

Mayor Pedro S. Tolentino

*(Speech delivered by Hon. Pedro S. Tolentino, Mayor of Batangas, Batangas at the Installation of Officers of Batangas Lodge No. 35.)*

Worshipful Master, Dignitaries of the East, distinguished Masons and guests, ladies and gentlemen:

The officers and members of the Batangas Lodge No. 35, Free and Accepted Masons, under the jurisdiction of the most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines, have done me a great honor in inviting me to speak to you on the occasion of this public installation of its officers for the Masonic Year 1967. If I may be permitted to speak as Mayor of Batangas, I shall, therefore, begin my short remarks by extending the greetings of welcome of the people of Batangas to the distinguished guests and visitors, and also our warm congratulations to the



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hand of friendship in a spirit of brotherhood to all the Masons of Batangas, and elsewhere in the world. I believe that we are all children of one God, whatever our color, our race, our religion, our creed. One great oriental philosopher (Kahlil Gilbran) said, "You are my brother, and I

newly elected officers. Personally, notwithstanding my identification with the Roman Catholic Church, my membership in the Knights of Columbus, and as a Cursillista, I am

now extending my

love you. I love you worshipping in your church, kneeling in your temple, and praying in your mosque. You and I and all are children of one God, and the varied paths of religion are but fingers of the loving hand of the Supreme Being, extended to all, offering completeness of spirit to all, anxious to receive all."

Two thousand years ago, the Prince of Peace preached the unity of the world and the brotherhood of man. As a result of the second world war, the United Nations was organized for international collaboration, for peace and world understanding. And yet today, there is no peace. The tranquility of the human family, more than ever before, is being threatened by a more disastrous calamity. There is the difficult war now raging in Viet Nam in South East Asia, besides other disturbances of peace in Africa, and elsewhere in the world. The souls of men shudder at the thought that the potentials for the greatest possible catastrophe continue unabated in other parts of the world — the mad race for nuclear weapons, the excessive ambitions for territorial expansion, the superiority — complexes of peoples and races, murders and injustices to the weak and the innocent, just to mention a few of them. Ladies and gentlemen: Peace is the yearning of mankind — Peace in the hearts and souls of men. Peace in

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ago, by authority of the President of the Philippines and of the Municipal Council of Batangas, I was given an opportunity to attend an International seminar on local governments in The Hague, Netherlands, the principal objective of which is the improvement of local governments in the developing countries of the world, so that they can become active and dynamic participants in the solution of community problems. The participants to this seminar came from 15 nations of the world mostly representatives of developing countries. The conference presented an interesting kaleidoscope of peoples, of cultural backgrounds, of structures and functions of governments, as the delegates exchanged views on the problems of local governments. It is important to note that the problems of local governments are international in character transcending the barriers of language and national boundaries. They can be found anywhere in the world, common to many peoples, to many countries. Their solutions may be found not only from our own thinking and practices. They may also be learned from the experiences and lessons of other peoples, who have made a success of the local government system. Viewed from the wider context of international relations, consultations and meetings of this nature are also of potential values in influencing international understanding. In this particular conference in which I was a humble participant, a spirit of mutual respect and cooperation prevailed, notwithstanding diversities of nationalities, of cultures, of ideas and opinions. It seems that it is possible as yet to achieve world unity, even amidst

diversities in the "Parliament of Man, the Federation of the World."

With your permission, I would now advert to dynamic and militant Masonry in the Philippines as conceived by your Grand Master, Dr. Raymond E. Wilmarth. In his observations at the convention of the 10th Masonic District in Cavite City on December 30, 1966, published in the *Cabletow*, Jan., 1967, he said, "That here in Cavite, the birthplace of many Philippine heroes was the real moving spirit of Masonry. I sensed a very Militant Masonry and I thought it would be most important that we should make our Masonry in the Philippines a Dynamic Masonry. I was impressed by the address of our Brother Calixto Zaldivar of the Supreme Court regarding criminality in the Philippines. Brother Zaldivar is correct in placing an important question before us: "What are we as Masons doing about criminality here in the Philippines?" He continued, "A few years ago I wrote an editorial in our *Cabletow* suggesting that our Symbolic Lodge form Anti-Crime committees to work together with local law enforcing agencies. Further, I offered to tie these committees together through our Grand Lodge as a nation-wide network for reporting crimes to a National Headquarters. But most important is to educate the people in our communities to the need for courage, not only to report crimes, but to give testimony when called, to convict criminals. This is our most important duty to our fellowmen in combating crime, our willingness to stand up in a court of law and testify truthfully. If we do not have the courage to do our share, we must not expect others to do it for us. In the last analysis, we get the kind

of protection from others that we are willing to give them.

If we want the Philippines to be a better place in which to live, let us start doing our share as Masons today!"

This is only one example of a community problem to which the teachings of militant and dynamic Masonry may be applied. In the past, to many people, the teachings of Masonry are something away from the domain of reality, enveloped as they are in strange rituals and symbols. And the Masons are looked upon as another people coming from another world. Nowadays, attitudes are changing. Dynamic Masonry is welcome as practical, livable in the lives of the people, a potential force in involving the citizens in the solution of community problems. Under the idea of involvement, once the people are involved in their problems, the peoples' attitudes, their participation becomes more purposeful, more active, more productive of good results. But Society as it is has many defects and idiosyncracies, because the activities of men are either good or evil. We need leadership based on moral righteousness. Men of light and leading are few in a community, but it is incumbent upon them to contribute their share of leadership, otherwise, society will fall and decay. The Masons steeped in the philosophies and virtues of Dynamic Masonry are potential leaders. Leadership to lead must be by the power of examples, must construct and build, not with stones and steel, but with men's minds and hearts, so to speak, forged in the anvil of love and brotherhood.  $\Delta$

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brought our two democratic countries and freedom-loving peoples closer to each other.

And it is only through democracy that the objectives and teachings of Freemasonry can be realized.

*The Association and Its Great Work*

It is now twenty years since our second Republic was born. In remembrance of that historic event and on behalf of the Masons of the Philippines, I am happy to present to the Association for its Endowment Fund, a check for \$20.00.

May the Association continue its great work in keeping alive the message derived from the life and labors of George Washington, Man and Mason.  $\Delta$

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The Masonic Press Club of the Philippines is in the process of organization. Membership is by invitation only once and is limited to Master Masons who write for their Lodge newsletters, magazines, yearbooks, The Cabletow and other Masonic publications as well as for local and national publications of general interest. No invitations will be extended to non-writing writers. Junior members may be selected from DeMolays on application.

The first bull session of the original group was held on March 31, 1967 and the first no-holds-barred, off-the-record meeting will be held on April 27, 1967. Any Brother invited to join will be required to write a Masonic paper before he is given a membership card. One tradition they will establish is that their members are those "whom the lust of office does not kill, whom the spoils of office cannot buy".

WB Oscar L. Fung has been designated Secretary-Treasurer.