

the sense of satisfaction we experienced in reading the earlier section of the article.

While it is well that the Government should do everything within reason to encourage and to directly assist this basic industry, we believe that much of what is in the Secretary's mind should be left to private initiative and energy, which would cost the Government and the taxpayers nothing.

If well financed corporations were encouraged to enter the field by relaxing somewhat the restrictions on the leasing of land, we are convinced that the country would in time not only become self-sufficient in rice-production, but might produce rice for export.

The victories of the conservative and liberal over the labor parties recently in both New Zealand and in Australia, which were the first two countries in the world to have "labor"-governments, are to be looked upon as significant democratic victories, because government by any class, be it aristocratic, capitalist, or labor, can never be a government of, for, and by the people.

It may be claimed that a labor-controlled government is more nearly democratic than any form of class-government because the labor elements in a population form the largest class, but this is not true. Not only does so-called organized labor represent only a part of the labor population, but it excludes, and its interests run counter to, other large "working" classes, such as the farmer, business, and professional elements. Narrow labor interests also run distinctly counter to the interests of the majority of the people as consumers. A labor-government is strictly speaking always a minority-government as well as being clearly a class-government.

Ideally, government policies should not be determined by crass class interests. Government policies should be

determined politically by truly political parties, the natural political cleavages being those which separate the progressives from the conservatives and leave a liberal element in between. Reactionaries and radicals normally form only the fringes.

Whereas the coming into power of any class-government arouses fear and a bitterness that may rise to desperation, administrations brought into office along normal political lines arouse little hostility and are always more or less satisfactory to all the people, regardless of how an election ran and whether the winning majority was large or small.

Such a government can be truly representative of all the people, for after all, the differences between conservatives and liberals and progressives are often merely differences of mood and temper at any given time, on the part of the people, parties, or even single individuals. A man generally begins life as a progressive or radical, and ends it as a conservative if not a reactionary, and he may shift from one pole to the other and back again in a single day. Party principles and platforms, in fact, are not infrequently actually interchanged over a period of time. Policies which appear radical to begin with are often later supported by the conservatives.

In a sense these divisions, however, are timeless and the most enduring as they spring from the heart and mind of man. Class interests change over the years, and class differences will in time be wiped out, especially now that the discovery of atomic energy promises, if properly used, to bring about a world in which there will be little toil and a rich abundance for all.

But though class-governments,—feudal, aristocratic, plutocratic, belong in large part to the past, the fascist and "communist" as well as the labor-governments belong, alarmingly, to the present. It must be the continuing task of democratic men to beware of and to oppose them all.

New Year Statement

By AMBASSADOR MYRON M. COWEN

To the Members of the American Community:

AS we enter upon the work of a new year, I wish to extend a warm and cordial greeting and my very best wishes to the twenty thousand Americans now residing in the Philippines.

A primary function of an embassy such as ours is to protect, advise, and assist American citizens resident, traveling, or having interests in the foreign country in which it is located. It is my earnest desire that the Embassy here in Manila become increasingly helpful to you during the coming year.

In addition to the activities traditionally carried on by American Embassies in other countries, our Mission has an extremely important function to serve as an instrumentality of the United States Government in assisting, in so far as it may be possible and appropriate, this country and its Government. This function is due, in large measure, to our past relations with the Philippines. It is also a recognition of the fact that American security is dependent, in large part, upon the political and economic independence and well-being of other free states.

Back in the dark days of 1942, President Roosevelt said to the people of this country: "Your freedom will be

redeemed and your independence established and protected." In 1945 that freedom was redeemed. In 1946 that independence was established.

The freedom and independence the Filipino people now enjoy cannot permanently endure, however, unless they achieve economic self-support. Just as we helped them in the past to become politically independent, so must we assist them in the future to become economically independent, in so far as it may be possible and beneficial in this modern world of economically interdependent nations.

On July 4, 1946, President Roxas summed up the task of the past three years when he said: "We must perform near-miracles to bring prosperity to this land. The work of two generations was reduced to rubble in the passionate moments of war. Now we must rebuild in months what it took decades to create."

While some of those near-miracles were being wrought, the economy of this country was very substantially sustained by money given and spent here by the United States Government. During the fiscal year 1949, for example, the total amount that came in was estimated at ₱804,000,000—more than double the Philippine Government's budgetary expenditures for the same period. This flow of money will