

THE MAYOR'S AND GOVERNOR'S RESPONSE

Mr. CHAIRMAN

THE privilege and distinction of having been appointed by Your Excellency, with the approval of the Military Administration, as executive officials in our respective localities signifies no less than that you have trust and confidence in us, Provincial Governors, City Mayors and Provincial Constabulary Inspectors, now present in this solemn and historical occasion. It means trust and confidence because Your Excellency realizes we are all Filipinos deeply devoted to the Fatherland, with a profound sense of self-respect and with an inherent loyalty to the leaders of the nation. We are ready under any circumstances to demonstrate our devotion to our duty and our people.

And now this real opportunity has arrived, for us to show how far we can justify your trust and confidence in us. We return to our respective localities,

bearing this solemn manifesto of freedom, determined to carry its burning message to the farthest corner of the Philippines. We are convinced that when properly understood by our people, which it shall be our constant endeavor to bring about, it will expedite the achievement of that freedom which is our immemorial aspiration.

Your Excellency and Honorable Commissioner, we leave this solemn occasion with the assurance that you may count upon us to do our share in this great task. In the face of obstacles and limitations due to difficulties of communications, we shall do everything to carry out your instructions throughout the Philippines, not so much because of the positions we hold as because of our great desire to fulfill our duty to our Fatherland, which we all love. That is our pledge.

LEON G. GUINTO

February 26, 1943.

