

TUITION FEES OF FILIPINO COLLEGES ARE NECESSARY

The demand of restless demonstrating students for lower tuition fees in large-scale enrollment private schools, must ultimately conflict with their demands for better quality education. The popular misconception is that some private schools grant their stockholders huge profits, inferring that private schools that are non-profit in character are free from avarice. The actual situation is that profits are absorbed largely by greedy school administrators who enjoy privileges and fat positions but who cannot, by any stretch of the imagination, claim to be academic assets to an educational institution. In other words, it is not just a matter of stockholder dividends that should be questioned, it is the privileges, financial as well as high-salaried official positions, that have to be looked into. We are of the opinion that

a simple study on the structure of private schools will prove very clearly that family relationship dominates the dynamics of our "educational" system.

Another aspect of the high-fees controversy involves itemization. In large-enrollment schools the items would involve specific amounts billed, and the actual right of a student to such items that he has paid for. Medical clinic fees would entitle a student to some benefits but in the context of a large enrollment school, a simple check on the existing facilities would prove it is not possible to accommodate all the students were they to demand these services. For example a free check-up in a small clinic when students are in the tens of thousands, or the exact circulation of a school paper as against the enrollment, presuming that

each student who pays for this is entitled to a copy. In brief, it is a matter of the students wanting to know their exact rights as paid for so that these itemized facilities cannot be presented as extra privileges but as paid for items students are entitled to.

The two aspects to consider on the tuition grievance therefore, are the quality and competence of high-salaried school officials, their privileges and allowances, and the proper obligation of

the school to provide the students adequate facilities on items charged in their tuition. This is not as difficult as it would seem, if a genuine dialogue were started among the students, faculty, and school administration. A free press in the school, both for faculty and student, would help air the difficulties and expose the avaricious and incompetent who are at present permanent fixtures of our private educational system. — *Alfredo R. Roces in Manila Times, Feb. 1, 1969.*

MACHINE ADVANTAGES

There is great beauty in the machine: the machine has no temper; it does what it is told with no argument; it has endless energy and never gets tired; it will endlessly repeat dull routine tasks without becoming bored and dissatisfied; it has no prejudice; it will treat equally the slum child in the central city and the affluent child. Most important, it can be junked, thrown away when it's worn out or when it becomes obsolete. — *Robert Bush, Theory into Practice, December, 1967.*