuyong, a management professor, this division has the power to recommend for closure business establishments which fail to comply with city regulations, and to revoke permits and licenses granted by the city.

Social Welfare Services. Assisting individuals, families and groups in solving their problems in social relationship, including extension of emergency aids, is a responsibility of this office. It also extends medical, hospitalization, transportation, legal, and school aid solicited by deserving residents.

Youth Welfare Service. This arm of the Mayor's office is in charge of the recreation and physical activities of the youth. It coordinates and supervises different youth organizations all over the city. It has been conducting summer basketball leagues and athletic competitions, and has launched special activity projects designed to help the youth and thus minimize delinquency.

City Library. This is headed by Atty. Felicidad Peralta, city superintendent of libraries. The city has nine library branches located in Balara, Cubao, Roxas, Project 3, Project 4, Balintawak, La Loma, Novaliches, and Pag-asa.

During the Amoranto administration the library has increased its facilities and equipment, making available more bookshelves for employees and reading tables for the public. Donations form one of the sources of books and reading materials. Some donations come from Quezon City residents, and others from abroad. Each year, more than 200,000 residents use the facilities of the city library.

The Departments

As noted the highest official of the city is the Mayor, with a Vice Mayor and eight Councilors. These are not the only parts of the city machinery. There are ten other departments and principal offices whose heads are appointed by the President of the Philippines, with the consent of the Commission on Appointments. The policies emanating from the City Mayor are relayed to these departments for carrying out.

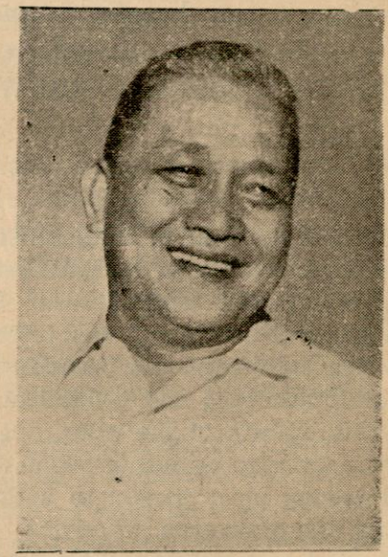
These departments and offices are as follows:

Department of Engineering
Department of Finance
Law Department
Health Department
Police Department
Department of Assessment
Fire Department
Division of Public Schools
City Courts
City Auditor's Office

These departments, which are the arms of the City Mayor, are discussed in subsequent chapters of this volume. Each of these is under the immediate supervision and control of the City Mayor. The extent of their cooperation with the City Executive reflects clearly on the overall performance of the City Administration.

4

The Man in Command



HON. NORBERTO S. AMORANTO
Quezon City Mayor

A Study in Leadership

> **"I should like to find my family united like now by close ties of love and respect; I should like our old house to be their center because our venerable parents are there, because it is the seat of our happiest memories."**
>
> **— RIZAL, Fragments of His Writings**

FEW CAN DOUBT the validity of the observation that the Philippines is not a nation in the strict sense of that word but a group of tribal clans and families. We are not one barangay but a group of barangays, each under the leadership of a ruler who may be benign and benevolent, or dictatorial and despotic, or treacherous and tyrannical. Regardless of the personality and nature of the ruler, one truth remains: we Filipinos are inclined to be authoritarian and paternalistic, dependent and relying on a person in authority for assistance and support, and often even for advice. And this person in authority, or what sociologists call "authority figure," may be either the mother or the father of the family.

Whether it is a clan, a tribe, a family, or a barangay, the members are united by what Rizal calls "close ties of love and respect." This is one inherent characteristic of the Filipino family which, fortunately, Western civilization has not totally eroded or expunged. Family members look up to the head of the family with love, respect and devotion. History has shown, from President Quezon down to President Marcos, that all our respected leaders are good heads of their family. The statement of one Filipino leader, "What's wrong in providing for the security of one's family?", was politically suicidal, but it expresses a whole world of philosophy regarding the Filipino attitude toward leadership.

The Amoranto Pattern

In more ways than one Mayor Norberto S. Amoranto fits into this category. A big, soft-spoken man, he rules his family with velvet-gloved hands, a quality not often found among politicians, many of whom are brash, frantic and quick-tempered. Like a typical Filipino patriarch he believes that before one could lead others, one should first be able to lead his family, and that the kind of family a person has will also determine the kind of leadership he will demonstrate as a public official.

Thus, the Amoranto family is closely-knit. By his example his offspring are gentle of speech, courteous and respectful. Where many other children of their age and social and economic status would much rather misbehave, the Amoranto children have from the beginning learned to respect their parents and neighbors. The harmony in his family, however, should be credited equally to his dutiful wife, Mrs. Asisola Lim Amoranto, a civic worker and well-known educator.

In this writer's opinion Amoranto's love for his family is his greatest asset as a politician and public figure. To many he is a symbol. People look up to him as a father-figure. Children seeing him or hearing about him wish they had been his children. Thousands of people find in him a strong and benevolent figure to lean on to, a person to depend upon in times of distress, perhaps in the same manner that the Americans, after the second world war, found such solace and comfort in the person of President Eisenhower whom they voted into office overwhelmingly.

The less fortunate, such as those who had been orphaned in their youthful years, find in Amoranto the image of their

lost father because there is no harshness, violence, greed or selfishness in his personality.

The Amoranto Style

As the apex in the pyramid of city administration Amoranto uses the same style of leadership displayed in his home. Many observers claim he is cut in the same mold as his political mentor, the late Eulogio "Amang" Rodriguez, Sr., who throughout his long and colorful political career had humbled many a tempestuous, swashbuckling political buccaneer with his benignity. In fact, the Amang's immortal political philosophy, "Politics is addition," is very evident in the Amoranto style of politics. So close is the resemblance in the personality and techniques of both that Amoranto even has learned to use some of the Amang's favorite Tagalog expletives.

As Politician

Few will disagree that Amoranto is a political phenomenon in Quezon City. Fewer still will doubt the fact that no other political figure in the city has equalled, much less surpassed, his durability. All his predecessors had served a combined total of nearly 15 years. Amoranto, alone, has been in harness as city mayor for more than 13 years.

A former senior examiner of the Bureau (now Commission) of Internal Revenue, Mayor Amoranto first assumed the city's premier position on January 11, 1954 as vice mayor and acting mayor. He was appointed Mayor on Feb. 4, 1964. He was the city's last appointive mayor. When the first election in Quezon City was held in November 1959, he ran for the position he had been occupying for nearly five years, defeating his closest rival, former Mayor Ignacio Santos Diaz of the Liberal Party, by a comfortable margin.

With this feat Amoranto became Quezon City's first elective mayor. Significantly, during that election, Amoranto and his candidate for vice mayor, Col. Vicente O. Novales, a former chief of police and security officer of President Mag-

saysay during the latter's campaign for the Presidency, were able to squeeze into the 8-man city council only one of their candidates under the Nacionalista Party. The rest of the council positions were held by candidates of the Citizens League for Good Government, a civic organization which fielded six candidates for the council. Of the eight positions, six were won by the Citizens League, one by the Nacionalista, and one by an independent (no Party) candidate.

Even before the election Amoranto, as appointive mayor, had already notable accomplishments for the city. Among these was the codification for the first time of all city ordinances on taxes and revenues, improvement of public services, public works construction including the erection of pulic school buildings, health centers and public markets, building of roads and bridges, construction of public parks and playgrounds, improvement in the efficiency and morale of the police department, and general expansion of the city services.

In all these activities Amoranto enjoyed the support and cooperation of a Nacionalista-dominated council presided by then Vice Mayor Ysidro Guevara. Highlights of his administration are discussed in the other chapters of this volume.

During his term as elected Mayor, Amoranto, because of the tremendous pressure and tension of public office, suffered a heart ailment. This was during his first elective term. For some time he was unable to resume command of the city government. Even some of his close advisers and colleagues in the party were prepared to desert him. Often heard in informed circles was the rumor that he was finished, wiped out, and that he would not be able to serve his full term. But providentially he recovered from his sickness. When the election was held in 1963, former Vice Mayor Novales who had decided to part ways with him and fight him for the mayoralty, was several thousand votes behind Amoranto, though Novales was his strongest contender. Most amazingly, Amoranto was able to carry with him to victory his vice mayoralty candidate, Mariano M. Sta. Romana, and

six of his eight candidates for the council. The two remaining council positions were won by the Citizens League. Again, the Liberals failed to get a single place in the city government.

Campaign Style

To the uninitiated Amoranto's successive victories, both resounding, were incredible. For the power to move multitudes by the eloquence and fire of oratory is not one of his personal gifts. On the political platform or stage he is not one given to unleashing vitriolic attacks on his opponents. In fact he often cautions his team-mates against hurling nonsensical political *bombas*. He speaks softly, almost in a monotone, giving way only occasionally to bursts of inspired oratory when his integrity or that of his family has been assailed. His style of speaking is conversational, and perhaps this intimacy is its very quality, its magic. Listening to him address even the biggest political rally audience is like listening to him alone relate his rustic boyhood in Biñan, Laguna, his hometown where he was born 59 years ago.

Unlike the usual run of politicians Amoranto is the subtle campaigner, using the soft-sell rather than the hard-sell approach. His style is familiar, personal. Unlike the late Mayor Arsenio Lacson of Manila he does not attempt to electrify his audience from the stage. Instead he goes to them, greeting them warmly, shaking as many hands as he can, asking intimate family questions, embracing old people as though they were his own parents. This concern for the interest of the people endears Amoranto to multitudes, as this is exactly the correct appeal to the sensitive Filipino heart.

He sets no campaign period. He prides in telling his associates and political lieutenants that as far as he is concerned there should not be any specific or definite period of campaigning for election. With this philosophy he keeps his simply furnished City Hall office open to the public. Sometimes visitors are surprised to find that even his own chair in the office is occupied by an employee, a recipient of

his favors, a friend, an office visitor, or a plain anybody who happens to stray in his office idly or with a purpose.

When he is not in the City Hall Amoranto is, more often than not, out in the city's rural areas. For indeed there are rural areas in this teeming city — the old barrios on the outskirts of the housing projects: Novaliches, Baesa, San Bartolome, Old Balara and the rest. He calls them *"bukid,"* and loves to visit the old rural folks who live there, sometimes watching a farmer till his soil or tend his carabao, or work in a garden. Lately he was often found visiting the homes of the underprivileged, teaching them to plant vegetables to augment their income. One of his most recent obsessions is the propagation of home industries.

