

# Congressmen Proponents Of Teachers' Rights

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Among the men who are in closetouch with the problems of education in our country are the Congressmen of the House Committee on Education whose present membership is as follows:

Hon. Juan V. Borra, Chairman

Hon. Pedro B. Albano  
Hon. Eduardo A. Barreto  
Hon. Leon Cabarruguis  
Hon. Marcos M. Calo  
Hon. Manuel T. Cases  
Hon. Luis T. Clarin  
Hon. Floro Crisologo  
Hon. Gabriel Dunuan  
Hon. Esmeralda Eco  
Hon. Eulogio Lawenko  
Hon. Enrique Medina  
Hon. Manalao Mendalano  
Hon. Ricardo Navarro  
Hon. Emigdio V. Nietes

Hon. Jose Topacio Nueno  
Hon. Juan R. Perez  
Hon. Toribio P. Perez  
Hon. Gumbay Piang  
Hon. Jose M. Reyes  
Hon. Jose V. Rodriguez  
Hon. Juan de G. Rodriguez  
Hon. Damaso T. Samonte  
Hon. Felixberto M. Serrano  
Hon. Conrado Singson  
Hon. Lorenzo Teves  
Hon. Tito V. Tizon  
Hon. Laudio A. Tojong  
Hon. Cornelio T. Villareal

In the past sessions of Congress many of these gentlemen, such as Congressmen Borra, Piang, Calo, Tizon, Medina, Tojong, Clarin, Samonte, Cabarruguis, Cases and others fought hard for the rights and privileges of the teachers and teacher-nurses. Their immediate objective is to free the members of the teaching force from economic difficulties so that they can devote wholeheartedly their full time, thought and energy to their work. This, they believe, will raise materially and fundamentally the standard of our educational system. To them, education of the youth is the best investment of the people's money. It will always pay dividends especially in our Republic, where ignorance of and indifference to public questions are threatening to destroy Democracy.

Particularly, these gentlemen desire to see for our teachers a living salary of P80.00 basic for elementary school teachers in the provinces and P100.00 in the City for teachers of the same category. One Congressman or another is also seriously considering the following proposals for the amelioration of the teachers' welfare: Automatic salary increases of P5.00 per month for every five years of continuous service in addition to possible increases in recognition of individual merits; free hospitalization and free medical care in case of sickness during the term of service with pay; maternity leave with pay for regular as well as temporary teachers; sabbatical leave of six months with pay for every ten years of continuous service in addition to vacation and sick leave; payment of a year's salary to the family

of any teacher who may die during the term of service; life pension after service of thirty years in addition to whatever benefits the teacher gets from his government insurance.

These rights and privileges, they believe, will not only give justice, so long denied, to teachers and teacher-nurses but it will surely attract men and women of high moral, cultural, and intellectual qualities to join the army of missionaries for peace and progress whose sacred task is to lay and fortify the basic foundations of light and truth, of freedom and justice.

On the question of backpay, Dr. Manuel T. Cases, Congressman from the district of La Union, asserted that the 57,000 teachers before the war as well as thousands of other government employees in the national, municipal and provincial rosters are entitled to their three years' salary. Dr. Cases advocates the payment of the back pay to all government employees in the form of negotiable bonds redeemable in ten years. Dr. Cases has a bill filed in the House of Representatives entitled AN ACT TO PAY PRE-WAR EMPLOYEES SERVING THE COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENT UP TO

DECEMBER 7, 1941, THE AMOUNT EQUIVALENT TO THEIR RESPECTIVE SALARIES FROM JANUARY 1, 1942 TO JANUARY 30, 1945.

Let us hope that the next Congress will be more inclined toward the cause of the teachers and teacher-nurses and other poorly paid government employees. Write to your respective Congressmen to support this Back Pay Bill so that, in the words of Dr. Cases, "not only the big shots but also the small fry will be the recipients of the charity of Juan de la Cruz. Juan de la Cruz has no business giving lollipops to the big boys and say later that there is none left for the small potatoes. Let Juan be buried in debt, if there is no other way out, in order to serve all, instead of saving in order to serve only the few. This is only one among the many teachings and implications of DEMOCRACY, the way of life we have chosen to follow, a concept which means freedom of religion and of expression and security from want and fear. May the Spirit of Democracy continue to keep burning its sacred flame in the hearts of our people so that peace, order, justice and, progress will bless our lives."

## UNESCO IN BRIEF . . .

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in too many fields, thereby duplicating the efforts of already well established organizations. Be that as it may, it is the purpose of Unesco "to promote the evolutionary adventure of humanity and to help to keep to the right direction for achieving true progress. In that adventure and that progress,

education and learning, the sciences and the arts, are one and the same, same time, means and ends, methods for achieving growth and also the flower and fruit of that growth. Unesco is the first large-scale organization to be set up to promote this adventure of humanity as a whole, concentrating on the mental and spiritual aspects, but not neglecting their practical applications." (Unesco Com. Report, p. 11.)