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President Marcos has authorized the Trust Agreement between the RP-US Joint Veterans Commission and the Philippine Veterans Bank for the \$31-million veterans benefits claims.

The agreement was formally signed at the Osmeña Suite of D' Plaza, in Makati, Rizal.

Former Senator Eulogio Balsa, chairman of the Philippine panel, signed on behalf of the RP-US Joint Commission and Rafael Aranda, acting president of the Philippine Veterans Bank, signed for the part of the PVB.

The payment of the \$31 million veterans benefits claims was embodied in the Executive Agreement signed by Secretary of Foreign Affairs Narciso Ramos and Ambassador William Mc Cormick Blair, Jr. in Manila on June 29, 1967 and recently turned over to the Philippine government.

The benefit claims will accrue to the more than 600,000 Filipino veterans who were members of the United States Forces in the Far East (USAFFE) to which they were inducted at the outbreak of the Pacific war.

The amount will be used to pay certain claims for pay and allowances of recognized Philippine guerrillas which have previously deductions from the backpay of certain RP veterans.

Those entitled to payment are already known and will receive their payment through the Veterans Claims Settlement Office, Department of National Defense, Fort Aguinaldo.

Among those who witnessed the signing were Senator Jose Roy, Undersecretaries of Defense Manuel Syquia and Manuel Salientes, Assistant Executive Secretary Gilberto Duavit who represented the President, Alfredo G. Alvarez, PVB assistant vice-president and Augustus Celantuan, vice-president auditor.

PWO Urges Conservation Education

Officials of the Parks and Wildlife Office recently sought the inclusion of Conservation in the high schools and collegiate curricula to stem the fast depletion of our natural resources:

Celestino Datu, new designated officer in charge of the Office said that the undue stress on exploitation instead of conservation is detrimental to Philippine agriculture and economy. PWO officials appealed to the Committee on Education of both houses of Congress to immediately enact a bill requiring conservation education in both high school and college levels in this country.

coat of arms truly Filipino. Many congressmen and senators have expressed approval and support for the nationalistic proposal of the Parks and Wildlife Office.

Gene E. Balfermoso
FROM THE HILLTOP



The Political Pipeline

Buhi C.S. - In an impressive political rally on the proclamation of re-electionist Mayor Nazario Equizabal-former Ambassador Jose Fuentebella in his usual acatelectic mood fired his first broadsides on the misconception of his stand on the gubernatorial question between his brother the Congressman Felix Fuentebella of the Second District of Camarines Sur and gubernatorial aspirant Atty. A. Cledera.

What amounts to be a spirited defense of the conduct of the Nacionalista Party convention at Abo farm, Ticao a month ago - the Ambassador spelled in black and white his stiff opposition on the dictates of the Junta to put up Congressman Felix Fuentebella as a compromise gubernatorial candidate.

The ambassador berated supposed detractors who would not stoop to incarnate the influence of divisionary tactics thereby weakening the stand and chances of the party. He said he would not allow even his brother, the Congressman, to tamper the dignity and the sacred intents of the convention. He added, the convention was glamorized with a Dei Gratia solemnization to the extent that cursillistas participated in a number together with the invocation calling for divine assistance from the Almighty as well as the spirits of the founding fathers of the party. He said the Congressman had assured him before the convention that he would not or is in any way interested in the gubernatorial post since being a congressman he could better serve his people than to be a receptionist governor.

Convinced on his stand on the majority result of the convention although short of the required 60% - the ambassador stressed no less than the President of the Philippines Ferdinand Marcos had called the NP Junta to act on the proclamation of Atty. Armando Cledera. He even cited the remarks of NP President Gil Puyat who said the case of Cledera is a special one since it involved the special attention of the President himself who is the titular head of the party-calling on the junta to act favorably on the proclamation of Atty. Armando Cledera.

The Ambassador added that if such a thing would happen that his brother would run- he said to preserve the spirit of the convention expressing the voice of the majority in a democracy- he would not vacillate to support the candidacy of Atty. Cledera. Of all the gubernatorial aspirants- Cledera has no relation to him whatsoever only that his forebears represented the founding fathers of the party. The Ambassador said that he would cross the province from end to end to tell the people the gospel of truth as the affirmation of his conviction that it would cost the ire of the whole NP junta including the President of the Philippines. He stressed further that for twenty years he fought the late President Manuel L. Quezon on a certain principle that Camarines Sur should stand on the validity of the will of the people not a mere goose-stepping member of a legion who would not know to dissect between truth, justice, righteousness as against the mulfeasance of the wrong-doer.

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On the local political scene five protagonists have decided to throw their hats into the mayoral fight: Three NP's* Re-electionist Mayor Nazario Equizabal, Madam Benita Noble, Local NP President, Atty. Qvirino Fabul; Two LP's Atty. Ramon Constandio and Mr. Juan Abasola a resigned school teacher.

Ojeda, Villafuerte

roadbuilding would "indeed be a farce for these were the very same goals carried in our political platform way back in 1959."

Villafuerte also cited their administration's role in securing the multi-million peso funding for Naga's water works improvement project and Malacaniang release for the construction of the new city hall. It would be the height of hypocrisy for the Liberals to claim credit for projects undertaken by the past Nacionalista administration, the former city executive added.

Both Ojeda and Villafuerte expressed confidence that the NP city ticket headed by mayoral bet Protacio G. Tolentino and Vice Mayor Siegfredo D. Obias would carry the election battle here barrio-to barrio "to prove once and for all that man to

man the Nacionalista party in Naga has the best political machinery."

The NP's councilor-slate is composed of: Atty. Roberto R. Ruelo, Lt. Felicesimo D. Asis, lawyer-CPA Reynaldo P. Borja, city fiscal's special counsel Carlos G. de' Castillo, former municipal board secretary Jaime C. Viola, university aide Antonio Antero and retired army Capt. Severiano Tacorda.

Read and

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The Bicol Star

partial review

by Andres G. Diez



Undeserving Question for Answers

"Mr. Diez, despite the fact that Atty. Prila was present in the NP convention held on August 20, 1967 why is he launching the candidacy of Congressman Fuentebella for Governor when Atty. Armando Cledera was the one elected by the convention? Is this man (Atty. Prila) already a Nacionalista or still a Liberal or is he mad?"



Prieto Diaz Scores Big Registration of Voters

PRIETO DIAZ, Sorsogon- Eighty-five percent of the 3,229 voters in this municipality who voted in the 1965 elections have already registered under the new registration law, according to Comelec sources here.

As of August 15, 2,606 have their registration applications already approved.

Tamaraw, Philippine Eagle For National Seal

The removal of the Spanish lion rampant and the American eagle from the Philippine seal was recently endorsed by the Parks and Wildlife Office following a proposal made by the U.P. Law Center.

The PWO suggested instead the use of the tamaraw and the great Philippine eagle as replacements to make the