There is a strong provincial influence evident in the Amoranto style of meeting these rural folk. He does not hesitate to take lunch in a house where lunchtime has overtaken him. This practice often disarms his hosts, particularly those who have witnessed it for the first time. But it endears him to them immensely. Again this is probably because of the Oriental in the Filipino heart. It is an experience they cannot and would not want to forget. In fact they would often brag about it to their neighbors, thus: "Alam mo, dito sa amin kumain si Mayor Amoranto kahapon." This practice takes deep roots in the minds of the people who take pride in the fact that the city's No. 1 executive has dined with them no matter how humble their home may be or how meager their preparations.

Besides being tireless he possesses none of the aloofness and snootiness of many others in his situation. The lowliest shanty-dweller could ask him to his house, only to be surprised that Amoranto will accept if his schedule permits. Because of this his daily schedule is always crowded, and often he comes late for appointments. But because he would make it a point to be there no matter how delayed his arrival may be Amoranto does not disappoint his hosts, who usually wait for him.

● MURA SA LAHAT ● BARGAIN ARAW-ARAW ● MURA SA LAHAT ● BARGAIN ARAW-ARAW ● MURA SA LAHAT ● BARGAIN ARAW-ARAW

He told them how his hands were tied as an appointive mayor. He assured them that if given a mandate through the election he could do more because he would have more control over city affairs. The people elected him Mayor.

After his heart ailment, when his Vice Mayor decided to fight him, Amoranto faced another crisis. Novales was popular. He was a war veteran, a guerrilla hero, and a close aide of President Magsaysay. But the time was not propitious for Novales. The President was dead. Though he was the official candidate for Mayor of the Liberal Party the party itself was wracked by dissensions. In fact, another Liberal was gunning for the same position, Councilor Jose G. Narcelles, who, it was rumored, was being secretly supported by Amoranto. *Divide et impera*, the Romans said: "Divide and conquer." With the Liberals piteously divided, Amoranto survived another crisis.

But the worst crisis in his life was the physical ailment that practically debilitated him. With such a severe attack a man of weaker constitution and spirit could have vanished. But not Amoranto. Now that he has recovered and regained strength, he is once more the man to beat.

During the last presidential election — President Diosdado Macapagal versus then Senate President Ferdinand E. Marcos — Amoranto again demonstrated his political acumen. Marcos was the Nacionalista presidential candidate. He had defeated veteran Nacionalistas (Vice President Fernando Lopez, Senator Gil J. Puyat, Senator Arturo M. Tolentino) in a convention for the presidency, though he was formerly a Liberal. Amoranto, throughout the campaign, had shown enigmatic silence. Even his most trusted aides could not read his real position. While it is true that he is a Nacionalista, it is equally true that the late Amang Rodriguez, his mentor, had been a political victim of Presidential Candidate Marcos. For it was Marcos who had maneuvered the Amang out of the Senate Presidency.

As far as Amoranto's aides were concerned they were in a dilemma. Amoranto was an Amang loyalist. But he was

at the same time head of the QC Nacionalistas. Would he support Marcos although it was Marcos who had defeated his political mentor? Would he subordinate his personal feelings to party expediency and interest?

The situation developed into suspense. Amoranto, according to press reports, had been seeing President Macapagal secretly in Malacañang. It was reported that he was prepared to take his oath as a Liberal. This report was widely disseminated in the city, fanned by press publicity. It was hinted that Amoranto would turn Liberal and support Macapagal against Marcos because of what Marcos had done to the Amang. It was a most opportune time for the Liberal propagandists. Election day was nearing. Amoranto maintained his silence, sphinx-like, enigmatic.

The truth, however, was that Amoranto had not entered into any secret pact with President Macapagal, though the latter had been persuading him to do so. Instead, Amoranto was personally persuading Macapagal to appoint two of his friends and aides to the judiciary. Shortly before the election the President appointed Amoranto's recommendees — Judge Damian L. Jimenez (now deceased) to the Court of First Instance, and Jose de Guzman, a trusted Amoranto aide and former council candidate, to the City Court of Quezon City. During the election Amoranto worked for and supported the candidacy of Marcos.

City NPs Intact

Many observers attribute the political success of Mayor Amoranto to the efficiency of the Nacionalista Party machinery in Quezon City. Perhaps this is so. Compared to the Liberal Party the Nacionalista machine is well-oiled and capable of effective performance. The NP is governed from the top by an executive committee whose chairman is Amoranto himself. Manuel "Noli" Rodriguez, son of the late Congressman Eulogio Rodriguez, Jr., is its executive officer and general campaign manager.

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BACKGROUND

The Pacific Mills, Inc. (Formerly Pacific Knitting Mills, Inc.) was organized in 1951 as a knitting concern, producing knitted fabrics by importing cotton yarn as raw materials. At that time, the operation covered only knitting and finishing and had been distributing knitted fabrics to some 50 underwear manufacturers.

During the year of 1959, when the government encouraged all textile mills to put integrated operation, the Pacific Mills, Inc. had imported a 15,000-spindle spinning plant from Japan complete with air conditioning system and operated its own substation.

Due to shortage of foreign exchange, the spinning plant was imported under a 5-year deferred payment from Japan as approved by the Central Bank of the Philippines.

Coming together with the machineries were about 10 Japanese technicians who helped the installation of the plant as well as the training of local workers. However, the Japanese technicians were sent home after one year of successful operation.

The company was in the integrated operation since 1960 composed of spinning, knitting and finishing until sometime in 1963, it also included in the operation a shuttle embroidery plant, the machines were imported from West Germany.

The Pacific Mills, Inc. is one of the pioneer factories established in the Balintawak area, Quezon City. Its original knitting plant was constructed in the Old Samson Road in 1952 and in 1959, the Main Spinning Plant was established at Balong-Bato, Balintawak, Quezon City.

At present, the company employs 400 workers and it produces about 10,000 lbs. of knitting yarns and/or knitted fabrics daily. Its spinning plant operates now 19,000 spindles and with projected plan of increasing it up to 25,000 spindles in the near future.

The company is owned by 100% Filipino citizen and as of December 31, 1966 it has a total investment of ₱12,000,000.00.

The party leadership goes down to the districts — eight — into which Quezon City is divided for political purposes. Each district is headed by a leader under whose command fall the ward leaders. These ward leaders are the key Nacionalista men on the precinct level, entrusted with the responsibility of supervising registrations and election proceedings in their respective precincts.

It is wrong to say, however, that the victory of Amoranto, his success as a politician, was entirely a result of the efficiency of the party machinery. As noted, during the first election in Quezon City in 1959, Amoranto, his Vice Mayor and only one councilor won. During the 1963 election, Amoranto, his Vice Mayor and six of his eight candidates for the council, won. If one were to analyze this, the greater credit for his success as a political leader in the city should be traced to him personally — to his personality as a family man, his charm as a leader, his mastery of political strategy and instinctive knowledge of the psychology of Filipino voters. All of these work together to make him the leader of his party, which in turn looks up to him for guidance. The party leaders are loyal to him because they respect his leadership and because he helps them satisfy their needs.

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5

The Lawmakers

"When a people is denied light, home, liberty and justice . . . that people has the right to treat him who despoils it like a highway robber."

— RIZAL

IN THE ISSUE of *La Solidaridad* on April 15, 1890, Jose Rizal, in an article entitled "Let Us Be Just," said there is nothing that wins man more than the idea of justice, serene, without hatred or fury, as there is nothing like injustice to arouse his indignation. Law implies equality. Law is what is a man's due, justice is giving it to him. Law is primarily knowing something, in the words of an American Supreme Court Justice, but justice is primarily doing something. In both equality for all is of utmost importance. The law, though promulgated by men of varying persuasions, sentiments, prejudices and interests, must seek to provide equal opportunities for all, big or small. In fact, under certain circumstances, those who have less in life should, in the words of President Magsaysay, have more in law.

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Thus, while Quezon City is but a unit of the great whole which is the country, its lawmaking body must always be guided by the human, universal dictum that the law must not be for the few but for the many.

As will be noted in a subsequent chapter the original members of the city council — the lawmaking arm of the city — were prominent personalities. Each of them was handpicked by President Quezon. Then as now, however, the primary task of the councilors was to enact legislation in the form of resolutions and ordinances designed to improve the city and serve the interest of the residents.

First Election

All the pioneer city council members were appointed by the President and continued to serve their term at the pleasure of the appointing power. The same was true of the city mayor and the vice mayor. Up until the election of city officials first held on Nov. 10, 1959, the council was presided by the City Mayor himself, with the Vice Mayor serving as member of the body.

A review of existing records would reveal that among those who served as postwar members of the City Council are: Matias C. Defensor, Gregorio Roxas, Hipolito Lopez, Leon C. Malubay, Ramon Vicencio, Luis R. Sianghio, Pablo Pablo, Claro R. Piñga, Francisco P. Batacan, Jose P. Cruz, Adolfo Eufemio, Delfin Garcia, Jesus V. Merritt, Ponciano S. Reyes, Melecio Nadonga, Enrique T. Ramirez and Rafael B. Icasiano.

Of these, Roxas, Batacan and Sianghio had also served briefly as acting mayor for periods of less than a week to two weeks. Roxas, Defensor and Sianghio had also served as acting vice mayors at one time or another.

With Amoranto

Ysidro Guevara of Kamuning, a Quezon City oldtimer, was Amoranto's first Vice Mayor. The Council then was

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composed of the following councilors, all appointive: Nicanor Ramirez (now deceased), Lucas Pascual, Martin C. Manahan, Anacleto Madrilejo, Romulo G. Lucasan, Reynaldo T. Ermita, Felipe Cabrera, Benjamin Paguia (deceased). Subsequently appointed to fill vacancies in the Council were Gregorio B. Veluz, Jesus M. Ponce, Luciano M. Dominguez and Isabelo T. Crisostomo. Of these, only Lucasan is still in the Council.

Under Republic Act 537, approved on June 16, 1950, the city council was to be composed "of the vice mayor, and eight other members." The eight councilors, according to the charter, "shall be appointed by the President of the Philippines with the consent of the Commission on Appointments," and "shall hold office at the pleasure of the President; and, such councilors who are not officers or employees of the government receiving a fixed compensation or salary from public funds, shall receive a fixed salary of not exceeding three thousand six hundred pesos each per annum." This salary provision was subsequently revised on June, 16, 1956 and increased to "four thousand eight hundred pesos each per annum." The number of the councilors, however, has remained eight.

