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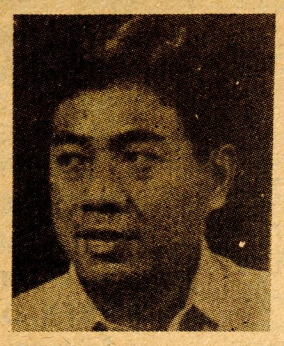
MESSAGE



In a few days, the most joyous and glorious season of the year rises to its summit as Christendom marks the Nativitiy of our Saviour.

Christmas has been celebrated for the last 2,000 years, but its magical power to lift up our spirits to the highest peaks of joy has not waned one bit.

It is not only with joy, however, that we should react to the advent of Christmas. Even more important is to get ourselves into the proper spiritual condition to welcome and celebrate Christmas. This calls for a spiritual ablution, a thorough cleansing of the heart - of all ill feelings and infusing it only with goodwill and affection for our brethren.

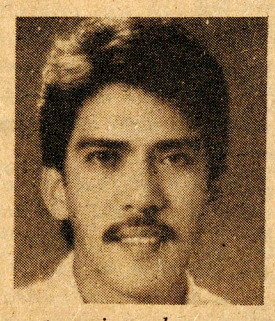
Christmas is a time for peace and reconciliation, a time for purging the heart of any anger, emnity, rancour, or malice it may be harboring. Unless we do this, we can not expect to experience the true spirit of Christmas nor understand its true meaning.

May I enjoin you, my dear brethren of Quezon City, to make Christmas not only a day of rejoicing and a day of sharing but, more importantly, a day for strengthening the bonds of Christian brotherhood that enable us to live in peace and harmony.

A joyful Christmas to one and all!

BRIGIDO R. SIMON, JR.
City Mayor

MESSAGE



The days are growing colder but, paradoxically, our hearts grow warmer with goodwill and affection for our fellowmen as the day of days approaches. This paradox reflects the miracle of Christmas – the way it can turn hatred into love, enemies into friends, selfishness into generosity, despair into hope, tears into cheers, turmoil into peace – such salutary transformations can be endless.

It is this spiritual catalysis induced by the Christmas season which renders our hearts fit to receive the coming of Christ. Our next concern is to keep Him there. The reception must not be short-lived.

By all means, let us indulge in the traditional and conventional ways of celebrating Christmas: the exchange of gifts, the sumptuous feasts, the greeting cards, the carolling, the Christmas tree and, Christmas wont be Christmas without him – Sta. Claus. Such a glorious event as the Nativity of our Saviour must inceed be a day of rejoicing. But in the midst of our festivities, let us not lose sight of the true significance of Christmas.

This significance is simple enough: Christ was born to redeem us. Let us see to it that He had not been born in vain. Let us continue to be redeemed. On His birthday, let us receive Christ in our hearts and never let Him go.

A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

VICENTE G. SOTTO III
City Vice Mayor

THE KEEPERS OF CHRISTMAS
(Christmas Day)

From the Pulpit – shared by – REV. ANICETO Q. LAZO

When the angels went away from them back into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, that the Lord has told us." So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph and saw the baby lying in the manger. When the shepherds saw him they told them what the angel had said about this child. All who heard it were filled with wonder at what the shepherds told them. Mary remembered all these things and thought deeply about them. Luke 2:15-19

Everywhere is Christmas today. Millions of people, living under all sorts of conditions and as far apart in their thinking as the poles, are strangely and reverently united at the manger of Bethlehem. There are no racial differences at Bethlehem's inn. "Silent Night, Holy Night" is sung in all languages of the world in humble adoration of the Christ Child. Everywhere is Christmas today. And there will be a Christmas as long as the world stands.

On the coral strands of the Pacific Islands and in distant Australia; across the Atlantic in Europe, where men had had wars through the centuries; in our Western civilization, where lust of power and influence and success is uppermost in the conversation of men; in China, where millions are born each year; in Egypt and all Africa, in India and Japan and Greenland's icy mountains – no matter where you go and where you

(Turn to page 7)

A JOYFUL CHRISTMAS AND A PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR! ! !

The New Capitol STANDARD

Vol. XVII, No. 3 | Quezon City, Metro Manila | December 22, 1988

OPERATION POTHOLES MEETS 30-DAY DEADLINE

Operation Potholes, which was conducted from November 10 to December 5, was able to meet the 30-day deadline set by President Cory Aquino for the filling up of all potholes in the streets of Metro Manila.

In a report furnished this paper by City Engineer Norberto Cabigao, it is shown that during the period of the operation the potholes in 286 streets, major and minor, were filled up, requiring a total of 3,830.40 metric tons of filling material.

Among the four districts of the city, District IV had the most number of streets involved in the operation, 108 of them, followed by District I with 74, then District II with 54 streets and lastly District III with 50 streets.

(Turn to page 2)

City Hall Bldg. Reconstructable

The 7th to 14th floors of the City Hall building which were damaged by the June 11 fire can still be reconstructed.

This is the verdict of Technophil, the engineering firm that conducted load and hammer tests at the damaged floors.

Technophil, which was paid P for the tests, recommends the following ways of reconstructing the building:

1. Demolition and reconstruction of six (6) columns at the 14th floor.
2. Demolition and reconstruction of concrete slabs from the 8 ft to the 14th floor.

(Turn to page 2)

First Truly Low-Cost Housing Project Launched

There are housing projects galore, not only in Metro Manila but all over the country, offered by public as well as private financing institutions, but what could be the first truly low-cost housing project in the country was launched last Dec. 16 by the QC government under Mayor Jun Simon.

Some 1,700 lots, with or without house, located at an 18.7 hectare site at Payatas near the Batasang Pambansa Complex and beside Filinvest II Subdivision, were raffled off to about 45,000 supposedly qualified applicants.

Qualified applicants refer to all landless residents who have been living in Quezon City since December 31, 1987 and who have a minimum monthly income of P1,140 if they are GSIS, SSS or PAG-IBIG members and, slightly more, of P1,440 if non-members.

Raffle winners have ths option to choose: either lot only or lot with house. Payable

(Turn to page 12)



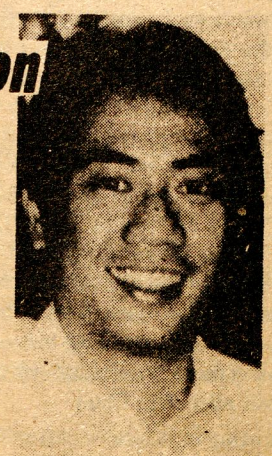
Mayor Jun Simon draws the first lucky number. Looking on are, (from left) Joel Pineda of CPDO, City Development Coordinator Gerry Magat (partly hidden), Vice Mayor Tito Sotto, and Asst. City Development Coordinator Tom Cruz.



A portion of the army of some 10,000 landless residents of Quezon City who came to witness the raffle. There were actually about 40,000 applicants underscoring the magnitude of the shelter problem in Q.C.

(More Pictures on Page 12)

Simon proclamation upheld



Simon

THE SUPREME Court yesterday upheld the proclamation of Brigido Simon Jr. as the duly-elected mayor of Quezon City and dismissed a petition of mayoralty candidate Charito Planas asking that the proclamation be declared null and void.

The Supreme Court pointed out that there was no sufficient reason or basis to annul and set aside Simon's proclamation. It ordered the Comelec to comply with its Sept. 13, 1988 resolution to recanvass election returns from 54 precincts in Quezon City.

Planas' counsel, lawyer Sixto Brillantes had filed a motion before the Supreme Court seeking clarification if the Comelec could direct a total recanvass of election returns in Quezon City.

The Quezon City Board of Canvassers said the returns from the 54 precincts could not alter the results of the Quezon City mayoralty election.

Evelyn de Jesus

(Reprinted

Quezon City, Cleanest In Metro Manila

By Ben O. Flores

The "Tulong Tulong Tayo" slogan and "Keep Quezon City Clean" drive of Mayor Jun Simon are starting to pay off.

Quezon City is now the cleanest in Metro Manila, a ranking MMC official told this paper – relatively cleanest, that is, especially when compared to Manila.

True, there is still much to be done to make the city immaculate; there are still mounds of garbage in some streets but such eyesores are fast dwindling with the hiring of 20 dump trucks by the city government to supplement those of the North Sector, Environmental Sanitation Center.

Aside from the 20 daily trips they make, the trucks are used, every now and then, in special cleaning operations in areas where there are large accumulations of garbage. Such special operations have been conducted at Quirino Highway, A. Bonifacio St., Kalayaan Road, Katipunan Road, and QC Hall compound.

The Basura sa Kareton system of garbage collection and disposal has been revived, starting as a pilot project at the Mayor's own barangay in Baesa. A fleet of karetons collect the garbage from house to house and deposit them in a Sanitary Land Fill

(Turn to page 5)



Standard FARE

by Ben O. Flores

Christ Should Have Been Born In The Philippines

In Bethlehem, Joseph and Mary could not find lodging in any house or inn. With the famous Filipino hospitality, the coupled would not have encountered such a difficulty here. Christ should have been born in the Philippines

In last Monday's flag raising ceremony, Mayor Jun Simon related an incident which reminded him of the rebuff Joseph and Mary received in the houses and inns in Bethlehem.

It seems that a couple from Bataan, having heard of the Dec. 16 launching of the Payatas Housing Project, went to him and insisted in going to the site of the project to occupy a house, thinking that there were already houses to be occupied. Naturally, the Mayor had to turn them away, just like the houseowners and innkeepers of Bethlehem turned away the parents of Christ. The Mayor said that he was exceedingly grieved, which is why he is grimly determined to push through the social housing projects of the city government.

In connection with the ordeal suffered by Joseph and Mary, let me pass on to you this poignant story printed in the service program of the U.P. Protestant Chapel:

The story is about a boy Wally. He was a big, gentle-hearted but slow child whom teachers cast in the role of innkeeper in the school's Christmas Pagent because they thought the boy would look properly menacing in costume and beard. He was to turn away Joseph and Mary from the door of the inn with a gruff "No Room!" during the reenactment of that famous Bethlehem scene.

Came the night of the play and the boy dutifully played his part with a stern "No Room!" when Joseph and Mary appeared at the inn. But when the holy couple seemed to insist on lodgings, because of Mary's condition, the boy started to hesitate.

"No Room! No Room!" the prompter hissed from the wing but Wally looked lost and distraught. Then as Joseph and Mary turned sadly away, compassion broke the boy's heart.

"Wait, Joseph and Mary, you can have my room," he cried, and brought the house down.

Wally's innocence allowed his generous character to shine through the fabric of the role he was playing. *(Thanks to our source, Mr. Alex Dacanay, author of the article "Peace of Christmas" in PANORAMA, Dec. 18, 1988.)*

Small and Parochial Minds

I do not quite agree to Councilor Alice Herrera's appraisal or rather dispraise-al of her colleagues' intellect, except perhaps with respect to their not giving her a committee but I certainly admire her guts. I got a copy of her privilege speech; it's really a fighting, scathing speech,t, It is said, there is no fury like the fury of a woman scorned. The Council scorned Alice by not giving her a Committee Chairmanship. No wonder she was in a fury when she delivered that privilege speech. Despite some harsh words she used, I am sure, however, the honorable gentlemen of the Council will look on the speech with tolerance and understanding. After all, the anger of Alice was quite justified. The Council had been quite harsh to her, ousting her as President Pro Temore and Chairman of the powerful Blue Ribbon Committee and now . . . I asked her if she had apologized. The retort was quick. "Why should I?" But don't worry, Alice, without a Committee to chairman, that will give you more time for other fiscalizing privilege speeches.

I had a closer look at Alice when I went to get a copy of her privilege speech. She's much prettier than I had thought she was when in my previous "Council In Session" review, I called her "quite a looker", a rare combination of Beauty and Brains. I'm afraid Alice is going to be my Favorite Councilor. Even my son, Eddie, who is registered and licensed as the Publisher-Editor of this paper is partial to Alice. She is the first Councilor she wrote about in a news tory in the MANILA BULLETIN. And he proudly tells me that he had lunch with Alice in her office.



CITY HALL . . .

3. Replacement of sun baffles from the 7th to the 14th floor.

4. Three-inch thick concrete encasement for all columns from the 7th to the 14th floor.

5. Removal of parapet walls.

POTHOLES . . .

The engineers who supervised the operation were Engr. Virgilio C. Alba for the first distict, Engr. Arturo N. Lopez for the second district, Engr. Joselito Camuncal for the third district, and Engr. Cesar M. Andres for the fourth district. The Overall supervisor of the operation was Engr. Patricio M. Senador, Jr.

The Best Christmas Gift for the People of QC

The report that Mayor Jun Simon and Charito Planas are "friends again" is undoubtedly the best Christmas gift the people of Quezon City could wish for. They are keeping their fingers crossed that it will last.

It will last because the mutual avowals of friendship occurred during that part of the mass when church goers say to each other "Peace be with you." It would be sacrilegeous for one or both of them to nullify what had been uttered in the House of God and before His highest representative in the country, His Eminence Jaime Cardinal Sin, who blessed the Reconciliation. We are reprinting hereunder the MANILA BULLETIN's report on the reconciliation!

Simon, Planas now friends

Quezon City Mayor Brigido Simon Jr. and hi political rival, Charito Planas, resolved their differences during the mass of the Quezon City government last Friday night.

At the mass, officiated by Jaime Cardinal Sin. Simon and Planas offered each other the sign of peace in front of celebrant.

As the two shook hands, the faithful gave them a standing ovation.

The mass was held at the Sunken Garden in front of the Quezon City Hall with some 5,000 QC residents.

In his Christmas message after the mass, Simon said his most precious gift this Christmas season was the chance to shake hands with his political foe.

Planas told newsmen that she is always ready to make peace "because it will be a realization of President Aquino's reconciliation effort."

In Memoriam

Yesterday was the 9th death anniversary of the late Mayor Norberto S. Amoranto. He was jogging in the premises of City Hall when he suffered a stroke, his third. Of his death, the late Celso Carunungan, author of "QC: A Saga of Progress", wrote: "He chose for his final moment the air, the fragrance and the very feel of the area that he loved so well."

I had the privilege of being very close to the old man. There is one incident that I can never forget. As it happens with all public officials, there were many news stories alleging anomalies in his administration. The Mayor must have divined that I was aching to ask him about these allegations for my paper, THE (OLD) CAPITOL STANDARD. He asked me into his sanctum sanctorum, a tiny 3.by 4 meter room he caused to be segregated from his main office.

After denying the alleged anomalies, he raised his right hand and said: "I have never done anything of which I am ashamed to the Lord."

I was with him in his campaign in the squatter areas. This was for the 1971 elections. I never saw such squalor and poverty as we penetrated into the innermost recesses of the squatter colonies.

Back in his car as we were returning to City Hall, the Mayor said: "After seeing such misery, you can not be happy again."

I told the Mayor that one of the attacks of his political opponents (One of them was Mel Mathay) was that he was "coddling the squatters".

His answer has been immortalized in that bronze plaque on his bust at the lobby of City Hall where it is inscribed. "I would rather be wrong and be kind that be right and be unkind."

He said it, of course, in Tagalog but I translated it into English when I wrote a biographical sketch of the Mayor which I published in my paper, THE (OLD) CAPITOL STANDARD."

Startling Revelations About Marcos

A new book, The Marcos Dynasty by Sterling Seagrave, makes some very startling revelations about President —er— former President Marcos. The book is reviewed in the Nov. 19 issue of the PHILIPPINES FREE PRESS in an article entitled, "The Rise and Fall of the Marcos Dynastie." Now, hold on to something and read these excerpts from the article:

"Seagrave reports . . . that Ferdinand Marcos was actually the illegitimate son of the wealthy Ferdinand Chua of Batac. Marcos' mother, Josefa Edralin, was said to have been employed in the Chua household as a domestic got pregnant. In the face of protests from the family, Josefa agreed to a marriage of convenience with her young classmate, Mariano Marcos, and delivered the baby at their home in Sarrat. The boy was named Ferdinand after Magellan and the King of Spain, but also after Chua.

"Ferdinand Chua was an 'urbane young law student at the University of the Philippines,' who became justice of the peace in Batac and later municipal Judge of Laoag . . . "

"Helped|by her surname (Romualdez), Imelda was able to find odd jobs in Manila. Helped by her good looks, she wheedled the title of Muse of Manila during the Miss Manila competition from an apparently infatuated mayor Arsenio Lacson. She later fell in love with a string of bachelors, later setting her sights on Ariston Napkil of the wealthy Manila clan. Napkil was married and his family rejected Imelda, but a short time later she would marry Ferdiannd Marcos after eleven days of courtship. Imelda was said to have relented after Marcos vowed to be president of the republic, and after he showed her his money in a bank vault, to prove how much he was worth."

The New Capitol STANDARD
53 Malvar St., Proj. 4, Q.C.
EDUARDO C. FLORES
Publisher-Editor
JAIME O. OLIVER
News Editor
A.O. FLORES
BEN. O. FLORES
Editorial Consultants

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

Editorial

Tutohanan Na Po Ba Ito, Mayor?

This is what many of those who participated or witnessed the raffle last Dec. 16 at the launching of the Payatas Housing Project of the QC government are asking. The question smacks of skepticism which, no doubt, sterms from the fact that during the last 20 years there had been so many sporadic attempts to undertake housing projects that started auspiciously enough, with a lot of fanfare, but eventually wen Pfft.

