

What Do You Think

Conducted by
B. K. TORIO

A good many savants boldly claim that politics is the science of good government. Why that isn't the craft of misgovernment, which is a more apt if not less generous term, we leave entirely to the more painstaking realist. That's his fodder.

By whatever standards, twists and quirks, politics is definitely in the air. The truth is that it has never disappeared from the national scene as far as we can kick a tin can. As if the temperature were not bad enough, the political cauldrons are beginning to boil while the eyes of a curious world are peering mischievously behind our country's backdoor.

For the first time in Philippine political annals, all the inhabitants of the Upper House attend the sessions — some of them hot-footing to Congress two hours before session time. Camilo Osias, the pipe-toting La Union solon, scooted twice to the Senate Presidency, each time for thirteen unhealthy days. And always after every jet-propelled about-face. Zulueta came up next with clandestine nocturnal hops, skips and jumps into the Presidential yacht "Apo." L'Offaire Castelo is now history. So will be the MAGSAYSAY MAMBO and Recto's keynote speech. A historical people we are, sons historians.

This column's theme for the current issue has the political touch, not to say, bodyhold. Student opinion on the Recto-Castelo quarrel is presented in this page. It is hoped that the political muddle will not raise panic and unnecessary nightmares. We are merely undergoing a transition into heaven knows best.

ABOUT THE RECTO-CASTELO IMBROGLIO?



Caridad Abao

● **CARIDAD ABAO, College of Pharmacy,** says: "Personally, I don't approve of all these charges and counter-charges which scream in the press and blare in the radio. These things are making people panicky and their minds pounce upon speculations and conjectures. We are on the verge of political insanity. Things happen so fast and so unexpectedly that we get lost and confused. There must be an end to this and I dare say that there is a means of clamping down on these monstrosities. The scoundrels should be yanked out of their positions and the decent, moral men should be elevated to

high offices. Honest men are what we need. If there were a moratorium on politics in the first place, the Recto-Castelo verbal tug-of-war would have been fiction."

● **FRUCTUOSO RODRIGUEZ, College of Education** says: "The Recto-Castelo affair is a blessing in the guise of press releases and privilege speeches. It has done a good deal of eyebrow-raising on the part of the layman. Such grave charges should be probed for their veracity or falsity. We cannot keep them dangling before the bar of public opinion.



Fructuoso Rodriguez

The truth should be known. People want to know who is persecuting whom or if both are persecuting each other. Whoever is found to have run afoul of the law should be hied where he belongs — behind bars. And in the name of justice, the innocent should be left in peace. If both are guiltless, they should be told to bury the tomahawk. If guilty, they must be prosecuted without fear or favor. That's the way Democracy survives."

● **GENARA MELGAR, College of Commerce,** says: "Sometime last year, Speaker Perez and Vice-President Fernando Lopez were after each other's necks. A lot of nasty epithets were swap-



Genara Melgar

ped between the duo. Charges of hidden wealth and official dishonesty were levelled against each other in news reports. The verbal wrestle was getting so that no holds were barred. Each man was apparently for his own while skeletons rattled in each other's closets. The Vice-President upped and dared the Manong to bare his assets. The Manong hurled the same challenge. Just when their treasure chests were about to be unlocked, who do you think swished in? The Apo who reprimanded the protagonists for being childish. The *more-moro* closed like a clam.

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She Comes Back a Savant

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ment for everything that is beautiful in thought and feeling.

Faculty member Miss Leonor Borromeo of the USC College of Liberal Arts, Dr. Rodil's former teacher, when asked to comment on the subject of this interview, enthused: Looking at her and thinking of the many things she has accomplished, I feel like one standing before a shop-window on a raw Christmas night and feeling empty-handed and poor!" And she had to admit Dr. Rodil's efficiency as a student under her when she further said, "I wish I can have even just one-fourth of her diligence!" And that from her former mentor and dear friend.

