

CONSERVATISM

A man of studied conservatism and seasoned leadership, President Manuel Quezon revealed in clear and concise terms his attitude toward labor, capital, and the landowner in a radio-broadcast March 11, 1939. He has presented himself as a solid friend of abstract justice, effecting beneficial reforms in the Philippines.

The President today faces a real condition in which the safety of law and order and the safety of life and property are involved. In facing the facts of the condition as it actually exists, he has forcefully presented himself as the exponent of the kind of reform which lasts by the virtue of the fact it is built on a solid government foundation. A foundation of national progress in industry and labor.

It is made clear the government today has an inescapable duty. A duty to protect property rights by discharging the full powers of the government. In so doing, the masses will be improved and benefited far more, than in blindly following those agitators who prey upon labor to follow.

To carry out this well defined program of Social Justice, there must be first of all peace and order. On this plan, there has been left no room for doubt. To aid industry and labor, there must be a tie of an understanding which

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can not be jarred by whims and fancies of persons who for personal gain only, desire trouble and ultimate use of the strike. The strike properly handled is, of course, lawful. But there should seem to be no occasion for employing it in the Philippines. Capital is working overtime in providing an abundant construction program in the Islands. Production figures in the Mining Industry, and the known schedule of compensation to labor in relationship to other industry, leaves no space for argument.

Created precisely to give labor the right for grievances, the government maintains an efficient body in the Department of Labor. To expedite complaints and differences there is the Court of Industrial Relations. It is to these bodies that Labor must refer in the instances of differences with capital, certainly not to the strike as called by a leader who has not given fairness to the workers by first employing these entities.

Closely along this line have been recent attempts by professional agitators

in the mining area to call strikes. Uninformed as to the actual relationship of this industry with other capital structures, the agitators have urged strikes by the mine employees solely for selfish, ulterior motives.

Coming now at this timely instance is such a clear and well defined governmental policy speaking directly to the employees and to the employer. The explicit care in which the President drew the line between orderly procedure, and the disorder in tactics in attempts to reach gainful progress, is deserving of the whole-hearted solid backing by labor and industry. Progressive accomplished can not be effected with strikes and opposition by a minority of labor.

The solid backing by elements concerned, should be heeded. Certainly the mining industry with its far flung program of improvement and expansion, will find the line of policy set forth by President Quezon, within its scheduled plans.

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