

- The Philippines and the Filipinos need to observe some national discipline.

BANKRUPTCY IN THE COUNTRY

Sigus are galore of bankruptcy in the Philippines. Whether it is a moral bankruptcy, a political one, a social one, an economic or otherwise, it is bankruptcy just the same. Many respectable elements of our people seem to be jumping on the bandwagon for merry time.

Let us mention known cases of levity and decadence. Smuggling is rampant and uncontrolled; dishonesty or cheating in bar and other government examinations; payment by applicants to police recruitment office for qualifying as majors or patrolmen; textiles unloaded and deposited at the wharf or goods and merchandise consigned to importers disappear at the Custom House; technical smuggling by grossly undervaluing imports; warrant of arrest for harassment; hush money or grease money from Chinese Immigration Quota; blackmarketing of donated foods and

drugs from abroad; hick-backs in government contracts for building materials or in reparation materials; bribery at City Hall; the short-lived or "ningas cogon" enthusiasm that spelled the doom of such worthwhile projects of tilapia and mushroom culture projects — these are but concrete examples of our moral bankruptcy and decadence.

One of the weaknesses of our people — a great many of our leaders — is the apparent inability to distinguish our *needs* from our *greeds*. There is the challenge to re-orient or re-direct our educational system — the national leaders included — to the end that a new set of values be evolved. There is something wrong with our moral fiber. We are building unless arrested early enough a new fetish and cult, a cult of materialism and material gain at the expense of decency and bonos

mores. A name is no longer cared, and honor is no longer protected. What has become of the national backbone that has produced a galaxy of Filipino heroes of the caliber and stature of Rizal, Mabini, del Pilar, the Lunas, Bonifacio, Quezon and Osmeña? If leaders we look up to with pride and honor could not be exemplary in conduct and demeanor, by what tokens could not expect the rank and file to surpass them (leaders). The common saying, "the river could not rise higher than its source" is applicable.

It is time that we take

stock of ourselvess. While everything is not lost although things as they are, are depressing, the situation is not hopeless. It is about high time to initiate a program of individual and national discipline. As people we compare with other races in ability. But truth to admit, we lag behind in assessment of moral values. Here is where our schools and school system could initiate definite and aggressive steps for improvements of our national character by starting anew and aright with the children in their fold and tutelage. — *Antonio F. Ascaño.*

EVALUATING STUDENT COMPETENCE

Colleges, like industrial enterprises, should continually evaluate their product — their seniors. To do so they must use techniques similar to what industry calls quality control. The qualities to be measured should grow, in part, directly out of the material each college has to work with, its own objectives and its resources for learning. Each institution, and the schools and departments within it, should stand educationally for more than a specified accumulation of course credits and the pious platitudes found in the catalogue and the speeches of the president and deans. — *by John A. Perkins, Saturday Review, 9/65.*