

Manila, December 29, 1940

His Excellency,
MANUEL L. QUEZON,
President of the Philippines,
Malacañan Palace, Manila.

YOUR EXCELLENCY:

The Committee which you have informally commissioned to draw up a Code of Ethics submitted last year a set of basic precepts which were incorporated in Executive Order No. 217 issued on August 19, 1939*. The Committee feels that no substantial departure should be made from the basic principles enunciated. While the arrangement may perhaps be rendered more logical and the principles reclassified, expanded and elaborated, the Committee believes that, considering the primary purpose for which they are intended, it is neither necessary nor advisable to change or disturb the form adopted in the aforesaid Executive Order. Accordingly, the Committee limited its labors to the illustration of the precepts by means of historical instances culled from Philippine sources, and the exposition of the object lessons to be derived from those examples. It is in this form that the Code is now presented. Reference to living men and women is avoided.

In the firm belief that the inculcation of principles enunciated in the Code of Ethics is of primary importance to the youth of the land, we recommend not only its teaching in our schools, but also the special preparation of teachers in this particular field. It is clear that as important as the teaching of the Code is the preparation of the teachers for that purpose. The method of teaching should also be made objectively practical.

The life of a nation depends upon the moral and civic virtues of its citizens. Now, more than ever, when nations, great and small, are on the verge of collapse in the grip of relentless forces at work, do we realize this fundamental truth. It is imperative, therefore, that we renovate our educational policy in the direction indicated, giving emphasis to ethical and civic instruction, so that our citizenry may not be found wanting in the hour of need.

We are grieved to inform Your Excellency that death prevented the Honorable Teodoro M. Kalaw from taking part in the later and final deliberations of the Committee and signing this communication.

Very respectfully,

RAMON AVANCEÑA, *Chairman*
MANUEL ROXAS, *Member*
JORGE BOCOBO, *Member*
NORBERTO ROMUALDEZ, *Member*
JOSE P. LAUREL, *Member*

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