Under the late Mayor Amoranto, whose 9th death anniversary, by the way, falls today (Dec. 22), there was a plan to put up a housing project for City Hall employees in a 9-hectare land in Novaliches that never went beyond the planning stage. Under former Mayor Adelina S. Rodriguez, a housing project at Payatas was about to be implemented but, for one reason or another, it collapsed at the last hour. A housing project, also at Payatas, was projected even during the time Mayor Simon was still OIC. This too is now only a memory. Lots at the QC General Hospital Compound were raffled as Christmas gifts to City Hall employees two Christmases ago. Many of the raffle winners have thrown away their certificates of award.

It does look that the question, "Tutohanan Na Po Ba Ito, Mayor?," is not without rhyme or reason. The landless residents of QC have suffered so many frustrations in the past.

But this time, we can feel it in our bones, that the Mayor will leave no stone unturned to push through to reality this newly-launched housing project. He can not afford to fail after that grand launching ceremony last Dec. 16 staged managed by the City Planning and Development Office. It was the grandest launching ceremony I have ever seen in my almost 20 years of covering City Hall. The Mayor must not fail.

In this housing project, the Mayor has a golden chance to achieve a historic accomplishment. He will go down as the first mayor to put up a truly low-cost housing project, something that will endear him to the people of QC, particularly the less fortunate among us.

Sports Notes

Though my press card entitles me to free entrance, I've never watched live a PBA game. I am partial to San Miguel because of Black and Brown. Also to Presto because of Dalupan. To me, he is still the No. One hardcourt strategist. The Anejo fans will kill me for this, but I'm not much of an admirer of the so-called legendary Big J because he's a roughneck player. But I do marvel at his durability.

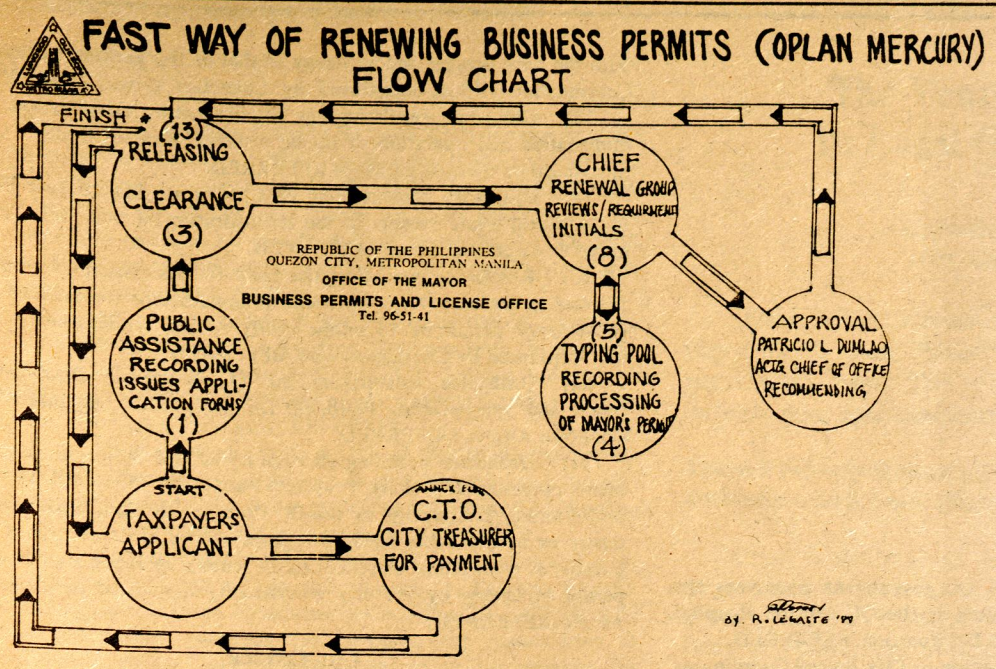
I am a bit amused when, after a game, a player of the winning team when interviewed by the Man of the Ball says his team owes its victory "to the Guy up there," pointing upward. My question is: Does the Guy up there intervene in athletic competitions like basketball, I hardly think so. God has no need take sides. It would be unfair and unsporting of Him to do so. So, He stays neutral.

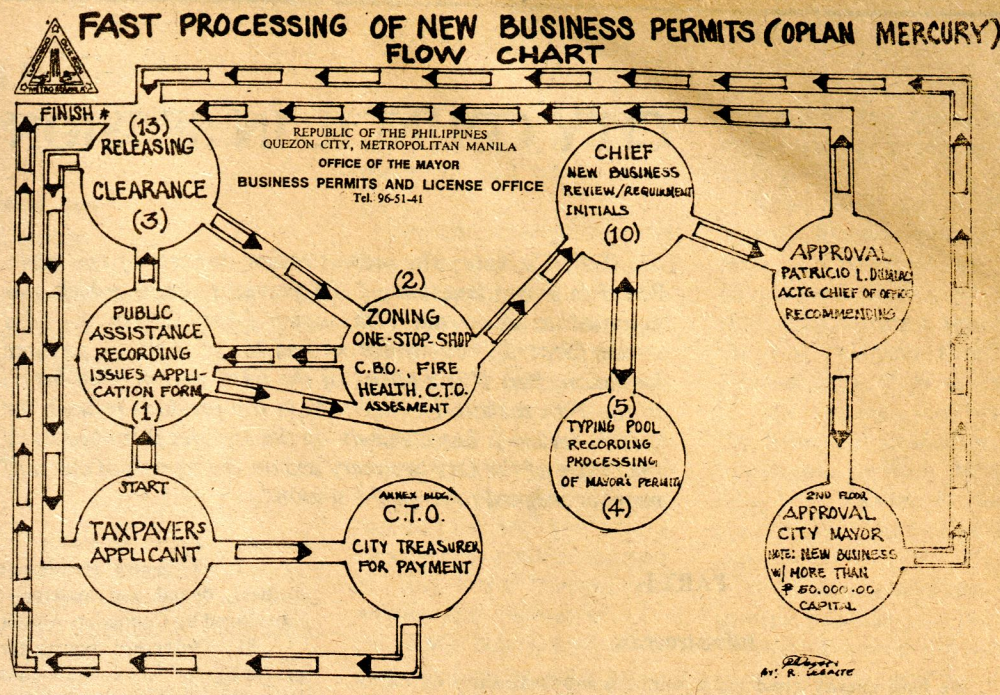
Winning an Olympic gold medal is a towring achievement alright. But is it worth a million pesos? Incidentally, the recipient of the colossal bonanza, Arlene Ariadne, was beaten in a local bowling tournament held shortly after her magnificent victory at Seoul.

Lucio Tan, the super-generous donor, was either making pasikat or has such an exaggerated evaluation of the Olympic gold medal. The recipient herself seemed embarassed by the exhorbitance of the prize given her; she gave it away to charity. I hail her for that noble gesture more than her winning an Olympic gold medal.

My point in assailing Tan's fiscal extravagance is to try to do my bet in policy of wanton spending to develop so-called Olympic-caliber athletes even at the expense of economic upliftment for the teeming millions who grovel under the poverty line. The sports development fund should be primarily for promoting physical fitness for the people of the country in general and secondarily for the special training of a few selected athletes. This is in consonance with the United Nations' principle . Lydia de Vega, the deposed Sprint Queen of Asia, has attributed her defeat to injuries — at Seoul, it was a pulled groin muscle, in the recent Bangkok sportsfest, it was a sore toe. I think these are not the real reasons. The real reasons I think is that Lydia's heart and mind are no longer in her running; they are in her forthcoming December wedding. The country has lost Lydia to the call of ove — temporarily, it is hoped. After the ecstacy of the honeymoon, she could bounce back. The world's fastest woman is married.

(Turn to page 10)





Garbage Collection Schedule

QUEZON CITY DISTRICT I	No. of Trips	TIME
EDSA (KAINGIN-QUEZON AVE.)	1	5PM-9PM
QUEZON AVE. (EDSA-WELCOME ROTONDA)	1	5PM-9PM
A. BONIFACIO (EDSA-DEL MONTE)	1	5PM-9PM
ROOSEVELT AVE. (EDSA-DEL MONTE)	1	5PM-9PM
MAYON (WELCOME ROTONDA-DEL MONTE)	1	5PM-9PM
WEST AVE.: (QUEZON AVE.-EDSA)	1	5PM-9PM
N.S. AMORANTO (BANAWE-CALAVITE)	1	5PM-9PM
DEL MONTE (WEST AVE.-A. BONIFACIO)	1	5PM-9PM
DAPITAN (BIAK-NA-BATO-Q.C. MLA. BOUNDARY)	1	5PM-9PM
KANLAON (QUEZON AVE.-APO)	1	5PM-9PM
STO. DOMINGO (QUEZON AVE.-DEL MONTE)	1	5PM-9PM
BIAK-NA-BATO (QUEZON AVE.-DEL MONTE)	1	5PM-9PM
CORDILLERA (QUEZON AVE.-DEL MONTE)	1	5PM-9PM
SPEAKER PEREZ (QUEZON AVE.-MARIA CLARA)	1	5PM-9PM
APO (QUEZON AVE.-KANLAON)	1	5PM-9PM
CALAMBA (G. ARANETA-A. BONIFACIO)	1	5PM-9PM
GEN. LIM (QUEZON AVE.-QUEZON AVE.)	1	5PM-9PM
MAUBAN (G. ARANETA-A. BONIFACIO)	1	5PM-9PM
BALER (WEST AVE.-ROOSEVELT)	1	5PM-9PM
JUDGE J. LUNA (BALER-M.H. DEL PILAR)	1	5PM-9PM
BANSALANGIN (EDSA-EDSA)	1	5PM-9PM
M.H. DEL PILAR (BALER-ROOSEVELT AVE.)	1	5PM-9PM
DANGAY (ROOSEVELT-PAYNA)	1	5PM-9PM
DON MANUEL (STO. DOMINGO-MAYON)	1	5PM-9PM
N. ROXAS (BIAK-NA-BATO-MAYON)	1	5PM-9PM
MARIA CLARA (G. ARANETA-MAYON)	1	5PM-9PM
TALAYAN (MARIA CLARA-DEL MONTE)	1	5PM-9PM
WEST RIVERSIDE (M.H. DEL PILAR-DEL MONTE)	1	5PM-9PM
SAN ANTONIO (BATANGAS-BALER)	1	5PM-9PM
PUBLIC MARKETS		
SAN FRANCISCO MARKET	1	5PM-8PM
DAPITAN MARKET	1	5PM-8PM
PAT. SENADOR: ROOSEVELT-WEST RIVERSIDE	1	4PM-8PM
OSMEÑA: ROOSEVELT-KENTUCKY	1	4PM-8PM
TOLENTINO: DEL MONTE-WEST RIVERSIDE	1	4PM-8PM
BULACAN: WEST AVE.-EDSA	1	4PM-8PM
TANGUILE: M.H. DEL PILAR-BANSALANGIN	1	4PM-8PM
PARAISO: ROOSEVELT-DEL MONTE	1	4PM-8PM
QUEZON CITY DISTRICT II		
EDSA (QUEZON AVE.-BALINTAWAK)	6	5PM-8PM
QUEZON AVE. (EDSA-ELLIPTICAL ROAD)	1	5PM-8PM
ELLIPTICAL CIRCUMFERENCE	1	5PM-8PM
COMMONWEALTH AVE. (ELLIPTICAL RD.-BATASAN ROAD)	4	8AM-11AM
BATASAN RD. (COMMONWEALTH AVE.-BATASAN PROPER)	2	5PM-8PM
NORTH AVE. (ELLIPTICAL RD.-EDSA)	1	5PM-8PM
CONGRESSIONAL AVE. (EDSA-SHORT HORN)	1	5PM-8PM
EAST AVE. (EDSA-ELLIPTICAL ROAD)	1	5PM-8PM
QUIRINO AVE. (A. BONIFACIO-NOVA PROPER)	2	8AM-11AM
VISAYAS AVE. (ELLIPTICAL RD-TANDANG SORA)	2	5PM-8PM
TANDANG SORA (COMMONWEALTH AVE.-QUIRINO AVENUE)	6	5PM-8PM
V. LUNA: EAST AVE-ANONAS ROAD	1	5PM-8PM
MALAKAS: MAPAGMAHAL-MATALINO	1	5PM-8PM
MAGINHAWA: ANONAS-MASAYA	1	5PM-8PM
KATIPUNAN: AURORA BLVD.-ESCALLER	1	5PM-8PM
GSIS AVE.: SHORT HORN-BENEFITS	1	5PM-8PM
GRANTS: GSIS AVE.-BENEFITS	1	5PM-8PM
ASSISTANT: GEN. AVE.-ADMINISTRATION	1	5PM-8PM
ROAD 20: SHORT HORN-DOMINIC 7	1	5PM-8PM
QUEZON CITY DISTRICT III		
AURORA BLVD.: EDSA - QUEZON CITY-MARIKINA BOUNDARY	1	4AM-6AM
NORTH BOUND EDSA: WHITE PLAINS - QUEZON AVENUE	1	4AM-6AM
KAMIAS ST.: EDSA - ANONAS ST.	1	4AM-6AM
P. TUASON ST.: EDSA - KATIPUNAN	1	4AM-6AM
ANONAS: SIKATUNA- AURORA BLVD.	1	4AM-6AM
BONI SERRANO AVENUE: EDSA - KATIPUNAN	1	4AM-6AM
WHITE PLAINS AVENUE: EDSA - KATIPUNAN AVENUE	1	4AM-6AM
15TH AVENUE: AURORA BLVD. - BONI SERRANO	1	4AM-6AM
MURPHY MARKET	1	4AM-6AM
PROJECT 4 MARKET	1	4AM-6AM
KATIPUNAN AVENUE: P. TUAZON - BONI SERRANO	1	4AM-6AM
PROJECT 2 MARKET	1	4AM-5AM
ERMIN GARCIA: ST. MARY, ANNAPOLIS, MONTREAL	1	4AM-8AM
ERMIN GARCIA: WEST POINT, IMPERIAL, NEW YORK, CAMBRIDGE	1	4AM-8AM
ERMIN GARCIA: PURDUE, OXFORD, YALE, NEW YORK	1	4AM-8AM
ERMIN GARCIA: STANFORD, HARVARD 1ST ST.	1	4AM-8AM
AURORA BLVD: MIAMI, ALBANY, NOTRE DAME, LA SALLE	1	4AM-8AM
AURORA BLVD.: ILLINOIS, PITTSBURGH POTSDAM, ERMIN GARCIA	1	4AM-8AM
KAMIAS ROAD: K 6TH - K 9TH	3	4AM-8AM
P. TUAZON-BONI SERRANO - EDSA		
5TH - 6TH - 7TH	1	4AM-8AM
7TH - 8TH - 9TH	1	4AM-8AM
9TH - 10TH - 11TH	1	4AM-8AM
11TH - 12TH - 13TH	1	4AM-8AM
13TH - 14TH - 15TH	1	4AM-8AM
15TH - 20TH AVENUE	3	4AM 8AM
CHICO ST. DURIAN, GUYABANO	1	4AM-8AM
B. SERRANO, KATIPUNAN, FORDHAM, GUMAMELA, JASMIN, PALM, CARNATION, WHITE HILL	1	4AM-7AM
E. RODRIQUEZ AVE.	1	4AM-7AM
WHITE PLAINS SUBD.	2	4AM-7AM
QUEZON CITY DISTRICT IV		
QUEZON AVENUE: WELCOME ROTONDA - EDSA	2	4AM-7AM
EULOGIO RODRIQUEZ BLVD: WELCOME ROTONDA EDSA	3	4AM-7AM
AURORA BLVD: QUEZON CITY-SAN JUAN BOUNDARY - EDSA	2	4AM-7AM
SOUTH BOUND EDSA: QUEZON AVENUE - WHITE PLAINS	2	4AM-8AM
TIMOG AVENUE: EDSA - WHITE PLAINS	1	4AM-6AM
TOMAS MORATO AVENUE: ERB - TIMOG	1	4AM-6AM
ROCES AVENUE: TOMAS MORATO - QUEZON AVENUE	1	4AM-6AM

ORDINANCE NO. NC 60,-88

PRESCRIBING AND FIXING THE FEES IN THE FILING, REGISTRATION AND ISSUANCE OF DOCUMENTS AT THE LOCAL CIVIL REGISTRAR OF QUEZON CITY.

Introduced by Councilor Jorge L. Banal and
Co-Introduced by Councilor Alberto M. Galarpe.

