

Chamber Business

By STANLEY N. FISHER

Executive Vice-President

American Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines

THE purpose of this new department is to keep all Chamber members, and any other interested readers, fully and regularly informed of the various projects, proposals and activities which the Chamber is undertaking on its members' behalf. Emphasis here, as will be noted, is on fully and regularly, for, of course, this information has always been available to any and all interested members—either brought directly to their attention through Bulletins, circular letters, and the like, or, if not, available to them in the files and records of the Chamber which are freely open to all members at any time.

In subsequent issues, "Chamber Business" will be almost exclusively devoted to reviewing the previous month's activities; in this issue, however, with the reader's indulgence, we shall extend the period reviewed back to August of this year with the thought in mind that a review of the last three months' activities, plus those to appear in November, December, and January, will form a continuous report to the Chamber membership of the steps that are being taken—by the Board of Directors, by the various standing committees, and by the Executive Vice-president and his staff, toward fulfilling the purposes for which the Chamber exists.

Noteworthy for August were the close of the Special Session of the Philippine Congress (August 3); announcement that Mr. Stanley N. Fisher would replace Mrs. Virginia Gonder as Chamber Executive Vice-President effective September 1, 1954 (actually, both Mr. Fisher and Mrs. Gonder worked in close collaboration at the Chamber all during this month in order to effect as smooth as possible a change-over); moving of the Chamber's offices from 424 San Luis to the Elks Club Building (August 20);

close of the Greater Manila Community-Chest Drive with the American Community, sparked by the Chamber's Civil Affairs Committee under Mr. R. M. Bownass, ₱6,000 over its ₱100,000 quota; and celebration of Philippine-American Day (August 13) under the joint auspices of the Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines and the American Chamber of Commerce, with the Chambers' presidents, Mr. Teofilo Reyes and Mr. Paul Parrette, serving as Joint Chairmen.

Two Chamber committees initiated new projects this month: (1) The Membership Committee, under the Chairmanship of William J. Dunn, after some months of preparation, initiated a drive for new members aimed at more than one hundred American firms in the Philippines whose operations, it was felt, would be aided by association with the Chamber; (2) The Committee on Foreign and Domestic Trade Controls, under the Chairmanship of Mr. Lee B. Nestle, undertook to secure and to collate the views of as large and as representative a group of our members as possible on Appendix "A" to the *Statistical Classification of Commodities* (a long list of commodities "proposed to be banned from importation" issued by the Department of Commerce and Industry on July 19, 1954), with the idea in mind of making these views known to the Secretary of the Department at the earliest possible moment.

Also during August, Mr. E. C. Hostman resigned as Chairman of the Committee on Industrial Relations and his place was taken by Mr. Ned Fox, the former Vice-Chairman.

At the August meeting of the Board of Directors, the following membership applications were approved: Baughman Furniture Factory, Crown Export Company,

COST OF LIVING PRICE INDEX FOR WAGE EARNER'S FAMILIES IN MANILA, BY YEAR AND MONTH, 1935-1954 (1941=100)

Bureau of the Census and Statistics

Year and Month	All Items (100)	Food (63.43)	House Rent (11.96)	Clothing (2.04)	Fuel, Light and Water (7.73)	Miscellaneous (14.84)	Purchasing Power of a Peso
1935.....	89.7	89.7	96.4	89.7	85.1	90.2	1.1148
1936.....	87.4	88.3	96.6	88.4	77.5	87.7	1.1442
1937.....	88.8	88.3	96.4	88.2	85.2	89.5	1.1261
1938.....	92.1	92.1	96.8	92.2	88.8	92.5	1.0858
1939.....	93.2	94.8	97.7	94.8	84.3	92.9	1.0730
1940.....	97.3	98.9	98.9	99.0	89.9	96.7	1.0277
1941.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	1.0000
1945.....	691.5	834.3	236.4	1448.4	379.1	650.9	0.1446
1946.....	521.7	649.4	236.4	649.7	348.2	383.3	0.1917
1947.....	387.2	415.4	453.9	256.8	310.0	272.2	0.2583
1948.....	364.2	386.1	453.9	208.4	288.9	259.1	0.2746
1949.....	343.7	357.9	453.9	198.4	272.9	251.1	0.2910
1950.....	332.9	333.7	453.9	270.7	252.0	282.8	0.3004
1951.....	352.6	361.5	453.9	365.3	248.0	285.7	0.2836
1952.....	347.9	355.0	453.9	331.5	249.7	285.6	0.2874
January.....	351.7	359.8	453.9	342.8	249.7	289.0	0.2843
February.....	346.4	349.3	453.9	379.4	248.8	293.6	0.2887
March.....	355.3	362.6	453.9	398.6	247.5	294.6	0.2815
April.....	359.2	367.0	453.9	410.4	247.5	300.6	0.2784
May.....	360.5	372.2	453.9	399.5	247.5	288.5	0.2774
June.....	359.0	370.1	453.9	382.0	247.5	290.2	0.2786
July.....	357.8	371.4	453.9	354.0	247.5	280.0	0.2795
August.....	356.1	369.0	453.9	356.4	247.5	279.0	0.2808
September.....	351.0	361.1	453.9	350.4	247.5	279.0	0.2845
October.....	344.1	351.1	453.9	343.8	247.5	275.8	0.2906
November.....	341.9	348.9	453.9	335.2	247.5	272.1	0.2925
December.....							

