

- The Filipinos have seen in the international field of competitive performance that their best is not yet good enough.

OLYMPIC SHOWING

We have to view our performance in the Olympics in scale; for the Philippine participants on the whole did magnificently when viewed from existing national records and the past performance of the individuals themselves. It is when one pits the performance in the Olympic scale that the Philippine participation becomes puny and appears a debacle. In actuality, one cannot expect from our athletes more than their best. We can only demand that the performance of our athletes should not fall short of the national records. In other words, we performed at the Olympics with what we can regard as our best; but in terms of scale with other nations it unfortunately falls far short of good. This concept of scale does not apply to sports alone. For example, we can view our relationship with the United States where every pronouncement from the US is

of significance to us, whereas the United States hardly considers the Philippines. In Philippine elections, US sympathy or antagonism is somewhat relevant, whereas for the US the Philippines is a non-sequitur to their elections. The Democratic party foreign policy platform, for example, mentions various countries in this region, but not the Philippines.

The question of scale, that is the importance internally of something in terms within nation, and then its importance to another nation more powerful and more developed, is an aspect we should seriously consider in our role among nations. A Japanese economist brought out this question with regard to the economy. In terms of Japan, he noted that trade with the Philippines represented a small percentage; whereas for the Philippines, trade with Japan represented close to 30 per cent. He opined that it

was extremely dangerous for a nation to have a trade relationship beyond 50 per cent. Similarly, one could look at the question of the "brain drain," where it is reported that one fourth of foreign doctors in the US are Filipinos. While this figure is staggering by itself, placed in scale with our own number of doctors, one wonders what larger percentage it represents to the Philippines particularly in terms of new graduates!

"Things must therefore be considered in scale, one national and the other applied outside. In the Olympics we

did badly, but looking at our own national records, we have progressed. The fact is that we have not progressed as much as other nations have; and this is because, again in terms of scale, we are not doing enough nor spending enough for a national athletics program. Seen from this point, the Philippine Olympic participation was all one could expect. With regard to economics, or to foreign policy, or even the "brain drain," this concept of scale helps put ideas in proper perspective. — *By Alfredo R. Roces, The Manila Times, October 25, 1968.*

TANTALIZING

Tantalus, a son of Jupiter, was given the right of feasting with the gods and even sharing their secrets. He became unduly proud and at one time betrayed one of their secrets. As a punishment, Tantalus was placed in Tartarus and tormented with hunger and thirst. Just before his face hung a bunch of tempting fruit which ever retreated as Tantalus tried to grasp it. He stood in water to his chin, but each time he leaned to drink, this flowed away. So from the name of this tormented man comes our word *tantalize*.