Be it ordained by the City Council of Quezon City in session assembled:

Section 1. Imposition of Fees – The following fees shall be collected for the corresponding services rendered by the Civil Registrar of Quezon City:

1) **Marriage Fees:**
   - a) Sale of Application Forms for Marriage License (one set) P20.00
   - b) Filing Fee 20.00
   - c) Marriage License 50.00
   - d) Marriage Solemnization Fee 7.50

2) **Registration Fees on the Status of person:**
   - a) Per registration of marriage contract .. 30.00
   - b) Per guardianship or custody of minor . 100.00
   - c) Per registration of a legal separation . 200.00
   - d) Per registration of annulment of marriage 200.00
   - e) For registration of a divorce 200.00
   - f) Per registration of a naturalization .. 400.00
   - g) Decree on adoption (foreign and local) 400.00
     200.00
   - h) Judicial order for correction of entry 100.00
   - i) Per registration of a change of name . 100.00
   - j) Per registration of aliases 100.00
   - k) Per affidavit or oath of allegiance of a wife and/or children of citizen 20.00
   - l) Election of Filipino citizenship 200.00
   - m) Emancipation of minor 100.00
   - n) Judicial recognition, determination or acknowledgement of paternity or affiliation 100.00
   - o) Late registration of birth, marriage or death 50.00
   - p) Per registration of supplementary reports/or documents as additional data 20.00
   - q) Photography of documents on file ... 10.00
   - r) Per registration of other legal document 20.00

3) **For the Issuance of Certified True Copies/ Certification of any registered document:**
   - a) Document authentication per page, per copy 10.00
   - b) Marriage Contract 15.00
   - c) Birth and death certificate of registration and etc. per page, per copy 10.00
   - d) Other registered records/documents per page, per copy 10.00
   - e) Certification of civil status 20.00
   - f) Certification of no records 10.00

4) **Permit fees for Cadaver Disposition and others:**
   - a) Burial Permit 10.00
   - b) For exhumation of Cadaver 10.00
   - c) For removal of cadaver 10.00
   - d) Entrance from other municipality/City 25.00
   - e) Transfer to other municipality/City .. 20.00
   - f) Cremation 10.00

5) **Rental fees for public cemetery lot or grave:**
   1. For each niche or plot for five years (child) 25.00
   2. For each niche or plot for five years (adult) 50.00

   Lots, plots, graves and niches may be sold in standard sizes or areas at the price of P30.00 per square meter, except those located at main avenue, which shall be at P50.00. The purchaser heirs or assignees shall be entitled to the perpetual use of said lot, plot, grave or niche, subject to cemetery regulations.

6) **Rental Fee for the use of the Chapel:**
   1. For less than an hour ..... Free
   2. For every hour or fraction thereof 5.00
   3. For deposit of a body in its urn to cask, per day 20.00
   4. For the care of a lot or plot, per year . 30.00

Section 2. **Time of Payment** – The fees shall be paid to the City Treasurer, upon order of payment issued by Local Civil Registrar and before the release of the document. In case of failure to pay, the rental fee for niches, graves or plots, the remains shall be exhumed and the grave, niches, or plots shall be declared vacant. The remain exhumed shall be deposited in graves, niches or jars as may be expedient and with proper identification.

Section 3. **Exemption.** The herein prescribed fees shall not be collected on the following cases:

1) Certification/certified copies of documents for official use at the request of a court or government
2) Issuance of birth certificate of children reaching school age whom such certificate are required for admission to the primary grade of the public school.

Section 4. Section 5.31 to Sec. 5.33 of Article VIII of Ordiances 10700 are hereby repealed. All other ordinances or parts thereof which are in conflict with this ordinance are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

Section 5. This Ordinance shall take effect upon its approval.

ENACTED October 24, 1988.

VICENTE C. SOTTO III
Vice Mayor
Presiding Officer

VICENTE A. ALVAREZ
City Secretary

Garbage Collection Schedule

	No. of Trips	TIME
KAMUNING: TOMAS MORATO - EDSA	1	4AM-6AM
GALAG PUBLIC MARKET	1	4AM-7AM
KAMUNING MARKET	1	4AM-7AM
BONI SERRANO: SAN JUAN BOUNDARY - EDSA	1	4AM-6AM
1ST AVENUE - 5TH AVENUE	2	4AM-8AM
MARIPOSA LOOP	1	4AM-6AM
1ST STREET - 14TH STREET	4	4AM-8AM
SMALL AND BIG HORSESHOE	2	4AM-6AM
SALBANO, BAYARAN, BORROMEO, MADRINAN, RALLOS, LIMBAGA, FERNANDEZ, FUENTIBELLA, GANDIA, DE GUIA, LAZCANO, DELGADO, CASTRO	5	4AM-8AM
PANAY AVENUE	1	4AM-6AM
K-1ST - K-6TH	3	4AM-8AM
ROXAS MARKET	1	4AM-6AM
BANAWE: ERB QUEZON AVE	1	4AM-6AM
KITANLAD: G. ARANETA-QUEZON AVE.	1	4AM-8AM
P. TUAZON: ERB QUEZON AVE	1	4AM-7AM

CITY COUNCIL IN SESSION

(Editor's Note: *The present review consists of two parts. Part I is a continuation of the previous review which was supposed to cover the 17th session (April 21) to the 63rd session (Sept. 29) but which we had to cut short due to space limitation. Part II is a review of the 64th session (October 3) to the 79th session (Nov. 28). As in the previous reviews, the present review is based mainly on the Minutes furnished us by the Office of the City Secretary and on the reports of our staff member assigned to cover the sessions.)*

PART I

Infrastructure

We have already cited the Resolutions and Ordinances on Infrastructure that pertain to Educational Services and to Public Market in the previous review. Twenty two other Ordinances and 16 other Resolutions were acted upon by the Council during the period under review (17th session, April 21, to the 63rd session, Sept. 29). Most of these other Ordinances are appropriation measures for the repair/improvement of roads and the construction of Barangay Halls. Though approved by the Council, they are worthless until funded and approved by the Mayor, hence, we are not publishing them yet.

Among the Resolutions taken up during the period under review, the following are significant/interesting enough.

1) Ratifying the contract between the city government and Technologist Engineer Consultants Philippines (Techphil) for the determination of the structural soundness of the 7th to 14th floors of City Hall for a fee of P457,116, introduced by Councilor Altuna and cosponsored by all Councilors. APPROVED. (The amount strikes one as exhorbitant.)

2) Ratifying the contract between the city government and Joreli Junk Shop and General Merchandise for the removal of debris at the fire-damaged floors of City Hall for a fee of P351,800. (The fee seems exhorbitant too.)

3) Creating an Ad Hoc Committee to plan the construction of a perimeter fence around the City Hall compound and the official residences of the City Mayor and Vice Mayor within the compound, introduced by Councilor Saludes. REFERRED. (The good Councilor would make the City Hall some sort of a Fort or Garrison.)

4) Authorizing the Mayor to secure a loan not exceeding P200 million from the GSIS or any lending institution for the rehabilitation of the City Hall, introduced by Councilors Altuna and Galarpe. REFERRED.

A very controversial Ordinance enacted by the Council was introduced by Councilor Saludes. It ordains preferential rights for registered voters of QC in the hiring of laborers or employees by construction companies and business establishments and imposing a not more than P1,000 fine for a violation of this ordinance. Preferential right is defined to "mean that among several applicants for the same position, all things being equal, the registered voters in Quezon City shall have preferential right to said employment." Saludes opposed a proposed amendment by Councilor Pangilinan changing "registered voters" to "residents (of Quezon City) as certified by the Barangay Captain." Saludes' opposition endows the Ordinance with a political hue. In fact, this was implied in Councilor Montilla's explanation of his affirmative vote. He said that the Ordinance is designed "to help the people of Quezon City who put the councilors where they are right now." Fred was, of course, referring to the "registered voters" who voted for them. How about the "registered voters" who did not vote for them?

Councilors Pangilinan and Herrera abstained, the first because he doubted the constitutionality of the Ordinance, the second because she was afraid other cities and municipalities of Metro Manila would enact retaliatory measures against Quezon City residents. Councilor Banal voted affirmatively although he expressed doubt about the right to penalize under the concept of preferential right.

City Government and Personnel

The Resolutions and Ordinances under this heading are those that affect the functions and structure or organization of the city government and those that state its position on national issues. Also included under this heading are those that affect the welfare and status of the city government's personnel. Of the about 27 Ordinances and about 37 Resolutions under this heading, the following are significant or interesting enough to deserve mention:

1) Ordinance creating an office to be known as the "Quezon City (People's) Information, Assistance and Guidance Center" that will research data, process, inform, give, extend, assist, guide and/or help the general public . . . introduced by Councilor Roldan. REFERRED.

2) Ordinance creating an officials organ for the QC government under the Public Affairs and Information Services Office (PAISO) to disseminate the official position of the QC government vis-a-vis local and national issues, to inform on the official goings-on in the city in general and within the City Hall in particular, and to serve as a vehicle to boost the morale of the employees of the city government. introduced by Councilor Tamayo. REFERRED.

3) Ordinance requiring each Executive Department or Agency at the QC Hall to maintain a SUGGESTION BOX at a strategic place within its office or immediate area to receive complaints and/or suggestions from its own staff as well as the general public introduced by Councilor Calalay. REFERRED.

4) Resolution requesting the City Mayor to submit to the City Council for its information and guidance his program of government for the current year and succeeding years up to May 31, 1992 introduced by Councilor Paculdo. APPROVED.

5) Ordinance penalizing employees of QC government and of private establishments in QC for smoking cigarette and/or tobacco during office and working hours introduced by Councilor Saludes. (Add what transpired in that session.)

6) Ordinance appropriating P150,000 for consultancy, research and support staff services for the Committee on Laws, Rules and Internal Government in undertaking a study and revision of the QC Charter introduced by Councilors Liban and Altuna. Referred.

Unable to agree on how to call the body that would undertake the study – Commission, Ad Hoc Committee, or Task Force – the Council finally settled on giving the task to the Committee on Laws, Rules and Internal Government. It reduced the appropriation from P200,000 to P150,000.

7) Ordinance granting to all QC government employees free medical, dental and maternal services at the QC General Hospital, introduced by Councilors Altuna and Del Rosarion. REFERRED.

8) Ordinance creating the position of City Budget Coordinator, providing for his compensation, powers and duties, introduced by Councilor Altuna. APPROVED.

9) Ordinance creating the Office of the Environmental Sanitary Aide under the Office of the Mayor composed initially of 3,210 casual employees, defining its powers and functions, and creating a fund for its exclusive use, maintenance and operation, introduced by Councilor Saludes. REFERRED.

10. Resolution urging the Mayor to implement Article III, Sec. 173 of the Local Government Code in relation to Article X, Sec. 9 of the 1987 Constitution which provides, among others, the appointment of sectoral representatives to the City Council namely: the Presidents of the Katipunan Ng Mga Barangay, the Kabattang Barangay City Federation and the Industrial-Labor sector to best serve the interest and welfare of the public, introduced by Councilor Calalay. REFERRED.

Councilors Paculdo and Pangilinan supported the Resolution while Councilors Altuna and Ramos opposed it. They debated the matter, each side citing provisions of the Constitution and the Local Government Code with their respective interpretations.

We will not render a judgement on who are correct: Paculdo and Pangilinan or Altuna and Ramos. We might as well wait for the opinion of the Secretary of Justice to whom the issue was referred.

What bothers us is why are Councilors Paculdo and Pangilinan so anxious for sectoral representatives in the Council? As it is, the Council is big enough – much too big in the thinking of many QC citizens. Can't 24 Councilors attend to the interests of all sectors of the city? The ABC President is supposed to represent the Barangay Sector, can't the Committee on Barangay Affairs and Community Relations attend to the interests of that sector. The President of the Kabataang Barangay Federation is supposed to represent the Youth Sector, can't the Committee on Youth and Sports Development take care of the interests of that sector?

Any Councilor, for that matter, though elected by District, need not restrict himself to the interests of his district nor to any particular sector. As a legislator, he is a free lancer. With due respect to the law, we believe that sectoral representation to the Council can be dispensed with. Have mercy on the city's taxpayers. As it is, they will be footing the expense of maintaining 24 Councilors to the tune of P18,571,542.00 this year, according to City Budget Coordinator Johnny Ortiz.

11.) Resolution requesting the Mayor to create a Committee to include a Councilor that will study and evaluate the computerization needs of the city government, introduced by Councilor Castro. APPROVED.

12.) Resolution requesting the city administration to undertake a feasibility study on the setting up of a QC Printing Office to serve the printing needs of the city government, introduced by Councilor Banal. APPROVED.

13.) Resolution requesting the Mayor to create a Committee that will look into the feasibility of establishing a QC Government In-Service Training Center, introduced by Councilor Tamayo. APPROVED.

14) Resolution urging the Mayor to cause a study on the possibility and feasibility of changing office hours to 7:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. so as "to deliver more efficient service to the people." Introduced by Councilor Liban. ADOPTED.

15) Resolution requesting the Mayor to maintain a skeletal force during the noon break and on Saturday mornings (9:00 A.M. to 12:00 Noon) to serve the public, introduced by Councilors Liban and Bautista.

We fail to see how merely changing the working hours to 7:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. would enable officials and employees "to deliver more efficient service to the people." The earlier starting hour will probably result in more tardiness considering how traffic at 7:00 A.M. gets snarled up. The earlier starting hour does not increase the length of the working hours; it stays at eight hours. I predict strong opposition from the rank and file employees. Those in the higher echelon couldn't care less how the working hours are juggled; they come and go on their own sweet time. With respect to the skeletal force, that is what can give better service to the people though it is not absolutely necessary. In any case, the Employees Consultative Council should have their say on the two Resolutions above.

16) Resolution calling for a more efficient delivery of services by the QC local government offices, departments and other instrumentalities and the immediate improvement of the conduct of official duties by city officials and employees, introduced by Councilor Roldan. APPROVED.

As a government employee ourself, we resent this Resolution fathered by that actor turned Councilor. It is virtually a sweeping indictment of City Hall officials and employees – their alleged inefficiency and improper conduct. It is stated in the Minutes of the session which passed the Resolution that "libelous remarks" were deleted from the original version of the Resolution filed by the ex-actor. No amount of cajoling could persuade employees of the City Secretary's Office we approached to reveal what those libelous remarks were. The ex-actor claims that he had received complaints of discourtesy and incompetence against some officials/employees. Is that sufficient basis for making a general denunciation of City Hall personnel. Councilor Galarpe was darn right when he said that the Resolution was "uncalled for," and that all that the Council should have done was to call the erring officials/employees for a dialogue with the Blue Ribbon Committee. We call on the Employees Consultative Council to pass a counter resolution denouncing the legislative affront against City Hall officials and employees.

17) Resolution urging the Mayor to make a study on the establishment in each of the first, third and fourth districts of QC a District Coordination Office to function in the same manner and to be clothed with the same powers and authority as that of the existing Novaliches Coordination Office, introduced by Councilor Liban. APPROVED.

18) Ordinance regulating the establishment, classification, administration and operation of public markets (Maarket Code of QC), introduced by Councilor Castro. REFERRED.

19) Ordinance appropriating P800,000 for a Special Task Force to assist real estate owners in the reconstitution of their titles, introduced by Councilor Altuna. APPROVED.

20) Resolution requesting the Land Transportation Commission to refer to the Mayor for comment all applications for certificate of convenience pertaining to public utility vehicle service lines within QC. Introduced By Councilor Liban. DEFERRED.

21) Ordinance establishing the QC Economic Development Board and appropriating P800,000 for the purpose, introduced by Councilor Altuna. DEFERRED.

22) Ordinance requiring all commercial and industrial establishments operating or seeking to operate business in QC to affiliate with or subscribe membership to the QC Chamber of Commerce and Industry or to any other business aggrupations of the same nature and purpose as a condition precedent to the renewal or issuance of business permit or license by the city government, introduced by Councilor Altuna. REFERRED.

City Council

Under this heading are the Resolutions and Ordinances which have something to do with the structure, organization, rules and procedures, powers and functions, and funding of the City Council. During the period under review, 26 and 10 such Resolutions and Ordinances, respectively were taken up by the Council. Among the least insignificant/uninteresting of the Resolutions are:

1) Resolution to create a Committee on Appointments "which shall consider, review, and/or ratify appointments of City Officials made by the Mayor," REFERRED.

Councilor Paculdo, Minority Floor Leader, stated that "it was the consensus and unanimous decision of the Metro Manila Consultative Assembly (held the previous day) to so adopt in their respective Councils such Committees on Appointments (as it) will make local autonomy more dynamic."

2) Resolution requesting the four Congressmen of QC to sponsor a bill which would give substance and meaning to the privilege hour in the City Council by providing the Councilors similar immunities enjoyed by Representatives and Senators. Introduced by Councilor Montilla. REFERRED.

3) Resolution creating two new Committees: Public Affairs and Information and Price Control and Consumer's Protection. APPROVED. Introduced by Committee on Laws and Internal Government.

4) Resolution amending the rules of the Council so as to place an additional item in the Order of Business to be known as Question and Answer Hour. Introduced by Councilor Liban. APPROVED.

5) Resolution requiring proponents of appropriation measures to consult first with the Committee on Appropriations and ways and means and secure certificate of availability of funds from City Treasurer. Introduced by Councilor Banal. REFERRED.

6) Resolution making it a policy of the City Council to report to its constituents on any reorganization that occurs within the Council in accordanced with the city government's policy of full disclosure and transparency. Introduced by Councilor Pangilinan. REFERRED.

7) Resolution creating an Ad Hoc Committee to study feasibility of establishing cooperatives in depressed areas. Introduced by Councilor Calalay. REFERRED.

Among the fairly significant/interesting Ordinances under this heading are:

1) Ordinance requiring that all contracts involving expenditures of money or creating liability of the city government be submitted to the City Council for review, revision, amendment, modification and approval and/or ratification. Introduced by the Committee on Laws, and Internal Government. REFERRED.

2) Ordinance creating five contractual positions under the office of each Councilor and appropriating P4,200,000 to cover the salaries and other expenses of such positions covering the period May 1 to December 31, 1988. Introduced by Councilors Herrera, Castro and Pangilinan. APPROVED.

3) Ordinance making mandatory the appearance before the City Council by heads of Departments, Chief of Offes, officials and employees of the city government and other persons when formally invited to so appear; and providing penalties for violations thereof. Introduced by Councilor Liban. REFERRED.