NOTE: Miscellaneous was received from 1950 to May 1953 and clothing from February 1952 to May 1953.

1952.....	339.4	347.4	453.9	295.9	244.1	268.4	0.2946
January.....	342.8	350.9	453.9	330.8	247.5	269.7	0.2917
February.....	341.2	349.8	453.9	311.2	243.4	268.5	0.2931
March.....	337.9	345.1	453.9	301.1	243.4	268.1	0.2959
April.....	335.9	342.7	453.9	300.7	243.4	264.6	0.2977
May.....	335.1	341.8	453.9	293.2	243.4	264.4	0.2984
June.....	338.1	346.3	453.9	290.2	243.4	265.5	0.2952
July.....	340.4	349.5	453.9	286.6	243.4	268.1	0.2938
August.....	340.7	349.4	453.9	289.1	243.4	269.9	0.2938
September.....	341.1	350.0	453.9	287.7	243.4	270.7	0.2935
October.....	337.6	344.6	453.9	289.3	243.4	269.4	0.2962
November.....	340.5	349.3	453.9	286.2	243.4	269.8	0.2937
December.....	340.9	348.9	453.9	284.4	247.5	272.3	0.2933
1953.....	318.2	314.3	453.9	280.1	243.7	269.5	0.3143
January.....	337.3	343.2	453.9	283.7	247.4	272.4	0.2965
February.....	323.0	321.1	453.9	281.5	243.4	273.0	0.3096
March.....	318.6	314.3	453.9	281.5	243.4	272.4	0.3139
April.....	317.6	312.8	453.9	281.1	243.4	272.2	0.3149
May.....	314.3	307.8	453.9	280.9	243.4	271.1	0.3182
June.....	313.1	306.0	453.9	277.8	243.4	271.1	0.3194
July.....	316.0	311.0	453.9	277.8	243.4	269.5	0.3165
August.....	316.1	311.9	453.9	277.8	243.4	266.4	0.3164
September.....	315.8	311.6	453.9	277.8	243.4	265.6	0.3167
October.....	315.3	310.6	453.9	279.0	243.4	266.4	0.3172
November.....	315.2	310.1	453.9	280.9	243.4	267.0	0.3173
December.....	315.5	310.7	453.9	280.9	243.4	267.0	0.3170
1954.....							
January.....	311.7	304.7	453.9	279.3	243.4	267.0	0.3208
February.....	301.5	290.0	453.9	278.3	232.1	267.0	0.3317
March.....	301.1	289.5	453.9	274.9	232.1	267.0	0.3321
April.....	302.9	292.5	453.9	272.2	232.1	266.8	0.3301
May.....	309.7	302.8	453.9	272.2	235.7	266.5	0.3229
June.....	312.6	306.9	453.9	271.8	238.4	267.3	0.3199
July.....	318.6	316.2	453.9	278.5	236.7	267.9	0.3139
August.....	321.6	320.7	453.9	274.7	236.7	269.3	0.3109
September.....	321.3	320.0	453.9	271.7	236.7	271.0	0.3112
October.....	317.8	314.4	453.9	271.8	236.7	271.2	0.3147

Dave Harvey, Inc., Ginn & Company, Health Service Corporation, Security Delivery Service and Shell-Craft & Button Corporation,— active members; and Carlisle N. Plattner, associate member.

DURING the month of September, the board of Directors resumed its round of courtesy calls on various cabinet members begun last June, and visits were made to the offices of Vice-President Carlos P. Garcia (concurrently Secretary of Foreign Affairs) and Secretary Paulino Garcia of the Department of Health.

