

# A BIG GAME TO PLAY

By VICTOR M. DE LEON

*Div. Superintendent of Schools for  
Misamis Occidental*



There is a big game we have to play and a battle we have to win. If we must win and come out the victor, let us snap out of it—join now the PPSTA and participate actively in its fight for the improvement of our lot and that of our school system.

And having joined up, how do we play the game?

Individually, there is a lot we can do on the matter of enlightening the people in our respective communities whenever an opportunity presents itself during PTA meetings, convocations, or community assemblies. We must, of course, exercise due care not to mislead our hearers into believing that we are criticizing or condemning the public school system of which we are a part. Rather, we should confine ourselves to the exposition of the bare facts or unfortunate truth, so to say, of the undesirable condition of our elementary schools ever since the passage of the Educational Act of 1940 and which has become more acute as an immediate result of the last war. We must frankly unfold to them that the introduction of the double-single-session plan in the primary grades was and still is an economic necessity in order to make the limited funds at the disposal of our government sufficient to accommodate twice as many school children as can be accommodated in our equally limited number of school rooms, with the same number of teachers at the same salary

rates. In other words, these must be emphasized, that under the double-single-session plan, our government actually saves much money at the expense of the thousands and thousands of teachers and sacrificing a more desirable teaching standard — all for the sake of economy of money but to the utter waste of human resources!

The people must be likewise told that the main reason why the teaching profession is no longer attracting good teachers and that the enrollment in our teacher-training institutions have markedly declined is the low pay that teachers who have had college training receive as compared with the wages of unskilled laborers and workers ranging from P120 to P150 a month.

Lastly, we should conclude by reminding our audience that the public schools belong to the people and are the schools of the people. That these school, if they must be operated, maintained, and managed efficiently according to desirable and accepted standards, the people must support them generously thru public taxation and other media.

## **Dra. T. F. Halili**

Central Hotel, Room No. 217,  
Manila  
WOMEN'S DISEASES & CHILDBIRTH  
Residence:

1430 Washington, Sampaloc  
Manila