

The NBI and YOU

Atty. Romeo T. Saavedra

It is our happy privilege to welcome to the pages of The Cabletown Atty. Romeo T. Saavedra, Public Information Officer of the National Bureau of Investigation, who has gladly consented to conduct the Column, "The NBI and You."

Matters of common interest to many are the varied crime prevention and police improvement projects of the National Bureau of Investigation for the fiscal year 1967-68 which may have escaped the attention of people in a position to help in these projects. In the crime prevention field, started since five years ago, are the public posters distributed in strategic areas of the "Ten Most Wanted Criminals: By The NBI", jointly sponsored by a bank and the NBI, which has netted about two hundred arrests, together with the "Wanted Person" column devoted by the Philippines Herald, for about a year, the Manila Times for about six months, and the Manila Chronicle, for about two weeks. The NBI has also put out a photo album of swindlers and passers of forged checks to the different banks and hotels here, under the immediate supervision of the Interpol Division, NBI, which has also resulted in a large number of arrests of these persons *in flagrante delicto*.

Started about three years ago, the NBI Addiction Institute, the first of its kind hereabouts, jointly maintained by the NBI, the SWA, and the private sector, is responsible mainly for the rehabilitation and treatment of more than 300 narcotic addicts who have been referred to the Institute on a voluntary basis. The institute has been deluged with requests from courts to have those convicted of

violations of the narcotic laws confined thereat. The NBI, however, has maintained the policy of accepting only those young offenders and addicts in the incipient stage. The Philippine General Hospital and some drug companies joined hands in this public service. The addicts, numbering about fifty, at a time are housed at the NBI Addiction Institute at Tagaytay City, where they are given physical therapy and vocational training.

The NBI also, in association with the Philippine Amateur Judo Association (PAJA), has been training the youth under a selective basis, in athletics and sports judo to develop a 'sound mind in a sound body' as part of the juvenile control program of the Bureau.

Also during Saturdays, male high school students, after proper screening, are taught skills in typewriter repair, bookbinding, carpentry, painting, printing, laminating, and other vocations to afford them training and to help them make use of their time profitably. This is the juvenile delinquency control program of the Bureau. The NBI has also started a project to publicly distribute and disseminate a list of motor vehicles, together with the model, type, make, and motor number for the public to help impound or force the owners to satisfy the customs taxes thereon.

The NBI thru the Narcotics Divi-

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sion has also released for the public information and assistance narcotics leaflets warning the public of the dangers of these drugs and to report any violations of this nature to the NBI or its field offices. Likewise, coloring pictures with big bold words of warning are distributed to young pupils who are especially susceptible to these evils. The NBI also has put out 'STOP CRIME' pamphlets for the public consumption citing the many ways in which the public can help in the campaign against crime and its forces. The NBI has also been responsible for the publication and printing of the first Annual Crime Report in the Philippines, detailing the causes and volume of crimes throughout the country, including the circumstances of the offenders and the nature of the crimes committed. This Annual Crime Report has been coming out regularly as a special issue of the NBI Law Enforcement Monthly. The NBI has also put out a Uniform Crime Reporting system in the Philippines which was adopted by the Metropolitan Police organization and the Peace and Order Council. Under this system, uniform sheets containing da-

ta about crime, its nature and distribution, about offenders and their personal circumstances, are distributed to the different police agencies in the country, to be returned to the NBI, which under the law, is the national clearing house for criminal information after filling them out.

On the police training program of the Bureau to improve police service and promote law enforcement efficiency, the NBI Police Academy, has conducted basic police training courses and supervisory or management police science courses for police officers throughout the country. Jointly with the National Economic Council and AID, the NBI has made these police training courses ambulatory in the different cities and provinces to afford greater participation among policemen who are unable to attend these police seminars in Manila for economic reasons. Presently, the NBI has graduated more than five thousand policemen on both training levels. This is in addition to the big number of security guards of the different government agencies and private corporations who are trained along the same line. △

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GRAND MASTER'S MESSAGE *From page 1*

Lodges to keep this thought in their hearts and minds: You are the front-runners of Freemasonry in 1968. Think well, do well in and for your Lodge. Perform your sworn duties with honor to yourselves and inevitably you will honor our Ancient and Honorable Fraternity.

In fine, therefore, I call on all Masons to face the future with dedication, resolved more than ever to do all we can in our power to make our Masonry felt and seen around us. There is nothing to fear except fear itself. With courage and fortitude, we can face the future knowing that the hope for friendship, peace, harmony and understanding lies in Freemasonry in action.

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Grand Master