The Committee on Bell Trade Act Revision, Victor B. Smith, Chairman, finished its work on preparation of a statement of the Chamber's official stand on this matter which was sent to Ambassador Raymond Spruance for transmittal to the Department of State. Copies were also sent to Eugene M. Braderman, Chairman, Far Eastern Division, Bureau of Foreign Commerce, Department of Commerce, to Daniel

Braddock, Member, United States Delegation for Philippine Trade Negotiations, and to Col. John F. Daye, Secretary, Philippine-American Chamber of Commerce in New York. Also in connection with Bell Trade Act Revision, the article appearing in the September issue of the *Journal* entitled "Comment On Various Objections to the Bell Act" was sent to President Magsaysay in the form of a typewritten memorandum from the American Chamber of Commerce.

The Committee on Industrial Relations was kept busy during this month attending a series of public hearings held at the office of Secretary Eleuterio Adevosso of the Department of Labor in connection with the development of a series of rules and regulations to implement Republic Act 1054 concerning Medical and Dental Services. The rules and regulations drafted by the Department met with considerable criticism both from business and industrial firms and from the medical profession, and, at

the end of the hearings, the Secretary indicated his willingness to consider certain counter-proposals which were submitted to him.

On September 30, the Chamber entertained its members and friends, including a large representation of the government and diplomatic community, at a cocktail party held to celebrate entrance into our new quarters in the Elks Club Building on Dewey Boulevard.

New members elected to the Chamber at the September meeting of the Board of Directors were Frawley Philippine Corporation, Novelty Philippines, Inc., and Philippine Remnants Company, Inc., all active members. Also at this meeting, the Board accepted the resignation from active membership of El Dorado Trading Company, Inc., which firm is in process of dissolution. Mr. Henry S. Thompson, President of the Insular Lumber Company of Philadelphia (ACCP active member), who was in the Philippines on a visit to the Company's plant in Occidental Negros, was a guest of the Board at this meeting; he told the Board that he believed considerable pressure would be brought to bear, in the forthcoming Bell Trade Revision talks in Washington, for any Philippine-American trade agreement to be on a uniform basis with trade agreements in existence between the United States and other countries.

ACTIVITIES during the month of October included submission to Secretary Oscar Ledesma of the Department of Commerce and Industry, on October 15, of a series of statements by interested members concerning their reaction to Appendix "A" to the *Statistical Classification of Commodities* (Items Proposed to Be Banned From Import). The Chamber's Committee on Foreign and Domestic Trade Controls under the Chairmanship of Lee Nestle had carried out a vigorous campaign to secure as many and as representative statements from our membership as possible. Secretary Ledesma had previously indicated to the Chamber that the chief purpose of Appendix "A" had been to obtain reactions to it from all sections of the business community and now stated that another list, based on such reactions, would again be presented for further study and recommendation.

Other activities in which the Chamber engaged were: (1) A campaign directed toward both member and non-member firms for the purpose of increasing the use of *Journal* pages for advertising. The campaign was based on the favorable results of a General Readership Survey which gave unmistakable evidence of the high regard in which the *Journal* is held by its readers. For the record, while the campaign had some small immediate result, it is hoped that its full effect will be felt in a substantial increase in advertising contracts for the coming year. (2) At the request of Mr. Horace V. Geib, Agricultural Attaché, American Embassy, the Chamber arranged for a group of member-firm representatives to attend a meeting at the Embassy on October 21 to discuss the implications and implementation of U. S. Public Law No. 480 (Agricultural Trade Development and Assistance Act of 1954) with Mr. E. O. Pollock of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, Mr. Gordon P. Boals of the Millers' National Federation, and Mr. Richard K. Baum of the Oregon Wheat Growers' League. (3) Cooperation with Mr. Thomas J. Fisher, Manila Representative of the Foreign Claims Settlement Commission of the United States. The Chamber's voluminous files on Sequestered Bank Accounts have been turned over to Mr. Fisher who reports that they have been of great value to him in his preliminary work here. The Chamber will inform its members, by Special Bulletin, of the first steps that must be taken by those who intend to submit claims.

(Continued on page 446)

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many citations from its volumes since 1949. Your trade figures for 1953 in the May, 1954, issue are the best we have. We would like a breakdown of the ₱115,000,000 lumped under 'Other imports', with particular reference to foodstuffs included in this figure, if any. . ."

The editor says he will try to get this information from the Bureau of the Census and Statistics.

Chamber Business . . .

