

Who is this Brother?

## **Philippine-American Relations**

For one who lives in the Philippines of the Filipinos, there is hardly any justification for writing on a broad and delicate subject, especially at the moment when the situation is charged, irritating, and irritable. Even my having been to several United States in the Philippines and my having lived in the Philippines of the United States do not mitigate my indiscretion.

I do not wish to be an irritant on the subject, but if I happen to scratch open an old wound, it is only on my sincere desire to dig in so that the cyst may be removed.

*Time* or no *Time*, *visa* or no *visa*, omnibus claim or no omnibus claim, military bases or no military bases, Philippine-American relations is not salutary at the moment; there is need for the Americans and Filipinos to examine the causes of the rift at the grass-roots. It is conceded that anytime the Filipinos can recite a litaney of sins of commission and omission of the Americans against them; in like manner, the Americans can have a long list of what the Filipinos have done against them or failed to do for them. These tales of woe will be long and weary and before each group is half-done, they will have been worn out. No need of going into that. It is more important for the two peoples, lovers of their countries that they are, to be nationalistic enough to correct the errors of their nations.

We have prided ourselves in the "lasting" friendship of our two peoples; but that prideful assertion might as well be gone for even now there are

not a few who glory in the estrangement. Like boxing fans, ready and more than willing to root for their favorite contenders.

There is nothing better than for the two peoples to sit together, friend to friend, and talk things over to thresh out the irritations and forthwith evolve solutions of permanent and far-reaching effects. There is no need to wait for our respective governments to settle the differences on the conference tables. Diplomats can lie to each other with utmost courtesy; but nearly always, their agreements are affected and adulterated.

We, the people, in flesh and blood, are the ones who can be honest and sincere; our motives can be above bias, our conversations, without affectations. A story is told that in the golden wedding anniversary celebration of a leading and highly respected couple, a lady guest sidled up to the wife, wanting to know how they have stayed married so long. The wife in all candor said: "You know, there were times when I wanted to shoot my husband; but we talked things over, sometimes coolly, sometimes heatedly; and each time we finished, we came out loving each other all the more."

Filipinos and Americans of goodwill should show a better way among our peoples here in the Philippines and in the United States. This is an industry that is not taxed; an export that is not controlled; an import that needs no dollar allocation.

But, for this adventure in friendship to succeed, it should be without

dissimulation; without ulterior motives; without any thought of business deals, commodity loan agreements and the like. In other words, the project to refurbish friendship and goodwill in and among our two peoples must be only friendship and goodwill, period.

That the discussions may be frank, sincere, and forthright, they should be based on understanding. By understanding each other's point of view, we can be tolerant. More than ever, we need tolerance from both sides. For instance, the Filipinos still feel very much the "underdog". Our country has been a colony of no less than four countries in over 426 years and independent only 13 years. The United States has been a colony some 280 years, but independent for 183 years. We Filipinos are adjusting ourselves and our economy to the demands of this new freedom; we are making mistakes; they are embarrassing; but, we would that no one treat us with condescension or patronage.

Another basis for the discussions might as well be equality. As Shakespeare has so aptly put it, "there is something bad in the best of us, and something good in the worst of us." No nation should really put on airs for the complex of superiority in one engenders hatred and envy on the part of the one who has the complex of inferiority. In fine, let us start with the assumption that both our nations are essentially equal regardless of creed, color, social attainment, or worldly possessions. It is nice to be important, but really, it is important to be nice.

With understanding and equality, we can be free. We will have no inhibitions, no mental reservations, no secret evasions, and we can be forth-

right and sincere. The net results will be mutual trust, mutual respect.

The proposition is: we start discussion and study groups on this vexing situation of Philippine-American relation. Dig into the why's and wherefore's of the impasse, and when we come up with solutions, tell the world. Set the light on a hill. Who knows but that other clubs, chapters, and aggregations, on seeing the goodwill and understanding engendered by our efforts, will go and do likewise.

Borrowing a statement of President Sinco: "The time has come when we . . . must know each other better and must understand that our national interests, whether economic, political, educational, or social, are closely interwoven." This desire to know each other better is at once local, national, and ultimately worldwide; no nation is an island unto itself. This adventure in goodwill and friendship may be met with chagrin by cynics; but the responsibility is still there. This friendship and goodwill must be made manifest, real, and unswerving in the lives of our two peoples if we are to show to the world that the democratic way, even with its faults and weaknesses, is still the best way of life for all peoples with-thersoever dispersed; communist propaganda notwithstanding.



*When a young assistant asked Dr. Charles Mayo why he hadn't dressed down a patient who had spoken insultingly to him, Dr. Mayo answered: "One darn fool in the room was bad enough; there was no sense in having two in there."*

—Dr. Walter Alvarez, *Live at Peace With Your Nerves.*

**CAPITOL MASONIC TEMPLE  
ASSOCIATION, INC.  
MOVES FURTHER ONWARD**

The Capitol Masonic Temple Association, Inc. which has been thought of and planned for since the incumbency of Most Wor. Bro. Werner Schetelig, the Grand Master at the time, became a reality on May 22, 1958 when the corporation was registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission with an authorized capital of P135,000.00 divided into 2,700 shares at P50.00 per share.

At the time of registration, 72 members subscribed P29,600.00 and paid P8,990.00 on their subscriptions. About the same time, the corporation paid the sum of P7,839.21 to the People's Home-site Housing Corporation as down payment on a lot of 4,611.3 sq. m. on the block behind the proposed Quezon City Hall. The total cost of the lot is P78,392.10 payable in ten years.

Wor. Bro. Angelo Baylon, Secretary of the corporation, has high hopes that in time many more brethren will buy shares to enable the corporation to keep the payments on the lot and begin building the Masonic Temple in the capital city of the Philippines. The building when completed will largely be for the use of Masonic lodges and allied fraternal organizations such as: shrine clubs, Eastern Star chapters, DeMolay chapters, Rainbow assemblies, Job's Daughters Bethels, Amaranth's, etc.

**FREEDOM FIGHTER,  
FREEMASON**

Prof. Janos Horvath of the faculty of Business Administration, University of the Philippines, has recently been raised to the sublime degree in Rafael Palma Lodge No. 147. Bro. Horvath, before coming to the Philippines, lived in New York where he was active in looking after the interest and welfare of Hungarian patriots who sought refuge in the United States after the short-lived revolution of 1956.

Bro. Horvath is himself one of the revolutionary leaders in Hungary when Hitler's hordes held his homeland and also when Stalin's satellites overran his country. He was a member of parliament and of the executive committee of the short-lived Hungarian republics after Hitler and in 1956.

Currently, Bro. Horvath is a Professor of Economics and Cooperatives in the U.P., under contract with the Asia Foundation. He still keeps in touch with other Hungarian patriots in England and the United States and hopes that in the future a permanent democratic government will take over Hungary.

It will be recalled that a Hungarian patriot, three score years ago, in the person of Bro. Louis Kossuth, was made a Mason in the United States. The present generation of Hungarian patriots are inspired by the free ideas of Bro. Kossuth and have established the Louis Kossuth Foundation in England and America to train leaders for democratic government. Bro. Horvath is Executive Vice-President of the Foundation.



*The real purpose of books is to trap the mind into doing its own thinking.*

—Christopher Morley