

The Republic

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THE REPUBLIC AND THE "MAKAPILI"

The public should welcome the appearance of the "Makapili" with its avowed objectives such as those stated in its articles of organization, for an ever increasing number of such bodies are dedicated to the service of our people. We believe that this was the feeling of President Laurel when he attended the "Makapili" inaugural program the other day.

The President did well, however, to make clear the limitations and boundaries within which all patriotic and civic organizations, no matter what they are, will be free to work, provided they must properly operate. In the words of the Chief Executive, they must submit to the authority of the Republic. This necessary warning is made indispensable by the peculiar nature of the "Makapili" and the kind of activities and the methods of action that it contemplates, as variously explained by the three leaders of that body.

But the admonition against any tendency or effort to go over or to obstruct the Republic need not apply specially to the "Makapili". It applies to all bodies and groups of its kind and it will serve the future just as well.

Like a Filipino organization, organized for highly patriotic purposes, according to its spokesmen, the "Makapili" certainly has a place in our civic life. It is entitled to support within the defined framework of its clearly stated objectives and to the extent of our loyalty to our Republic.

ONE POINT FOR RICOA SUCCESS

The public undoubtedly felt relieved with the reassuring statement of the RICOA Manager, Mr. A. V. Tanco, published in our last issue, regarding the handling of the rice situation. Many whose souls have been tortured by the spectre of hunger and want, must be glad to breathe the assurance of the point of view of Mr. Tanco, Sabido and Manager Tanco, as well as Military Governor Quizon about measures now being carried out to assure Manila of its supply of rice.

"The Republic" is convinced that the price of rice fixed had never arrived at an earnest study of all the elements of cost and reasonableness. It is a fact that the public has been paying a price of P100 per sack of palay, even with some prime commodities added to that price as a special inducement, is not attractive enough to bring palay to the RICOA. We need not be suspected of offering mere platitudes absent or present. The point of view for which we stand is that the tenant or small farmer who lives right on the land has the greater hold on rice harvests and farm products these days. It is precisely in these days that the farmer and the laborer and the worker who venture our humble opinion on the matter of palay prices.

The statisticians of the RICOA and the government will probably differ as to what the minimum margin for the farmer is, but a reasonable margin for earning or profit are not sufficiently covered by the fixed price of P100 per sack, so we leave that point alone. But may we ask, what is it and how much, that is the point of view, that is, regarding the big producer, let us take only one case of the small farmer who harvests, say 50 sacks. On the basis of P100 per sack, how far would the return on his share of such harvest take him and his family to the market? It is not necessary to say. It would not even buy him a carabao or a horse, if he needed and wanted to buy one nor to feed the poor beast. It will barely suffice to defray expenses in case he has to evacuate his family as is necessary, particularly in Central Luzon, those with some rice are harassed by bandits and malcontents.

But even assuming that the fixed price does afford adequate compensation and that the producer received for his crop were enough for his needs, would he consider it an ample reward for the risks that he has to face now and enough recompense for his exposure to danger from all sides? It would be hard to believe that not only bandits and marauders go out to his field and harvest the crop and kill, if they cannot, but also evinces, weary and hungry on their long trip far from home, and that they are not only harassed but also that their hunger and perhaps kill too, if not allowed to. We omit the other well-known dangers that the poor farmer has to face, being too well-known. Is P100 per sack worth all that risk and trouble? Far from it.

It is confidently assumed that when rice is rationed in Manila there will be no more black market and therefore no further profit. This will offend the producer of rice, the speculator, and a daring businessman, as we all know. He thrives in the shortage of commodities in any given locality and time. He will, therefore, go to the hazard of his life to buy rice, and he will, therefore, again get up as during the period from planting season to the next harvest, buy now at tempting prices and hoard for the future. We should not be so hinged as to be so much concerned about the future, but in this even in the provinces where conditions are so unsettled as to permit any number of possibilities and where government control, notwithstanding Army assistance, is unquestionably not very effective. It seems it would only give rise to the RICOA to make more generous allowances for both seen and unforeseen difficulties. It should win over the producer completely to its side, not only with cold figures, but also by giving something off to his producer. That offer should appear to be generous and never too coldly businesslike or shrewd. If the producer, however willing to help the government, should by any accident be unable to meet his production, the RICOA offers—which can easily mean to him that the government seems inclined to treat him less generously—necessity and self-interest will persuade him to do so.

It is not necessary to say that the government is inclined to defend the RICOA offers—which can easily mean to him that the government seems inclined to treat him less generously—necessity and self-interest will persuade him to do so. On the other hand, if he is convinced that the government appears generously inclined to view his side along with the public and the farmer, he will be fair and the reasonable thing for him under prevailing circumstances, he would become the RICOA's best support and ally, and his price may readily flow Manila's way. The Republic is not a body that is to be feared, but it is a body that the RICOA's success. We cannot afford to risk another failure. That may be fatal. And we believe, in order to succeed, the RICOA should not overlooking any possible or probable step to reach our hungry, starving population in a swift and steady stream.