This proposed ordinance is inconsistent. It makes appearance before the Council "mandatory" and punishable yet the persons are made to appear only "when formally invited to so appear." Since when has an invitation become compulsory or, to use the word of the proposed Ordinance, "mandatory." The proper words to use are "when summoned to so appear." Such a summons is tantamount to a subpoena. The question is: Has the Council such a judicial prerogative?

4) Ordinance providing for the safekeeping of an authentic copy of all city Ordinances, Resolutions and supporting materials/documents in the QC Library and approprating the necessary funds for the purpose. Introduced by Councilor Calalay. REFERRED.

Miscellaneous

Under this heading are the Resolutions and Ordinances taken up during the period under review which do not fall clearly under any of the foregoing 14 headings used in this review. There are 27 and 26 of said Resolutions and Ordinances, respectively, and the least insignificant/uninteresting of them are as follows:

1) Resolution giving due recognition to the top 20 corporate taxpayers in QC every year and acknowleding their positive contribution to the growth of QC by appointing their Chief Executive Officers as special economic advisers of the city government for the duration of the year. Introduced by Councilor Tamayo. REFERRED.

2) Resolution directing the City Engineer to investigate illegal users of government paid electrical current. Introduced by Councilor Del Rosario and all other Councilors of the 4th District. APPROVED.

3) Resolution directing the City Treasurer to furnish the City Council with a list of the names of the 300 biggest city delinquent taxpayers and a list of the first 20 taxpayers in QC. Introduced by Councilors Altuna and Pangilinan. REFERRED.

Councilor Montilla asked if there would be no violation of the rights of a citizen to divulge his tax delinquency. Hasn't the Councilor read news stories of BIR reports on the tax deliquencies of Nora Aunor, Vilma Santos, German Moreno, Sharon Cuneta, etc.,?

4) Resolution requesting the PLDT to install a telephone in every police station, Barangay Center, and residence of Mayor and of Vice Mayor. Introduced by Councilor Serrano. ADOPTED.

5) Resolution urging Congress to enact a bill declaring Quezon City the "Entertainment Capital" of the country. Introduced by Councilor Bautista. REFERRED.

(Turn to page 5)

CITY COUNCIL . . .

6) Resolution urging Congress to enact a bill defining indecent exposure and/or disorderly conduct inside a day/night entertainment establishment in QC. Introduced by Councilor Sarino. REFERRED.

As pointed out by Councilor Ramos the terms indecent exposure and disorderly behavior are already defined in the Penal Code. So if Congress were to redefine them, as urged by the Resolution, it would be tantmount to amending the Penal Code.

1) Ordinance requiring all business establishments intending to do business in QC to secure Barangay Clearance from the Barangay Captain of the Barangay where they intend to conduct business as a condition precedent to the issuance of any business permit or license. Introduced by Councilor Altuna. REFERRED.

2) Ordinance designating a stretch of Tomas Morato Avenue from Timog Rotonda to Roces Avenue as a "Special Zone for Restaurants" with specific regulatory guidelines and program of development therefor. Introduced by Councilor Banal. REFERRED.

3) Ordinance appropriating P4,230,240 for allowance and insurance premiums and supplies and materials for Barangay Security and Development Officers. Introduced by Councilor Gaba. APPROVED.

4) Ordinance regulating the operation and management of moviehouses, theaters and cinemas in QC, providing penalties for violations thereof. Introduced by Councilor Ramos. REFERRED.

5) Ordinance regulating the operation of tricycles and providing penalties for violations thereof. Introduced by Councilors Castelo and Serrano. REFERRED.

6) Ordinance declaring a moratorium in the issuance of license and permit to new applications to operate fun houses. Introduced by Councilors Saludes, Herrera, Castelo, Biglang-Awa, Liban and Serrano. REFERRED.

7) Ordinance extending funeral assistance/services to the family of qualified indigent residents and appropriating the necessary funds. Introduced by Councilor Calalay. APPROVED.

8) Ordinance requiring all movie houses to show at least 70% Filipino films, Introduced by Councilor "Mahal."

Privilege Speeches

Like their peers in Congress our local legislators love to do some grandstanding by delivering privilege speeches although they do not enjoy the immunity that Senators and Representatives enjoy. Congress has not yet taken any action on a Council resolution urging the enactment of a bill granting Councilors immunity.

During the period under review, Councilor Paculdo made the most privilege speeches followed by Councilors Saludes, Pangilinan, Ramos, and Liban each of whom spoke three times. Councilors Tamayo and Mahal spoke two times each while Councilors Canseco, Castelo, Calalay and Herrera spoke once each.

The subject of Councilor Altuna's privilege speech during the May 2 session was a news item in MANILA BULLETIN, "Ordinance Smuggling Attempt in Q.C. Foiled." The news item claimed that the Ordinance appropriating P500,000 for the city government's livelihood program was taken up on second reading without having been referred to the proper committees. Altuna denied this, saying that the Ordinance had been referred to the Committees on Appropriations and on Trade, Commerce and Industry which had conducted committee hearings. Altuna blamed Maximo Esplenador of the Vice Mayor's Office for the news item. Resplenador had submitted to Altuna a P1.9 M livelihood program which the Councilor did not introduce in the Council.

In the May 26 session, Councilor Castelo denounced the demolition that was undertaken at the Veterans Village, Bgy. Holy Spirit which resulted in death and injuries to several persons. Thereupon, the Council created an Ad Hoc Committee to make a full dress investigation of the demolition but until now the committee has not come up with a report.

In the May 30 session, Councilor Pangilinan in his privilege speech told his colleagues that on May 28, the Council marked its 100th day. It had passed a total of 71 Resolutions and 33 Ordinances which had not yet covered all the problems the Mayor had pinpointed in his State-of-the City Address. In his speech, Pangilinan also questioned the wisdom or propriety of the Vice Mayor performing both executive and legislative functions. The Council referred Pangilinan's speech for study to the Committee on Laws, Rules and Internal Government.

In the June 16 session, Councilor Paculdo's privilege speech was a follow-up of his previous privilege speech in which he denounced the inhuman way the sidewalk vendors in the premises of Murphy market were being evicted. Paculdo reported that the Council's declaration of a moratorium on the eviction of the vendors was not heeded by the Market Administration, that it was a certain Boy Tupas a non-government employee who was directing the eviction. Councilor Montilla believed, however, that Boy Tupas was from the executive department. He said that if this act of Boy Tupas is not challenged and investigated, the Council would become a rubber stamp, totally subservient to the executive department.

Councilors Calalay and Paculdo availed themselves of the privilege hour. Calalay deplored the city government's lack of a program for the poor. Evidence of this, he said, was the way the houses of squatters at Bgy. Manresa were demolished after only a five-day notice and even when there was no place to relocate them. Paculdo, on the other hand, deplored a news item in THE GLOBE in which he was reported as having introduced a resolution urging the increase in the pay of Councilors to P15,000 per month. He denied the resolution.

In his privilege speech at the June 30 session, Councilor Ramos made the observation that there were many instances when Councilors do not participate in the debates and discussions to air their views or opinions on the issues involved. These non-participating Councilors vote, Ramos said, on the basis of political camaraderie or friendship. Others simply abstain. Councilor Paculdo disputed Ramos' observation. He said that he had always taken a stand on any measure taken up in the Council and that he had always voted in accordance with his conscience. Councilors Banal, Altuna and Liban also disputed Ramos allegation of Councilors voting not in accordance with their views or opinions – if they have any.

In his privilege speech in the July 4 session, Councilor Liban questioned the purchase of half a million worth of pre-fab materials without the Council being involved. He said that while it was an emergency purchase, the City Council could have been easily convened to special session by the Vice Mayor inasmuch as each Councilor carries a pocket bell. He urged that Secretary to the Mayor Agsalud be summoned to explain. Liban also urged the Blue Ribbon Committee to be more active to which Councilor Herrera responded by informing the Council that her Committee would meet the following day to investigate the case of ghost employees and that of the People's Patrol.

For the third time, Councilor Paculdo availed himself of the privilege hour during the July 7 session to denounce the continued harass ment by the Market Administration of the sidewalk vnedors outsid-

The Venom Of Graft In Local Governments

By Rodriguito S. Saet
Asst. City Secretary

(Editor's Note: *The author is featured in our "Know Your City Officials" page. He sent us an extremely long article, 15½ pages, single spaced. Due to space limitations, we can publish only the most significant parts.)*

The evil and ugly faces of graft and corruption; their ways, effects.

Graft, aside from its ruinous dishonest ways, results in huge losses of government revenue and property. It exacts a heavy toll on efficiency. It stagnates progress. It condones fines or crimes, and even frees the criminal. It humiliates. Graft offends morality and, in fact, thrives on immorality. It also builds false courage and security. It nefariously facilitates the loss of critically needed revenue that rightfully belongs to the State and the people. For certain, it disturbs government stability. It renders our poor government even poorer, if not miserable.

In their more popular or traditional forms, losses thru graft can arise from overpricing of goods, services and projects; short delivery thereof (worse if ghost delivery takes place); lavish spending or aimless waste of resources; and in its staggering form – illegal and immoral use of public funds for private gains.

The government always emerges as the loser whenever, for a "fee" or "favor", a civil servant misuses or abuses his power or authority. Worse, if it is his discretion that is gravely abused or prostituted. It is also deadly if done to repay a debt of gratitude. When a servant closes his eyes, specially if attended by immoral consideration, to the culpable violation of the law, rules and regulations, the culprit gets free and public order and safety suffer immeasurably.

The government pays more for less or none at all as a result of overpricing, short/under delivery or "ghost" delivery. Worse, if it is the last kind. Similar is the result of an "inflated" (falsified) legal expense. It unduly taxes and overloads the limited capacity of the government.

There are other ugly faces of graft like infidelity in the custody of public funds and records, surreptitious and illegal condonation of fines/fees/revenue, theft or immoral use of government property, time and the like. Waste can also result from the unmindful disposal of public properties at unconcionably low prices.

For sure, the public servant who makes this happen enriches himself to the detriment of the service, at the expense of the government and prejudice of the sovereign people. The economic and moral stability and prosperity of the nation ultimately suffer!

Another way – hopefully isolated, very subtle but disastrous if not devastating – of robbing the people's money is the execution of patently private activity but deceptively decorated with little "public coloring". This may be attained by classic sophistication in nomenclatures aided by loose brakes of checks and balances and iced by the ~~in~~transparency of public transactions and the complacency of the general public.

Denominations of these kinds of deception may come in labels such as "public information campaign", "public security awareness drive", "public health program", public assistance, etc., etc." Projects like these deceptively call for the hiring of a lot of people, their assignments normally unknown, accomplishments, if any, never revealed. Candidly, they result in the dissipation of public funds most likely for the enhancement of the image or political ends of the high public servant than the interest of the State and the people

Activities of this nature lend credence to the accusation that we take greater pains and expense feeding the people rather than teaching them to be productive and gainful. Priority distortion!

Absolutely, the immoral plunder of the public wealth erodes public confidence in government. Very painfully, in a society where graft and corruption gain acceptance as a "way of life", public condemnation is muted and complacency takes its place. Sometimes silence transforms itself into evil desire to partake of the loot itself. Corruption is addiction!

Graft is counter-productive. It resets the hand of development and leads to retrogression. It negates the roots and routes of prosperity and exhausts national bounty. It is a menace, a heinous crime. It obscures if not bounces back the Filipino to oblivion. IT MUST BE STOPPED!

Nothing but nothing dissipates faster the resources of government than the aimless and unscrupulous waste by the very people chosen to promote and conserve it.

Before it is too late and for the sake of posterity . . . tangible solutions (or counter-attack) must be instituted to avert this menace and parry its ruinous venom.

IT MAY BE WELL to start small – with the local governments (provinces, municipalities, cities).

The solutions to be cultivated must pointedly address themselves foremost to the tasks of government servants. The reformation of the transacting public's attitude must come hand in hand. An honest, clean, efficent and graft-repellant public service may even spontaneously bring about the transformation of public confidence in government. No less than the total, concerted and sustained effort and cooperation of all Filipinos are required.

Some solutions are understandably painful and some may take years to realize their fruitage. But – better late than never!

For one, the government service must be professionalized and compensation packages have to be improved. Qualification and work standards must be upgraded. Appointment of unfit POLITICAL NOMINEES must be stopped. The government is not an employment factory. It must lead and show the way to proficiency and stability let alone frugality and simplicity.

Honoraria for extra ordinary talents and dedicated services must be encouraged and incentive pay for honest and excellent contributions to the service must be granted. Civil servants' genuine efforts to protect the integrity of the service must be recognized and rewards may even have to be given to contributors of wise and bright ideas and concepts leading to efficient and seasonable collection of large but otherwise dormant revenues and/or huge savings, or the erradication of graft and corruption.

There must be a way, more efficient yet less expensive, to improve government power/efficiency and lick the ill-

QC, CLEANEST . . .

disposal area in the barangay. The karetons have lessessed the work load of the dump trucks.

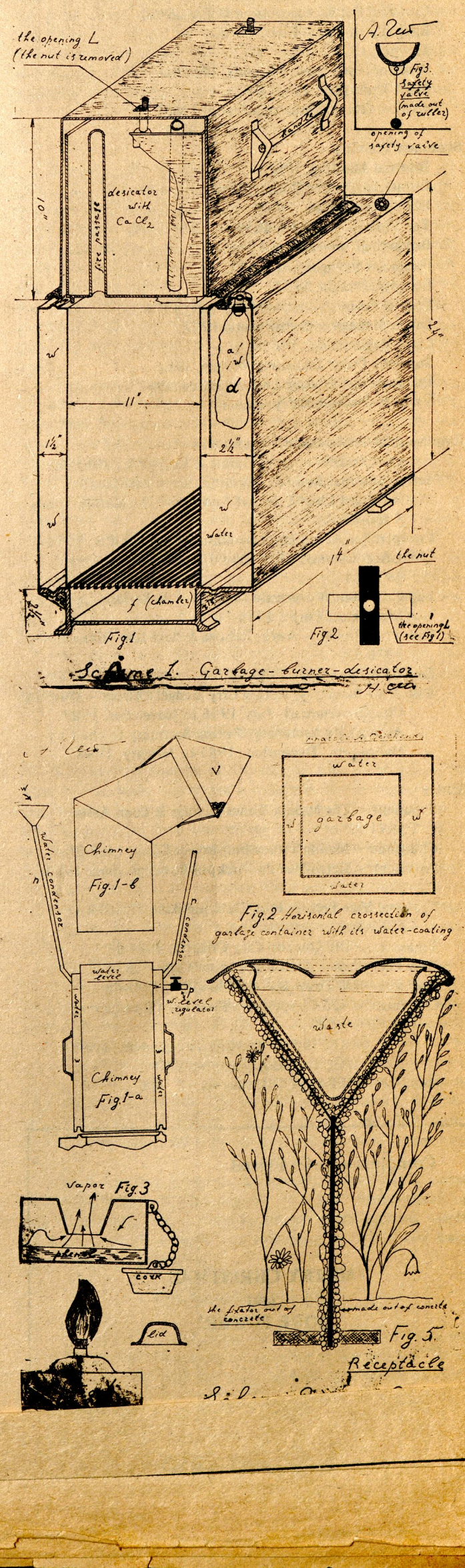
Several mini-incinerators have been installed in garbage prone public markets like Galas, Kamuning, and Murphy. At present, a bigger incinerator is being tried out.

For all that it may be worth, we are publishing sketches of an incinerator given to me when I was former City Architect Lucing Aquino's Executive Assistant at the North Sector, Environmental Sanitation Center (ESC) where Lucing was then the head in a concurrent capacity. The giver was a certain Anatole. A. Geichenko, a Russian Sanitary engineer who wanted us to promote the incinerator.

But before we could do so, Lucing and I fell apart over a key official at ESC, whom I denounced for graft and corruption. The fellow happened to be a protege of Lucing.

Now, let's see if Gen. Manuel Syquico who is the Mayor's Consultant on Environmental Sanitation can step into Lucing's shoes as the new "Gargabe Czar" of Quezon City. If he cares to see the original sketches of the Russian's incinerator, he is welcome to them. He just tells Rev. Aniceto Q. Lazo, the Spiritual Adviser of this paper.

Gen. Syquio says that the garbage problem can not be completely solved unless the people give up their undisciplined ways of throwing away garbage indiscriminately. The Barangay Operations Center is conducing a drive in the barangays for the enforcement of sanitation laws and regulations, a task for which the Barangay Captains have the authority.