During the first election (Nov. 10, 1959) the following were elected officials of the city:

City Mayor	Norberto S. Amoranto (NP)
Vice Mayor	Vicente O. Novales (NP)
Councilor	Pedro Tuazon (Citizens League)
Councilor	Vidal A. Tan (CL)
Councilor	Conrado Benitez (CL)
Councilor	Proceso Sebastian (CL)
Councilor	Carlos Albert (CL)
Councilor	Jose G. Narcelles (Independent)
Councilor	Victoriano Diamonon (CL)
Councilor	Anastacio Yabut (NP)

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During the next local election in 1963, the following officials were elected:

City Mayor	Norberto S. Amoranto (NP)
Vice Mayor	Mariano M. Sta. Romana (NP)
Councilor	Eduardo T. Paredes (NP)
Councilor	Rafael Mison, Jr. (NP)
Councilor	Saturnino Bermudez (NP)
Councilor	Romulo G. Lucasan (NP
Councilor	Florentino Lapus (NP)
Councilor	Luisa G. Orendain (NP)
Councilor	Conrado Benitez (CL)
Councilor	Proceso Sebastian (CL)

It is obvious that in the city the Nacionalista Party machine under Mayor Amoranto is efficient and effective. While it is true that during the first election the Citizens League for Good Government succeeded in getting all its six council candidates elected, the NP machine beat the League's in the succeeding election. In fact only two of its candidates were reelected and this was possibly because these two — Benitez and Sebastian — are among the most prominent figures in the city. Its candidates for mayor and vice mayor — Carlos Albert and Dr. Vidal A. Tan — suffered a debacle.

Powers of the Council

The powers and duties of the council, as embodied in the city charter, are awesome. Among these are the following:

1. To make all appropriations for the expenses of the city government, and establish and fix the salaries of the city officers and employees whose salaries are not otherwise provided in the charter.

2. To provide for the levy and collection of taxes and other city revenues.

3. To tax, fix the license fees and regulate businesses ranging from hawkers and peddlers to manufacturers and distributors.

4. To regulate the use of streets and public places by vehicles.

5. To provide for the erection or rental and care of buildings necessary for the use of the city.

6. To establish and maintain public schools, subject to limitations of law.

7. To establish fire limits and regulate the kinds of buildings and structures that may be erected within said limits and the manner of constructing and repairing the same.

8. To provide for the lighting, cleaning and sprinkling of streets and public places, and to regulate or prevent the use of the same for various purposes.

9. To maintain waterworks for the purposes of supplying water to the inhabitants of the city.

10. To declare, prevent and abate nuisances.

11. To establish, maintain and regulate a police force and prescribe the powers and duties of its members.

12. To establish or aid in the establishment and maintenance of vocational schools and institutions of higher learning conducted by the National Government or any of its subdivisions and agencies; and, with the approval of the Director of Public Schools, to fix reasonable tuition fees for instruction in the vocational schools and in other educational institutions supported by the city.

Power Over Subdivisions

The council has the power to require that no plan of subdivision of a residential estate within its jurisdiction shall be presented for approval or verification by the Bureau of Lands or the General Land Registration Office until the same has been approved by the City Engineer under such regulations as may be provided by ordinance. These regulations may provide for the proper arrangements, design, and width of

streets in relation to other existing or planned streets, for adequate and convenient open spaces for traffic, public services, access of firefighting apparatus, etc., including grading, drainage and sewerage, or other facilities. These regulations also shall provide for approval of the plan within 60 days after submission to the city engineer.

The City Secretary

Under the city charter, as amended, the city secretary is elected by a majority vote of the members of the city council. His duties and powers include:

1. He acts as secretary of the city council, the board of tax appeals, and such other boards or committees that may be created, and keep a journal of their proceedings.

2. He shall record in a book kept for that purpose all ordinances passed by the city council, with the dates of passage and publication of the same.

3. He shall keep a seal circular in form with the inscription "Quezon City Council" and affix the same with his signature to all ordinances and other official acts of the Mayor or the council.

4. He shall cause each ordinance passed to be published as provided in the charter.

5. He shall have charge of all records and documents of the city for which provision is not otherwise made and shall, on demand, furnish certified copies of all records and documents and collect and receive therefore such fees as the council may prescribe for the use of the city.

6. He shall perform such other duties as the Mayor or council may direct.

Among the very first city secretaries was the late Damian L. Jimenez, who later became a judge of the Court of First Instance. Also among the former occupants of this office were Jose Padilla, Teodoro Gener, Tomas Eustaquio, Casto Unson, Rustico Valdellon and Jose de Guzman (now a city judge). The incumbent city secretary is Felipe L. Ting, a Quezon City businessman.

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6

The Law Enforcers

"As a law enforcement officer, my fundamental duty is to serve mankind; to safeguard lives and property; to protect the innocent against deception, the weak against oppression or intimidation, and the peaceful against violence or disorder; and to respect the Constitutional rights of all men to liberty, equality and justice."

— Law Enforcement Code of Ethics

THE TREMENDOUS DEMANDS of peace and order and public security in a community like Quezon City by necessity places the police force, the law enforcers, under keen, critical and continuous scrutiny. If there is a breakdown in peace and order it is not correct to pinpoint the blame alone on the peace officers. This will be an oversimplification of a much too complex social problem.

Sociologists and psychologists, including social workers, are one in refusing to condemn any particular person or group of persons for the occurrence of criminality. A police force can be as efficient only as the society in which it operates wants it to be. No police force is big enough for any given community. A police department may be composed of the best security officers there are, trained in the best schools and academies and receiving the best possible benefits and incentives, but it will fail miserably in insuring peace and order if the residents are suffering from poverty and decadent morality. It will also fail if the residents lack civic consciousness. It will fail if the residents have lost their faith in the government.

Overwhelming Odds

The police department of Quezon City is no exception. It is certainly not the best force there is in the country. But it can compare favorably with any other police department in point of technical skill and competence and an understanding of the social, economic and moral conditions of the city. In spite of certain problems the city's police officers can compare in performance with any other police department in the Philippines. A sense of fairness and good judgment would necessarily give the QCPD this measure of credit.

And yet the odds against the QCPD are overwhelming. To be sure it is undermanned. In 1955 there was roughly one policeman for every 487 residents. With the great increase in population this ratio became one policeman for every 643 residents in 1960. In 1965 there was one policeman for every 738 residents.

Fortunately the QCPD, despite its considerable lack of officers and men, has been performing creditably. On the average it has succeeded in solving approximately 85% of all the cases it has handled. The crime rate in the city is not higher than in other cities or its environs. There is comparative safety and order in the community.

To say that the QCPD is a failure because of the occurrence of crimes within its jurisdiction is to render a swift and sweeping condemnation of the department without investigating the causes, the whys and wherefores of criminality. As long as there is a human society there will be crimes. The measure of police efficiency is the extent of protection it can provide the residents against the criminal elements of the community.

The Past

The QCPD was born with the city. In 1939 then Mayor Tomas Morato served concurrently as Chief of Police. Ironically there were no policemen under him. It was a department in name only. The task of insuring peace and order was entrusted to a detachment of Philippine Constabulary soldiers under the command of then Lieutenant Alfonso Torillo, now a retired colonel.

Subsequently, with the rising responsibilities concomitant to the growth of the city, Governor Sabino de Leon of Bataan was appointed Chief of Police to succeed Morato. De Leon had with him a complement of 6 patrolmen and one sergeant.

With the outbreak of World War II Quezon City was incorporated with the Greater Manila Area. The small police force was absorbed by the newly created Metropolitan Constabulary with headquarters in Manila. Most of the policemen joined the underground movement. Only a few chose to stay in the force.

Immediately after the war a U.S. Provost Marshal headed law enforcement in Greater Manila. But in February 1947 a new set of about 60 officers and men was constituted under the command of Col. Crisanto V. Alba, a lawyer and Manila Police veteran. Alba, with the assistance of Capt. Severino David of the Manila Police Department, trained the corps of fresh recruits, conducting classes virtually under the mango trees because of the lack of suitable facilities. Most of these

postwar recruits are now ranking officers in the force and holding sensitive positions. By 1950, 170 men were recruited to augment the force.

Two years later another complement of 204 men was admitted to the force. But in spite of this growth the force was behind the growth of the population.

Upon the election of President Ramon Magsaysay in 1954 one of his trusted aides, Col. Vicente O. Novales, was named Chief of Police. Col. Alba, whom he succeeded, had been appointed Presidential Assistant on Police Matters in Malacañang.

Under Novales more men were taken in and training programs initiated with the aid of the International Cooperative Administration, the National Bureau of Investigation, and the Philippine Constabulary. Novales laid the groundwork for the Staff Command and inculcated into the officers a robust sense of duty. He banked on his military experience to streamline the force and institute effective preventive measures.

Col. Novales resigned in 1959 to run for Vice Mayor with Mayor Norberto S. Amoranto's ticket. Both were Nacionalistas. They were elected, together with one of their eight candidates for the city council.

In his place, Col. Bibiano M. Viña, former head of the Traffic Bureau, was appointed. Viña started as a patrolman in 1947 then rose to the rank of colonel when he assumed the position of Acting Chief of Police. He emphasized good public relations, knowing that public cooperation and understanding were necessary in carrying out vital police measures. He served only a brief term.

On February 6, 1960 Col. Tomas B. Karingal was detached from his post as Provincial Commander of Iloilo and appointed Chief of Police, replacing Viña who was transferred to Malacañang. He immediately made drastic renovations, reshuffling officers and instituting proceedings, both administrative and disciplinary, against erring personnel. He

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made representations with Mayor Amoranto for the purchase of new and modern police equipment, vehicles, radio sets. Amoranto and his council, as though waiting for the cue, granted his requests. Basic salaries of officers and men increased. To augment the officers' training, seminars were conducted. For new recruits a balanced curriculum for basic training was offered.

Karingal was later recalled to the Armed Forces and made Provincial Commander of Batangas. Upon his retirement from the Armed Forces he was appointed to the Bureau of Customs. He was succeeded by Col. Abenir D. Bornales who, however, did not hold the position long. After Bornales had been pulled out of the department, Karingal was again appointed Chief of Police. This was on April 13, 1965. Today Karingal is still the QCPD's top man.

Bornales, in a sense, had been the most controversial figure ever to hold the position of Chief of Police. He was a retired colonel of the Armed Forces when he was appointed Chief of Police of Caloocan City, then Pasay City, and finally Quezon City. He tried various reshuffles to improve the force. Unfortunately the department was unable, under his leadership, to cope with the crime situation. There was intense public clamor against the force. In the end Bornales had to yield the position.

