

The Bicol Star

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As I See It

BY B.M. DUMAGUIN

Another Filipina nurse in the Chicago area had been strangled to death. That makes three Filipina nurses victim in that area already since 1966. Who said we are a nation of lawlessness. What crimes are perpetrated in that country of the great and the brave and money, make any crime committed here peagut. Yet in our papers everyday we read stories, gory crimes, rape, holdups, murders and many others played prominently as if we are really a nation ready to go to the dogs. Present crops of columnists, newspapermen and publishers love to play up ugly uncomplimentary things about their country as if they will become great also if they do that.

I know of at least several columnists who enjoy to picture their country as the worst in the Far East. Well, that is their privilege. But by gum, let him not do it for his enjoyment because we too, all the Filipino people for that matter, are involved in their downgrading orgy.

Equally, there seems to be something very painful in the neck of at least two columnists that I know, of how Mrs. Marcos is being played up in the newspapers in Japan. I do not mind how they react but what is revealing is how sour they picture the First Lady. Their piece borders between ridicule and contempt. Their style of kibitzing is suspicious. There is dislike in the color of their phrases.

If they are great as they tend to make us believe, let them (newspapermen and columnists) consume more of their time in constructive comments. Newspaper space are expensive. Why not devote them for better purposes. After all they too are Filipinos, unless they think they are otherwise.

July 4th will be celebrated as the Phil-American Friendship Day. Friendship Day, my Kneel I have always regarded the day as our own true and correct INDEPENDENCE DAY. Look at the people's reaction of the celebration of our newly legislated independence day? Very very cool. People have forgotten to give meaning to the celebration as they used to give when we were yet celebrating the glorious July 4th Independence Day. Why, have we lost our respect to historical facts and events? As I remember, the fever to change the INDEPENDENCE DATE snow-balled when the Administration of that period did not like the way our War Damage differential payments did not come as expected. But why equate that event at the sacrifice of true and correct facts which is history in any angle you look at? As I See It, semantics played during the celebrations in the halls of Congress to consider the change of the date of our Independence date, worked heavily in favor of the change. Oh me, that is the price of sending too many demagogues, not lawmakers to congress!

The Secretary of Education have at least come to his final announcement and decision as to when schools will finally open. Well, that's a good news to students who are watching for the date of opening eagerly. They must have stocked enough molotov bombs and newly coined slogans by now. After all that and many others are their daily

Speakout

Bicolandia

By JUAN G. FR VALDO



(Note: The following is the full text of the letter of Senator Dominador Aytona to ex-Provincial Governor Juan G. Frivaldo of Sorsogon who is one of the columnists of the Bicol Star, which is self-explanatory. - - - Editor.)



Republic of the Philippines

SENATE

Manila

DOMINADOR AYTONA

Senator

June 17, 1970

Gov. Juan G. Frivaldo
Columnist
The Bicol Star

Dear Johnny,

Accept my heartfelt support for the sympathy you have been giving to the plight of small coconut farmers and producers who are to this time, despite the continuing progress in agro-industry, still groping for their proper place in our scheme of development.

There is no gainsaying that the fruits of any government effort for the improvement of any segment of our country's population, should accrue to the greatest number of inhabitants. For the coconut industry in particular, I believe, as you also believe, that the benefits arising from any special attention that the public sector may afford the industry should be distributed in a manner that will elevate the economic status of small independent, and oftentimes disorganized coconut farmers because they, after all, constitute the greater bulk and therefore, the backbone of the industry. To this tenet your humble friend is deeply committed.

Allow me therefore, to correct some misconceptions which might have been engendered by an item in your column of May 21, 1970, in which you stated that Senate Bill No. 153 instituting a coconut investment fund and creating a Coconut Investment Company for its administration "would benefit mostly the big copra exporters and cartels but leave out the 550,000 small planters with 1 to 5 hectares each."

Statistics on land ownership and production gathered by the Philippine Coconut Administration reveal that there are 494,000 coconut farm lots throughout the country. Of this total, 325,000 (65.79%) are less than 4 hectares in size (small) with a total hectareage of 500,040, representing 31.8 per cent of total land devoted to coconut production. The average landholding in this category is 1,723 hectares. There are 160,000 farms (32.39%) of less than 20 hectares (medium) holding out 928,000 hectares of total coconut lands, or 52.7% of total hectareage. The average landholding in this category is 5.8 hectares. Those over 20 hectares (large) total 9,000 farm lots (1.82%) with a total 273,000 hectares of total lands planted to coconut, representing 15.5 per cent. Average land holding in this category is 30.33 hectares.

The figures for annual gross of the three categories of farms reveals that the total number of farms of the less than 4 hectares category amounts to roughly P350 million; those farms of less than 20 hectares, P554 million; and those over 20 hectares, P163 million. Since the 55 centavo tax will be levied on the first domestic sale of every 100 kilograms of copra sold, the tax proceeds will come mostly from the first and second categories of farm-holdings because their combined gross would amount to more than 80 per cent of anticipated annual sales.

Editorial:

We Invite other Regions to Watch

Politics in Sorsogon is very hot between the two contending major parties. It is fraught with dangers. Both political parties are headed by fearless, daring and high-calibered country-loving patriots.

We are inviting the political leaders of other regions to watch closely and attentively how democracy works in the Bicol Region. Now, as in the past, during the critical political battles of the giants, Fuentebella, Alegre, Vera Locsin, de Vera, Ocampo and their generals, the thought of killing any among them was entirely decreed as not a part of the game.

Ex-Governor Frivaldo, the bitterest critic of the present administration is a Liberal, and as such, only counts with a small number of desperate followers. Politics reduced him to pauper, yet, he is still held in high appreciation by most partyless Bicolanos.

The Bicolanos are about 100% appreciative that there is yet one in our region whose love of country and his people was never the least affected by his successive defeats in the polls. But that is not only the reason that makes Frivaldo a distinctive and exemplary citizen. It is his criticisms which are truly strongly founded and by the civility of the language his charges against the administration are couched in. It is free from contempt and abominations compared to those of Aquino's and others of his kind. The general consensus is that Frivaldo's are based on facts and Aquino's are full of lies.—AGD



The Star Witness

By: ELIX ABEJERO

Aerobics, a Run for Dear Life; Paternal Leave! Why Not?

Some 2 months ago I made mention here something about aerobics as a means to maintain physical fitness, that is, by walking, running, swimming, cycling, or handball. Since then, I kept on receiving numerous queries on the subject mostly coming from people who are overweight, and who eat, smoke, and drink (liquor) a little more than the average individual. Some of them claim that they don't have nothing much of a physical activity that could be called an exercise, except their movement from their bed to the dining table, and from there

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