



PROBLEMS in the NEWS

BY SILVINA C. LAYA

1. Secretary of State Marshall told Congress that China and Europe need \$2,657,000,000 as American aid. \$300,000,000 is earmarked for loan to Chiang Kai-shek to combat inflation—i. e., the loan would be given China only if Chiang Kai-shek institutes basic economic and political reforms—presumably under American supervision.

- a. Why is Sec. Marshall interested in helping China?
- b. Why is there need for political reforms in China?
- c. Would this not be interfering with the internal affairs of China?

2. The U. N. general assembly approved a 9-nation commission to supervise the U. S. proposal to establish an independent Korea. The Philippines is a member of the commission.

The Soviet bloc already made known that it would boycott this Commission and would bar it from the Soviet military occupation zone in northern Korea.

- a. Why does the Soviet bloc propose to boycott the Commission?
- b. Why does Russia intend to bar it from its zone in Korea?
- c. Is this another case of U.S.-Russia rivalry?

3. The Soviet bloc fought for the application of economic and political sanctions against Spain. It reaffirmed the last General Assembly resolution calling all UN members to withdraw their representatives from Spain.

On the other hand, White Russia's Kiselev charged that the Philippines had openly flouted the resolution; that the U.S. and Great Britain help France in power by trading with Spain.

- a. Why has Spain become a bone of contention between Russia and the western democracies?
- b. How has the Philippines flouted the resolution?
Should we have acted otherwise?
- c. Why has the United States abstained from voting in favor of the resolutions against Franco?

4. Foreign Minister Molotov said that "the atom bomb secret has long ceased to exist." Moscow broadcasts also took Molotov's theme that "Russian nationalism of the war years had given way to the resurgence of communistic internationalism."

- a. What may be the significance of Russia's possessing the atom-bomb secret?
- b. What is meant by "communistic internationalism"? In what way is it a menace to world peace?
- c. Why is America apparently taking every victory of Russia to mean her own defeat?

5. The Supreme Court in a 6 to 4 decision barred aliens from acquiring residential lands when it decided against Krivenko who bought an urban lot from the Magdalena Estate, Inc. in 1941.

Chief Justice Moran said that decision was based on Art. XIII of the Philippine Constitution which limits the disposition and utilization of agricultural lands to Filipinos or to Filipino-controlled corporations.

- a. Why may urban lots be considered agricultural lands?
 - b. What dangers might have resulted had the decision been otherwise?
 - c. Is it important that our natural resources be reserved for generations to come? In what way does this decision help assure this?
 - d. Why are Americans exempted from this decision of the Supreme Court?
6. News of election frauds and anomalies keep pouring in.
- a. What can be done about election frauds and anomalies?
 - b. Should Malacañan wash its hands off them?
 - c. How may we the people help assure clean elections?
7. The Manila Chronicle's editorial of Nov. 16 says: "The highest manifestation of freedom of expression is the freedom to oppose. Democracy cannot thrive without opposition. As long as men are free to think, they will always have cause to disagree. A nation of like-minded people or of people who are forced to think the same way will certainly deteriorate into a dictatorship."
- a. Should we therefore encourage opposition? Why?
 - b. What should be the objectives of the present opposition?
 - c. Is it always disloyalty when one opposes?
 - d. How may the minority serve as effective check of the majority?
8. President Roxas told the Commission on Elections to discharge its duty "honestly and without fear or favor"

in order to prevent election frauds.

- a. What frauds, according to the minority party, have been committed?
 - b. If true, should they be tolerated by the party in power?
 - c. Why has President Roxas full faith in the integrity and honesty of the Commission on Elections?
9. President Roxas told a committee of government employees that the finances of the government do not permit any appropriation for a 3-month back pay
- a. Should government employees expect to be given back-pay? Why?
 - b. Is it the government's moral obligation to pay?
10. Mr. Venancio Trinidad, superintendent of City Schools, Manila, said: "In no progressive country in the world can we find a pattern of education so abbreviated and so impoverished as ours. What they have been trying to accomplish in the United States in eight years, using their own language, we try to do in about three years, using a language not our own."
- a. Why did Mr. Trinidad say that our educational system in the grades is equivalent to three years only?
 - b. What have we as teachers done about this condition of things?
 - c. What can we do to bring pressure upon Congress so the Educational Act of 1940 may be repealed?
 - d. What has the Bureau of Public Schools and the Department of Education done about it?
 - e. Are the parents aware of what this act is doing to the quality of education their children are receiving?
11. The request of the Philippines for a special 11,000 ton flour allotment for December was turned down. An

agriculture department official said: "They (the Philippines) are inclined to overbuy as witnessed last spring when they revealed they possessed 100,000 tons, requiring 30,000 tons to be sent to Japan to prevent spoilage . . ."

a. *Why was the request of the Philippines for more flour allotment turned down?*

b. *Is it consistent for us to request an increase of allotment when we are allowed to export this commodity?*

12. Mr. Amando B. Isip, public relations officer of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce, claimed that unless higher duty be imposed on rubber shoes from abroad, the local manufacturers will be ruined.

a. *What is the aim of that kind of tariff? Does it afford effective protection of local industry?*

b. *Why can't our local manufacturers compete with foreign manufacturers like those in Hongkong?*

13. According to Mr. Tarsilo Cabilan of San Miguel, Leyte, the town mayor increased the police force without necessary funds. The teachers' aid was solicited through the principal. They are now paying the salary of said policemen.

a. *Is this a sign of civic mindedness or servility?*

b. *Should such help be asked of teachers only?*

c. *Whenever campaigns for public support are instituted why is the teacher's help always solicited? What does this show about the teacher's influence on the community?*

14. The ECAFE is charged primarily with the following task:

a. "Initiate and participate in measures for facilitating concerted action for the economic reconstruction of Asia and the East, for raising the level of economic activity in Asia and the Far East and for maintaining and strengthening the economic relations of these areas both among themselves and with other countries of the world".

b. Make or sponsor such investigations and studies of economic and technological problems and developments within territories of Asia and the Far East as the Commission deems appropriate;

c. Undertake or sponsor dissemination of such economic, technological and statistical information as the Commission deems appropriate.

a. *Of what advantage to the Philippines is the holding of the ECAFE in Baguio?*

b. *What problems likely to be discussed and clarified are of immediate concern to the Philippines?*

c. *Would it be to our advantage if Baguio is made the permanent seat of the ECAFE?*

15. The Collector of Internal Revenue by virtue of Commonwealth Act No. 722 collected unpaid taxes from 1941 to February, 1946 from Koppel under protest. It was alleged that being an American firm, its transactions were stopped and its assets were liquidated by the Japanese.

Judge Sotero Rodas of the Manila Court ruled in upholding the Collector's right to collect the unpaid taxes, that laws although "oppressive and arbitrary" should be enforced by the courts.

a. *Should "oppressive and arbitrary" laws be enforced? Why?*

b. *How may such laws be changed?*

c. *What role may private citizens play in such cases?*