KNOW YOUR CITY OFFICIALS

By AQL

BIO-DATA

Name: RODRIGUITO S. SAET (Rod)
Birth-date: September 25, 1944
Birth-place: Bgy. Buneg, Echague, Isabela
Civil Status: Married (kids: Raul, 21 years, Computer Engineer, Ateneo; Lanie, 19 years, pre-law, Maryknoll; Victor, 17 years, Freshman Eng'g. Student, UP)
Spouse: Erlinda Diocares-Saet (Employee – QC City Assessor's Office)



Education/Profession
- Bachelor of Science in Commerce (FEU, 1964)
- Certified Public Accountant (CPA, 1965)
- Bachelor of Laws (FEU, 1970)
- Lawyer, 1971
- Auditor (Civil Service Exams, 1966)
- MBA Units (UST, 1977-78)
- Realtor (Bu. of Domestic Trade, 1980)

Seminars/Training
- Internal Auditing, 1966
- Industrial Trading Course, 1967
- EDP Programming, 1967
- Tax Practice Institute, 1969
- Budgeting/Forecasting, 1970
- Financial Management, 1972
- Comptrollership, 1973
- Special Problem Areas in Civil Law, 1974
- Labor-Management Problems, 1977
- Land Registration, 1980
- Supreme Court Decisions Review, 1982
- International Trading Laws/Practice, 1987
- Various conferences/symposia

Employment/Professional Experiences
- External Auditor – A.V. Garcia & Co., CPAs, 1965/66
- Senior Internal Auditor; Administrative Assistant; Assistant Chief Internal Auditor – The Manile Times, 1966-72
- Comptroller/Administrative Manager – PECOPR, 1973
- Chief Accountant/Collection Officer – Medical City, 1973-74
- Legal Assistant/Corporate Counsel – A. Soriano Corp./ San Miguel Corp., 1974-76
- Law Practitioner – Ante, Rebosa & Saet Law Offices, 1976-83
- Law-CPA Practice – 1983-86
- Asst. City Secretary/Acting City Budget Officer – Quezon City Government, July 1986 to November, 1987; Acting City Secretary, Acting Secretary to the City Mayor, etc., December, 1987 to January, 1988

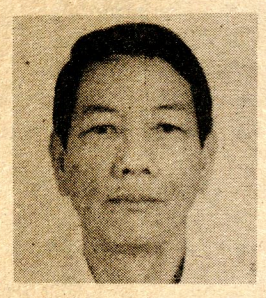
Others
- President – The Manila Times Savings & Loan Assn., 1971-72
- Chairman – Manila Times Employees Coop, 1968-70
- President – Metro Manila Duckpin Bowling Assn., 1980-81
- National Vice Pres. – Phil. Duckpin Assn. (PHIDBA), 1980-82
- Treasurer – IBP Quezon City Chapter, 1984-86
- Vice Pres./Pres. – Maharlika Lions Club, 1985-86
- Director – UP-Town Rotary Club, QC, 1987-88
- Chairman – QC Cooperative Board of Consultants, 1987
  – QCHEAA, Bowling Tournament, 1987
  – QC Housing Program, 1987
- Member – PICPA, QCCII, various

Compliments of a Friend:

MERRY CHRISTMAS
and
MORE POWER!

BIO-DATA

Name: APOLINARIO R. PAVIA
Address: 74 J.P. Ramoy St., Talipapa
Novaliches, QuezonCity, Metro Manila
Date of Birth: October 5, 1932
Civil Status: Married
Sex: Male
Weight: 62.27 Kg.
Height: 1.72 m.



EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT:

Name of School		
1. Navotas Elem. School	–	Graduate
2. Nat'l Teacher's College	–	Graduate
3. Mapua Inst. of Tech.	–	BSEE-ME

IN-SERVICE TRAINING; SEMINARS ATTENDED AND SPECIAL STUDIES TAKEN

1.	Real Property Tax Administration	–	Institute For Tax Administration – University of Southern California, USA
2.	First Special Session on Appraisal For Ad Valorem Tax Purposes	–	Taoyuan, Taiwan Republic of China
3.	Fourth Regional Conference-Workshop PACTAA, INC.	–	Phil. Village Hotel, Pasay City
4.	M.M.C. Seminar Workshop For Assessors & Treasurers	–	D.A.P.
5.	Seminar-Workshop on Use of Special Assessment	–	National Tax Research Center, Manila
6.	Seminar on Essential Public Services	–	Quezon City Hall
7.	55th National Annual Seminar-Workshop & Convention PACTAA, INC.	–	Manila Hotel
8.	Employee Dev. Course (Orientation to Civil Service Law)	–	Quezon City Hall
9.	Development Course in Public Administration	–	U.P.
10.	Real Property and Land as tax base for development	–	Land Reform Training Institute-Taoyuan, Taiwan, Republic of China

SERVICE RECORD

From	To	Position
Oct. 1, 1959	Dec. 28, 1959	Tax Roll Clerk Assessor's Office, QC
Dec. 29, 1959	Sept. 30, 1961	Dep. Assessor Assessor's Office, QC
Oct. 1, 1961	July 15, 1975	Jr. Appraiser Assesor's Office, QC
July 16, 1975	June 20, 1976	Sr. Dep. Assessor Assessor's Office, QC
June 21, 1976	April 30, 1978	Mun. Assessor Mun. Assessor's Office, Marikina
May 1, 1979	Dec. 31, 1980	Mun. Assessor Mun. Assessor's Office, Paranaque
Jan. 1, 1981	Sept. 07, 1987	Mun. Assessor Mun. Assessor's Office, Paranaque
Spet. 08, 1987	present	OIC/City Assessor City Assessor's Office, QC

Examination Taken:

Title and Date of Examination
1. Real Property Assessing Officer, Aug. 1977
2. Deputy Assessor, May, 1964

Other Qualifications and Special Skills:

Appraising Real Estate Properties

CITY COUNCIL . . .

the Murphy Market despite an agreement between the Council and the Market Administrator that the vendors should be allowed to stay put until they can be accommodated inside the market or relocated to a proper site. After other Councilors had vented their ire against the Market Administrator, the Council adopted a Resolution "directing the QC Market Administration to hold in abeyance within a period of 45 days any action against the vendors located outside the Murphy market."

The privilege speech delivered by Councilor Ramos during the July 11 session was a bombshell. It triggered the Council revamp that was consummated in the next two sessions. Ramos brought to the attention of the Council the many news stories questioning the integrity and leadership of the entire Council. The source of the news stories were members of the Council themselves and were referred ferred to as belonging to a "progressive bloc."

At the end of the privilege hour, Councilor Paculdo moved for the suspension of the rules in order for the Council to take up the question of leadership. Councilors Galarpe, Altuna, Saludes, Banal and others expressed their objection saying that the agenda for the day should be taken up first. There followed a spirited debate on which should be given priority: the question of leadership or the interests of the people. In a division of the house, the majority of the Councilors, 17 of them, prevailed, Minority Floor Leader Paculdo's motion was supported only by his five fellow oppositionists: Councilors Pangilinan, Liban, Montilla, Herrera, and Sarino.

In the July 14 session, Councilor Tamayo delivered a privilege speech on the ouster of Councilor Herrera as President-Pro-Tempore and Chairman of the Blue Ribbon Committee as reported in a news story in the July 13, 1988 issue of MANILA BULLETIN. Tamayo gave the reasons for Herrera's ouster as stated in the news story: "Her crusade against grafters in the city hall. Further, Coun. Herrera's trouble started when the Blue Ribbon Committee confirmed before media men the existence of ghost employees involving friends and relatives of city hall officials, and when the Lady Councilor refused to sign SB No. 2 which was passed when she was the Acting Presiding Officer. Herrera explained that she refused to sign because of what she perceived as a legal defect of SB No. 2: it reverted the 15% contribution to the MMC which was still in existence.

In the July 18 session, Councilor Pangilinan delivered a privilege speech that could not have failed to stir his colleagues. He said that in the wake of the revamp of the Council leadership, came the allegations of several columnists in major dailies that graft and corruption in the City Council was the real reason for the revamp, not Herrera's. The columnists cited the case of certain Councilors who allegedly received between P3,000 to P10,000 as "bonuses" for contracts on the furnishing of their offices and constructions therein like wall partitions and cabinets. The Councilors who called for the revamp, one columnist wrote, wanted a better share of these "bonuses." The revamp, other columnists claimed, "was born out of a personal vendetta between certain individuals in and out of the city government." These allegations, Pangilinan said, had cast a cloud of doubt on the integrity and probity of the City Council.

Giving credence to the media allegations, Pangilinan said, was the fact that the revamp was consummated in an Executive Session whose proceedings heightened suspicion that something rotten had been withheld from the public. Pangilinan proposed to 1) Investigate the allegations of graft and corruption and 2) Disclose fully the rationale behind the revamp by way of a formal report to be incorporated into the journal of proceedings of the Council. incil.

While he admitted the existence of a house rule prohibiting the disclosure of Executive Session proceedings, Pangilinan said that "an alternative would be a 2/3 vote of the Council to make known to the public what transpired in the Executive Session."

Councilor "Mahal's" privilege speech in the July 25 session was the "inspirational talk" variety in which she urged her colleagues to strive towards the "acme of perfection" in their performance.

Are dreams a proper subject for a privilege speech? Opinion may divided on this, but in the July 28 session, dreams was the subject of Councilor Liban's privilege speech – his dreams of the late Chino Roces in which he gave Cory unsolicited advice and called for a new "moral order." Liban said he shared Chino's dream of a new "moral order." Several Councilors said they shared Liban's and Chino's dreams. But Councilor Altuna put a wet blanket on Liban's and the other Councilor's dreams. He said: "I like to dream but I prefer to keep my feet on the ground and do something for the people." Touche:

In the August 4 session, it was the turn of Councilor David to do a privilege speech which, by the way, Sen. Salonga once called a "saliva festival." David expounded on the motto: "We Serve." and enjoined his colleagues "to give more of themselves in working towards their programs and objectives." We wonder: Do not the Councilors feel insulted when one of their colleagues assumes a superior air and admonishes them for not giving enough of themselves.

In the August 11 session, Councilor Castro availed himself of the privilege hour to speak on the murder of his Executive Officer, Ed Limos. He urged his colleagues to be vigilant and not to be frightened. (Note: This was written before Castro's murder.)

In the August 15 session, Councilors Banal and Paculdo availed themselves of the privilege hour. Banal, who is majority floor leader, assailed the many ill-prepared Ordinances and Resolution that are filed: incomplete data, duplication of other Ordinances or Resolutions, no certification of availability of funds, or subject of Ordinance or Resolution not within the jurisdiction of the city government.

In his speech Councilor Paculdo urged the appointment of the President of the Katipunan ng mga Barangay and the President of the Kabataang Barangay Federation as members of the City Council in accordance with Sec. 137 of the Local Government Code. One can not understand Paculdo's eagerness in having the two cited Presidents appointed as members of the Council which, with 24 members, is already considered too big by many residents of QC.

Councilor Paculdo gallantly yielded to Council Hererra's desire to be the first to deliver her privilege speech in which she assailed the city leadership for its "lack of direction, its distorted sense of values and priorities, and its lack of a legislative agenda.

In his privilege speech, Councilor Paculdo urged more public hearings on the anti-smoking ordinance introduced by Councilor "Mahal." Councilor Saludes complained that it was he who had first introduced a measure against smoking but was gallant enough not to obstruct "Mahal's" baby.

In next session on August 29, Councilor Canseco delivered a privilege speech on the evils of smoking to boost Councilor "Mahal's" anti-smoking ordinance. He called smoking "a silent dreadful killer of mankind." Assuming that 12 million of the country's population are smokers spending P4.00 a day for cigarettes, they would be wasting P48 million a day or P18.5 billion a year. Councilor Castelo countered by citing himself as an example of a smoker – since at the age of 14, he said – who has survived while Councilor Paculdo pointed to his father, a heavy smoker, who lived to the age of 86.

(To be Continued)



WISE AND OTHERWISE
By Eddie C. Flores

Mailap Ang Dilag Ng Kapalaran Kay Charito Planas

Dalawang ulit na siyang nagtangka at mabigo na makamtan ang pinaka mimithing korona ng pagka alkalde ng Lungsod Quezon, Nuong una ay naungosan siya ng yumaong dating alkalde ng Lungsod Quezon na si Norberto S. Amoranto.

Nitong huli ay nasingitan naman siya ni Jun Simon.

Masiyado ng hinog (overripe) at napapanahonna (overdue) sana na maging alkalde ng Lungsod Quezon si Ms. Charito Planas. Nakapang hihinayang nga lamang kung bakit ayaw pa siyang pitasin ng mga tiga Lungsod Quezon.

Si Jun Simon naman sabi nila ay hilaw pa, hinog sa pilit at kinalburo, kuno-Juangco ang biro ng iba.

Si Jun Simon ay kabaligtaran ni Ms. Planas. Siya ang hinahanap at hinahabol ng magandang dilag ng kapalaran.

Sadya yatang kaloob ng Diyos na maging alkalde ng Lungsod Quezon si Jun Simon.

Kaya naman maraming natutuwa ng napabalitang nakipagkamayan na pala si Ms. Charito Planas kay Mayor Jun Simon. Sana naman ay tutohanan na ito, at hindi isang palabas lamang.

Itabi muna natin ang sobrang pamumulitika at hidwaan. At sa halip, ay magtulungan tayo at ang atupagin natin ay kung papaano natin mapabilis ang pag-unlad ng Lungsod Quezon.

Si Jun Simon naman ay isang magiting at maginuong lalake, sapagkat kung hindi ay hindi naman niya siguro nakamtan ang matamis na oo ng kanyang butihin, maganda at natatanging maybahay na si Mavic Silayan Simon.

Sa kaso naman ni Eat Bulaga Vice Mayor Vicente Sotto III, siya ang tinutukso ng magandang dilag ng kapalaran, Hindi na niya kailangan pa na hanapin at tugisin ang mailap at pakipot na magandang dilag ng kapalaran. Sapagkat ang kapalaran ay kusang bumubulaga sa harapan niya.

Kailan naman kaya ngingiti ang magandang dilag ng kapalaran kay Ms. Charito Planas. Tanging panahon lamang ang makapagsasabi. Anong malay natin, bukas o makalawa ay sisikat din ang araw ni Ms. Charito Planas.

Sabi nga nila "kung hindi ukol ay hindi bubukol". Kaya hindi pa siguro nauukol na maging alkalde si Charito Planas ng Lungsod Quezon. Ano sa palagay niyo? Hindi naman siguro tutoo na binukulan si Ms. Planas. Kaya sirit na muna tayo Ms. Planas, puede ba?

A Memorable Encounter With Amoranto

My mind turns to the late Mayor Norberto S. Amoranto because it was on Dec. 22, 1979, exactly 9 years ago today, that he died after suffering a stroke while jogging in the premises of City Hall.

There are many things I remember about Amoranto, but there is one memorable encounter I had with him that sticks in my mind. One day I strayed into his office; when he spotted me, he motioned for me to come forward, which I did. He gave me an enigmatic look which made me feel uneasy but I felt relieved when he broke into that famous Mona Lisa smile of his.

He pulled out a worn out wallet and took out two peso bills, the only money he had. He handed them to me and said very kindly: "Hijo, hindi bagay sa iyo ang mahabang buhok, hindi ka naman guwapo diyan. Magpagupit ka." I was so taken with surprise to refuse the Mayor's offer.

Speaking of long hair, I am reminded of what a friend who had visited Singapore told me. In government offices in Singapore there is this sign: "Males with Long Hair Will Be Attended To Last." Though Mayor Amoranto was obviously averse to long hair, there was no such sign in his office. In fact, it was wide open and anybody could get in and out freely. No cordon sanitaire or pistol packing bodyguards hovering around the Mayor menacingly.

The members of the staff of Mayor Amoranto were a friendly lot treating every visitor, no matter how low, with courtesy and cordiality. There was Mang Corne, the only janitor with a presidential appointment, He had been appointed by the late President Quezon. Mang Corne served what he called "the best coffee in town" to visitors.

Ah, those were the good old days that we miss. Mayor Amoranto was removed not by the will of the people – he was re-elected three times – but by the will of the conjugal dictatorship.

In contrast to the simple office of Mayor Amoranto are the luxurious offices of today's crop of corrupt elected officials. Kawawa naman ang ating mga kababayan, nilulustay lamang ang kanilang pinaghirapang pera sa mga walang kabuluhang bagay. Kung sa bagay, kasalanan din natin yan, sapagkat tayo rin naman ang naghalal sa kanila.

Kaya pasensiya na lang muna tayo, at maghintay na lang ng susunod na halalan upang mapalitan natin ang mga kawatan na mga ito. Siguro naman, ngayon ay matutoto na tayo na gamitin ang kokote natin sa pagpili ng ating mga halal na lingkod bayan, or better still, we can avail ourselves of the power of recall which is provided for in our Constitution.

The Living Dead

To kill or not to kill. To impose or not to impose the death penalty on drug addicts who commit heinous crimes. That is the question that is bugging our lawmakers and penologists.

Special Body To Probe Errant Barangay Officials

QC Councilor ALICIA HERRERA has urged the creation of a special body to investigate complaints against errant Barangay officials.

The Lady Councilor introduced a resolution which seeks to create an AD-HOC Committee on Accountabilities of Barangay officials.

In batting for the immediate adoption of her proposed resolution, Herrera cited the importance and special place of the Barangays in politics and national affairs. It is not a reflection against the ability of the Council to perform its task effectively, she said

Herrera said that what goaded her to make the proposal was the case of Holy Spirit Barangay Captain Alejos who was accused of alleged grave abuse of authority and neglect of duty. The case of Captain Alejos was referred to me by the Dept. of Local Government where it was originally filed, Herrera said.

I have nothing personal against the Blue Ribbon Committee and the Committee on Barangay Affairs in proposing the creation of a special body. I have been prompted by the urgent need to attend and act with dispatch on complaints against errant Barangay officials, Herrera stressed. As it is now, the Council is still in the dark as to what particular committee is invested with the responsibility or authority to look into complaints against Barangay officials, Herrera noted.

Herrera anchored her proposed resolution on sections 60, 61, 62 and 63 of the Local Govt. Code.

However, Councilor Teodoro Ramos cautioned that should this resolution be adopted it must be subjected to some amendments in order to conform with the provisions of Article IX of the Constitution. Said provisions which govern accountabilities of Barangay officials are paramount to all local provisions, Ramos said. Ramos advised that it be referred to the Committee on Laws, Rules and Internal Government for further study.