Marine Examination Results Are Released

Those who passed the marine officer examinations given last July 31, follow:
Master: Rodrigo L. Fuentes, 80.89 and Jose S. Ferrer, 78.51.
Senior Mate: Lázaro A. Pascual, 80.89; Guillermo Villora, 78.68; and Vicente Oca, 77.38.
Third Mate: Eladio C. Delgado, 80.89; Ramulo Guerrero, 82.67; and Bonifacio C. Pachar, 76.5. Major Patron: Jose N. Arroyo, 80.89, and Pedro W. Gallardo, 76. Minor Patron (Limited Waters): Pablo de la Fuente, 78.91. Minor Patron (Seaside, Bay, River and Inland Waters): Rufino Estrella, 84; Benjamin V.

Sanvictores Offers . . .

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of swine raising; the adoption of better cultural practices which involve the use of improved tools, better preparation of the soil, irrigation and diversification, green manuring and other practices found in the west. In other localities, the formation of local farmers into small units of 10 to 15 families and later into larger units, as in the case of the *barrios* in Taiwan, for better coordinated farm activity.

Chairman Sanvictores also proposed the initiation of efforts to lead to the seven rice-deficient provinces surrounding and near Manila—Bataan, Bulacan, Rizal, Cavite, Batangas, Laguna and Tayabas—so that they will become self-sufficient and will not draw foodstuffs from the provinces on which Manila is dependent.

The greatest problem of the Republic's food supply is the Sanvictores' problem. The nation's vitality, he said, is becoming lower and the people are uneasy and demoralized. In the lack of food, he said, this problem our alternative is intensification of agriculture and horticulture and expansion of the rice policy later, however, Chairman Sanvictores suggests a program to decrease area by eliminating marginal lands in order to save on farm labor and expense and make farming on land profitable for tenant and owner alike. The same policy, he hopes, would ameliorate rural life and stabilize rural conditions.

GEA War Made . . .

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changes follow in the wake of a blitzkrieg war. For wherever the victorious Japanese columns marched—in China, in the Philippines, in Burma, in Java, and elsewhere—there was heard, over and above the din of the fighting and the thunder of the guns, the glad shouting of the Free East. In the wake of the war in order to liberate the long oppressed and exploited peoples of the East.

This was the seed, fertile with miraculous promises, that was later to grow and bear rich fruit for the Free East. It was the seed that, among other things, the "restitution" of foreign-controlled national territories, the abolition of extra-territoriality, the return of Thailand's lost provinces in Indochina, the return of Burma and the Philippines, the recognition of the Provisional Government of Free India, and the return of independence to the Indonesians.

But merely to enumerate one by one the steps by which Japan has endeavored to fulfill its pledge to liberate East Asia is to do scant justice to the true magnitude of the enterprise. It is to do so, that we can perhaps comprehend the correct scale of that magnificent ideal.

On the date of December 8, 1941, marks the birth of Greater East Asia, such as we hope to make it a reality. For on this day, three years ago, the Great Empire of Japan, gathering all its forces together for the one supreme battle of its history, decided to put an end, once and for all, to the pitiable bondage and servitude of the East.

We in the Philippines have participated in the glory of this new heritage. Believing in the noble promise and the noble pledge of Japan, we have proclaimed the independence of the Philippines as an independent and sovereign state with all vigor and enthusiasm. We have entered into relations of mutual cooperation and understanding with our sister nations in East Asia and above all, we have honored our solemn Pact of Alliance with Japan by giving her all possible assistance in the defense of Philippine territory.

And so, on the occasion of Greater East Asia Day, we should remember with gratitude the generous motive that impelled the Great Japanese Empire to undertake the liberation of East Asia. On this day the first mighty blow was struck for the righting of an ancient wrong and the freeing of millions of Asia, who first gave the acts of civilization to the world. That goes far beyond the mere destiny far nobler than that of "healers of wood and drawers of water" that they too are entitled to be free and to live on their own choosing untrammelled by feudal and rapacious imperialisms.

Let us, therefore, remember that, when Greater East Asia Day

Highest Commander . . .

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freed all subjugated people in the Far East from Occidental domination and oppression. "The amazing and successive victories achieved by Japan not only have saved a vast part of Asia and Greater Asia and the redemption and emancipation of her long-subjected people but also awarded her a measure of dignity and power. Such a magnificent display of might inspired and thrilled the peoples of the East with the spirit to a realization that they, too, like their Occidental brothers should be free to shape their own architects of their own future; that they need not be and should never be the "heavers of wood and drawers of water" for the other peoples. The Greater East Asia War is a glorious consummation from the long dream of leaders of Asia to free the entire Orient from foreign domination, a dominating and being the cause of the enslavement of the teeming millions of Oriental people. It is an act of great conviction, and it is, therefore, to be established, to establish a New Order in the interest of world peace and to insure the permanent peace and stability of the East. The formation of a sphere of common prosperity and by free and independent nations, in the interest of a common ideal; the recovery, once for all, of the honor and dignity and power of all Asia; the fitting embodiment of the policy of "Asia for the Asians" and as corollary, the Philippines, the Philippines, the Burma for the Burmese, China for the Chinese, India for the Indians, and Java for the Javanese.