Today the QCPD has a force of 61 officers, 790 men, 48 civilian employees and 14 casual workers. While this is a much larger force than the original contingent of only 6 patrolmen and one sergeant in 1939 the fact remains that the ratio of police officers to the population is far from ideal. True, the force is disciplined, well-trained, and properly equipped. But the vast geographical area of the city, the tremendous increase in population, will always work against the force. Certainly it will take more than discipline, training and equipment to eradicate criminality in the city as elsewhere.

7

Protectors of the People's Health

"The progress of a community depends largely on the health of its people."

— ADAPTED

HEALTH IS WEALTH, so goes the much taken-for-granted truism. And yet, no community, or a country for that matter, could ignore the health of its citizens. For the wealth of any community depends largely on the condition of the health of the people residing in it. A sick, or diseased, man not only becomes an idle worker; he is virtually worse than that. At the least, he loses income with which he provides food, clothing, shelter and education for his family and children. The impairment of health also means loss of man-hours and possible disruption of work. At worst, he becomes a burden to his family and a potential threat to those who come into close contact with him or in certain instances a potential scourge to the entire community.

Official Concern for the People's Health

Keenly cognizant of the importance of the health of the city residents, the City Administration gives considerable sup-

port to the City Health Department, the office whose specific concern is the promotion of health of all residents and the prevention of the spread of communicable diseases. This Department, at present headed by Dr. Petronio G. Monsod, City Health Officer, receives the third largest share in the city's annual budget — next only to public works and education.

By the nature of its functions the City Health Department has for its main objectives and responsibility the promotion of health, prevention of diseases, and the prolongation of life of all residents of Quezon City. This mission is best accomplished by the basic health services which gear all their activities toward the promotion of good health, physical, mental and social well-being of all the members of the community. Among them are: the Maternal and Child Health Services, the Control of Communicable Diseases Services, the Environmental Sanitation Services, the Health Education Services, the Public Health Nursing Services, the Medical Care Services, the Laboratory Services and other services relating to the health and records of the people.

Pre-World War II Period

The health services in Quezon City were first organized under the Bureau of Health on October 12, 1939 with Dr. Eusebio Aguilar, then Director of Health, as the first Acting City Health Officer and President Manuel L. Quezon as the first Acting City Mayor. At the end of 1939, Dr. Mariano C. Icasiano became the City Health Officer, followed later by Dr. Florencio G. Cruz. At that time there were only four puericulture centers supported by the Women's Club. These centers were manned by four physicians including Dr. F. Cruz, two dentists, six nurses, four midwives and six sanitary inspectors. Their main activity was malaria control as malaria was rampant then. In spite of personnel shortage, they were able to control malaria to a certain extent in two years time until the outbreak of World War II. In addition to this activity, they were able to give medical, dental and sanitary services on a small scale.

Japanese Occupation

During the Japanese Occupation, Quezon City became a part of Manila to form the so-called City of Greater Manila. The health services extended to Quezon City were under Dr. Mariano C. Icasiano, Health Officer of Manila. The health centers which extended services were in San Francisco, La Loma, Kamuning, Galas, San Jose and Sta. Mesa Heights. The salaries of the personnel came from Greater Manila although the Ladies Association and Women's Club helped maintain such centers of giving aid in the form of equipments. The various services rendered through these centers were medical care, maternal child health services on a limited scale and quite underdeveloped, immunization campaign, follow-up of communicable cases, dental care, social services, sanitation services, and care of the prisoners of war.

Post-Liberation Period

In 1945, upon the liberation of the Philippines by the Americans, the health services were taken over by the PCAU whose activities consisted primarily of food and relief goods distribution, aid in housing facilities, first aid treatment of casualties and medical care. In 1946, the PCAU was dissolved and the City Health Officer of Manila again took over the responsibilities of the health services in Quezon City. Ladies' associations were organized to help in the maintenance of health centers. The rehabilitation of the whole city started.

In 1947, after the granting of Philippine independence, Quezon City became an independent chartered city and the health department was created as provided for in the city charter. The Manila Health Department still administered the city health department until March 5, 1947 when Dr. Petronio Monsod assumed the position as City Health Officer. The Quezon City Health Department was composed by Dr. P. Monsod who also supervised the recruitment and training of personnel. The department's organization was a gradual process because of lack of funds and of trained personnel,

lack of office space and inadequate health centers. The department was first housed at the Kamuning market. It was moved later to the City Hall annex and then to its present location. It started with no divisions and sections in 1947, composed of six physicians, six nurses, and four midwives stationed in six health centers. It operated on an annual budget of ₱30,180 to serve the population of 51,800. In the same year the Quezon City Social Hygiene Clinic under the Department of Health was established and took charge of Venereal Disease Control which later expanded its activities to skin diseases.

Health services were extended to the remotest areas of Quezon City. To date there are twenty-four health centers and one city clinic with about 250 personnel serving an estimated population of 402,115.

From 1954 up to the present, there were nine health center buildings constructed by the city administration which received support from the Ladies' Association, Philippine

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Charity Sweepstakes, and alterations from pork barrel funds of congressmen and senators. The health centers which were formerly housed in rented buildings or space were gradually replaced by big buildings on titled lots and they are being fully equipped and manned to render the basic health services. Among the new health centers erected during the decade are:

La Loma	₱27,000
Roxas	₱18,000
San Francisco	₱30,000
Cubao	₱30,000
Quirino District	₱23,000
Galas	₱15,000
Novaliches	₱20,000
Sta. Mesa Heights	₱27,000
Project 4	₱28,000

Various Services of the Department

Control and Prevention of Communicable Diseases. — Among the most important functions of the City Health Department is the early detection and proper control of communicable diseases before such diseases spread into epidemic proportions. This particular function is mainly undertaken by its Disease Intelligence and Control Division which keeps an alert eye for possible occurrences.

Suspected cases are immediately brought to the attention of the division which takes charge of isolating and identifying the disease. Subsequently, it supervises a mass inoculation or vaccination campaign through the different health centers, clinics and other offices of the health department. At the same time it conducts a city-wide information drive to educate the people on how to prevent, through proper precautions, the occurrence of such disease in the family and the initial remedy and care to be taken for members of the family who may contract the disease.

Mother and Infant Care. — The biggest and most extensive services of the Department to the people is, perhaps, its maternal and child health program. This service is generally

conducted by the staff of physicians and nurses in the different health centers, through its nursing services, midwifery services, and domiciliary obstetrical services of the Maternal and Child Health Division.

The services rendered include: distributing medicines to pregnant women, holding classes on care during pregnancy and child care, giving care and medical attention to premature infants, giving free medical care to unwed mothers, caring for new-born babies both in the health centers and through home-visits, giving immunization shots to both mother and child, cooperating with various nursing and medical schools as well as hospitals by helping train student nurses, midwives, and other observers who are interested in public health work, operating well-baby clinics and play centers, as well as extending its services to schools through its school health services and coordinating with the UNICEF in its infant and schoolchildren milk-feeding program.

Sanitation and Garbage Collection. — The City Health Department sees to it that the health of the public is adequately protected by constantly making sanitary inspections of various places. Markets, restaurants and various places where food is handled are required to exercise sanitary precautions and observe the proper sanitation in their establishments. Those found to violate sanitary requirements are closed down and their permits or licenses suspended until the place or establishment has come up to the requirements of law. Others found to be in a dire state of sanitation are punished by revocation of permits and refused renewals, and still others are prosecuted in the courts. All buildings, before erected, are also required to pass certain standards set by the Department. This is specially true in the construction of septic tanks within city limits. Food-handlers are required to pass strict physical and medical examinations to insure that no germ-carriers are given licenses.

Other functions of the Sanitation Services Division, aside from issuance of health permits, sanitary and peddlers per-

mits, business establishments building permits, as well as other permits relating to health or sanitation requirements, are insect and vermin control through fogging and spraying of breeding places; conducting food-handler's courses, doing vaccination work on livestock, and the issuance or dissemination of new sanitary orders to food and non-food establishments. Garbage collection in the city is done by the Department's Division of City Public Service.

Mental Hygiene. — The Department has organized its mental hygiene clinic primarily to give mental health services to residents of Quezon City and to be able to cope with the mental and emotional needs of the populace. This clinic also serves as a demonstration and training center for public health workers and other affiliated groups. Extension clinics are also established in various health centers and clinics being operated by the City Health Department.

Among the different services being rendered by the mental hygiene division are chemotheraphy, psychotherapy, social therapy, guidance and counselling, activity therapy, medical therapy and physical therapy.

Generally, the patients who avail of the services in the different mental hygiene clinics belong to poor families. Most of them suffer from vague fears and anxiety, insomnia, palpitations and nervousness, fainting and dizziness, and irritability.

Medical, Dental and Social Services. — The Department maintains a clinic at the City Hall to take care of the health of city employees as well as members of the community who need medical, dental and social help. These services are also made available nearer to the homes of the people of Quezon City through the various health centers, regional clinics, and the different public schools.

Residents are treated for minor injuries and diseases and are given free medicine and medical attention, while other cases are referred through the main office to proper specialists and hospitals. It also conducts free X-ray and fluoros-

copy examinations in various parts of the city as a preventive step against the spread of tuberculosis and other lung diseases.

Dental services rendered by the Department include preventive dentro-oral treatments in the various clinics, centers and sub-centers all over the city. It likewise conducts pre-service and in-service training programs for its personnel geared at providing quality health services as well as quantity and continuous care to the residents.

The Quezon City General Hospital. — The dream of having a general hospital in the Capitol City of the Philippines was conceived by the first elective officials headed by Mayor Amoranto and the City Council dominated by the Citizen's League for Good Government. Ordinance No. 5581, dated October 16, 1963, which was sponsored by Councilor Anastacio Yabut, was approved converting the Cubao Health Center into a general hospital with an appropriation of ₱450,000. An additional fund of ₱100,000 was added for this hospital project in ordinance No. 5623, dated November 25, 1963. Unfortunately, this plan did not materialize during their term but the hospital fund was left intact.

Upon assumption of office of the next elective officials in 1964 and in view of the proposed establishment of the proposed City Hospital, a committee was created by virtue of a memorandum order No. 76, dated January 16, 1964 to study and plan the nucleus of a systematized and workable hospital. This first hospital committee was chairmanned by Dr. Monsod, with Councilor Louisa Orendain as co-chairman. Members of this committee were:

Dr. Rafael Delgado, Medical Adviser, Bureau of Medical Services, Department of Health; Jose Niñalga, Hospital Architect, Bureau of Medical Services; Baltazar Aquino, City Engineer, Quezon City; Luciano Aquino, City Architect, Quezon City and Francisco Quintos, City Treasurer, Quezon City.