Councilor Herrera expressed her misgivings to this writer over the practice of having errant Barangay officials investigated by the ASSOCIATION OF BARANGAY CAPTAINS (ABC). Without impugning its capability and integrity, Herrera said that whatever the results of any investigation made by the ABC among their own peers are, they are likely to suffer from lack of credibility and will be viewed by the ever critical public with skepticism and suspicions that it was done in a cavalier fashion.

Herrera also expressed the fear that victims of abuses committed by errant Barangay officials who are unable to get swift justice and redress of grievances may, in their frustrations and bitterness, be forced to take the law into their own hands.

This is not in any way a brief against the Barangay officials in general because I still believe that they are in general dedicated, responsible, mature and respected leaders and officials in their respective Barangays, Herrera hastened to add.

QC Vice Mayor Vicente Sotto III, Presiding Officer of the City Council and Chairman of the QC Anti-Drug Abuse Council, thinks that more drastic measures are needed to curb drug addiction in QC. In an unprecedented move during a recent session of the Council, the Vice Mayor stepped down the rostrum to personally introduce a Resolution expressing the Council's full support of SB 660 authored by Senator Alberto Romulo which would impose the capital punishment on drug addicts who commit heinous crimes when high on drugs. In justifying the Resolution Vice Mayor Sotto said that present measures are too weak to cope with the rising tide of drug addiction.

"If you can not lick them, kill them." That seems to be the mentality behind the Sotto Resolution. We must commend the Vice Mayor for his resolute and gallant fight against drug addiction. But with due respect to the advocates of the death penalty for drug addicts who commit heinous crimes, we must express our misgivings.

The drug addict is a sick person who has lost his capacity to judge what is right and what is wrong. He is mentally unbalanced – in a word, crazy. He is more of a psychiatric than a criminal case. For all intents and purposes, the drug addict is dead – the living dead. So why condemn him to death. You don't kill a dead person, do you? He should, instead, be consigned to a rehabilitation center.

Drug addicts should be looked upon with sympathy and understanding. They are often the victims of circumstances, the sons or daughters of parents who are engrossed in the rat race amassing oodles of money to the total neglect of their children who turn to drugs to suppress their bitter anger against their parents. To such parents we say: "What does it profit to gain the whole world and lose your children to drugs."

Thus, many drug addicts come from affluent materialistic families. Recently, there is that sibling of an RTC Judge of Manila who was apprehended by the police for pushing drugs. While this no longer astonishes us, what is galling is that this spoiled brat was allowed to go scot free to resume his nefarious trade.

Despite the great odds, let us join hands in fighting a relentless war against drug abuse. Let us deliver the youths of QC from the evil clutches of drugs. The time is now, tomorrow may be too late. The bottom line is now or never.

KEEPERS . . .

turn—the spirit of goodwill is dominant Whether the crowd sings lustily "Jingle Bells" or the adoring worshippers join in "O Holy Night," everywhere is Christmas today. Let us look at

The Keepers of Christmas

First and foremost the keepers of Christmas are the shepherds of Bethlehem. They are the ordinary folks, the rank and file of people along life's dreary road. They are the hard-working men and women of humanity, to whom life does not offer the best. These rather must accept the hard grind of life, the drab monotony and endless sameness from day to day. They trod along the Jericho road of existence with anxious thoughts about bread, protection, and shelter. Often they are shunted to the side to make room for greater men. They have no estates and hold no large fortunes.

For these people are the treasures which the Christ Child brings. Along the weary walk of life they hear the angels sing: "Unto you is born this day a Savior! Glory to God in the highest!" He brings hope and courage and healing from sin. In him they find the securities which are eternal. They come to Bethlehem and keep Christmas because of the encouragement they receive. They discover through this Gospel that at the end of the trail and all human suffering is heaven, which this Jesus has purchased for them with His own blood. In that heaven is fullness of joy, for God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes, and there shall be no more pain. They trudge along monotonous ways with a grinding routine yet still see the Star, the Christ-Lord and hope. True, not all the weary come to Jesus. Some try to drown their sorrow and to get away from the drudgeries of life with sinful carousels and Christless living. But they who come to the Christ Child to keep Christmas find that their meaningless life becomes meaningful as the glad news that God is reconciled in Christ brightens their outlook and puts a new joy into their hearts.

And Then the Wise Men

However, the shepherds are not the only keepers of Christmas. Wise men journey from the Far East to Bethlehem and find something which all the wisdom of the world could not give them. These Wise Men are the "brains" of the world, the cultured and the elite. To them life has been good. They have enjoyed the nice things of life. They always knew that there was bread to eat for them and shelter against the storms of the day. These are the "privileged," to whom wealth and learning has given the enjoyments of life's better gifts. But why do they come to the humble manger of Bethlehem?

They come because wealth, learning, success, power have not satisfied the hunger of the soul. They discovered that they have been feeding on ashes when they sought to satisfy the deeper longings with gold and the success of the world. All the technical knowledge they have does not find the answer to the soul's quest for peace with God and eternal security. They come to Bethlehem because there, in the Rock of Ages, they find cleansing and healing from sin and are made sure of their salvation.

True, not all who are wise and successful come. Not all of these are keepers of Christmas. They only think of Christmas as a means of making an extra peso or money and having their friends shower them with gifts and inviting them to festive meals and good times.

But those who are truly wise come and kneel at the manger and find peace of heart and mind, a fuller and more abundant life, in Christ.

And Sinners Too

Who are the keepers of Christmas? Also those men and women who make Christmas a hilarious day of feasting and drinking are in their own sinful way keeping Christmas. They want to get away from the routine of life but give no thought to Him who came to enrich our lives with nobler activities and service. These keepers of Christmas have a bad hangover tomorrow, or they are counting their gifts and hastening to town to exchange them for something they want more than the things they have. Such a Christmas observance gives no glory to the Christmas Child.

However, among sinners there are many today who are on the way back to Bethlehem. They have discovered that the pleasures of sin give no permanent satisfaction. They have passed through the night of the regret of a misspent life and have learned it to be only too true that the way of the transgressor is hard. They have made terrible mistakes and want to know whether there is a road of beginning all over again. They have discovered that the road to Bethlehem holds out forgiveness and restores to former self-respect everyone who comes to the Christ Child and sobs out the confession of a misspent life.

These keepers of Christmas know the blessedness of being reborn in Christ. At the manger they have found peace of heart and mind and a newness of life. With grateful hearts they kneel at the manger and sing glory to God. They have found the joy of the Lord.

Then Saints Come to Adore

Once more we look down the road to Bethlehem and see saints in joyous contemplation kneeling at the manger. These saints realize that only the grace of God has kept them from falling. They note in wonderment and awe that God's love was so compelling that He sent His Son into this world of sin to

(Turn to page 10)

A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR TO THE GOOD PEOPLE OF QUEZON CITY

FROM

THE CITY COUNCIL

VICE MAYOR VICENTE C. SOTTO III
Presiding Officer

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Blue Ribbon Committee
Committee on Education

Member
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Committee on Youth and Sports Development
Committee on Environmental Sanitation, Beautification, Parks and Playgrounds
Committee on Ways and Means

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Committee on Appropriations

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Committee on Transportation, Communications and Public Services

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Vice Chairman
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Committee on Education
Committee on Peace and Order, Public Welfare and Safety
Committee on Public Works and Infrastructure
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Third District

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Vice Chairman
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Majority Floor Leader

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Committee on Trade, Commerce and Industry
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Committee on Games and Amusements

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CIELITO "MAHAL" E. DEL MUNDO

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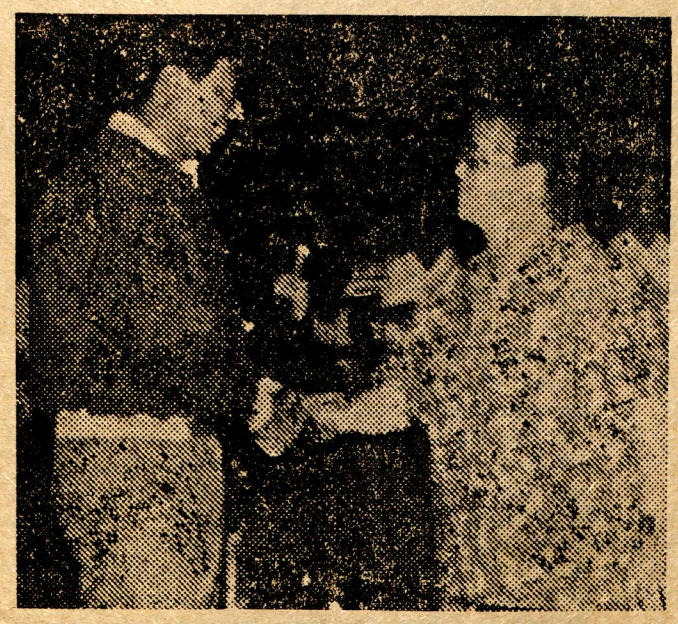
VICENTE A. ALVAREZ
City Secretary

RODRIGUITO S. SAET
Asst. City Secretary



MISA SA KAPASKUHAN. Political rivals Mayor Brigido R. Simon Jr. and lawyer Charito Planas appear to have buried the hatchet as they meet during the Misa sa Kapaskuhan '88 at the QC Sunken Garden officiated by Jaime Cardinal Sin. Mayor Simon, on seeing that his lady adversary was also a participant in the traditional mass, went to greet her as a 'sign of peace.' The two talked briefly amid applause from the crowd.

CITY COUNCIL . . .

2) PROPOSED ORDINANCE ORDAINING PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND OFFICES IN QC TO FLY THE PHILIPPINE FLAG AT HALF MAST IN HONOR OF AND TO MOURN THE DEMISE OF ANY INCUMBENT OR PAST ELECTIVE CITY OFFICIAL OF QC, FOR AT LEAST 3 DAYS AND PROVIDING FOR PENALTY IN CASE OF VIOLATION THEREOF, introduced by Councilor Liban.

October 24 Session

Present was the family of the late Councilor Tomas Castro to receive financial assistance in the amount of P30,000 from the Metro Manila Councilors League which is composed of 222 Councilors of Metro Manila.

With Signal No. 3 up and Typhoon Unsang expected to hit Metro Manila before 6:00 P.M., the Council adjourned in a hurry.

October 27 Session

Passed on Third/Final Reading is the ORDINANCE PRESCRIBING AND FIXING THE FEES IN THE FILING, REGISTRATION AND ISSUANCE OF DOCUMENTS AT THE LOCAL CIVIL REGISTRAR OF QC, introduced by Councilor Banal.

Sale of application form for marriage lisence (one set) P20 (instead of P25)
For registration of marriage contract – P30 (instead of P25)
For guardianship or custody of minor – P100 (instead of P50)
For registration of legal separation – P200 (instead of P100)
For registration of annulment of marriage P200 (instead of P100)
For registration of divorce – P200 (instead of P100)
For registration of naturalization – P400 (instead of P200)
Decree of adoption: Foreign – P400
Local – P200

APPROVED was a PROPOSED RESOLUTION URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS TO CAUSE THE WIDENING OF DEL MONTE STREET, introduced by Councilor Calalay.

Deferred and Referred to the Committees on Laws, Rules and Internal Government and on Subdivisions was a PROPOSED RESOLUTION GRANTING OMNIBUS AUTHORITY TO THE CITY MAYOR TO IMPLEMENT THE CITY'S SOCIALIZED LOW-COST HOUSING PROGRAM KNOWN AS "QC-MANRESA URBAN REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT" FOR THE MORE OR LESS 26,200.10 SQUARE METER PORTION OF STA. MESA HEIGHTS SUBDIVISION, BLOCK 416, BGY. MANRESA, 1ST DISTRICT, QC, introduced and sponsored by all Councilors.

Approved was a PROPOSED RESOLUTION URGING THE CITY MAYOR TO NEGOTIATE THE IMMEDIATE TURNOVER FROM B.C. REGALADO & CO. TO THE CITY GOVERNMENT THAT STRETCH OF ROAD FROM WELCOME/WET MARKETS OF FAIRVIEW SUBDIVISION UP TO QUIRINO HIGHWAY LEADING TO JACINTO STEEL AND TO JORDAN PLAINS, introduced by Councilor Herrera.

If turned over, the road, which is presently in a deplorable condition, Herrera said, would become a national road and would, therefore, be repaired without any expense on the part of the city government.

Referred to the Committees on Laws, Rules and Internal Government; Trade, Commerce and Industry; and Ways and Means is a PROPOSED ORDINANCE REQUIRING OPERATORS OF ALL INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL ESTABLISHMENTS IN QC TO SUBMIT A YEARLY LISTING OF ALL MACHINERIES BEING USED IN THEIR OPERATION AND PROVIDING PENALTIES THEREOF, introduced by Councilor Galarpe.

APPROVE is a PROPOSED RESOLUTION URGING THE QC GOVERNMENT THRU THE ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT TO CAUSE THE REPAIR OF E. RODRIGUEZ ST., LIBIS ST., M. PAUZA ST. introduced by Councilor Paculdo.

November 3 Session

Councilors Saludes and Montilla availed themselves of the privilege hour. The last privilege speech was delivered last Sept. 26, more than a month ago, by that most diligent, zealous, and privileged speaker of the Council, the honorable Councilor Dante Libase.

All Saludes said was to point out how lucky QC was that it had a Mayor and Vice Mayor who work hand in hand unlike in Manila where the leadership is at loggerheads.

Montilla, equally brief, assailed the improper position of some Councilors and some people in the gallery when the National Anthem is being sang.

Councilor Canseco suggested that the prayer should precede the National Anthem while Councilor Paculdo suggested that the QC Hymn be played after the National Anthem. Referred to the proper Committees on Second Reading is a PROPOSED ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING A CITY POUND UNDER THE CITY VETERINARY OFFICE AND APPROPRIATING P242,976 ANNUALLY FOR THE SALARIES AND WAGES OF EMPLOYEES AND WORKERS WHO WILL MAN THE CITY POUND, introduced by Councilor Herrera.

APPROVED on Second Reading is a PROPOSED ORDINANCE CREATING CERTAIN CONTRACTUAL POSITIONS UNDER THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT FOR THE OPERATION ON A 24-HOUR BASIS OF THE HEALTH CENTERS IN TATALON, GALAS, IMELDA (KALAYAAN) AND CUBAO, ALL IN DISTRICT IV, IN SAN FRANCISCO AND BAGO BANTAY OF THE 1ST DISTRICT, IN COMMONWEALTH AND BANLAT OF THE 2nd DISTRICT, AND IN ERMIN GARCIA AND PROJECT 4 OF THE 3rd DISTRICT, introduced by Councilor Montilla.

The following Resolutions were APPROVED:

1) RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE CITY MAYOR TO ESTABLISH A HEALTH CENTER IN EACH OF THE FOLLOWING BARANGAYS: DIOQUINO ZOBEL, MANGGA, SOCORRO, MAYTOWN, UGONG NORTE, BAGUMBAYAN, AND VILLA MARIA CLARA, introduced by Councilor Paculdo.

2) RESOLUTION TASKING THE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION TO CONDUCT AN INDEPENDENT RESEARCH AND STUDY AND TO SUBMIT THE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE CITY COUNCIL IN 120 DAYS RELATIVE TO PRESIDENTIAL EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 335 WHICH ENCOURAGES THE USE OF WIKANG PILIPINO IN ALL OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS, MEMORANDA, DELIBERATIONS, ETC. IN ANY AND ALL GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS, AGNECIES AND OFFICES, introduced and sponsored by Councilor Calalay,

(To Be Continued)

QC COMPUTERIZATION PROGRAM

By Luis S. Sardes
Electronic Data Processing Division

His Honor, the City Mayor of Quezon City desires a computer-based Management of Information System (MIS) for Quezon City, the 1st of its kind in Metropolitan Manila, which may serve as pilot for other Metro-Manila entities.

From the database point of view, Management of Information System is formed largely by integrating and reorganizing data from computer applications serving routine government operations. This requires the technical capacity to store large database to enable management to quickly assess them for various information whenever necessary. The computer support, therefore, requires database management systems, large storage and core capacities, including "On-Line" terminals installed at their Offices.

A. In line with the foregoing, the Mayor has proposed that the two (2) data processing installations of the Quezon City Government, the City Assessor's IBM Section and the City Treasurer's EDP Division, be consolidated into one Quezon City Computer Center for the implementation of a total Information System, which His Honor, envisions to:

1. Assist the city management in its planning, controlling and decision-making process by providing continuous and immediate access to comprehensive and up-to-date information stored in database;
2. Promote efficient and continuous red-tape free operations through the development of computer-based systems for the enhancement of public service efficiency;
3. Insure protection of government revenue and funds from any irregularities and mishandling by instituting necessary control systems, and;
4. Streamline internal and external administration of the city by developing computer systems which shall monitor the management of human, physical and financial resources.

