

(RADIO SPEECH OVER KZRH, 6:30 P.M., SUNDAY, JULY 27, 1947)

The Constitution of the Philippines contains these brave and stirring words: "The Filipino people" . . . shall "secure to themselves and their posterity the blessings of independence under a regime of justice, liberty and democracy." JUSTICE, LIBERTY, DEMOCRACY! These, then, are the triad of ideals toward which this country shall strive.

But Justice, Liberty, and Democracy cannot thrive upon the barren soil of ignorance and lack of enlightenment. It is impossible to expect a people to know and practice these ideals if they do not know what they mean. These ideals did not thrive in the barbaric days of the Dark Ages because the people had no idea of their meaning and of the possible effect of the application of those ideals on the lives of men. Only when enlightenment became the possession of many, did the better portions of humanity begin to ask why there was so much oppression, so much slavery, and so much tyranny. It can be truly said that enlightenment begets Justice, Liberty, and Democracy.

Enlightenment can come upon the masses of this country only through the institution of an adequate school system. The kind of education that our young people are acquiring today is not enough to provide the enlightenment necessary to enable the people to cherish the ideals of Justice, Liberty, and Democracy. The people will know how to cherish these ideals if they have enough intellectual acumen to distinguish between fact and propaganda, between the catchwords of cheap politics and the principles of statesmanship, between the vociferations of those who wish to perpetuate themselves in power and the ideas of men and women who render real public service. The Good Book, in the words of John, aptly tells us: "You shall know truth, and the truth shall make you free." No men can be truly free who does not know the truth. One cannot know the truth who is not enlightened, who does not have the necessary mental perspicacity to distinguish between truth and fiction.

Our present school system in the elementary grades is far from being the medium by which the masses in this country could be enlightened. A school system such as ours that provides an education a little better than mere literacy cannot be depended upon to inculcate in the mind of the people an understanding of the ideals of Justice, Liberty, and Democracy. If we could attain the standards of literacy in the United States, perhaps there would be some hope. In the United States a person may be considered literate if he can read a newspaper or write a letter. In the Philippines the test of literacy is to be able to write and read one's name especially on election time. (This may not even be necessary if he can vote in the election by just checking a list of names.)

There is no school system in the world today that provides as meager an education as our present elementary school curriculum. While children of other countries go to school seven and eight years, using their mother tongue as the language of learning, our children go to school only six years and use a foreign tongue to acquire so-called enlightenment. On top of the foreign language, which is the chief medium of instruction, we have imposed upon the minds of young people the task of learning another tongue to which many of them are not born. While children in