

asked. "I'm on my way to Mindanao," he answered, "I think it's my duty to do something for my country."

May their blessed tribe increase!

A TIP FOR OUR FARMERS

WHO and ECA officials it seems are indulging in too much verbosity. Their official reports carry an impressive array of figures presumably calculated to convert any desert into a "land flowing with milk and honey." Perhaps it has worked out in certain isolated instances.

But with all respect for the good that the WHO and ECA are doing the solution that could bring underdeveloped areas to the peak of production is startlingly simple. In an article we have read, *World Hunger and One Nun* (see page 34 of this issue) a strip of barren land in China was brought up to its full production capacity by a group of enterprising convent nuns. Their only capital — common sense and industry.

The story of these nuns should make our would-be economists and farmers who harp too much on their lack of capital blush with shame. In this simple story is the proof that a land no matter how poor its soil quality can be made amazingly productive with only those two requisites we have mentioned as capital—common sense and industry.

And our soil in the Philippines is rich!

100 MEN AND A MANGO

In the "Sunday Times" for April 13, we read a story about the low per capita income in the Philippines. Here, the statistics tell us, the average annual wage is only P232.74, one of the lowest in the world. Every other country of which there is available records, with one single exception, have higher wages. Some countries are much higher, with the United States leading with a per capita income of P3,151.10.

Surely this is lamentable. We agree that higher wages are needed and are most desirable.

However, such situations are not remedied by just talking about them or by waving a magic wand. The "Sunday Times" article fails to mention another very important point, namely, that the per capita wealth in the Philippines is also very low. Compared to the United States, for example, the wealth of the average Filipino is only one-fifteenth of the average American.

In other words, our per capita income has almost exactly the same proportion to our per capita wealth as the per capita income of the United States has to its per capita wealth.

What then is the solution? It is not merely to talk nor to criticize nor to wave magic wands nor to damn the capitalists. The fact remains that we have very little wealth in the Philippines. We must increase our wealth. And we can do that only by increasing the productivity of our country which is potentially rich but sadly underdeveloped and poorly organized.

In other words, let us talk less and work more. Then we can solve our big problems.

If you have only five mangos, you can't give one mango each to a hundred men. The solution, obviously, is to produce 100 mangos.

But, someone may ask, "How can we increase productivity?"

Here are some specific suggestions:

1) Encourage our farmers to have auxiliary crops and home industries. Many of our farmers work only three or four months a year in planting and harvesting their single crop, and have eight months idle on their hands. Nearly all of them have at least small pieces of land in which they could grow auxiliary crops, raise chickens and pigs, etc. Help them to do so.

2) Increase the number of agricultural and vocational schools. By far, the greater part of our potential wealth today and for decades to come lies in our agriculture. If while they are young, boys and girls acquire interest and the know-how, then fewer of them will rush after white-collar jobs.

3) Encourage and use all means, short of dictatorship, to lessen the percentage of young people who are crowding our cities to obtain courses that for them will be useless, that will provide them with a diploma which, as we have said before, is nothing better than a certificate of unemployment.

4) Urge our legislators to improve credit facilities and producers' and marketing cooperatives to help our farmers to produce.

With these and other means our national productivity can increase tremendously. Thus, we will have greater distribution of wealth; and thus, our average individual annual income will also increase.

MORE ON DIPLOMA MILLS

At the commencement exercises of the FEATI Tech. high school department recently, Speaker Pro-tempore Domingo Veloso cited the following statistics: For the last seven years we have graduated 54,353 elementary school teachers compared to 6 associates in industrial technology; 6,532 associates in arts to 7 agricultural teachers; 4,000 pre-medic and pre-law graduates to 3 in social administration; 8,070 graduates in commerce, 2,870