(Continued from page 342)

Dealt with at the October meeting of the Board of Directors were the following: (1) Acceptance, with regret, of the resignation of Mr. S. W. G. Lehman, Board Member and Counselor of the Chamber's Committee on Bell Trade Revision. Mr. Lehman, whose resignation was occasioned by his transfer from the Standard-Vacuum Oil Company General Managership in Manila to a new assignment in Australia, will be succeeded on the Chamber Board by Mr.

Merle S. Robie of the Columbian Rope Company, in accordance with the custom of filling vacancies by selecting the next highest name on the ballot at the last annual meeting. (2) The resignation of Mr. Lee B. Nestle from the Chairmanship of the Foreign & Domestic Trade Controls Committee was accepted with regret; the Vice-Chairman, Mr. Newland Baldwin, was appointed to succeed him. (3) Guests of the Board at this meeting were Mr. William A. Carr and Mr. William M. Thaler, officers of the American Chamber of Commerce in Japan, who were in Manila on behalf of their respective companies—The Insurance Company of North America and Omni Products, Inc. (4) Applications for membership were approved for American Steamship Agencies, Inc., and Reynolds Philippine Corporation, active members, and Mr. Harold A. Linn, associate member. Note

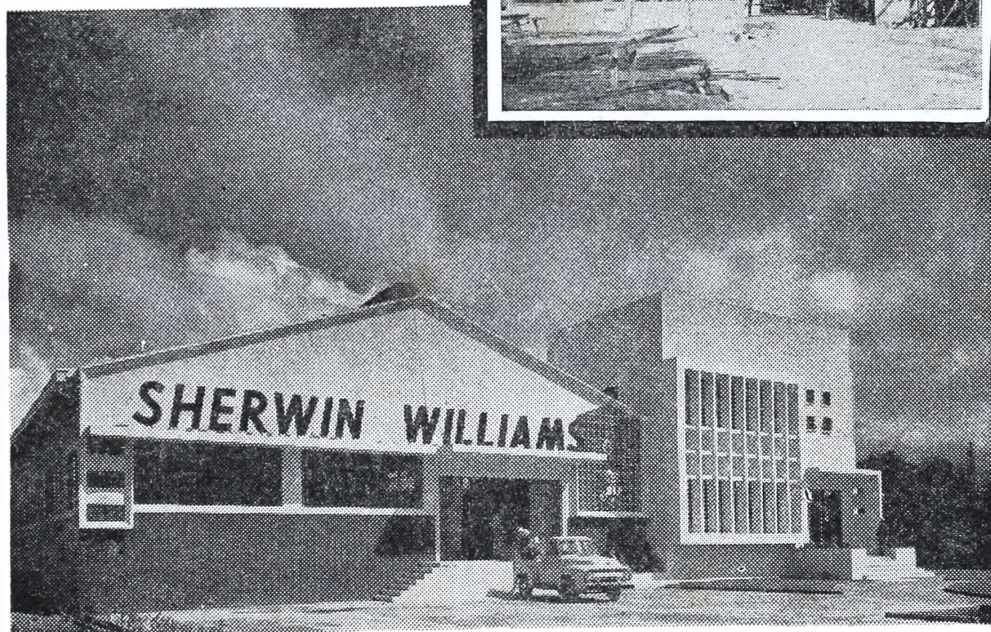
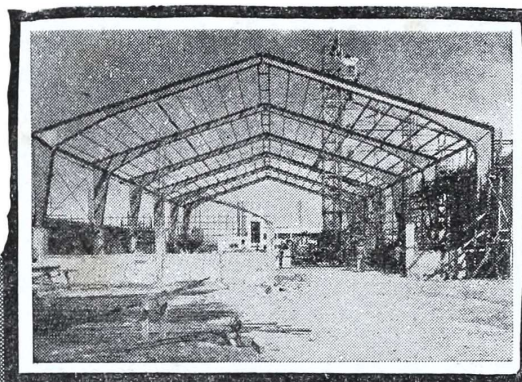
should be made that following the Board of Directors meeting this month, the Membership Committee held the seventh meeting of the year at which time plans were discussed for closing the membership drive at the end of November. Since the Committee's last meeting, Mr. Frank H. Bertell has succeeded Mr. William J. Dunn as Chairman.

MR. Paul R. Parrette, President of the Chamber, who has been absent in the United States for the past two months, returned to Manila on November 9. The November meeting of the Board of Directors was, accordingly postponed from Monday, November 8, to Monday, November 15, and matters of interest discussed at this meeting (including the appointment of a Nominating Committee for next January's Board elections) will be reported upon next month.

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