

PROBLEMS IN THE NEWS

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Now that there is no more need for a news digest to help prepare teachers for civil service examinations by giving current-events sampling, we have remodelled this department so as to serve another purpose—to furnish aids for social science classes. Teachers at a loss for material to take up in their current-events classes may turn to these for suggestions. Teacher-discussion groups may also find fruitful material here. Ordinary citizens may be led to profitable social thinking by the challenge in the items presented here.

1. President Truman made known to the world that the U. S. would not stand idly by while communists force their way to the help of European governments. The Truman note accused Soviet Russia of actively participating in the fall of Premier Nagy of Hungary, which led to the success of the *coup d'etat* of Matyas Rakosi, a brigadier general in the Russian army. The note also accused Soviet Russia of violating the Yalta agreement on the protection and development of the political independence of former enemy small nations.

The note not only threatened to take up the question of the Communist *coup d'etat* in Hungary with the UN but also "strong economic and diplomatic action against communism's westward march in the interest of preserving the democratic government in France, Italy, and Austria."

- a. What has caused tension between the U. S. and Russia?
- b. Is the U. S. justified in taking the side of Premier Nagy?

- c. Should the UN act on the Hungarian problems if brought before it? Reason out.
- d. How would the U. S. curb further expansion of Soviet Russia's influence?

2. How real is the threat of communism? Here are some facts:

The Russians have a jet plane that can travel 660 miles per hour, 40 miles faster than official world record held by Great Britain, according to John Foster, Jr., editor of the New York aviation trade magazine. He also said that the U. S. holds now a third-rate place in air power.

Pro-communist Lajos Dinneys, premier of Hungary, said that the communists are determined to turn Hungary into a pro-communist state.

Alcide de Gasperi, premier of Italy, announced that an Italian government without communists will be formed under him. Now answer these:

- a. Is Communism winning against democracy in the race for world domination?
 - b. What advantages over democracy has communism in its attempts to propagate itself?
 - c. Is communism gaining ground in the Philippines?
 - d. What social conditions make a country fertile ground for the seed of communism to grow?
 - e. What are the best ways of stopping the growth of communism?
 - f. Is it wise to pass laws outlawing communism and communist organizations?
3. The UN face two major international

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al problems: control of atomic energy and reduction of armaments. How is it progressing in the solution of these problems?

4. The UN commissions investigating the Palestine and the Balkan questions are stalemated. Is there no way out of this dangerous inaction?

5. The major Indian parties are in favor of the British compromise plan of a divided India. What does this plan imply? Is there a need for this compromise?

6. Jawaharlal Nehru is head of India's interim government. Is this fortunate or unfortunate for India? Why does India need strong leadership at present?

7. The French Socialists introduced a bill in the National Assembly to put a stop to "parliamentary eloquence which has become excessive." Would it be wise to adopt this same rule in our own congress? Is this "gag" rule not repressive of free expression? Is this law democratic in implication?

8. "Japan must pay reparations according to the Potsdam Agreement even if the Japanese starve." Does this policy help promote international understanding? Does it help promote world peace?

9. "Any citizen of the Philippines who allows his name or citizenship to be used for the purpose of violating the law, and any alien or foreigner profiting thereby will be punished by imprisonment of not less than five or more than fifteen years..." (Act No. 134)

Will this act help eliminate dummies? Are there no ways by which aliens may continue to use unpatriotic Filipinos for their own selfish ends?

10. Act No. 134 also provides that 25% of the fine imposed on the guilty be given to the informer. Is this prac-

tice not too reminiscent of totalitarian tactics? Does it help in the enforcement of the law?

11. The Joint Philippine-American Finance Commission indirectly recommended against more U. S. loans in its report to President Roxas. It came to the conclusion that the Philippine government can be financially independent in 1948. The Commission stressed that government expenditures be met from taxes or from domestic rather than international borrowing; that the government live within its income from these sources.

- a. What are the main sources of government income?
- b. How may the government meet the deficit in our budget?
- c. Can international borrowing adequately solve this financial problem?

12. A proposed administration measure is a tax on private schools "to help finance the supervision" of private education. Will this measure help raise the standard of private schools? How may this affect students?

13. Act No. 149 provides for the reappropriation of all balances of authorized appropriations remaining unexpended for the opening of new or additional public elementary classes. Which is better, equip old classes with much-needed equipment and materials or create new classes? Would it be better to use these unexpended funds for salary increases of teachers?

14. Says Randall Gould, American editor of the *Shanghai Evening Post*: "The Filipinos have many good points but when it comes to energy in going after the retail business of their islands, they have never been within hailing distance of the energetic Chinese, who have come, seen and conquered

large fields of enterprise." Can you cite proof of this statement? What qualities of Chinese merchants may Filipinos copy with profit? What business practices of Chinese merchants may be considered unethical?

15. President Roxas is considering the resumption of private trade with Japan. Are Filipinos now willing to buy Japanese goods if these are cheap? Would the resumption of trade with Japan now benefit both the Philippines and Japan?

16. President Roxas has allowed the limited exportation of logs on condition that local prices of timber are maintained on a reasonable level. Will not this exportation raise prices in spite of the condition about "reasonable level" of prices? Of what good to the country is the exportation?

17. The U. S. department of agriculture predicted that the 1947 Philippine rice production may approximate the pre-war output. Would this be sufficient to solve our rice shortage?

18. "Crime is fundamentally rooted in the maladjustments of the economic order so that in order to solve our crime problems, we must make society more agreeable," said Eliseo de los Reyes of the Parole Board. How may you apply this principle to the solution of the Huk problem? the labor problem? juvenile delinquency?

19. Sonya Rodolfo, a 14-year-old Filipino, won second place in the national spelling contest in the United States. How do we as a people benefit from this?

20. Dr. Maria Lanzar-Carpio, associate professor of political science in the University of the Philippines, has been appointed to the United Nations secretariat. Mrs. Paz Policarpio-Men-

dez was appointed delegate to the Pan-Asiatic Conference held in Delhi. Dr. Encarnacion Alzona was a delegate to UNESCO and was the only woman chairman of a subcommittee of that body. Can you explain how this leadership on the part of Filipino women has been made possible? Is this a healthy sign? Are there other achievements of Filipino women which you can cite?

21. The Bureau of Health is preparing to equip four mobile-health units "to bring health education to the people by means of visual aids, through educational films, and lectures on health education." How will this help solve our health problems? Are there other health measures which you can suggest for adoption?

22. The circulation of pre-war treasury certificates has been extended to August-31, 1947, by President Roxas. This is the fourth time this extension has been made. This is only a small matter, but in what way is it a symptom of more serious shortcomings?

23. The coalesced minority parties in the Philippines are the Nacionalista Party, the Democratic Alliance, the Philippine Youth Party, and the Popular Front. Will this coalition be sufficient to put up effective opposition? Why is effective opposition necessary?

24. Some congressmen have written an open letter proposing that Mr. Esteban R. Abada, Director of Education, be candidate for Senator. Should this candidacy go through, would it be wise for the PPSTA to come out openly in favor of it? Would it be wise for the PPSTA to remain neutral? Which is the better course for the PPSTA to follow in matters like this—to remain politically passive or to give all-out support of candidates who are openly for teachers' welfare?