



# IN THE NAME OF SOCIAL JUSTICE

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The bills H. Nos. 870, 871, 886, 820 and committee report No. 141 are all presented to the House of Representatives in response to our full awareness of the economic and social problems of the members of their just cause. We know that they are dedicating their best years to a service which pays so little yet serves the most.

The authors of these bills share with me the view that *it is high time now, in the name of social justice and in the name of the four freedoms, among which are freedom from want and freedom from fear, that we must do something to rectify the long standing social and economic injustice to which our humble, meek, diligent, and uncomplaining moulders of the intellectual patterns of the youth have long been subjected.*

Some of the rights and privileges provided in these bills are (1) increase in the basic salaries; (2) automatic increase of pay for every five years of continuous service; (3) automatic permanent status after serving continuously for five years; (4) restoration of the pension system; (5) sabbatical leave at the end of five years of continuous service; (5) free hospitalization and other medical services in case of sickness; (6) allowable absences due to illness and other unavoidable causes due to *force majeure* with pay; (7) grant of maternity leaves with pay; (8) right

to borrow money from the Philippine National Bank; (9) three months' pay to the family of any teacher in case of death while remaining under employment; (10) and finally (House Bill 932) the extension of the pension system to members of the teaching profession who are under the employ of private educational institutions.

These objectives embodied in these said bills, which propose to ameliorate the economic and social status of our army of teachers, may not all be realized now but at least the psychological climate in the House of Representatives at present is such that it is sympathetic to the move that something must be done for them. So at least the teachers have something to look forward to. They can be sure that *within the four walls of the present Congress especially in the House they have many friends who are sincere in espousing their cause, and in earnest in working for their interest.* This is not surprising because in the House Chamber alone there are nine members who have come from the teaching profession, and some of them are still continuing the said calling. With these nine who know the problems of the teachers, at least they have a strong bloc to look upon to take care of their plausible and just case.