The secretary of the committee was Dr. Fe Villanueva Fernandez, Chief of Planning, Training & Coordination Staff, City Health Department.

Recommendations made by the planning committee were listed as follows:

1. Negotiation of the proposed hospital site of the former U.S. Naval Reservation site from the PHHC.

2. At least 5 hectares of land should be negotiated to accommodate 100-200 beds to have a functional hospital for future expansion.

3. Coordination between the Architectural Division, Department of Engineering, Quezon City and the Architectural Division, Bureau of Medical Services, Department of Health for planning the physical plan of one year.

4. Start a 100-bed hospital with an appropriation of ₱2,000,000.00 within a target of one year.

5. Plan the physical layout of hospital in consonance with the plans for operation and maintenance to include training of the staff and personnel with necessary appropriations.

Representations were made with the UNICEF on Feb. 24, 1964 for material assistance and to President Diosdado Macapagal on March 24, 1964 to acquire 5 hectares of PHHC land in the former US Naval Station.

For a time, there was a move by the City Council to take over the administration of the Quirino Labor Hospital and to convert it into the city hospital. Again, this was not realized because of some legislative technicalities to overcome.

By virtue of Memorandum Order No. 121 dated October 28, 1965, a Quezon City General Hospital committee under the chairmanship of the Vice Mayor Mariano M. Sta. Romana Jr., with Atty. Benigno Nagrampa as the Executive Secretary, was created. To expedite committee work, sub-committees were created as follows:

1. *Technical Panel*:
   Dr. Petronio G. Monsod ..... *Chairman*
   Engr. Baltazar Aquino ..... *Member*

Mr. Francisco A. Quintos	*Member*
Dr. Fe V. Fernandez	"
Dr. Reynaldo Lupisan	"
Dr. Delfin Guerrero	"

2. *Finance and Reparation Panel*:

Mr. Francisco Quintos	*Chairman*
Mr. Pat Rebueno	*Member*
Engr. Baltazar Aquino	"
Councilor Rafael Mison, Jr.	"
Councilor Luisa Orendain	"
Councilor Florentino Lapuz	"
Councilor Conrado Benitez	"

The Technical Panel was to look into the technical requirements and problems related to the establishment of the proposed hospital, while the Finance and Reparation Panel would take care of the fiscal problems involved and find ways and means of meeting them.

Corollary to the efforts of the committee for an early commencement of the hospital project so that Quezon City might be exempted from the annual hospital aid requirement which involves millions of pesos annually, the following measures were recommended:

1. Resolution of the City Council designating the two hectares recently donated to the City by the PHHC within the former US Naval area along Epifanio de los Santos Avenue as the hospital site in pursuance of the purpose for which the same was donated.

2. Resolution of the City Council authorizing the Mayor to enter into contract for the architectural services of Architect Ruiz in connection with the preparation of the plans and specifications for the proposed hospital.

3. Resolution of the City Council authorizing the Quezon City General Hospital Committee to:

(a) Negotiate a loan with government financing institutions.

(b) Negotiate financial and/or material assistance from the Reparations Commission.

On September 1, 1966, upon the recommendation of the Health Department, the City Government was able to purchase the San Jose Seminary building together with its 14.7 hectares of land at Seminary Road, along Epifanio de los Santos Avenue. The building was intended for the proposed hospital and it cost the government ₱7,000,000 to buy the building and lot. According to a written mutual agreement, the seminary staff and students would vacate the building on July 1, 1967. An initial payment of ₱2,000,000 was made and the rest was to be paid on scheduled installments.

For purposes of future hospital work, the technical consultant on health matters of the Office of the Mayor, the Chief, Maternity Care Section and two health center physicians of the Health Department were sent to undergo training on Hospital Administration, General Surgery, Obstetrical and Pediatric training, respectively.

To implement the hospital program this year (1967), the City Mayor prepared and submitted to the City Council a budget proposal for a 50-bed hospital with an appropriation of ₱572,007.20 which included the plantilla of personnel with the salaries and wages, initial cost of equipment, and the maintenance and operational expenses.

As a fitting occasion to commemorate the establishment of the hospital, a dedication ceremony of the Quezon City General Hospital will be held on August 19, 1967 to coincide with the traditional celebration of the late President Manuel L. Quezon's birth anniversary.

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8

The Builders

"A new edifice shall arise, not out of the ashes of the past, but out of the standing materials of the living present."

— PRESIDENT QUEZON

IT WAS THE VISION of the late President Manuel L. Quezon to establish a capitol city of beautiful avenues and parks, broad streets, and properly zoned government, industrial, business and residential areas that would adequately meet the needs of the future. He believed it wiser to start right in the city's planning than to renovate and improve only when a need arises. Thus, even while the City was still quite sparsely populated at the time it was created, provisions were already made in setting the limits of private properties to allow the construction of tree-lined avenues, broad national highways and city streets in anticipation of the increasing flow of traffic in the years to come. Today, the illustrious Father of the City has once more been proved correct.

The job of constructing, maintaining and repairing all national highways, city streets and other public works in the

City is performed by the City's Department of Engineering. As of this writing, it is headed by Engr. Pantaleon Tabora, whose appointment was confirmed recently by the Commission on Appointments. He succeeded Baltazar P. Aquino, appointed as Commissioner of Public Highways on March 11, 1966. In pursuance of its functions and objectives the Department of Engineering likewise is responsible for the approval of all plans for construction within city limits, the issuance of building permits and the inspection of industrial plants and public places to insure observance of proper safety measures as well as provision of adequate facilities for the protection and convenience of the public.

Construction of Roads and Bridges

Time was when Quezon City's streets were a popular butt of jokes among the people, specially among newspaper columnists. It was said then that if a man was asleep in a bus or private car he would immediately know he was already within the boundaries of the City. He would be jolted from his deep sleep because of the deep holes that pocked the thoroughfares and streets. Such was the condition of the City from the time of the Liberation Days until the 1950s, that the claim ceased to be a joke. It was only upon the assumption of office of the first elective officials in 1960, working under the revised charter of the City, that the City Administration was able to provide more funds necessary for the construction of new roads, and properly maintain and repair existing roads and streets all over the city. It is to the City Administration's credit that today, it can honestly be claimed, the exact opposite prevails. It may even be claimed that one will know, while travelling in the city, when he leaves the city limits based on the condition of the roads he is on.

National Highway and Bridges. — With the approval by Congress of the revised charter of Quezon City national roads and bridges in the City became the joint concern of both the national government and the city administration. Road construction funds, now coming from two sources, increased

in amount enabling the City Administration to support more adequately its road construction and maintenance program.

The office under the City Department of Engineering which takes charge of this function is the Division of National Highways and Bridges. Since the beautification of highways is also part of the City's roads program, this division coordinates its activities with the Division of Architecture, particularly its Parks and Monuments Section.

City Streets. — The Construction, maintenance and repair of city streets is a joint responsibility of the Department's Division of Construction and Improvement of City Streets and the Division of Maintenance and Repair of City Streets. These divisions also coordinate their work with the Division of Architecture for proper planning, designing, programming and construction.

City streets are financed entirely by the City Administration, which also has to provide for the maintenance and repair, as well as improvements of private roads and streets in the various housing projects and subdivisions turned over to the City time and again.

Asphalt Plant. — Keenly cognizant of the perennial lack of maintenance materials and supplies for the roads and streets of the City, the City Administrators worked hard to acquire and operate a "bituminous concrete mix" plant with a view of making it operate on a self-liquidating basis. This was a wise move considering the fact that the supply and delivery of asphalt mix to sustain the City's road construction program depended entirely on the mercy of private-owned suppliers whose flow of supply as well as delivery according to schedules were so unreliable that city projects suffer disruption and delay most of the time.

Entering into contract with the Bureau of Highways, which possessed the asphalt plant, the City Administration was able to effect the transfer and establishment of the plant in Quezon City. The asphalt plant began operation on July 24, 1963 and was able to realize profits since the very first

year of operations necessary to pay the annual lease and assume the payment of installments for the eventual acquisition of the plant for the city. The plant, starting with a yearly production of 16,451.5 metric tons during its first year of operation, produces an average of 18,500 metric tons every year valued at more than ₱500,000.00.

The operation of the Asphalt Plant is under the supervision of the Department's Division of Asphalt Plant, Motor Pool and Equipment, which also maintains the City's motor pool and equipment repair shops.

Waterworks Systems. — Quezon City residents rely mainly on the National Waterworks and Sewerage Administration for the supply of their water needs. In the City the Department's Waterworks Division attends to applications for construction of water mains and pipes in coordination with the NAWASA.

While the Department of Engineering has made representations with the NAWASA for the planning and construction of an integrated and synchronized drainage and sewerage system for the city as early as 1948, the NAWASA has not given assistance to the City up to the present. The Department, therefore, has been left alone to fend for itself and to meet the demands of increasing population relating to the City's drainage and sewerage systems.

Building Permits and Inspection. — All applications for permits to construct plants, business establishments, buildings and houses are subject to the approval of the City Engineer through the Department's Division of Building Permits and Inspection.

In accordance with Commonwealth Act No. 104, otherwise known as the Industrial Safety Law, all regulations, rules, and standards for building construction devolve on the City Government. Hence, in 1963, the City Administration created the Industrial Safety Office under the Department of Engineering through Ordinance No. 5601. This office also supervises "the regulation of the location and use of engines,

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boilers, forges, and other manufacturing and heating appliances," a function previously exercised by the Office of the City Electrician, to conform with the revised charter of the City.

The Division sees to it that proper safety standards are met and that the workers and the public are adequately protected from accidents as well as provided adequate exits and facilities for personal convenience.

City Planning. — The job of controlling undue and misplaced construction in the City falls on the shoulders of the men and women working in the Department's Division of Architecture. This Division, in coordination with other offices of the Department, draws the plans for the development of the City and designs the various buildings owned by the City Government. It also creates the models and detailed plans for proposed city buildings, makes researches and provides construction specifications as well as program construction projects of the City Administration.

It is also the Division of Architecture which takes care of the landscaping plans for all roads and streets, and grounds of government buildings, takes charge of the city zoo and provides the working force and security men in this area.

Assisting the City Engineer in the planning of the city for proper economic development is the Sundry Economic Development and Investigation & Survey Division.

9

The Citizen Makers

"If our country has ever to be free, it will not be through vice and crime, it will not be so by corrupting its sons; deceiving some and bribing others, No! It will be through education and industry."

