

# PROBLEMS IN THE NEWS

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We are glad to hear from the field that news items cited, analyzed, and threshed for social implications are being used effectively by social science classes and by teacher discussion groups. Here are some more items suitable for discussion.

1. A more rigid scrutiny will be exercised by the Department of Foreign Affairs before issuing passports to Filipino citizens. This is the result of a mistake made in issuing a Philippine passport to Chinese Maximo Go.

- a. Explain why this mistake may lead to more serious violations of our laws?
- b. Why should the Government be very careful in handling passports?
- c. How may this power of issuing passports be abused? What are the consequences of abuse?
- d. Has this question any relation to another serious problem, the illegal entry of aliens to the Philippines? Explain.

2. Secretary of Justice Roman Ozaeta amended Circular No. 14 "to permit the registration of sales of urban and non-agricultural lands to aliens." This ruling has made possible the registration of the property of Adamson (a Greek citizen) and Gaston Willoquet (minister for the Republic of France).

- a. Is this ruling a possible violation of the Constitution or not? Explain.
- b. How may this ruling affect adversely the rights of future generations of the Philippines?
- c. Is this ruling consistent with the

Parity Act?

- d. Should we welcome the development of our lands by aliens? Why?

3. President Roxas made the stand that he has no power to grant immunity from criminal prosecution to Abner, Bicol Huk chief. Abner offered to surrender to the authorities provided that he and his men be granted immunity from prosecution.

- a. Should the President have compromised with Abner or, say, Taruc?
- b. Would the late President Quezon have compromised? Cite a specific act of the late president which would make you believe as you do.

4. A forgery on a sales invoice caused the new million-peso Surplus Property Commission scandal. The National Bureau of Investigation stated that it could not get state witnesses to testify against a high government official believed to be a party to the fraud.

- a. Does this speak well of the Government? of the moral fiber and civic conscience of our people?
- b. What can the Government do if witnesses are afraid to testify against high government officials?
- c. How can schools help if not immediately at least in the long run—in the solution of this problem?
- d. Should the Government take this scandal tamely? If no evidence is found, should the Government congratulate itself or should it feel ashamed of its failure to cleanse itself?

5. Twenty-eight convicts staged a jail-

break in the Bulac n provincial jail on August 24. This is not the first time a jailbreak has happened.

- a. Does this mean that the Government instrumentalities concerned are inefficient?
- b. If so, what steps has the Government taken to "clean up" its backyard?
- c. If not, what steps should it take?
- d. What effect has jailbreaks on society in general?

6. The U. S. Department of Commerce has published an economic survey which states that "prospects for large-scale land settlement projects are favorable, particularly in the potentially rich and undeveloped island of Mindanao." The survey further states that there are favorable prospects for a \$1,000,000,000 economic development program.

- a. Why is Philippine capital so timid when it comes to developing our own natural resources?
- b. Why have Filipinos shown little interest in settling public lands?
- c. What can our own government do to develop these potential sources of wealth?
- d. Why are we so slow in seeing and appreciating our Nature-endowed wealth?
- e. How does Parity come in here?

7. The cabinet decided to hold public contests to select the best textbooks for public elementary schools. The Government will purchase the copyrights for the winning textbooks.

- a. How feasible is the plan?
- b. Will this plan prove attractive to local writers?
- c. Will it lead to better textbooks?
- d. Why does the Government take so much trouble to have textbooks prepared for the elementary schools?

8. Secretary Gallego suggested to the Cabinet the use of charts in the elementary schools and to dispense with textbooks.

- a. What motives prompted this recommendation?

b. In what way may charts be used to advantage?

c. What are the disadvantages?

d. Will this plan be really economical in the long run? Explain.

9. Edgar Crossman, co-chairman of the Joint Philippine-American Finance Commission, expressed his disappointment over the failure of the Philippine Government to put into effect the Commission's recommendations. "There has been much tax evasion going on among wealthy island interests," he said.

- a. Why is Crossman dissatisfied over the failure of Congress to put into effect the recommendations of the Commission?
- b. Who should be blamed, the Government or the tax evaders? Why?
- c. What are the immediate results of tax evasion? the remote, but nonetheless real, results?
- d. How may tax evasion be reduced?

10. Colonial Secretary Arthur Creech Jones declared that Great Britain is facing a very serious economic crisis. Britain would have to cut her imports from the U.S.A. and to increase the production of "dollar-saving products." The survival of Great Britain lies in a program of economic self-sufficiency, he says. Minister of Agriculture Tom Williams approves of widespread increases in prices and subsidies to British farmers.

- a. What factors have brought about this economic depression?
- b. Are economic depressions to be expected a few years after wars? Cite instances from history.
- c. How will England meet this problem? How is England meeting it now?
- d. Why doesn't England resort to foreign loans?
- e. What lesson might the Philippines learn from the British?

11. Jose Maria Velasco Ibarra of Ecuador was ousted as president. The minister of defense, Colonel Carlos Mancheno, engineered the "bloodless

revolution" that resulted in the ousting, and assumed control of the government in the name of Ecuador's armed forces.

a. Are the people justified in changing their Government officials? Justify your answer.

b. Besides revolution, what other means may the people employ to achieve reform?

12. The U.S. government protested against "Communist rigged" elections in Hungary which deprived about 1,000,000 Hungarians of the right to vote. The U.S. government declared that "overwhelming majority of Hungarian citizens thus far disenfranchised are non-Communists."

a. How does this situation bode ill for the one-world idea of President Truman?

b. Why is the U.S.A. interested in keeping the elections clean not only in Hungary but in other nations as well?

c. How may clean elections be achieved?

d. Are there existent dangers of our having a similar deprivation of our rights to elect our own choices for public office? Explain.

13. The Dutch have proposed two things to the UN Security Council: for the UN to send troops to Indonesia or to let the Dutch take measures to insure peace and order. Compromise efforts were made by China, Poland and Australia are deadlocked.

a. Why may the Dutch Indonesian trouble be considered a test case for the UNO?

b. Why should the Philippines be interested in it?

c. Brigadier General Carlos P. Romulo opposed China's proposal to appoint a single "impartial state" to supervise the Indonesian trouble. Why?

14. Russia vetoed the application of Italy and Austria for membership in the UNO. The Soviet Union has used the veto (Big Power voting privilege) "18

times to block security council majorities." Argentina, alarmed, submitted a resolution for the abolition of the veto privilege.

a. How may this Big Power veto privilege be abused? Has Russia abused this privilege?

b. Why do the small powers want this privilege abolished?

c. Why do you think Russia is against the entry of Austria and Italy into the UNO?

d. Are her motives above reproach?

15. The United States has given up hope of settling the dispute with Russia in Korea over unification of the country. Is the American ideology so different from that of Russia that the two never can agree?

16. U.S. government employees will be given loyalty tests by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

a. What may have induced the U.S. government to give such tests? Can any test be a fair gauge of one's loyalty?

b. What are the dangers of such tests? In what way may such tests be used for political advantage?

c. Is there a real need for it? Explain.

17. A third political party in the United States will back up former vice-president Henry Wallace. It has been named "The Independent Progressive Party of California."

a. Which is better: a two-party or a tripartite system?

b. Would a tripartite system be workable in the Philippines?

18. Representative Bender of Ohio said that fraud and overpayment costing the U.S. millions of dollars have been found in war contracts.

a. Who should be blamed: The War Office or the contractors? Why?

b. How may such anomalies be prevented?

19. The Government has definitely decided to do educational extension work

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