

"On proper occasions if and when circumstances warrant, we must show the dangers and adverse effects of religious instruction in the public schools".

(Par. 3; Resolution of the Special Committee composed of Dr. Mauro Barada, Secretary Cecilio Putong, Director Panganinan and Asst. Director Trinidad.)

The Magna Carta of Godless Education

by Napoleon G. Rama

NOW that most of the dust has settled, the real issues in the religious controversy that recently touched off a nationwide uproar, are getting into a clearer, sharper focus.

More often than not, people like us, thoroughly exposed to diverse religious climates, leap at the chance of taking sides in religious tilts. Our yen for doctrinal discussions is second only to our love for political bull sessions. We catapult from springboards of set prejudices and prefabricated notions. There is hardly time to delve into the heart of the matter. In the process, the true issues are by-passed, or mostly muddled.

When the Catholics recently raised a protest against the appointment of a top education official who, according to documentary evidence, had pledged to go around the constitutional provision on religious instruction, a counter-holler went up from different quarters and from some well-meaning but mis-informed Catholics.

Among them a good friend of mine, visibly itching to go into a religious polemic, accosted me: "So you are going to speak in the Catholic Rally? I would like to have my say there, too, about the Catholics' attempt to sit on the head of the government." He then went into a

spiel of bigotry, intolerance, persecution of the minority, a pious lecture on the separation of Church and State, topped off by a sweeping statement: "Religion should be taught at home and not in the classroom." Somehow, he had summed up the stereotyped, moth-eaten arguments that pop up everytime the Catholics bat for their rights as citizens and for the enforcement of the constitutional tenet on optional religion.

I refused to warm up to his taunts. It was a waste of breath to argue beyond the issues. The contentions were, at best, beside the point, except the one about the home being the place for religious instruction, which was no argument at all. This was, if anything, an interesting piece of opinion, without pros or reasonable basis.

For the fun of it, I toed his line of reasoning and threw a bait: "Biology should be taught at home and not in the schoolrooms." What was the reason for this? If I told him, I said, my reasoning would be as scantily-clad as his when he got to defending his Catechism-at-home

theory. He was entitled to his private opinion, so was I. But one must draw the line between a matter of opinion and logic.

Oddly enough, despite its essential nonsense, the line about home being the only suitable place

for religious instruction has gained quite a currency among the group of dissenters. Probably because it has a flag-waving, catchword ring, like "Home is where the heart is," "Women's place is home." But like most catchwords, it appeals more to the ear than to the brains.

What guarantee is there that the students could learn better their religion at home rather than at the classrooms? A lot of nonsense could be skipped if we took time to inquire into the issue: Is religion worth learning at all? Is it as vital as Mathematics, as necessary as Sociology, as important as Shakespeare?

Probably, the most tragic commentary on the Philippine public school system is that it taught the students everything on the face of the earth and other planets, except the One who made them. It informed the schoolboy everything about man from toenail to root-hair, except what man was made for, what's his business being born.

Most of those who hollered, per-

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secution, bigotry, Church intervention and what-have-you, when the recent controversy exploded, would be eating back their words (without vanilla) if they bothered to investigate the issues.

Up on the high perches of the education department are three men who since 1949 have been members of the masons' "Special Committee for the Elimination of Religious Instruction in the Public Schools." The document — the

unbearable, Dr. Putong, alter two weeks of hemming and hawing, turned up with a lame statement that "he did not recall having signed the special committee's resolution. But he looted no one. The loophole he cut thru his denial (he was relying on recollection)—a sort of escape route — was much in evidence. However, Dr. Baradi, head of the special committee, was man enough to disclose that he had conferred with Dr. Putong before the commit-

tees, and set up the defenses: 1) it meant merely to combat the "concerted move in 1947 to implement compulsory religious instruction," 2) a hierarchy owing allegiance to a foreign state should not dictate the Philippine government on appointment and removal of officers, 3) the Lodge is really for religious instruction, 4) we should unite in fighting the common enemy Communism, instead of engaging in minor bickerings.

The Grand Lodge had no alternative than to evade the issue. The defenses could be knocked off, one by one, by its own special committee resolution. The title and the third paragraph of said resolution had said a mouthful and had made the Lodge's position in the present controversy, hopelessly untenable.

It would be mightily interesting to learn just what are the "dangers and adverse effects of religious instruction." The masons' devout protestation as to belief in God and the Constitution would look ridiculous and bizarre alongside the resolution's third paragraph. It was not against compulsory instruction merely, but against religious instruction itself.