B. Corollary to the foregoing, the City Mayor has prioritized the areas of concern in which the revenue generating projects are assigned 1st priority, as follows:

1 **Real Property Tax** – The present manual billing system of billing real property taxes is slow and cumbersome, hence, the long queues at the Teller's Counters during heavy payment periods. Taxpayers are not informed of taxes due. In the proposed computerized system "Reminders on Realty Tax payments" will be generated and mailed to taxpayers before the taxpaying period which will depict the taxes due/quarter. More particularly, billing will be performed "One-Stop" at the Teller's window by interphasing the computer work-station with the Teller's (validating) machine "On-Line" with the Central Processor at the Computer Center. This will insure that realty taxes collected are based on the City Assessor's assessment. Moreover, the computer will be programmed to automatically compute the distribution of real property tax collections which will greatly hasten the completion of the Monthly Trial Balance and other urgently needed financial reports. All types of Assessment and Tax Rolls, which are sadly lacking in the present system, will be generated by the computer;

2. **Business/License Taxes, Permits and Miscellaneous Fees** – The present assessment and manual billing system leaves much to be desired. Moreover, the physical separation of the assessment clerks, which are located at the second floor of the Treasurer's Office to the Teller's Windows at the ground floor results in confusion and long queues at the teller's counters. To facilitate billing and to insure that all taxes collected are based on the data contained in the Mayor's Permit and Sworn Statement of Taxpayer's, billing will be computerized, at an estimated rate of 1 tax/bill receipt per 8 seconds; same as the proposed system for computerized billing of realty taxes. Likewise the computer will be programmed to generate abstracts of collection reports which will be incorporated with the Monthly Trial Balance and other financial reports, hence, facilitating its completion and minimizing if not eliminating the extensive rendition of overtime work. Computerization will also make possible the generation of various business reports, i.e., Business List by kind of Business, by classification, alphabetically by Taxpayer's name, by gross sales, capitalization or in any manner or classification desired by the city management.
Computerized Accounts Receivable System To Facilitate Collection of Real Property Tax and Business/License Tax Arrearages – At present, preparation of Delinquency Notices is done manually. The proposed computerized system will make possible the generation and mailing of delinquency notices, with aging feature, to delinquent taxpayer's, twice a year;

4. **Generation of Computer Print-Outs In lieu of Typewritten or Xerox "True Copies"** – From the database it will be possible to generate computer print-outs which will take the place of "xerox" or typewritten true copies of the present system viz-a-viz the Civil Registry documents, Tax Declarations, Tax Clearances, etc., at a much faster rate than the present system. To generate additional revenue it is envisioned to charge slightly higher prices due to the increased efficiency in retrievals;

C. When systems and programs for the aforementioned priority revenue generating applications have been designed, developed and parallel runs have been successfully conducted, the secondary priorities in the city's computerization scheme, according to His Honor, are:

1. **The General Accounting System of the City Treasurer's Office and Preparation of the Budget by the Budget Office:** – This module aims to update the processing and completion of the Monthly Trial Balance and other financial reports vital to effectivement management of the City and will provide better control over funds by the city's management and also, enable them to account for all sources of the city's income and devise ways to generate additional revenue. It will also enable them to analyze trends in collection and devise procedures to increase it.
2. **Civil Registry and Census System** – This module aims to maintain up-to-date data on population, birth, death, and marriage licenses which are essential Input to city planning. As a significant public service and to generate additional revenue this computerized system may provide computer generated certificates in lieu of xerox copies;
3. **City Planning, City Engineer's Office, General Services Offices, Personnel, and Register of Deeds** – This module aims to establish a QCG Project Monitoring System to determine Barangay status development and situations in areas of transportation, industries, housing, and other aspects relative to the basic needs of men. It can also harness the resources of the Barangays to facilitate collection of current and delinquent taxes. When operational, this module can respond to city planning programming and evaluation requirements on areas, such as, population, economic growth, land use, environmental protection and peace and order. Also, from the Barangay Census a computerized list of voters can be generated which will be programmed to compare with the Comelec Voter's List to detect flying voters and the like.

At present, the EDP Division, City Treasurer's Office, is microfilming its archieval or permanent records for security against accidental loss by fire or any other cause, including possible tampering with the use of the City's own 3M Microfilm system. In the event of accidental or intentional destruction, the records stored in microforms shall be reproduced by Microfilms Reader/Printers, the same as the original documents in lieu of the expensive and time-consuming reconstitution process.

STANDARD . . .

What's In A Name: Fiscals Or Prosecutors

Fiscals are no longer called fiscals. They are now called Prosecutors so the Justice Dept(?) has ordered. One wag says the reason for the change is that: so people will stop calling them – fix-cals. But another wag says, they are now being called Prosecu-tongs. So, like Shakespeare said: "What's in a name." No matter how you call them, many, if not all, of them will fix a case for a tong.

Jaywalking Cows

From Sangandaan to Bayan Palengke, you can see groups of cows strolling along Tandang Sora St., dutifully keeping to the side, however, not to obstruct traffic. One time, however, the jeep I was in had to stop abruptly as a group of them, about six cows, decided to cross the street. They moved in a very leisurely fashion, not giving a hoot to the blaring of horns from the stalled cars and jeeps. One cow tarried in the middle of the street. The policeman on the beat went to prod the jaywalker by patting him on his side. The cow turned his horny head to the policeman and said: "Moo." It sounded like "Boo."

KEEPERS . . .

lift them to His heart. These know that it is the Christ Child who keeps them in grace day after day. Humility and adoration have removed all pride from their hearts. They know too well that their own accomplishments could never have saved them. They are rich because the Babe became poor and because Jesus humbled Himself to the cross. They keep singing all day long as they ponder with Mary over this miracle of miracles.

Everywhere Christmas

Today, then, is Christmas everywhere. The peoples of the earth, from all continents and the seven seas, have come in adoration to kneel at the manger. Today we must lay aside all philosophizing and, in humble and childlike faith, pray. The keeping of Christmas somehow makes life more bearable and puts new hope into our hearts as we trudge on with the endless problems of the years. Life would be drab and colorless if there were no Christmas.

And how do we keep a Christmas acceptable to God? By coming and seeing for ourselves the Wonder of Bethlehem. At Bethlehem we see more than a Babe. We behold God made flesh. Here we see the Wonderful, who is the Mighty God and the Prince of Peace. Unto us is born a Savior who removes sin, takes away the fear of dying and the judgment to come, and opens to us the gates of heaven.

However, we do more than come. With shepherds we tell everyone the Good News. Christmas means sharing, not the sharing of the gift of presents but the sharing of the Savior. And we do not lose a thing; rather we discover that this shared joy is a doubled joy.

Christmas makes us more sympathetic. Goodwill prevails on all sides. At the manger we are more forgiving. We leave our grudges and our ill will behind. At the manger we are more ready to give the cup of cold water to the lowliest. We want others to be happy during this season. We are constrained to be more thoughtful and humane.

All this takes the rough edges off life and living. We shall live more graciously. Christmas takes the heartlessness and the selfishness out of our day.. All my heart this day rejoices as I hear, far and near sweetest angel voices "Christmas is born!" their choirs are singing till the air everywhere now with joy is ringing.

With shepherds and wise men, with Mary and Joseph, with sinners and saints, we want to tell everywhere what God has done at Bethlehem. He gave His only-begotten Son. He gave Him to be the Savior of all. God does not want any to perish. He reconciled the world to Himself in this Christ Child in the manger. There we find peace which makes us unafraid of God. Through the Babe of Bethlehem our sins are removed, and forgiveness is offered to all who come. This Jesus saves to the uttermost. That is why He is the Hope of the world.

Today with angels and saints we all praise God, who has done this wondrous thing. We kneel at the manger and exclaim with the prophet of old, His name is Wonderful, the Prince of Peace! If we do, then we too are among those who are the real keepers of Christmas.

This morning millions of people are on their way to Bethlehem – are you? Oh, come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord!

VENOM . . .

We start and move slow but sure. Perhaps we have to begin by simplifying our service and working rules, systems and procedures. We remove areas of doubt and pluck the seeds of confusion. We spend time, energy and money orienting the civil servants and the people. The public must genuinely feel that civil servants are in government to serve them, not to make things more difficult. The sovereign people must truly be the masters. They pay for our salaries. A public office is a public trust!

Complex rules open the floodgates to misunderstanding and abuse. Only opportunists and grafter have need and use for them.

In clear and concise language, all offices and units of local governments must describe in simple terms and language their duties, functions and responsibilities and the step-by-step procedure the public have to take or undergo to avail of their services. This must be printed and copy thereof given for free to anyone (foreigners, tourists, investors included) transacting with the government, for information and guidence. This will arouse public support/interest, minimize confusion, time-consuming querries and even cueing. RED TAPE, by all means, must be eradicated.

Transacting with the government must be a joy and as convenient as possible, not a pain in the neck.

With this innovation set in place and the money saved from graft being put to good public use, Mr. Juan de la Cruz will keep coming back to pay his taxes and other obligations, perhaps may even suggest how to further improve the service of which he is a direct beneficiary. The system may be augmented by the establishment of public assistance units/counters in the more critical/complicated areas of operations.

Media must also contribute to this noble goal. It must be tasked to allocate adequate space and time for public information and reformation.

Otherwise stated, the transacting public must not be placed at the mercy of the civil servants. Never mind if the employee has to be "slaved" once in a while rather than the confused and helpless Filipino being made or left without recourse but to "corrupt" his way out to get things done.

Paying for a free public service is the apex of stupidity and deception.

Clarity is the key, in procedure as in pinpointing of responsibility. "Escape goat" doors must be plugged. When something goes wrong in the procedure or service itself, the least problem should be in pinpointing who the culprit is. This must be defined very carefully. The check and balance mechanisms set in place must deter culpability.

Employees must not be given the smallest chance to "syndicate" government operations for private purpose or gain. The latent power of supervision must assert itself and put this under check.

This brings us to another must-rule, the need for a specialized unit in the organization (call it think TANK if you may, or better still, more appropriately: Systems Research, Development and Control Department) tasked with the duty of continual systems appraisal (or may even serve as a devil's advocate). Its missions: to make the rules/procedures simpler, clearer; safe and sound; to reduce if not eliminate red tape. In various critical areas of violation. Self-checking devices must be built in, to make things easier for the servants and the public as well.

To evolve systems and procedures conducive to mor efficient public service, less expensive and least wasteful; to bring in more revenue, generate spontaneous public support and cooperation; to dismantle the nests of dishonesty, graft and corruption; to illuminate public trust and confidence in government and touch the lives of people.

This office will also serve as the internal controller (management, fiscal and internal audit controls).

The day will come when all these reform measures would be translated to reality. The Filipino will feel even prouder.

A word of caution. The rules must not overlook the fact, however, that the public is not altogether an honest flock. It is also capable of dishonesty and abuses. If the public servant does not take advantage of a defective law/rule, the master might!

(To be Continued)

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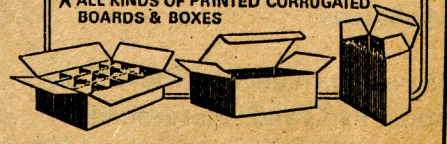

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ACRONYMS

(Editor's Note: *An Acronym consists of the first letters of the main words in, usually, the name of an organization, building or office or of a slogan or movement strung together resulting in a regular word with a meaning, like GOD for Guardians Of Democracy, or in a combination of letters without any meaning, like NAMFREL for National Movement for Free Elections or PCGG for Presidential Commission on Good Government. NAMFREL and PCGG don't mean anything although the current joke is that PCGG stands for Puro Chick Gabi Gabi or Presidential Commission Gone to Grief.*

In formulating a name for an organization, etc., the objective, usually, is to come up with a name that would result in a word with meaning for an ACRONYM, thus making it more interesting and easier to remember.

Hereunder is a list of Acronyms. Test your memory. How many of them do you know what they stand for?)

1. ATOM
2. AIDS
3. ACT
4. ADAM
5. ASSET
6. ADVANCE
7. AIM
8. BEST
9. COG
10. COP
11. CROP
12. CHIME
13. CAMP
14. CARP
15. CAT
16. COLOR
17. CAUSE
18. COURAGE
19. COMPACT
20. COWARD
21. CORD
22. DIM
23. FAME
24. FLAG
25. GABRIELA
26. GAUGE
27. GOD
28. HERO
29. IS
30. KABALIKAT
31. LABAN
32. LACE
33. LIBOR
34. LAW
35. LIFE
36. LEAD
37. MABINI
38. MAT E
39. MARIA
40. MAP
41. PAGASA
42. PISTON
43. PAKISAMA
44. POTENT
45. RAM
46. PROJECT
47. RISE
48. STOP
49. SIPSIP
50. STEP
51. SCOOP
52. SONS
53. VAT
54. WIN
55. WAGES
56. WATER

ANSWERS

1. August 21 Movement
2. Acquired Immune-Deficiency Syndrome or Acquired Insanity Due to Sex
3. Alliance of Concerned Teachers
4. Alliance for Democracy and Morality
5. Anti-Squatter Surveillance and Enforcement Team
6. Association of Democratic Vigilantes and Concerned Entrepreneurs
7. Asian Institute of Management
8. Businessmen for Excellence in Sports Tournaments
9. Children of God
10. Committee on Privatization
11. Crusade for Orderly Philippines
12. Chamber of Industries in Music and Entertainment
13. Congress of Active Media Practitioners
14. Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program
15. Citizens Army Training
16. Council of Landowners for Orderly Reform
17. Call for Awareness, Unity, Security and Equality
18. Confederation for Unity, Recognition and Advancement of Government Employees
19. Council to Combat Counterfeiting of Patents, Copyrights and Trademarks
20. Coalition of Writers and Artists for Democracy
21. Cabinet Offices for Regional Development
22. Department of Image Making
23. Fund Assistance for Muslim Education
24. Free Legal Assistance Group
25. General Assembly Binding Women for Reform, Integrity, Equality, Leadership and Action
26. Grand Alliance for Unionism of Government Employees
27. Guardians of Democracy
28. Help Educate and Rear Orphans (Foundation)
29. Instant Sweepstakes
30. Kapisanan ng mga Batang Para sa Katahimikan at Kaayusan
31. Lakas ng Bayan
32. Labor Advisory and Consultative Council
33. Londo Interbank Offered Rate
34. Legislative Advocates for Women
35. Ladies Integrated Forum for Enlightenment
36. Livelihood Enhancement for Agricultural Development
37. Movement of Attorneys for Brotherhood, Integrity, Nationalism and Independence
38. Martyrs of August 28
39. Militant and Responsible Involvement of Assumption Alumnae
40. Management Association of the Philippines
41. Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Administration
42. Pinagkaisahang Samahan ng mga Tsuper at Operators Nationwide
43. Pambansang Kilusan ng mga Samahang Magsasaka
44. Progressive Organization of Teachers and Employees for National Transformation
45. Reform Army Movement
46. People's Regional Organization to Enlighten the Country Today
47. Relevance, Integrity, Solidarity, Education Accountancy Week
48. Stop Trafficking of Pilipinas
49. Severely Inept People Seeking Important Positions
50. Student Trust Education Fund of Manila Bank
51. Sports Organization of the Philippines
52. State of the Nation Speech
53. Value Added Tax
54. Women Involved in the Nation
55. Wage Adjustment for all Government Employees Solidarity
56. Work Against Trash for Ecological Rebirth.

CITY COUNCIL . . .

PART II

(Editor's Note: *This covers the 64th session (Oct. 6) to the 80th session (Dec. 5). Unlike in the previous reviews in which the sessions were reviewed under 15 headings, Part II is a session by session review in which only the highlights are taken up.)*

October 6 Session

After a lengthy discussion which took all of three hours, Councilor Del Mundo's PROPOSED ORDINANCE BANNING SMOKING IN PUBLIC PLACES IN QC AND IMPOSING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATION THEREOF was finally approved with 16 Councilors voting Aye. Lone dissenter was Minority Floor Leader Paculdo. Councilor Altuna, couldn't make up his mind: He abstained. (Should not the House Rules be amended to prohibit abstentions? An abstention reflects an irresolute mind.)

As approved, the Ordinance prohibits smoking in hospitals, movie houses, assembly halls (which includes the church), enclosed and air-conditioned public establishments, public conveyances, government buildings and school rooms, except in designated smoking areas to be identified by the administrators, owners, operators, managers of said establishments.

Violation of the Ordinance is punished by imprisonment of one day to 10 days of *arresto menor* or a fine of not more than–P200.00 or both in the discretion of the court.

The Ordinance has to be published for three consecutive days in a newspaper of general circulation in QC and shall take effect 30 days after the last publication.

During the discussion, Lone Dissenter Paculdo asked Councilor "Mahal" where she got the conclusion that smoking in a public place endangers the health of the public in general and that 70% of today's deaths are caused by smoking. To which "Mahal" answered that in her 20 years as a public servant, she has interviewed many doctors and read many medical reports with statistics showing that smoking is a leading killer today. To Paculdo's contention that one has the right to smoke, Councilor del Mundo stressed that the Ordinance does not prohibit smoking but regulates it by allowing it only in designated areas where it will not affect the health of others, especially the children.

Gen. Manuel Syquio, Consultant and Executive Assistant of the Mayor on matters pertaining to environmental sanitation and infrastructure, and Mr. Celso Canonigo, Officer-in-Charge of the Urban Poor Affairs Office, appeared during the Question and Answer Hour to report on functions and activities of their respective offices. (Their reports are incorporated in the news items, "Squatters UP From 80,000 to 100,000," and "QC, Cleanest In Metro Manila." on Page one.

October 10 Session

A PROPOSED RESOLUTION CREATING AN AD-HOC COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITIES OF BARANGAY OFFICIALS introduced by Councilor Hererra provoked some spirited discussion.

Asked if there was a written complaint against a Barangay Official, Councilor Herrera answered that a case had been filed with the city government which indorsed it to the City Council. The case is against the Barangay Captain of Holy Spirit who is charged with abuse of authority and neglect of duty. Councilor Gaba contended that it should be her Barangay Affairs Committee to which the case should be referred. She said further that complaints against Barangay officials had been forwarded to her Committee by the Vice Mayor's Office and they were settled amicably.