"The formal launching today of the *Kalipungon Malabayan ng mga Anak ng Bayan*, which is the consolidation and strengthening of the defense of the Republic of the Philippines, is a great event, one which we should mark this time when we stand at the crossroads of destiny.

"The spirit of the new organization are well-known Filipinos. They are General Artemio Ricarte, venerable Revolutionary hero, who spent more than two decades of exile rather than bow to a foreign power; Benigno Ramos, who rendered meritorious service to the Philippine Japanese Army; and Pio Duran, member of our legislative body who has distinguished service to our country.

"We need to strengthen and consolidate our forces, pool our resources and marshal our means of defense. Too long have we indulged in a policy of appeasement, heartening and suicidal nationalism. Particularly at this time of national crisis, we have to stand up to the weighty and difficult problem of survival, the country demands that we shall stand united. It is our duty to do so, whatever happens, present a solid, granite-like front for our own safety and the honor and respect of the people. We have a grave responsibility to the nation and to posterity. We have entrusted our destinies to the Republic of the Philippines. It is our sacred and inescapable duty to preserve it, to let it grow sturdily and strong, buoyant and self-confident.

"People and with them history and posterity will judge us not so much by what we say as by what we do. It is not enough for us to say that we love our country, that we are ready to fight and to die, that we are ready and willing to make all the sacrifices for its preservation, for its maintenance and for its honor and independence. Not by words but by deeds must we show our determination, our courage and our loyalty. I drop of our blood the honor and integrity of our God-given home and our country as our own and will be free. Whatever be the name of the association or organization to which we belong, let us live both as individuals and as a nation the way our forefathers lived. To his country Rizal devoted and consecrated his life and his blood. As his countrymen and followers we can do no less.

"We in Asia, therefore, heartily welcome the organization of the Makapili and help its promoters to the fullest extent, so that in common and harmony with all other organizations it may completely fulfill its mission: the consolidation of the Philippine Republic and the powers and prerogatives needed to effectively serve the interests and ideals of our people, as well as the larger interests and ideals of the Greater East Asia Co-Operation Organization.

"In closing, I would like to say that the establishment of the Republic of the Philippines is the benevolence and help of the great Japanese Empire. There is no one Republic of the Philippines to whom allegiance is due and which we must defend with our sinews and blood. This Republic is the Republic of which I happen to be President.

"As long as I hold and exercise the office of President, I shall permit any organization, political in character, by individual Filipinos or groups of Filipinos, to exist unless that organization is subject to the authority and control of that Republic.

"In the interest of self-preservation and even of the conservation of the joint understanding of Japanese and Filipino in establishing that Republic, we cannot afford to permit the existence of organizations which should be beyond the control of, or independent from, the overwhelming authority of the Independent Philippine Republic. Otherwise, the result would be disintegration and eventual destruction of the Republic of the Philippines. General Yamamita's speech in full is also reproduced hereunder: "From the expression of our congratulations that the Patriotic League of Filipinos holds its inaugural meeting on the significant anniversary of the outbreak of the Greater East Asia War.

"In the spirit of 'Itako Iku'—the spirit of the Japanese people, consistently and wholeheartedly sympathized with the cause of the Philippines, the Patriotic League of East Asia War, the American invasion was driven out of the Philippines and before long Japan restored the independence of the islands. With this the Philippines attained her freedom, a long-standing aspiration of the Filipino people."

"It has been most regrettable that a very small number of Filipino hoodlums, who are the propaganda of America, have been hoping for the return of American rule. This is a very dangerous and suicidal policy. At such a juncture, a group of far-sighted and patriotic Filipinos have organized the Patriotic League of East Asia War, General Artemio Ricarte, Benigno Ramos, and Pio Duran, with the full support of the Philippine Republic of the Philippines, their objectives being the arousing of true patriotism in assuring the independence of the Philippines of the Republic. As a great national movement, I am confident that the members will contribute toward the consolidation of the foundation of the Free Philippines."

"It is therefore natural and proper that I, charged with the mission of crushing the Anglo-American forces and assisting the development of the Republic of the Philippines, am ready to offer maximum help to the Patriotic League movement because the tenets of the league is in harmony with the ideals of the Japanese Empire. Today, the American forces have invaded Leyte as the second Magellan. Together with the United States and of Japan, I will crush the enemy and endeavor to perfect the 'Asia of the Asians.' We are all united in our contribution toward the attainment of eternal peace and welfare of Greater East Asia. I offer my sincere congratulations and prayers for a most glorious future, on this significant inaugural meeting of the Patriotic League of Filipinos."

"The ceremony was also attended by leading officials of the Republic as well as by high officials of the Philippine Army, Navy and Navy. The aims of the league as set forth in the program of the Republic, to maintain peace and order, to promote self-sufficiency in food and clothing, to cooperate and collaborate unreservedly with the Imperial Japanese Army and Navy, to propagate the principles of the Japanese Empire, and to make the people aware of and to make the people aware of their association with those nations.