— RIZAL

IN MODERN SOCIETY ignorance should be an anachronism, a thing of the past. Ignorance is weakness; it leads to slavery and servitude. A people living in ignorance lacks personality and strength; it has no direction and is incapable of progress because it lacks a will and a determination. Rizal once said that an ignorant person is like a beast which its master leads by the halter.

Education of the people is a most legitimate aspiration of our society. From Rizal down to the present our leaders have been stressing education as a requisite of progress. The laws of the land, from the Constitution to the special laws, give maximum emphasis to the education of the youth. And

the value of the youth as citizens, their worth in our society, is shaped by the education they receive in their formative years.

This is why the government, in a series of legislations, has formulated specific guidelines upon which to base the nation's educational system. Briefly, these guidelines, as approved by the Board of National Education, the nation's highest policy-determining body, are as follows:

1. To inculcate moral and spiritual values inspired by an abiding faith in God.
2. To develop an enlightened, patriotic, useful and upright citizenry in a democratic society.
3. To instill habits of industry and thrift, and to prepare individuals to contribute to the economic development and wise conservation of the nation's natural resources.
4. To maintain family solidarity, to improve community life, to perpetuate all that is desirable in our national heritage, and to serve the cause of world peace.
5. To promote the sciences, arts and letters for the enrichment of life and the recognition of the dignity of the individual.

These are the five fundamental objectives of education in the Philippines which their framers consider timely and relevant to the contemporary situation, and flexible enough to meet the demands of the future.

Education in Quezon City

As part of the total educational community, Quezon City emphasizes the very same fundamental objectives of education. The general education pattern is followed in the city. The same goals are pursued. Like any other city, it is, however, faced with its own problems, one of which is how to cope with the rising educational needs of its rapidly multiplying residents.

Although the city, as noted, was founded in 1939, it was only on July 25, 1950 that it became a separate school divi-

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sion. The first superintendent was a veteran educator, Pablo P. Reyes, who retired on June 26, 1962 after 12 years of service in that capacity. During his second year in office (school year 1952-1953) there were 15,710 primary pupils, 5,810 intermediate pupils, and 987 secondary students, or a total public schools enrolment of 22,507. In 1953-1954 this total rose to 25,948.

The teaching force during the corresponding periods were as follows: 601 in 1952-1953 and 710 in 1953-1954.

Superintendent Reyes, in his 1953-1954 annual report, pinpointed specific problems of the city schools then. First among these was the lack of suitable school buildings, which necessitated the operation of elementary schools on an "emergency plan." The city did not have any standard school site, the sites earmarked being too small and crowded. And because of the lack of buildings about 50% of the entire school population were housed in rented buildings which, in the words of Reyes, "were substandard in size, poorly lighted, ill-ventilated, and devoid of play space."

Upon his retirement on June 26, 1962, Superintendent Alfredo J. Andal took over. He immediately reorganized the city schools division into 12 administrative and supervisory districts, each under a district supervisor. According to Andal, this reorganization was necessary to develop a closely knit system of administrative and supervisory services because of the needs of the rapidly expanding public school population. Under the setup, which took effect on October 22, 1962, the district supervisors were given ample and judicious freedom in exercising educational and professional leadership in programming and solving school problems.

In his 1966 report, Andal made the following summary:

"The school enrolment for the elementary level increased by 37 per cent; for the secondary level, 107 percent or a total increase in both levels of 43 percent. The number of supervisors and principals increased by 25 percent; health personnel by 58 percent; the division office personnel by 41 percent, and the school janitors and helpers by 24 percent.

"All told the increase in personnel from 2,616 in 1963 to 4,050 in 1966 is 35.4 percent.

"The number of secondary schools increased from 5 to 11 with 4 additional annexes while the number of complete elementary schools increased from 43 to 49 with 52 additional incomplete elementary schools or annexes. About 44 percent of all the classrooms are rented."

School Districts

From 12 school districts in 1963 the division has grown to 15 school districts. These are, alphabetically: Aguinaldo East District, Aguinaldo West District, Bagong Pagasa District, Balara District, Balintawak District, Cubao District, Galas District, Kamuning District, La Loma District, Novaliches District, Project 4 District, Project 7 District, Quirino District, San Francisco District, and San Jose District. Of these, the most recently created were the districts of San Jose, the districts of East and West Aguinaldo, and Balara.

From five high schools in 1963, the city now has eleven high schools. These are the Ramon Magsaysay High School, Juan Sumulong High School, E. Rodriguez, Jr. High School, Quezon City High School, Novaliches High School, Don Alejandro Roces High School, M. Roxas High School, Galas High School, Quirino High School, San Francisco High School, and Sergio Osmeña High School.

Before Mayor Amoranto's administration there were only 28,050 grade-school and 2,126 high school students, and 669 and 98 elementary and high school teachers, respectively. Today there are more than 87,500 grade school pupils and 26,500 high school students in the city, with 2,591 and 1,145 teachers in the elementary and high schools, respectively.

Andal attributes much of the growth of the city schools population to what he called the "education-conscious" Mayor Amoranto and the City Council.

Highlights

In 1964-1965 Republic Act 4092 was passed, "nationalizing" all city intermediate schools. This was a significant highlight in public education in Quezon City. It meant a savings of the city government of about ₱2.5 million pesos a year. Since then, this savings has been diverted to essential projects, specifically the construction of public school buildings and the acquisition of sites.

Another highlight was the passage of Republic Act 4495 which created two assistant city superintendents of schools — one for the elementary schools and another for the secondary schools. This was held significant because it provided an answer to the expanding educational services. The two positions created by the law were in addition to the already existing position of assistant city superintendent of schools.

Still another significant development is the creation of additional positions for school physicians, school dentists, and school nurses. Today there are 11 school physicians, 16 school dentists, and 21 teacher-nurses in the division.

Curriculum Areas

Quality in education is well attended with the proper recruitment and placement of teachers. The needed supplies and materials are provided as much as funds are made available by the National and city governments. The resources of the various parent-teacher associations and of establishments in the city are likewise being tapped.

Language Arts. — In-service training, seminars, democratic supervision, and the use of modern techniques of teaching have contributed much to the progress of classroom instruction, both in English and Pilipino. In English, the child is made proficient not only in conversational and written language but also in understanding and reading it. Teachers' guides and textbooks, including turntables, tape recorders, and radio sets, are being used. The pupils are also urged to participate actively in speaking and writing contests. At least one QC high school supplements English teaching with open-circuit Educational TV through Channel 7.

Learning Pilipino, an ingredient of nationalism, is hastened by the initiation of activities like collection of materials about our cultural and historical heritage, participation in city and nationwide celebrations of Pilipino Week, Nepa Week and Family Week, *balagtasan* or poetical jousts, and creative writing.

Social Studies. Strongly emphasized in city schools is the improvement of our values as a people and our habits of thinking. Emphasis, too, has been laid on the thoughts and ideas of the nation's greatest heroes and thinkers; the motivations behind events and movements, and the geographic factors underlying a people's problems and ways of life. All of these are meant to develop among the youth a sense of right and wrong, concern for common welfare and understanding, and appreciation and respect for others.

Natural Sciences. Natural science teachers are required to attend special lectures and demonstrations, conferences and seminars, to increase their proficiency and skills. Instruction is updated and made more interesting through appropriate teaching guides and materials.

Music. The music areas of singing, listening, expressive bodily movements, and instrument playing are enriched by supplemental musical activities. Students are encouraged to make musical compositions with English or vernacular lyrics. Rhythm banks in the elementary schools, glee clubs in the higher grades and mixed choirs, encourage participation in school activities.

Also given emphasis in the public schools are vocational and work education, home economics, physical education, athletics and preparatory military training, and health education.

Significantly pilot schools have also been created to improve further the teacher-learning environment in the division. For the past three years, too, the Peace Corps Volunteers has been contributing to local education.

Scouting as a co-curricular activity is likewise being given emphasis. This movement has contributed in large measure to the curbing of juvenile delinquency. The Quezon City Boy Scout has been credited with important civic projects such as the campaign against mosquitoes, city beautification and others. It has its own headquarters, a ₱50,000-building furnished by sweepstakes funds.

The schools division also encourages the printing of school publications. At present there are 11 high schools and seven elementary schools which publish their own organ, supported mainly by subscriptions from students and PTA subsidies.

Likewise given importance are adult and continuing education, cultural development and strivings for excellence through the holding of various competitions. On the teacher level, scholarships are offered for further studies abroad.

10

The Vision

"Politically, as the seat of the National Government; esthetically, as the showplace of the nation, a place that thousands of people will come to visit as an epitome of culture and spirit of the country; socially, as a dignified concentration of human life, aspiration, endeavor and achievement; and, economically, as a productive, self-contained community."

— QUEZON, His Vision of Quezon City

DURING ONE OF HIS early morning strolls, a practice of the late President Manuel L. Quezon which gave him time to ponder the problems of the state, the plight of the teeming masses of Filipino workers who even then crowded Manila persistently occupied the President's mind. Though Quezon was known as "El Mestizo," that title was more of respect than derision. For he loved the Filipino worker; he sympathized with the impoverished millions whose needs

were multiplying faster than they could increase their income. To raise the living conditions of the people was one of his obsessions, a concern which he underscored time and time again, and in his inaugural address as first President of the Commonwealth on Nov. 15, 1935.

Social Justice

Soon after his assumption of the presidency Quezon pursued his classic policy of social justice, capsuled in his exhortation to his countrymen: "Contribute to the welfare of your community and promote social justice. You do not live for yourselves and your family alone. You are a part of society to which you owe definite responsibilities."

Consequently he caused to be created such offices as the People's Homesite Corporation, established in 1938 as a subsidiary of the National Development Company, then merged with the People's Homesite and Housing Corporation in 1947 — and the Court of Industrial Relations which was empowered to determine the basic salaries of government personnel and the maximum scale of house rentals.

President Quezon named one of his closest friends, Don Alejandro Roces, owner of a newspaper chain, as head of the housing firm.

The President's decision to have a housing commission was inspired by his desire to establish a community for workers to help them improve their lot. This was an expression of his policy of social justice. A wise and decisive leader of the people, he knew that his power as President rested on the masses of amorphous, ill-fed followers, and that to retain their loyalty he had to provide them with assistance.

As presidential friend and adviser, Roces broached to Quezon the idea of acquiring land in Diliman Estate, close enough to Manila and large enough to accommodate thousands of Filipino workers and their families. Quezon

authorized Roces to negotiate the purchase. Consequently the Commonwealth government was able to purchase 1,527 hectares of land from the Diliman Estate at the fantastically low price of only ₱0.05 per square meter. This area provided the nucleus of Quezon City.

