

Dr. J. H. Landman Urges a Protectorate

○ We comment elsewhere on Dr. Landman's address to Filipinos, quoting its gist below.—Ed.

"If I were a Filipino, as an intelligent man, I would not urge independence for my country. Instead I would aspire for the status of protectorate like that of Cuba's relationship with the United States under the Cuban treaty of 1934. This treaty abrogated the treaty of Relations of 1903, between the United States and Cuba, which contained the famous Platt Amendment giving the United States the right to intervene for the protection of Cuba's independence and financial integrity.

"Under the new treaty, the Cubans enjoy complete independence in domestic and foreign affairs, except for one naval base over which the United States has absolute sovereignty. The United States by virtue of this treaty base can continue to implement her Caribbean Policy. This treaty has also made it possible for Cuba and the United States to enter into tariff and military agreements for mutual advantages.

"In addition to this, Cuba is protected by the Franklin D. Roosevelt corollary to the Monroe Doctrine which grew out of the Pan-American Conference of 1933 by which the matter of maintaining peace and order in the Latin-American countries devolves upon all of them including the United States, jointly.

Landman's Plan

"My suggested plan for the Philippines parallels the provisions of the Cuban Treaty except that several naval bases and military posts may be substituted for the one naval base; the American Far Eastern policy for the Caribbean policy; and the open door policy and the Nine Power Treaties of 1922 for the Franklin D. Roosevelt Corollary.

"Absolute independence would mean that the Filipinos would have to make the sacrifice of a much lower standard of living comparable to the one now prevalent in the Orient and to face the menace of Japanese aggrandizement. In order to compete in the world markets Philippine products would have to be produced with cheap labor which would entail disease, fewer educational opportunities and lower living standards.

"Freed from American imperialism, the Philippines would then be confronted with the menace of Japanese autarchic imperialism. The Philippines are just as attractive to Japan as China is, because the Philippines would be an excellent source of raw materials needed by Japan for her industries, while China would furnish the huge market in which to sell the products of Japan's industrial machines.

"The Filipinos appear to exaggerate the virtues of freedom and independence. Nationalism and patriotism are intellectual and emotional diseases and blind a people to the realities of life. The Filipinos are

not alone in this. The Irish, the Egyptians and the Hindus are troubled with the same disease and are suffering economic suicide as a result. As a Filipino, I too would be very much concerned about the success of my new government because of, first, the poor qualifications of the electorate; secondly, the absence of a middle class since Philippine trade today is monopolized by Chinese, Japanese, and Americans; and thirdly, the diversity of religious, linguistic and racial groups.

Independence Is Relative

"The status of the protectorate would continue to give the Philippines the cultural, economic and military blessings which the United States have accorded them without the Filipinos losing much of their internal political independence. Independence is after all only a relative term. Examine the map of the world. How many countries are absolutely independent politically and economically? I have the greatest admiration for Filipinos who want absolute independence for their country, but I believe Filipinos who demand independence for the country, no matter what the consequences may be, are foolhardy.

"I urge strongly that the Philippine leaders request of the United Congress that it grant the Philippines the same status as that of Cuba for an indefinite time. This will enable the Philippines to prepare itself more adequately for independence. It will have more time to build up its military and naval organizations. It will be able to educate its people more thoroughly in the science of government so that they might enjoy democratic government and prevent the economic and political domination of the 1,000 Philippine families who now exploit their own people. It will give the Philippine Islands greater opportunity to diversify their economic life and develop their own middle class. Lastly, it will help to eradicate Philippine provincialism and social stratification based on race, language and religion which are defects in any national body.

Must Take Initiative

"Philippine leaders must take the initiative and make such a formal request of Congress in January. The American people and Congress will not take the initiative. I strongly urge that the request be made soon, or it might be too late.

"Since the American people and Congress are hostile to the thought of perpetuating United States rule over the Philippines, I recommended that when the Philippine leaders petition Congress for a continuous protectorate status, they offer as inducement to increase the tariff wall to exclude the trade of other countries, particularly, that of Japan, which was as much as \$12, 171,000 in 1935, so as to assure American

exporters of a greater Philippine market. This would tend to convert the American-Philippine unfavorable balance of trade for the United States into a favorable one.

"An unfavorable balance of trade for the United States with the Philippines would be justified in event the Philippines sold goods to the United States which the United States lacks and are indispensable for the economic welfare of the United States, but the conditions do not exist. Secondly, the Philippine leaders ought to make Congress and the American public conscious of the role of the United States in the Far East and the significance of the strategic location of the Philippine Islands in the Pacific.

The Military Value

"Through the Philippines as such are a financial liability to the people of the United States, they ought to realize and can be convinced of the military and naval value of the Philippines in America's Far Eastern Policy. No isolationist program on the part of the United States will permit the United States to escape being embroiled in the affairs of the Pacific.

"In the near future the Far East will be the scene of great economic, industrial, political, social and imperialistic changes which will be so universal in their influence that the welfare of all civilized peoples will be involved. The Philippines will then be in the cross-fires of imperialist conflicts in the Pacific. The great nations will soon throw themselves into another world war to capture the markets and raw materials of the Orient.

"The enormous profitable market of China with 450,000,000 customers and the vital raw materials of rubber, tin, vegetable oils, sugar and tropical fibers in British Malaya, the Dutch East Indies and the Philippines will be the stakes of this war. The Philippines lie athwart all the principal trade and aerial routes of the Pacific. Its strategic location would enable the United States to use it as a military and naval base, when properly fortified, to enforce its Far Eastern program whether it be the Open Door Policy in China or an effort to halt Japanese expansionism in Asia or whatever policy we may have in the Far East."

EXPERIENCED AMERICAN

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