

Vice-President Elpidio Quirino, who, following his illness last month, was on a cruise in southern waters when

**President** Roxas died, reached Manila Saturday morning and took his oath as President Elpidio Quirino in the Council of State room in Malacañan at 9:26.

He stated at a press conference that his main objectives would be the establishment of peace and order and the "restoration of the people's faith in the Government". Later, Malacañan press releases modified the first to establishment of peace and order "in the troubled areas" and the second to the "strengthening" rather than "restoration" of the people's faith in the Government, and the President was quoted as saying that he wished to cast no reflections on the administration of his predecessor.

President Quirino also announced that he contemplated no fundamental changes in the over-all policies of the Government as laid down by the late President Roxas which he said he helped to formulate and which he supported. He accepted none of the courtesy resignations submitted by the members of the Cabinet and said he would make no changes in the Cabinet unless developments made this necessary, but he also spoke of drafting able men into the government service regardless of party.

During his second week in office, the President's previously unannounced, one-day inspection trip to some of the "disturbed areas", which took him, virtually unescorted, through regions which have long been closed to high officials for reasons of personal safety, gave dramatic emphasis to his resolve to reestablish peace and order and reestablish the people's faith in the Government. Actually, the two objectives are one.

Of special interest in industry and trade circles was an early statement to a group of foreign press correspondents that he hopes to "foster popular contentment obliquely" by taking measures to (1) stimulate production, (2) reduce prices, and (3) increase employment. There was also his address before a local technical school in which he emphasized the need of the country for technical men. Finally, up to this writing, there was his Labor Day address. In this address he stated that the "coordination and synchronization" of the activities of labor and capital was the concern of every state and that it was his "ambition to bring labor and capital together on a more equitable and workable basis of association". He said that material betterment was more swiftly to be reached through co-operation than through disruption. He said that it would not be the aim of the Government to impose its will or to dictate the manner in which labor should organize or how it should solve its problems. It is the duty of the Government to bring reason to bear in any conflict between labor and capital and to pave the way for understanding. "That duty is inherent in its obligation to husband its man-power and capital resources."

These are all wise words and reflect a comprehensive understanding of the relations between government and other social institutions.

In the words of Charles E. Merriam, who is also quoted in another editorial in this issue of the *Journal*, —

"It becomes the duty of the state to aid in the fullest possible development of the material and other resources of the community it represents, guarding against waste and loss, on the one hand, and encouraging enterprise and invention on the other. Thus the political society encourages in one way and another agriculture, industry, and trade, productive enterprise in every field, whatever tends to promote the national income and national gain. The government protects property and contracts, on the one hand, and the working conditions of workers, on the other, and both for the same common purpose of promoting the general welfare."

President Quirino is today 57 years of age (born in Vigan, Ilocos Sur, November 16, 1890). He learned his first English from American soldiers, was a barrio school teacher, saved his money and went to a Manila high school,

was a clerk in the office of the principal, studied law at the University of the Philippines, graduating in 1915, became a law clerk with the Philippine Commission and then the Philippine Senate, where he became private secretary to the late President Quezon. He won a seat in the House of Representatives, later in the Senate, and was reelected. He became majority floor leader, also chairman of a joint committee on taxation. He became Secretary of Finance, a member of the Constitutional Convention, and continued as Secretary of Finance during the early years of the Commonwealth. From 1936 to 1938 he was Secretary of the Interior. In 1941 he was elected a senator-at-large. He took no part in the occupation government under the Japanese, and, instead, was imprisoned for a time in Fort Santiago. In the Battle of Manila, in February, 1945, he lost his wife and three of his five children. In June, 1945, he was Senate President pro tempore, and in 1946 he was elected Vice-President of the Republic, serving for a time as Secretary of Finance and later Secretary of Foreign Affairs. In 1947 he made a goodwill world-tour in the course of which he met the heads of state and other national leaders of the United States of America, England, France, Sweden, Italy, India, and Siam.

President Quirino is thus one of the Philippines' best trained and most experienced men in political affairs. Genial and easy-going, he has a reputation for probity.

It is said that he is not a "strong" man in the executive sense, self-willed and a disciplinarian. It is questioned by some observers that he will be able to weld together a strong enough political following to put through his policies under the factional handicaps which so greatly hampered his predecessor in carrying out his aims.

But if President Quirino will take full advantage of the powers and prestige of his office, and gets the people and the press behind him, — as he already shows evidence of doing, it is likely that he could make short work of any self-seeking oppositional blocs which might venture to challenge him in his efforts to reestablish order and the people's faith in the Government.

A certain re-orientation is vitally necessary. While the announced ends of the over-all policies of his predecessor may be accepted as worthy, the means being taken are open in many cases to serious objection from both the political and the economic points of view, and it is to be hoped that ideas of loyalty to a leader who is gone, will not interfere with this rectification.

The whole function of government is to make it possible for human beings to live and work together, and the ends of government are external security, internal order, justice, general welfare, and freedom, — all to be summed up under the term, the "commonweal", or the common good. The foregoing is a summary statement of the basic views of the eminent political scientist, Charles E. Merriam.

Freedom, according to him, is an essential end or purpose of the state, and that freedom is a complex, comprising political liberty, economic liberty, religious liberty, social liberty, artistic liberty, for persons and for groups.

The program of government necessarily includes planning, but this should not mean that the development of free industrial society must be interfered with. "The very purpose of planning", states Merriam, —

"...is to release human abilities, to broaden the field of opportunity, and to enlarge human liberty. We plan primarily for freedom... The right kind of planning — democratic planning — is a guarantee of liberty and the only real assurance in our times that men can be free to make a wide range of choice."

These are the general principles which our law-makers and government executives need very much to have in