With characteristic impatience the Chief Executive caused the land to be subdivided and low-cost houses built, each to be rented out at minimum monthly rates to the tenants who would eventually have the right to own both the house and lot. The rest is history.

President Quezon's pilot *barrio obrero*, in which houses had a uniform design and construction, came to be known as Kamuning, now a progressive, bustling community. While most of the homes in that area have been remodelled, a few vestiges of the Quezon model houses still remain in their original style and construction.

Far-Ranging Vision

A leader of exceptional vision the late President, seeing his first housing project outside Manila, scanned the horizons further. This time he was no longer just thinking of a *barrio obrero*. His mind was occupied with the thought of developing a new site to become the Philippine capital.

He knew that Manila, though rich in history and an ideal center of commerce because of the Pasig River and its proximity to the sea, had become too congrested. He thought of the U.S. capital, Washington, D.C., which he had visited and admired for its elegant architecture and well-planned development. He knew that the Philippines, for whose independence and progress he had spent the best hours of his life, deserved a more elegant, more spacious seat of central government. He intimated this thought to his bosom friends, among the late Senator Eulogio Rodriguez, Sr. Again, Quezon made a decision.

On October 12, 1939 President Quezon signed into law Commonwealth Act 502 which had been passed by the Na-

tional Assembly. This was the original charter of Quezon City. Under the charter, which was to undergo a series of revisions later, Quezon City had an area of 7,335 hectares. The government owned one-third of the total area. Incorporated as part of the city were Cubao, San Francisco del Monte, Diliman, and the University of the Philippines compound.

Immediately after the city boundaries had been fixed the President instructed Harry T. Frost, architectural adviser of the Commonwealth government, to prepare the city's master plan. He was assisted in this task by A. D. Williams, secretary of public works during the American regime. Quezon's vision of a capital city was gradually becoming a reality.

Pioneer Officials

From October 12, 1939 to November 4, 1939 President Quezon himself acted as mayor of Quezon City. This made him the first mayor of the city named after him. But to give the city autonomy, he appointed Tomas B. Morato, then mayor of Calawag, Tayabas (now Quezon) to succeed him. Other officials working with Morato were Pio Pedrosa, city treasurer; Emilio Abello, city attorney; Jake Rosenthal, city assessor; Perfecto Palacio, judge of the Court of First Instance; and Damian L. Jimenez, now deceased, secretary to the Mayor. Jimenez later was to become a city secretary and municipal judge. Upon his death he was a judge of the Court of First Instance.

The original members of the city council, who were earlier appointed by Quezon, continued to discharge their functions under Mayor Morato. They were Vicente Fragante, then secretary of public works, who was concurrently vice mayor and city engineer; Dr. Eusebio Aguilar, then director of health, who was concurrently councilor and city health officer; Jose Paez, and Alejandro Roces. A brief assessment of the various city administrations can be found in the succeeding chapter.

Development

Under the stewardship of Mayor Morato the initial development of Quezon City went underway. It was hastened when Ponciano A. Bernardo, vice mayor and city engineer, eventually took over. Unfortunately development activities, then only beginning, were disrupted by the outbreak of World War II in 1941.

To coordinate and synchronize activities in times of emergency President Quezon declared Quezon City as part of the Greater Manila Area. It remained so until January 2, 1947, when its separate political existence was restored by Republic Act 42.

Though President Quezon died on August 1, 1944, in Saranac Lake, New York, less than three weeks before his 66th birthday anniversary, the development of Quezon City did not come to a permanent halt. When President Roxas assumed the Presidency, works were immediately resumed. In June 1946 Roxas created a special committee, under Administrative Order No. 5, entrusted with the task of determining the official capital of the Philippines. Naturally Quezon City was the choice. In 1947 Roxas named a group of prominent architects and Filipino engineers and sent them to the United States to take advance studies in urban planning and development.

On April 15, 1948 President Roxas, who could have sped up the development of the city, died in Clark Field, Pampanga, of a heart attack. Again there was an interruption in the city's progress. A few months later, on July 17, 1948, President Elpidio Quirino who succeeded him signed Republic Act 333 under which the Roxas committee was reorganized. This act created the Capital City Planning Commission and declared Quezon City as the capital of the republic.

Planning Commission

The Capital City Planning Commission created by Roxas and revived by Quirino was composed of the following:

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* St. Peter Memorial Park is situated in the heart of the Capital.

Juan M. Arellano, commissioner and in charge of the architectural division; Jose Paez, engineering division; Ponciano A. Bernardo, administrative and public relations committee; Manuel Mañosa, committee on health and sanitation; Salvador Araneta, law division; Ernesto Rufino, head of the acquired property division and of industrial relations, and Cesar H. Concio, executive secretary.

The Quezon City blueprint prepared by the commission was approved by President Quirino in April 1948. On October 22, 1949, Quezon City was formally inaugurated as the national capital through the symbolic laying of the cornerstone at Constitution Hill, site of the national government.

Realization

Gradually, therefore, Quezon City is becoming what President Quezon had envisioned it to be. True, progress has not been as rapid as expected. But this was because of numerous interruptions resulting from the death of Quezon himself, the death of President Roxas, the death of President Quirino, President Magsaysay, and the outbreak of the second global war.

However slowly but gradually Quezon City is becoming the dream city of President Quezon as so beautifully expressed by that great leader himself in the beginning of this chapter.

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11

The Reality

"Let no one believe that he can still continue exploiting his fellowmen without in the end suffering from it. He who owns had better give a part of what he owns to the community in which he lives if he wants to conserve the rest for himself."

— QUEZON

AS NOTED IN THE preceding chapter the ultimate Quezon dream was to see a modern metropolis that would eventually seat the central government as official capital of the nation, much like Washington, D.C. During his lifetime the dream began to take shape. Not only did he succeed in establishing, as part of his social justice program and evidence of his deep interest in the welfare of the Filipino working class, a pioneer *barrio obrero* now known as Kamuning. He also succeeded in having a law enacted (Commonwealth Act 502) officially creating Quezon City. And shortly before the outbreak of the Second World War he succeeded in per-

sonally leading the first city administration, only to turn the reins over to his friend Tomas B. Morato.

The man with exceptional vision, however, failed to live long enough to see the reality. He even did not live long enough to see what President Roxas did to help realize his dream, or the efforts of President Quirino and the other succeeding Presidents — Magsaysay, Garcia, Macapagal, Marcos. Neither did the President witness the accomplishments of each of the succeeding city mayors, which is the topic we will briefly discuss in this chapter.

First Fifteen Years

The first fifteen years of Quezon City (1939-1954) had not been, as noted, a period of phenomenal and rapid growth. In fact, if Quezon had lived through 1954 he would surely have shown his impatience. For Quezon was a leader of decisive action. He was a great believer in doing things fast. He abhorred delays. If he had lived long enough, the famous Quezon temper, a hallmark of his leadership and personality, would have exploded. He was a stickler for promptness, for punctuality. Thus, the famous "Quezon time," as distinguished from "Filipino time." As Chief Executive he insisted rightly that everything had to be done on schedule, not in its own sweet time.

However, no single city administrator could be blamed for the slow development of Quezon City. To be sure, the war years had been the greatest enemy of the city's progress. From 1941 to 1945 the principal preoccupation of Filipinos was personal survival in the wake of a tidal wave of brutalities and atrocities. All activities which had been started before the war had come to a standstill, if not absolutely ended.

Postwar Years

The years after the war had not been propitious either for development. The entire nation first had to pick itself up from the rubbles, from the devastation of war, and nurse its wounds. The main concern of the national government was economic survival and rehabilitation. During such a

critical period, urban development could not have entered the minds of the nation's leaders. They had to concentrate on providing the millions of Filipinos with food, clothing, shelter, and medicine. They had to provide funds with which to rebuild homes, hospitals, health centers, schools, roads and bridges. This is the first instinctive act of a people who have just awakened from a nightmarish war.

Perhaps one justification for the passage and approval of the Parity Rights amendments to the Philippine Constitution was the mass deprivation and desperation prevailing during the postwar period. It was a decision that the people had to take because the only alternative was continued poverty, hunger and death.

The inertia of war spilled over even after the laying of the cornerstone on Constitution Hill on October 22, 1949 making Quezon City the national capital. True, there were impressive ceremonies and symbolic rites. But to expect the administrators of the city at that time to pursue its development full-throttle would be expecting too much. It had to take many more years before the trauma of the tragedy of war could be erased and before definite directions could be taken.

Lack of Total Plan

Thus, the city mayors during the period were not able to accomplish much. At most their development projects were carried out on a piecemeal basis. There was lack of a general development plan projected years ahead. Apparently the war had not only interrupted Quezon City's progress but also limited the perspectives and foresight of the city planners.

Consequently the mayors after Quezon could hardly boast of monumental achievements. True, the city had shed off much of its rural and rustic atmosphere. Slowly it had become a "suburban" community. More houses were being constructed. Roads were appearing here and there. Factories were sprouting up. School buildings, a few parks,

and public health centers were being constructed. But the general pace of activity had not been impressive. One could hardly see signs of the beauty, majesty and modernity of the capital city President Quezon had envisioned. Shacks and hovels were rising side by side with mansions. The roadsides were cluttered with talahib and cogon and other wild weeds. The drainage system was inadequate. Industrial buildings were mushrooming in areas designated as residential.

Obviously, this was happening because of the absence of a master plan according to which the major capitals of the world had been built — a plan conceived by people with great imagination, creativity, and the capacity to project their minds to the distant future.

Achievements

Mayor Morato was not able to achieve much. During his administration the city was virtually a wilderness, a jungle. But because his administration was subsidized by the national government, he did not have to worry about revenues. The simple needs of the city's then sparse population were met by his administration. No substantial development projects, however, could be claimed. Under the circumstances it was impossible to rapidly transform the wilderness into a city.

Mayor Ponciano A. Bernardo, who succeeded Morato, used to full advantage the powers of his office. As city executive and ex-officio city engineer, he devoted most of his energies and organizational talent to reorganizing the personnel and synchronizing the various departments. It was during his term that Republic Act 333 was passed, making Quezon City the capital of the Philippines. It was also during his administration that the first building construction boom was experienced in the city. His death, however, interferred with the completion of his favorite projects for the city.

Mayor Nicanor A. Roxas served in an acting capacity after the death of Bernardo, concurrently with his position as undersecretary of the defunct department of interior. Roxas,

it is conceded, possessed executive ability. He emphasized good relations with the public and sought to win the confidence of the population. Under him all the departments of the city government were made to extend full cooperation with his administration and executed plans emanating from his office.

