

NEWS FRONT

EMPLOYEES SUSPENDED

Twenty-five postal employees were recommended suspended by Postmaster General Enrico Palomar for alleged smuggling and other acts of dishonesty. Palomar said he has the confidential testimonies of certain employees who have direct knowledge of the activities of those being charged. The Postmaster General also announced the relief of seven regular employees and the separation of 17 casual workers.



SOCIAL ACTION

Eight religious denominations in the country are set to launch a massive social action drive, according to a report of the Church World Service of the Philippines, a division of the National Council of Churches of the Philippines. The drive, which will emphasize on economic and community development, aims to undertake a minimum of 250 projects. These will include food distribution to rural areas, building of irrigation systems, school houses and centers, construction and repair of roads, vocational education, maternal-child welfare, feeding and nutrition program.

FLOATING MUSEUM

"Kasaysayan," a floating museum of Philippine history has been launched by the Historical Commission. On the ship "RPS PILIPINAS," "Kasaysayan" will call on several ports of the country where lectures on various aspects of Philippine history will be given by prominent historians. Historical books, principally Rizal's works, will be sold at popular prices. Important public documents, pamphlets, and other publications will be given away as gifts and souvenirs to visitors.

MARCOS SURE OF RE-ELECTION

President Marcos is sure of being re-elected in the elections next November. Basing his claim on the result of a recent survey, he said his national popularity is still running strong everywhere. Even in Manila, a traditional oppositionist area to incumbent presidents, he said he is rated as a 2-1 favorite. Marcos also revealed that in other provinces outside of his political homebase in the Ilocos region, he is favored with a 6-1 lead over his closest expected opponent.



BARRIO FUND

LEGAZPI CITY, March 25, PACD Secretary of Community Development Ernesto M. Maceda announced the other day that checks of P2,000 per barrio under the P100 Million Rural Development Fund are to be released soon. All eligible barrios will receive their share of P2,000 without consideration of political affiliation. All checks are covered by adequate funds.

The PACD chief also said that the release of P2,000 checks cannot be made simultaneously to all barrios throughout the country because of the time required in processing, complying with auditing rules and regulations and necessity of fiscal programming.

VILLAREAL HITS OSMEÑA

Former Speaker Cornelio Villareal recently asked Liberal leaders to "condemn the malicious conduct" of Senator Sergio Osmeña, Jr. in the current presidential nomination campaign. Villareal raked up charges previously aired by President Osmeña against his then congressman son to bolster his (Villareal) charge of young Osmeña's "dispicable behaviour" in the present LP fight.



HIKED COCONUT EXPORT

Coconut production this year is estimated to hit 1.55 to 1.575 million ton mark in copra terms, according to a report from the United Coconut Association of the Philippines. This is expected to generate an increase of about \$20.24 million over last year's total foreign exchange earnings of the industry which amounted to \$253,033,339.60.

OIL REFINERY FOR RP

The National Economic Council is set to approve the setting up of a petroleum refinery by a Filipino-owned corporation to put an end to the monopoly of alien oil firms on the national economy, according to House Assistant Majority Leader Rogaciano Mercado who is also a member of the NEC. The NEC decision is interpreted by some quarters as a punitive action on the foreign oil firms in the country who have decided to increase the prices of premium gasoline and other petroleum products.



AGUINALDO CENTENNIAL

The 100th birth anniversary of General Emilio Aguinaldo, the Republic's first president, was marked last March 22. Led by the Aguinaldo National Centennial Commission, the center of the nationwide celebration was in Kawit, Cavite, birth place of the late president. President Marcos had earlier signed into law declaring the period January 1 to December 31, 1969, as the "Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo Centennial Year."

ICE FOR FISHERMEN

Another ice plant that will exclusively supply ice to fishermen has started full operation in Barugo, Leyte. The P100,000 plant is the fifth in a nationwide program of providing cheap ice to fishermen. The plant in Barugo will produce 10 tons daily and will supply fishermen operating in Visayas Sea, San Pedro Bay, Biliran Island, Carigara Bay, Samar Sea, Leyte Gulf, Camotes Sea, and other fishing grounds in Eastern Visayas.