

Philippine Safety Council

By FRANK S. TENNY

Founder and Executive Director

EXTREMELY important safety matters are current. A brief summary follows:

Both the national and city Civil Defense and Disaster Organization plans have progressed from the "talk stage" to the "action stage". The Council has been deeply involved with both phases. On September 15 a large meeting was held at which national and city defense officials explained their programs to the assembled members of the Council, the Manila Taxicab Association, and the Security Delivery Service. More on this vital subject later.

The Council was instrumental in arranging for two officers of the Manila Police Department to be sent to the 1954-55 course in Police Traffic Administration at the Northwestern University Traffic Institute. The course begins in Chicago on September 23. Cooperation was received from Mr. Brenn of the FOA and Mr. Gibson, American Consul General. Upon graduation next June, Manila will have two properly trained traffic administrators.

You will notice that "Stop Thru Street" signs are being erected in Manila of new aluminum sheeting, plus Scotchlite Reflectorized Tape to make the sign vividly visible at night. This program was suggested by the Council, and the first to act were the Manila Trading & Supply Co. and the Vasquez Bros., Inc. Additional donors are being sought for this worthy project. Interested companies may contact the Council office.

Firms continue to join the Council, which gives added impetus to the industrial safety phase of our activities. New members include Shell Oil Co., Capitol Publishing House, A. M. Butte Co., Dagupan Trading Co., Brice Shafer, of A.P.L., Mrs. Virginia Gonder, and Atty. Antonio Nieva. Applications have been received from the Insular Lumber Co. and the H. Lyons Construction, Inc.

About 100 applications from members who wish to serve on one or more standing Safety Committees have been received. A final canvass is underway, after which the committees will be activated and meetings held. The interest shown has been gratifying, considering how busy most persons are these days. The subjects receiving the most attention are fire protection, driver and traffic matters, industrial accident prevention, and arson suppression.

Philippine Trade Proposals . . .

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with respect to fixing of individual quotas already established on coconut oil, sugar, cordage, cigars, scrap tobacco, and pearl buttons.

"(8) If (1) and (2) are not acceptable, propose the continuation of the present trade provisions of Executive Agreement, provided the duties to be collected on Philippine products are paid back to the Philippine Government to be used for economic development and as stabilization fund to insure stability of the Philippine currency. Items (6) and (7) must be insisted upon.

"(9) It is imperative that the Philippine tariff system be revised. The tariff is one of the most important instruments in promoting the development of domestic industries. This device is used by all industrial nations. Even the United States, the most economically and financially stable country of the world, has a system of protective tariffs which is among the highest in the world.

"The tariff schedule should be so designed that only minimum rates purely for revenue purposes should be imposed on essential producer goods and essential consumer articles which are not and cannot be produced locally in the foreseeable future. With respect to consumer goods which may be produced in this country, the tariff rates should be high enough to give local industries a strong competitive position with imported products. These rates should be anywhere from 50 to 100%, depending on the degree of essentiality of the article, and the need of protection for the local enterprises. In general, it can be stated that the rates should be high enough to restrict the volume of imports to levels compatible with our foreign-exchange resources as will enable us to lift our trade and exchange controls.

"(10) That the provision in the present Executive Agreement governing immigration, and the rights and privileges extended to citizens in the field of public utilities, land ownership, and exploitation of natural resources be made reciprocal as between citizens of both countries.

"(11) That the provision of the present Executive Agreement requiring the Philippine Government to obtain the consent of the President of the United States before it can change the par value of the peso or restrict transaction in foreign exchange, be eliminated, and that the right of the Republic of the Philippines to control and administer its currency, subject only to its commitment to the International Monetary Fund, be recognized.

"(12) The Mission should stress the need for a Stabilization Fund, irrespective of any trade arrangement which may be agreed upon, in order to insure the stability of the Philippine currency, since it is the plan of the Philippine Government not only to decontrol imports but also to allow the remittance abroad (United States) of all current earnings of foreign firms and individuals engaged in business in the Philippines."

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