Councilor Liban commended Councilor Gaba for the way she had acted on the Barangay complaints. He said, however, that if a complaint warrants suspension or removal, it is to the City Council that the case should be filed. Then the Council determines to what Committee the case should be referred to: whether the Blue Ribbon, Barangay Affairs, or Special Committee as proposed by Councilor Herrera. The matter was referred to the Committee on Laws, Rules and Internal Government and on Barangay Affairs for further study.

In this session the following measures were referred to the proper Committees:

1) PROPOSED RESOLUTION URGING THE CITY MAYOR TO PUT UP A SMALL ECUMENICAL CHAPEL WITHIN QC HALL PREMISES introduced by Councilor Gaba.

2) PROPOSED RESOLUTION REQUIRING THE PLANTING OF TREES, PROHIBITING ITS (SIC) DESTRUCTION AND PROVIDING PENALTIES THEREFOR introduced by Councilor Galarpe.

3) PROPOSED ORDINANCE RENAMING ANONAS ST., QUIRINO DISTRICT, QC, TO COUNCILOR TOMAS P. CASTRO ST. introduced by Councilor Canseco.

4) PROPOSED ORDINANCE RENAMING HIGHLAND DRIVE IN PROJECT 4, QC TO TOMAS P. CASTRO ST. AND APPROPRIATING P500,000 FOR THE ASPHALT OVERLAY, STREET SIGN, PAINTING OF GUTTERS AND OTHER REPAIRS AND IMPROVEMENTS introduced by Councilor Tamayo.

5) PROPOSED ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING P476,000 FOR WEATHER PROOFING REPAIR AND WATERPROOFING OF CONCRETE DECKS OF THE ENTIRE ROOFING OF THE EAST WING (CITY HALL ANNEX) INCLUDING THE CARLOS ALBERT SESSION HALL introduced by Councilor Liban.

6) PROPOSED ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING ADDITIONAL AMOUNT OF P12,500,000 TO COVER FULL PAYMENT FOR PARCEL OF LAND BEING PURCHASED FROM UNION BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES TO BE USED AS SITE FOR PROPOSED DISTRICT HOSPITAL AND COLLEGE introduced by Councilors Banal, Altuna, Del Rosario, Castelo and Galarpe.

7) PROPOSED RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH THE PHILIPPINE CHARITY SWEEPSTAKES OFFICE FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONDUCTING MINI-SWEEPSTAKES DRAWS IN QC introduced by Councilor Saludes and co-introduced by all other Councilors.

October 13 Session

This session was forced to adjourn prematurely because of lack of quorum; the number of Councilors in the session hall dwindled from 20 to only 11. For the first time the Chair warned that the practice of Council members of leaving while the session is going on will not be tolerated in the future. (Let's see.)

Referred to the proper Committees after First Reading are the following measures:

1) PROPOSED ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING P2.5 MILLION TO DEFRAY PREMIUM EXPENSES FOR THE INSURANCE COVERAGE OF THE MAYOR, VICE MAYOR AND 23 COUNCILORS introduced by Councilor Canseco.

2) PROPOSED ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE QC SOCIAL HOUSING PROGRAM DECLARING THE ENTIRE PAYATAS ESTATE WITHIN THE JURISDICTION OF QC AS AN AREA FOR SOCIAL HOUSING EXCEPT FOR PORTION WITH EXISTING DEVELOPMENT AND PARCELS OF LAND WITH DEVELOPMENT PLANS ALREADY APPROVED BY HLURB AND APPROPRIATING P16,000,000 TO COVER THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROJECT'S PILOT PHASE.

The following measures were taken up on Second Reading after they had been favorably recommended by the Committees to which they had been referred:

1) PROPOSED ORDINANCE CREATING CERTAIN POSITIONS TO SERVE AS THE STAFF OF THE COMMITTEE ON LAWS, RULES AND INTERNAL GOVERNMENT OF THE CITY COUNCIL AND PROVIDING THE SUM OF P102,000 FOR THE PURPOSE:

Councilor Banal, Chairman of the Committee benefited by the above proposed Ordinance, justified it by pointing out that said Committee is the "most burdened". Only Councilor Sarino, Herrera and Montilla raised some objections to the proposed Ordinance.

Sarino: Could not the Committee operate with 3 staff members instead of 5[

Herrera: If the Ordinance is approved, will there be no objection if other Committees will also hire their staff?

Montilla: Once again the Council is passing an appropriation ordinance that does not carry the necessary certification and, therefor, it is again left to the discretion of the City Treasurer whether to implement the ordinance or not.

The Ordinance was APPROVED, anyway.

2) PROPOSED ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE DISMANTLING OF THE QC INCENERATOR IN BARANGAY BAHAY TORO AND THE SALE THEREOF TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER IN WHOLE OR IN PARTS; AND AUTHORIZING THE INCINERATOR BUILDING TO BE USED AS OFFICE OF THE MANPOWER DEVELOPMENT TRAINING AND LIVELIHOOD CENTER OF QC introduced by Councilor Altuna.

As approved the floor price is set at P3,050,000 as appraised by COA. The phrase "in whole or in part" was also deleted. The buyer is the one to dismantle. The incenerator has already been sold for P3,950,000.

Councilor Galarpe introduced a PROPOSED RESOLUTION URGING THE HIRING OF PRIVATE SECURITY AGENCY TO SAFEGUARD THE QC INCENERATOR PLANT.

This met stiff opposition from several Councilors especially from Minority Floor Leader Paculdo who stressed that securing the incinerator is no longer necessary because what remains are the heavy and intact parts which can not be carried or taken by mere hands. Instread of a private security agency, Paculdo urged Galarpe to introduce a Resolution urging the Chief of the Civil Security Unit, the head of the General Services Office (GSD), or the Chief of the People's Patrol to secure the incinerator. Galarpe countered that the advantage in hiring a private security agency is that in case of losses, the agency will asnwer for them. Anyway, in deference to Paculdo's objection, Galarpe withdraw his Resolution for further study and securing the opinion of the GSO.

October 17 Session

Councilor Altuna introduced a [illegible] RESOLUTION REPEALING RESOLUTION NO. NC-36, S-88 which provided FOR A THIRD READING OF ALL ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS.

Councilor Pangilinan proposed an amendment. Instead of "repealing," it should be a "RESOLUTION TEMPORARILY SUSPENDING" Resolution No. NC-136, S-88, etc. In view of the strong objection of Councilor Liban who had authored the Resolution providing for a Third Reading, the Resolution was referred to the Committee on Laws, Rules and Internal Government.

Deferred for the next session was a PROPOSED RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ACT, FOR AND ON BEHALF OF THE CITY GOVERNMENT, AS AND BE THE PRINCIPAL BORROWER FOR ANY AND ALL SUCH FINANCING NEEDS OF MANRESA URBAN DEVELOPMENT PROJECT, introduced by Councilors Castelo, Canseco, Banal, Tamayo, Galarpe and Calalay.

Referred to the proper Committees after First Reading are the following measures:

1) PROPOSED ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS TO UNDERTAKE THE STUDY, REVIEW, REVISION, AMENDMENT, UPDATING THE CODIFICATION OF EXISTING TAX LAWS, REVENUE CODES, ORDINANCES, RULES AND REGULATIONS, APPERTAINING TO COLLECTION OF REVENUES FOR THE CITY, AND PROVIDING FUNDS FOR THE PURPOSE, introduced by Councilor Galarpe.

2) PROPOSED ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING P50,000 TO BE TAKEN FROM ANY AVAILABLE FUND, THE SAME TO BE MADE AVAILABLE AS FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO THE ONGOING CONSTRUCTION OF A POLICE STATION AT LAGRO PLAZA WHICH IS BEING UNDERTAKEN BY THE GSIS LA MESA HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION, introduced by Councilor Castelo.

3) PROPOSED ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING A 12-MONTH "U.P. QC ARTS SEASON" COMMENCING IN OCTOBER, 1988 TO SERVE AS A ONE-YEAR PRELUDE TO THE CELEBRATION OF LUZON CITY'S GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY IN 1989; AND APPROPRIATING P240,000 AS A COUNTERPART FUND FROM THE CITY GOVERNMENT TO COVER THE EXPENSES THEREOF. introduced by Councilor Liban.

October 20 Session

Appearing at the Question and Answer Hour were Meralco officials invited to enlighten the Council on the eategory and billing system under which the QC government is being charged by Meralco. The information the Meralco men furnished the Council is given in the news story, "QC Hall Electric Light Bill Down From P50,000 to P132,00/Mo."

After the Question and Answer Hour was over, the Presiding Officer, Vice Mayor Sotto, stepped down from the rostrum to introduce a PROPOSED RESOLUTION EXPRESSING FULL SUPPORT OF THE CITY COUNCIL TO SENATE BILL NO. 666 ENTITLED "AN ACT DECLARING CERTAIN OFFENSES RELATING TO DANGEROUS DRUGS AND HEINOUS CRIMES, PROVIDING PENALTIES THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

The above proposed resolution was approved without much ado.

After First Reading, the following measures were referred to the proper Committees:

1) PROPOSED ORDINANCE REQUIRING ALL PUBLIC ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN QC TO INCLUDE IN THEIR YEARLY EDUCATIONAL TOURS AND/OR FIELD TRIPS ITINERARIES A VISIT TO QUEZON CITY'S HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL MUSEUMS, SHRINES AND MONUMENT, AND PROVIDING PENALTY FOR VIOLATION THEREOF, introduced by Councilor Liban.

(Turn to page 9)

Project Brief

Skills Training Program

Prepared by the Economic Development Board

The Livelihood and Skills Training Project that the City Government launched November 18 is one of the fruits of the trade participated in by City Officials last August, 1988. The delegation led by Hon. Guillermo Altuna, Chairman of the Committee on Trade, Commerce and Industry of the the City Council, had talked with various businessmen in Korea, among others.

There, Coun. Altuna and Emilio Festejo, Executive Assistant of the Mayor, met with Mr. Danny O'Connell, Chief Executive Officer of PICO KOREA LTD. The firm, whose parent company is a leading California – based manufacturer of electronic components, operator of South Korea and Taiwan, the production outputs of which are all exported to its US counterpart.

Mr. O'Connell expressed his earnest interest in expanding its Asian manufacturing activities to the Philippines. The meeting resulted to Mr. O'Connell's trip to Quezon City in early September to formulate plans for the start-up of its Philippine operations. Mayor Brigido R. Simon, Jr. and Coun. Altuna took the initiative of linking [illegible] which readily made available its Lions Presidents' League Building facilities in New Manila as the training and operations base for PICO. The Local affiliate, known as Handheld Enterprises, thus came to fore with Mr. Alvin Solis as Resident General Manager.

The project will now entail a one-to two-week skills training program to be supervised by technical personnel of the firm. From 300 to 500 of the unemployed city residents will be trained in the assembly of the electronic components needed for export. After the satisfactory completion of the skills training, the company will then sub-contract its assembly requirements to the successful graduates, who could then perform the assembly even in their own homes.

This project is seen to be only the first of a string of export-oriented projects for economic upliftment which the City will be undertaking aggressively within the coming months. This launching will therefore be a worthy lead in the economic development program which Mayor Simon is currently pursuing through the City's Economic Development Board. The Board is composed of Mayor Simon, Vice-Mayor Vicente Sotto III, various other Councilors and City Officials together with private sector representatives. A first of its kind in the history of local governments in the country. The creation has been hailed by Sen. Vicente Paterno and Sec. Jose Concepcion Jr. for its initiatives, among which were the holding of the First Government Congress with local businessmen and the conceptualization of the industrial estate in the City.



Mayor Simon and Vice Mayor Sotto receive donation of rice from businessmen. (Photo by Bonie Tecson)

Tree Planting Drive Gathers Momentum

Since the signing of a Memorandum of Agreement between the Department of Environmental Sanitation and Natural Resources and the City Government last September 8, to jointly undertake the Quezon City Beautification, Urban Forestry & Botanical Garden Project, the tree planting drive, which was launched that day, has been steadily gathering momentume.

Several organizations have each signed a Memorandum of Agreement with the City Government committing themselves to do the plainting of trees in certain areas. Among these organizations and their respective committed areas are:

Quezon City Rotary Clubs, Roces Avenue; Knights of Columbus, Padre Burgos Council, Kalayaan Avenue; Last Watering Hole, AFP Veterans Group; Veterans Memorial Hospital; Barangay Council of Sikatuna Village, Sikatuna Village, Philippine National, Mindanao Ave.; Boy Scout of the Philippines, Timog Avenue; and General Services Office, Quezon Boulevard; five Public Elementary Schools and five Public High Schools, City School Grounds.

The above organizations have planted all together more than a thousand trees in their respective areas. At Northview Subdivision the residents have committed to plant 1,000 trees, the CBS Tatalon Homeowners Association, 200 trees, and the Knights of Columbus Council 8163,100 trees.

Soon to be implemented is the plan of the Mayor to require each and every one of the 7,000 officials and employees of the City Government to plant and adopt a tree. Each will be given a certificate of adoption under which the planter commits himself to take care of the tree until it has grown enough to survive by itself. Under the Memorandum of Agreement, the Department of Environmental Sanitation and Natural Resources is committed to furnish the City Government million seedlings.

The Councilors who launched the tree planting last September 8 by each planting a tree in that northwest portion of the City Hall compound atop the lagoon are supposed to set the example. Unfortunately, many of the trees they had planted are now in a moribund state. The Councilors, however, can not be blamed for this; with their heavy legislative work, they can not be expected to have the time to act as nursemaid of their trees. On the other hand, they have quite a number of employees in their staff. Do they consider it beneath their dignity to take care of the trees of their bosses?

City Hall Electric Bill Down From P500,000 To P132,000 Per Month

After the June 11 City Hall fire, the electric bill for the City Hall went down from P500,000 per month to P132,000. This was brought out during the appearance of Meralco representatives before the City Council at its Question and Answer Hour. The difference of P368,000 represents the electric light consumption of the occupants of the 7th to 14th floors which were damaged by the fire.

The Meralco men had been summoned to enlighten the Council on the category and billing system under which the city government is being charged. The Meralco men disclosed the average monthly electric light consumption of the following public government buildings:

City High Schools, P101,-000; City Public Library and its Branches, P5,500; City Engineer's Office, P20,200; City Health Centers, P33,000; City Parks and Playgrounds, P27,000; City Public markets, P8,900; Street lights, P760,000 and P134,000 for other services or a total of P1,090,500.

Incidentally, the City Engineer's Office has failed to comply with a Council Resolution directing it to conduct an investigation of illegal users of government paid electric current.

CID Commissioner Santiago Wants To Buy Portion Of QC Road Lot

For more than one year now, Commissioner Miriam Defensor Santiago has been trying to buy a portion of a Road Lot, Maalindog St., U.P. Village Subdivision, QC. ("Maalindog" means "alluring" but that is not the reason she wants to buy it. The portion she's interested in happens to be in front of her residence.)

She first expressed her desire to make the purchase in a letter dated November 9, 1987 to the U.P. Village Barangay, INC. (UPVBI).

"I need the UPVBI written consent, in order to support my letter-petition addressed to the Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board," she wrote.

Obviously, the U.P. Village Barangay, Inc. slept on Defensor's letter before giving its consent and indorsing the matter to the city government.

In his capacity as Chairman of the Committee on Subdivisions, Housing and Real Estate, Councilor Melencio M. Castelo has introduced an Ordinance allowing the sale to Commissioner Santiago of that portion of the Road Lot in front of her residence which has an area of only 26 square meters.

The Ordinance, however, imposes the following conditions:

1) That all expenses incurred in the survey and segregation of the portion in question shall be for the account of the vendee, Commissioner Santiago.

2) That the just, fair, reasonable and prevailing market value of the portion sought to be purchased must be determined by the Quezon City Appraisal Committee.

3) That the sale be approved by the Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board, the COA, and the Office of the President.

Councilor Castelo, said sometime ago that the CID Commissioner has been calling him up to prod the approval of his Ordinance.

(Editor's Note: *At this writing, we haven't been able to verify if the Ordinance has already been approved.)*

FIRST TRULY . . .

thru the Unified Lending Program of the National Home Mortgage Financing Corporation (NHMFC), "a lot only" with an area of 48 sq. m. costs P28,000 and can be paid at P186 per month for 25 years. A 28.4 sq.m. house with lot costs P60,000 and can be amortized at P387 per month also for 25 years.

The monthly amortization of P186 for lot only and P387 for house and lot is unmatched by other so-called low cost housing projects including those of the NHA, SSS, GSIS, and PAG-IBIG which charge monthly amortizations of not less than P1,000.

Actually, the first truly low-cost housing project in the country was Quezon's Barrio Obrero project which was undertaken in 1939 when Quezon City was founded. In this project, 439 housing units in a 35-hectare site in what is now Kamuning district, were raffled to low-salaried government employees who paid for their [illegible] intallments as low as P8.05 per month. [illegible] preceding the Payatas housing proje is the ongoing housing project in Bgy. [illegible]resa. While it is also a truly low-cost hou[illegible] project, it is exclusively for the benef[illegible] of squatters who had been ejected from [illegible]e area unlike the Payatas housing pro[illegible]ct which is open to all qualified QC reside[illegible], squatter or non-squatter.



Vice Mayor Sotto draws the second lucky number.



Tom Cruz reads the name of another winner to the jubilation of CPDO Chief Gerry Magat, Councilor Cielito "Mahal" del mundo, and another Councilor.

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