

# What Do You Think

Conducted by  
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An election day is just numbered, everybody asks this question: "Will there be frauds and terrorism in the next elections?"

We want peace, but we want the peace of justice, the peace of righteousness. We want it because we believe that it is right and just, not because we are afraid. For Justice in a nation as in an individual counts most when it is not shown by the weak and the oppressed, but by the strong and the powerful.

How can justice triumph if the force of 1949 is re-enacted?

Now that the call has been sounded, let us unite and, with inspired spirits, join the crusade for freedom. We must not leave a stone unturned, a darkened spot unbrightened, so that our young Republic may rightly be called the SHOW WINDOW OF DEMOCRACY IN THE EAST.

Everybody wants a clean and honest election. In this column you can read the opinions of a few of our youths in the best means to combat electoral frauds. Read them. You may agree with them.

truth and goodness will always triumph over evil, so the NAMFREL, which has been born out of that truism will always come out victor over those who are now planning to sell democracy down the river for the second time.

**FELIPE VERALLO, JR. Pre-Law II** says: We must combat electoral frauds from without and from within; by within I mean,

## ... Is The Best Means To Combat Electoral Frauds?

**MAMERTO Y. COLIFLORES, Pre-Law II** says: "With our combined efforts cemented with fervent prayers, let us strive together and make it our solemn obligation to hold our election free from terrorism, fraud and intimidations because these are the evils that gnaw the vital life-vein of Democracy.

Rizal once said, "The oppression of some depends upon the cowardice and indifference of others." For more than three centuries of Spanish domination, we had enough of this and we don't want them any more.

In this connection Jefferson also said, "The will of the people is the only legitimate foundation of any government, and to protect its free expression should be our first concern." Whoever wants his right respected but is not willing to protect it has no reason to enjoy the blessings of Democracy. The kind of government that the people produces depends upon the people who fashion that government. It is thru eternal vigilance on the part of the people that electoral frauds are checked."

**PRIMITIVO V. LARA, Jr. Pre-Law II** says: "The people's vigilance is the best means in combating any future electoral frauds. Since it is the people themselves who are victimized and whose

right of suffrage is trampled upon, it is the job, therefore, of every Filipino to beware. Presently, there are clandestine signs that seem to point to one direction and that is the very thing we are fighting against. We must not lose faith in the Filipino spirit. The spirit of Lapulapu is not yet frozen in the blood of the Filipinos. We must not fight only external forces but also the internal evils that threaten our young Republic."

"Eternal Vigilance is the price of Liberty."

**SOCORRO G. BALBUENA, of the College of Commerce,** says: "If past incidents are to be made barometers of the future, I sadly infer that the NAMFREL is the best entity for the prevention of electoral frauds.

It may be recalled that not long ago, in the course of its program of holding cleaned and honest elections, the NAMFREL extended invitations to the key men in each of the three political parties, but, sad to say, one failed to show up on the flimsy reason that the NAMFREL is none but a "publicity stunt." Observers were quick to react adversely, calling the refusal as an obstruction formulated by a certain political group to cripple the good mission of the NAMFREL.

However, as the saying goes,

man's will power—the will power to overcome the temptations of extorting money from the candidate because the more we drain the pocket of a candidate the more we let him down and make him corrupt because once he gets elected into office he will find nefarious ways and means to recover his losses during election campaigns. Sometimes terrorism is employed because it is less expensive to run the business and win an election.

Once we can do away with this business-like attitude everything will be on the highway for a prosperous and peaceful Philippines. Only there and then can this infant republic be made secure for our children's children.

**DULCE KINTANAR, Pre-Med I** says: "In my opinion, the best weapon to combat electoral frauds is an educational campaign among the electorate. This campaign must consist of indoctrinating the masses on the importance of the right of suffrage, the supreme right of an individual to choose the men who should be vested with authority.

I also believe in the high objectives of the NAMFREL which has been organized by men, who, conscious of their rights and privileges could not allow their rights and privileges be trampled upon."