Mayor Ignacio Santos Diaz, a Liberal, made a drastic departure from standard administrative practices. Substantial changes in the enactment of ordinances, particularly, were made. During his term the membership of the city council was increased to ten — eight councilors, a vice mayor and the city mayor himself. His administration also secured improvement and expansion of services.

Incumbent Executive

No other mayor has served as long as Mayor Norberto S. Amoranto. As noted earlier he first assumed office on January 11, 1954 as the city's last appointive mayor. The city charter was revised to provide for the election of the mayor, vice mayor and councilors. Accordingly, on Nov. 10, 1959 Quezon City voted for the first time the top officials of the city. Amoranto won as mayor and continued to run that office as such. No transition was required. During the 1963 elections, he was re-elected, and continues to hold the position to the present.

There is no doubt that Amoranto should be credited with the most achievements. This is partly because of the length of his tenure — 13 years. It is partly because, too, of his good fortune. He enjoyed the full support of Senator Eulogio Rodriguez, Sr. and Congressman Eulogio Rodriguez, Jr., both of whom are now deceased. From this father-and-son team Amoranto was able to acquire yearly substantial public works funds which he poured in public works projects for the city.

Curiously Amoranto, in the words of a newspaperman, "is one city executive who will not hesitate to dance to the music

of political gods if by so doing it would redound to the development or benefit of the city." Perhaps this is one of the most important factors contributing to the development of the city under his leadership.

According to a *Manila Chronicle* reporter, Florentino P. Marfil, the growth of Quezon City is due largely to Amoranto. He reported that before Amoranto took over the administration, there were only 28,050 grade-school and 2,126 high school students, and 669 and 98 elementary and high school teachers respectively. Today, Marfil said, there are "more than 87,387 grade-school and 26,423 high school students with 2,591 and 1,145 teachers in the elementary and high schools" in the city.

Under Amoranto's administration the city's total income jumped from ₱4,300,000 in 1954 to ₱30,032,000 in 1965. This tremendous growth in the city revenues enabled Amoranto to pursue extensive public works projects, reported in preceding chapters. He also initiated the construction of the 14-storey City Hall on a 12-hectare lot, which will cost the government ₱8.5 million, excluding air-conditioning, electrical and elevator installations.

The growth of Quezon City under Amoranto will be greatly hastened by the transfer to the city of the national government offices. At present the skyline of the city has vastly improved because of the completion of towering, modern government buildings and private structures. The exodus to Quezon City has begun. Perhaps in two or three years the transfer of the national government to the city will be completed, and the nation's capital will then become, as Quezon envisioned, "the seat of the National Government."

This is the beginning of the reality.

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HON. MARIANO M. STA. ROMANA, JR.
Vice Mayor

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EPILOGUE

PRAISE must be given to those who deserve it. That has been the tone of this book. But those who have been praised need not become complacent or smug; each praise, instead, shuold be considered a challenge to improve on what has been achieved.

The Revolution begun by Bonifacio was left unfinished by his death. In his own peculiar manner Quezon resumed it. But the revolution of Quezon, one of whose effects was the construction of a city to house the country's working masses whom he loved so much and which would serve also as the nation's capital, ceased with his death on August 1, 1944, at Sarañac Lake, New York, as head of the Philippine government in exile. The torch, as it were, has been passed on to another generation who must keep it blazing until another group takes over.

Planning and Development

And so the present officials of the city must face a number of challenges to make the city Quezon had envisioned it to be. First, they must not further aggravate the already hazardous planning and development the city has been subjected to since its early years. The zoning regulations must be strictly followed. The practice of authorizing business and industrial firms, for example, to build factories, markets, commercial centers, piggeries, terminals of buses and other public conveyances in the residential districts must be stopped. Business and industrial concerns must be allowed to operate only within the areas specified for them.

Peace and Order

Second, the officials must recognize the most pressing problems of the residents. The first of these is peace and order. Like many other cities the capital is frequently shaken by criminality. The newspapers and magazines often carry stories of sordid crimes — murder, rape, robbery, theft, homicide, kidnaping — perpetrated in the city. While one can find some sociological and economic justification for these, one cannot deny honestly that the problem is there and cries for urgent remedies. Among such remedies are the increase of the police force, acquisition of modern techniques of police work, and imposition of strict discipline.

Unemployment

Another problem is unemployment. True, this is not peculiar to Quezon City, but the fact is that it is a real, authentic problem that needs solution. One only has to visit the City Hall to realize the magnitude of the problem—endless lines of persons standing at the doors of offices seeking recommendations, asking for doles, seeking free relief. The streets of the city are not less expressive of the problem; hordes of young men are often seen idling their time on the sidewalks, at corners and corner stores, at the recreation halls. Under such circumstances the commission of crimes is an irresistible temptation.

The officials must seek ways to combat this problem. The practice of blaming the national economy and the national government for all this may be convenient but not reasonable.

Meaning

Likewise they must put more meaning into their administration. One way of doing this is to direct all the energies and resources of the city government toward the social and economic uplift of the residents. By providing the example they must show the youth of the city, from whose ranks will spring some of the future leaders of the country, social consciousness and nationalism.

A politician's continuous stay in office means that either the voters appreciate his performance or like him enough to give him another chance to prove himself worty of their trust. To ignore the challenge of the second and become smug because of a belief in the first will make him a leader of no significant achievement; oblivion, condemnation and ridicule will soon overtake him and his progeny. His own material welfare is transitory; he must concern himself with leaving something enduring, inspiring, which will give him a place in history.

Concern with the Past

Regardless of his level in the pyramid of political power, the official must learn to concern himself with the past, drawing lessons from its successes and failures. And he must preserve or help preserve the good ones, the milestones that mark the progressive growth of his community and society. He must resist fads which have no meaning. He must be sincere and honest as a Filipino, and proud of his social, political and cultural heritage.

Colonial Heritage

Today in Quezon City the lack of such a national pride is evident. A number of principal streets, for example, still bear the names of people, places, and even animals that remind us of colonialism, slavery, inanity. Where in a city founded by a fiery Filipinist could one find

names of streets like New York, Cambridge, West Point, Montana, Madison, Broadway, Gilmore, Tennessee, Louisiana, New Orleans, etc., but in Quezon City?

But perhaps it is even more galling and shameful that the very sites of the Philippine Revolution have all but been forgotten. True, Balintawak remains, and Kangkong, Banlat, Tandang Sora. But the site known as Pugadlawin where Bonifacio and the *Katipuneros* met on August 23 has practically been obliterated. In its place are government housing projects whose streets are named after *imported cattle*, such as Aberdeen, Jersey, Gertrudis, Short Horn, Hereford! We are referring to Project 8, now also known as Toro Hills (from the original Bahay Toro). Adjacent to it is another government housing project, GSIS Village, whose streets are named General, Actuary, Assessment, Real Estate, Auditing, etc.

Dignity, Common Sense

These places could be renamed, if not for nationalistic or historical purposes, at least for the sake of dignity and common sense. To be sure we have enough heroes and patriots, historical events, native flora and fauna, past Presidents, political figures, educators, writers, diplomats, scientists and the like whose names and works our leaders owe it to the people to immortalize.

Some may consider our views chauvinistic, even fanatical; but if they would only study the examples of other countries, they would perhaps change their mind. After all what is chauvinistic or fanatical about honoring that part of the past which resulted in the freedom we now enjoy?

A City University

While the University of the Philippines is now in Quezon City, there is still need for a Quezon City University which will accommodate the children of the residents, preferably the scholars in the various city high schools. Such a project should be in the minds of the present officials.

True, there are many other schools of higher learning in the city, most of them sectarian, but in the main most of the needy students coming from the city find their tuition and other financial requirements too exhorbitant. Thus, these needy but deserving QC students, who find expenses too much in these institutions — the UP, Stella Maris, Ateneo (Loyola), St. Paul's College, St. Joseph's, Siena, etc., are forced to look for other schools in Manila where financial demands are less forbidding. An official who really cares for the needy residents of the city will not ignore the need for such a university.

Technical Schools

But aside from a university the city must have its own technical schools — offering such courses as electronics, secretarial, business, and vocational — for the residents who are neither inclined nor equipped to pursue higher or university education. In both institutions — university and technical schools — the administration must be given to professional educators and academic executives, not to political proteges, to guarantee a consistently high quality of education. They must be known for independent-mindedness, concern for the gouth, and concern for nationalistic interests.

City Hospital

As Quezon City continues to grow and expand the need for government hospitals becomes more urgent. The hospitals in the city such as the Veterans Memorial Hospital, V. Luna General Hospital and Labor Hospital (Quirino) are not really for the general public. Thus, city residents needing hospitalization are forced to travel to Manila and fight for attention and space in the already congested institutions there. A sensitive and responsive official will not fail to feel this problem.

As of this year, 1967, the city administration has purchased the San Jose Seminary, to be converted into a city hospital. This is a wise move. But it should not be left to rot. Appropriations must be set aside immediately to make it operational. The structures and the location are ideal for the purpose.

City Cemetery

Furthermore, the city government must acquire a site for a public cemetery. The Baesa cemetery, besides being too small, is too remote from the heart of the city. The memorial parks, which are giant private business concerns, are too expensive for the average resident. The city must have its own public cemetery which is not operated for profit.

These are only some of the challenges the Quezon City officials must meet. They must show their capacity and willingness to face them. They can show their concern for and honest interest in the welfare of the city by devoting part of their time as elected leaders of the city to meeting these problems. They must show boldness and imagination; they must not fear to make innovations for the public good.

The degree by which they will meet these problems of the city—so desperately crying for solutions now—will indicate how much they value having a place in the memory of the city and in the heart of history.

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ISABELO T. CRISOSTOMO

Author and journalist, professor, ad executive and publ[illegible], Isabelo T. Crisostomo is a familiar byline in national magazines in English. He has spent years as a journalist in Guam, as public relations officer of Quezon City, City Councilor of Quezon City for a brief term, founder and manager of an advertising and public relations firm, book author and publisher. He has won awards in writing since his student days at Far Eastern University, and has written and published books, including a collection of his short stories (*The Lonely Room*) which has been translated into the Russian language, and the only book on advertising in the Philippines.

His essays and articles on nationalism, politics, social comment, history, literature and the social disciplines have appeared in the nation's leading magazines in English. As professorial lecturer at the Philippine College of Commerce he is also the Editorial Board Chairman of the faculty publication, adviser of the students' yearbook and writers club. Frequently invited as lecturer, he has completed another book on Jose Rizal and other national heroes. His book of essays is scheduled for release next year.