Was the famous resolution (dated 1949) really meant to put a halt to the "concerted move in 1947 to implement compulsory instruction or is the Grand Lodge kidding? They have built a reputation for alertness. The line about the hierarchy's allegiance to a foreign state is too silly for comment. Everyone knows that our affairs with the Vatican relate merely to Faith and Morals. Catholics in all countries have such relations with the Vatican and no state had kicked about it except the communists-run states.

The Church-State separation doctrine is grotesquely irrelevant to invoke here. Apart from its true legal concept and application, the matters involved relate to and affect directly the vital interests of the Church. In the light of the uncovered policy of the education department to obstruct religious instruction in the schools — a violation of a constitutional provision — it is sounder to say that the State had meddled in the affairs of the Church rather than the Church having gotten in the way of the government.

Senator Esteban Abada arrossy

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SPECIAL COMMITTEE FOR THE ELIMINATION OF RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Last year, it was recommended to appoint a Special Committee for the Elimination of Religious Instruction in Public Schools. For this purpose, it appointed the following:

Mario Baradi	Chairman
Venancio Trinidad	Member
Cecilio Putong	Member
Genito Pangilinan	Member

Its Chairman submitted a complete report with the following recommendations:

1. That we adhere to the provisions of the Constitution of the Philippines that "Optional religious instruction in the public schools shall be maintained as now authorized by law. (Article XIV, Section 5).
2. That we be ever vigilant and fight any and all schemes to circumvent the Constitution of the Philippines on the question of religious instruction in the public schools; and
3. That on proper occasions and if and when circumstances warrant, we must show the dangers and adverse effects of religious instruction in the public schools.

I concur with all the recommendations stated in the said report and recommend its approval. Said report is in the files of the Grand Lodge.

FOR A MORE EFFICIENT DEGREE WORK

To encourage the Brethren of a Lodge to become more efficient in their work, I wish to propose...

Photostats seldom lie; if, at all

Magna Carta of Godless education — is still found in the files of the Grand Lodge (see cut). In the third paragraph, the officials, Sec. Cecilio Putong, Director Pangilinan and Asst. Director Trinidad pledged that, "on proper occasion and when circumstances warrant, we must show the dangers and adverse effects of religious instruction in public schools." These same men, upon taking their oath of office, swore solemnly and publicly to defend the Constitution, abide by the laws and work for the general welfare.

Despite the extensive publicity whipped up by the Manila papers on the exposé, the three officials never dared to categorically deny the story. When the heat became

too intense, thus scuttling what-ever was left standing of Mr. Putong's denial.

The wave of indignation hit a new high when Pres. Quirino after having been apprised of the whole situation by Mons. Madriaga, took the remarkable *faux pas* of promoting Mr. Pangilinan, another committee member, to the undersecretaryship of Education. Obviously he underestimated the overwhelmingly Catholic population, by a long shot.

When the investigations went underway, the Grand Lodge (society of masons) rushed to the aid of the officials under fire. In paid newspaper spaces, it made known its stand: 1) belief in God, 2) in brotherhood of men, 3) in civil liber-

Corps of Cadets Participate in USC Day Parade

Adding more color and martial animation to the USC Day parade, the Corps of Cadets marched with the participating elements. In full-dress uniforms, they showed their wares to the impressed public. The artillery units presented a spectacular sight as they were mounted on trucks (weapon carriers) which dragged ponderous howitzers behind. The Infantry sweated it out on foot. But their reward however was satisfying beyond measure as "A" company (an infantry unit) obtained the acclamation as the "Best Marching Unit" of the whole corps.

Not to be outdone, though, were the Corps Sponsors. While sitted demurely in their respective cars in their white uniforms, they were recipients of applause and ovation from the public.

16 Cadets to Graduate from Advance Course

Sixteen cadets are to graduate this year from the advanced course of the R.O.T.C. it was disclosed by the D.M.S.T. (Department of Military Science and Tactics). Eleven are graduating from the Infantry while the rest will graduate as cannoners.

They are Cdt. Col. Cosme T. Mirabueno, Cdt. Lt. Col. Cirilo Sario, Cdt. Lt. Col. Eleno Ybanez, Cdt. Lt. Col. Pedro R. Patalinghug, Cdt. Major Honorio Aranas, Cdt. Major Jose Villanueva, Cdt. Major Eutiquio Colon, Cdt. Major Dionisio Capuy, Cdt. Capt. Uswaldo Cayoncong, Cdt. Capt. Amancio Cuaresima, and Cdt. Capt. Bienvenido Revilla. They all belong to the Infantry Unit.