Dr. Rodil is likeable and friendly. Anybody in her presence feels at home with her contagious sense of humor and charming repartees. In the course of this interview, she had more than amply given evidences of her agile thinking powers. We could not pin her down into committing as to which institution she loves most out of the three which has nurtured her. But she was profuse in her avowment when she enthused that she loves all of the three equally. And yet, a particular meaning can be deduced with her coming back

to USC. . . that she loves this alma mater more. This summer has seen her doling out what she knows about Principles of Education and Ethics to undergraduates and Socio-Educational Situation of the Philippines to the students of the Graduate School.

We did not need to fathom out the Doctor's impressions about USC. She was open about them. She believes that, generally speaking, USC compares very well with any institution in Manila. She likes the kind of environment we have at the USC campus which is conducive to study, and the high standards which the University has safe-guarded and maintained. But finally, perhaps without intending it, she crowned San Carlos with her last words: "Of course I like San Carlos or I would not have come back." And her words are in themselves a pledge of love and respect for San Carlos. . . an eloquent proof as to the reason why Carolinians are so acute in coming back to this home where precious memories live, and whose hallowed walls evoke in every true-blue Carolinian heart sublime feelings of loyalty and devotion.

WHAT DO YOU THINK . . .

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"The Recto-Castelo fight should be continued, even, I would say, to the bitter end."



Felix Eamiguel

● FELIX EAMIGUEL, College of

Law, says: "It is useless of Recto and Castelo to be hurling brickbats at each other when the country needs more constructive efforts. People become so engrossed in intrigues and imbroglia that they forget about the more essential and delicate tasks they should render to their country. We are forced by internal and external dangers which need close and careful attention if we must protect our ideology. There is no time for puttering around picking quarrels. Right now, a big bully is trying to stub our corns. We ought to fight him and teach him a lesson in meekness.

Besides, much as we would like to know the truth about the Recto-

A CAROLINIAN . . .

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many degrees and doctorates, still, not satisfied of all these beads of achievements, he plowed further to delve on the mysteries of tomorrow and the unseen gyrations of yesterday. His unwavering thirst for more knowledge knew no bounds. To cultivate his mind fully, to enrich his spiritual capacities, to furnish his moral endeavors. . . these are the true marks of a well cultured man. . . Reverend Father MA-NUEL SALVADOR.

To all these we can meekly say that there is a seemingly perpetual attraction in this man to that pot of knowledge at the foot of the rainbow. To the layman, with all these bundle of learning tucked safely in him, it is time for him to settle down in a comfortable corner and rest. He has come to the point of earthly satisfaction, armed well enough to clash with the forces of hardships and virtuous sacrifices. For us, the preparation is met; now, for the real battle. For him, it isn't even the beginning of the preparation. . . he is yet to step on the first rung of the ladder.

We do not know how many honors are there yet for us to avail by way of his restless strive for perfection. We do not know how

Castelo battle, it usually never comes out. The combatants are not on even terms and it is very unlikely that they will ever be. One is so low he can crawl under a lizard's belly.

LET'S BE HONEST . . .

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men and who could still with child-like sincerity, even risking assassination, disclosed to the citizenry the hurting truth which caused so much misery and confusion of this once peaceful country, if you can be that other man, then let you also be our guiding light until all the forces within and without us shall have subsided. And then when you and I and every true and faithful son and daughter of our country shall be standing beside her and shall lift her chin in pride and confidence; when you and I can proudly present her to the noble and dignified society of free nations, then can we withdraw from this earthly stage bowing with joy and peace in our hearts, carrying the happy thought that we have left an everlasting souvenir to the world, that we have given our share in making a solid bastion in these beautiful islands of ours, a realization of the only outpost of Christian Democracy in the PACIFIC.

many laurels he will yet garner; and by these, San Carlos will rejoice at the sight of a man once her child, and has come back once again to her laps with a ransom of knowledge.

And we should await not only with fervor and admiration of the man but also with prayer and thanksgiving to the Almighty that as he had left us with honors, he came back to us with more honors.