The Cooperative Way of Life

A. DE CASTRO

(As a Private Citizen)

T HE recreation of the National Cooperatives Administration by the Philippine Legislature giving to this institution **P5**,000,000 to efficiently perform the implantation of the cooperative way of life in our Philippine Economy is a conclusive proof on the part of our Government that the organization of cooperative enterprises is a National Policy.

The cooperative way of life seeks a middle way of solving the trouble between capital and labor. The capitalistic way of life is characterized by monopoly of the few. In fact, it is totalitarian in the sense that who ever controls capital is the one that dictates the destiny of our economic organization. The global war which has just been ended pronounces that democracy should be a guiding principle of our life; hence political democracy if it is to last as our guiding philosophy should be based on economic democracy. I dare say that our sacrifices to let democracy safe for humanity will not last long if its foundation is based on totalitarian economic organization. The fight for political freedom is ended. Freedom from the clutches of big business interests whose creed in "In Money we trust and let Money speak"—the sooner we go back to the Christian way of "In God we trust and let human being speak," this world of ours will not only be worth living but it will be worth fighting for. Democracy to last should be founded on economic freedom. It has been said that aggressive war was always caused by the manipulation of world power supported by great capitalists, industrialists and financiers.

There is no doubt that when the cooperative way of life where the earning of capital is limited and when in the deliberation of business organization is based on one-man-one-vote, this world of ours will be more fit to live and possibly more human understanding will prevail. Only when our political and economic organization is based on democratic principles of one man one vote will the mass of common tao be emancipated from economic slavery.

The slogan of the late Pres. Woodrow Wilson "to make the world safe for democracy" will not be only in theory but in practice. For us in the Philippines, the organization of more cooperative enterprises is the road to world peace and also the right way to reconstruct our ruined national economy.

In rebuilding our national economy we should not lose sight of the fact that our people must be organized in such a manner that the real majority will prevail in contrast with the old time business organization based on the capital investment. There is no doubt that His Excellency, the President of the Philippines will exercise the final stage of signing the House Bill No. 553 which has been passed by both houses and presented for his signature.

This is the Magna Charta of Economic Emancipation!

The Rebirth of . . .

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and sixty-five is hereby amended so as to read as follows: "SEC. 5. There is hereby created a

"SEC. 5. There is hereby created a non-stock corporation to be known as the "National Cooperatives Administration" to take charge of the promotion, organization and supervision of cooperative and mutual aid associations now existing as well as those which may hereafter be formed under the provisions of Commonwealth Act Numbered Five hundred and sixty-five and the rules and regulations promulgated thereunder."

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