Artillery men are Cdt. Lt. Col. David Dulanas, Cdt. Major Eutiquio Valmorira, Cdt. Capt. Modesto Palmores, Cdt. Capt. Diameo Borromeo, and Cdt. Capt. Restituto A. Bacalso.

For these cadets graduation means the termination of four solid years of gruelling work. It will effect the change from silver discs to golden bars and from swords to 45 cal. pistols.

At present these cadets are waiting for the approval of their applications for commission to officership in the Armed Forces.

ROTC Femmes Personalities

By Cosmirabueno

FELLOW CADETS! To amuse you once again, here I'm gonna introduce to you the line of additions that grace the upper bracket of the ROTC *feminina*.

Certainly the College of Education is not far beaten in filling up the gaps in the ROTC reel of beauties. Modesty aside, our lone department accepts only about ten to fifteen coeds, who, of course, must meet all the necessary qualifications, or shall we say, could make shabby-dead cadets move like birds on the wing.

First on the roll, we have here an American-Filipino cutie, born a Cebuana but tentatively residing in that wonderful city of Panguil Bay. It's worthwhile mentioning that the position she occupies now is not new to her, for during her high school days she held the apex position of her institution's garden of beauties. That's why when the unprecedented resignation of our former Corps Sponsor surprised us it came to my mind to approach this assiduous church-goer with beauty and brains rolled into one. When we requested her to accept the position, she declared, "I am willing to do my best in order to foster the morale of the cadets." So, my fellow cadets, wipe off that sweat on your brow. Let those frayed nerves rest for a moment. There's no use getting excited, for our Corps Sponsor is friendly. Miss Isabel Martin is the name.

Cdt. Lt. Col. Eleno Ybanez, probably the handsomest guy in our staff, became a little hopeless when his sponsor left him a while ago in order to represent Cebu City in International Fair in Manila. All his hopes vanished but he found another. The search is history. G-2 agents stood fast but ready before launching actual operations. We posted all combat operatives (talkatives) on all corners of the University. Finally, at exactly ten hundred hours one of the rangers sighted and encountered her. She registered heavy resistance (objection). A pre-arranged signal initiated envelopment. At eleven hundred thirty hours, the enemy surrendered (the chosen sponsor agreed). She hails from the place of the terror Tawantawan — CARCOM, beside Panguil Bay, facing that famous Malindang Mountain. She is Miss Leah

Lacuna of the College of Liberal Arts, who now holds the second highest position in the corps.

For the Red Strippers (FA) they have that girl with dreamy eyes whose sigh is, for me, as deep as the ocean. Her refined ways and manners have won admiration and respect among the Field Artillery Battalion cadets and friends. She is no other than Cadette Lt. Col. Rosario P. Reyes daughter of Dr. Valeriano Reyes and Josefa Pelaez of Medina, Mis. Or.

Here's a mighty sweet gal from the Eastern Visayas. Keeping you in suspense is not just. But I tell you, she's cute. She is shy, yet admirable. ANNIE RATCLIFFE. Annie first got into the pages of the CAROLINIAN sometime ago when she won first place in a declamation contest sponsored by the University. Then, her name lit the pages again when she was appointed assistant news editor of the same organ; and the third time, by being unanimously elected as SWEET-HEART of the Officers' Fraternity. By virtue of this, she serves as the inspiration of the "USC ROTC CADET OFFICERS' CLUB." She is as young as her face portrays, a maiden of sixteen summers. Academically speaking, Annie rates number one among Secretarial students.

MAGNA CARTA. . .

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distorted the issue when he assessed the situation as that of the majority persecuting the minority. Framed correctly, the question would be: Must the will of the majority be frustrated by a handful of people? Should the minority be allowed to impose upon the wishes and will of the overwhelming majority (Catholics represent 85 per cent of our population) without their consent and against their interests? Are we under a democratic or a dictatorial regime?

Let's not kid ourselves. No mountain is being made out of a molehill. The case against the education officials is real, tight and tremendous. The task of molding the lives and characters of millions of school children and generations of Filipinos have been thrust into the hands of those who had secretly pledged to expel God out of the classrooms.