

"US"

BY: *Juan Raya*

When some national high-school teachers sent a petition to the Municipal Board of Manila to the effect that salary differentials be granted also to high-school teachers just as it had

been granted to principals, assistant principals, and elementary-school teachers, some municipal teachers, who do not benefit materially from the petition, refused to sign. As long as this

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regrettable selfishness lingers to taint us, we shall be handicapped in our efforts to be heard by the entire nation.

\* \* \*

The Honorable, Secretary of Instruction Manuel V. Gallego, in a speech delivered before principals and supervisors of the City of Manila, expressed the fear that the PPSTA might turn radical and advocate strikes. A principal stood up to explain that the PPSTA

is a militant organization, but the use of strikes and strike techniques has been officially repudiated in a resolution approved on January 3, 1947, at the General Assembly of the Association. The Secretary was satisfied.

\* \* \*

On March 12, a Town Hall meeting was held on the subject: "What Is the Teacher's Role in National Rehabilitation?" Dr. Antonio Isidro of the U.P. College of Education, spoke eloquently on our "colonial mentality" and suggested that one of the important causes of this perpetuation of our propensity toward servitude is our preference of English and other foreign languages to our own national language. Mr. Juan C. Laya, of the Arellano High School, spoke on rehabilitation of the teacher before she should be assigned this all-important task of national rehabilitation. Rev. Enrique Sobrepeña, another speaker, stressed the full utilization of our resources, natural as well as personal, as a significant measure of national rehabilitation. Miss Maria Teresa Feria, teacher, of the Holy Ghost College, talked on women's education.

The Panel of Interrogators were to have been Dr. Pedro T. Orata, Pres. Florentino Cayco, Mrs. Flora A. Ylagan, and Director Eulogio B. Rodriguez, and Mr. Alvaro L. Martinez. As it turned out, some members of the panel

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did not show up. Some teachers in the audience suggested that the "big shots" might not have thought it quite up to their dignity to interrogate mere school teachers and principals and ministers on so big a subject.

\* \* \*

Talking about "mere teachers." Our Association relies on "mere teachers" for its mainstay, not the top brass of the Bureau. The *Educator* encourages "mere teachers" to express themselves in letters, in articles, in news reports about what they and their associations are doing. The *Educator* loves the "mere teacher" and intends to make itself ultimately the mouthpiece of "mere teachers." If there is now much material published by school executives and "top brass," it is because teachers have not yet awakened to the possibilities of this "voice of 56,000 teachers."

\* \* \*

Incidentally, there are now 56,851 public school teachers, according to Dr. Tito Clemente of the Division of Measurement and Statistics. That is fully 49% of all government employees. Now, if you do not fully appreciate what that means...

\* \* \*

(Continued on page 59)

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