

PROBLEMS IN THE NEWS

By SILVINA C. LAYA



1. The main issues confronting the UN General Assembly are:

a. Whether to partition Palestine into Arab and Jewish states and terminate British control

b. The halting of alleged Balkan threat against Greece.

c. Soviet-American deadlock over Korea

d. The fight to eliminate or weaken the veto privilege.

e. World atomic energy control

f. UN relations with the Franco dictatorship

g. Softening of Italian peace terms

h. Refusal of South Africa to settle the trouble between South Africa and India on racial discrimination.

(1) *In what way are these potential sources of trouble for the world?*

(2) *How may these problems affect the life of the UN?*

2. The U.S. Ambassador to Teheran pledged the support of the U.S. to Persia in defending her oil resources against Russia. Coincidentally, the Persian Parliament (Mailis) refused to ratify the agreement between Persia and Russia for the establishment of a joint Soviet-Persian oil company.

a. *Why has America "put her finger" in the Persian "pie"?*

b. *Would this mean another clash between communism and democracy? Explain.*

3. Melvin M. Johnson Jr., president of Johnson Automatics, Inc., stated that there are negotiations for the purchase of war weapons, that Russia's aggression

can be prevented only through military preparedness.

a. *Should the Munitions Control Board permit these negotiations to go through?*

b. *Would arming the nations prevent wars? Reason out.*

c. *Doesn't this tend defeat this idea of disarmament from the very beginning?*

4. Radio Moscow Commentator Y. Makarov charged that American intervention in Greece has not brought internal pacification but has instead fanned civil war; that America is "faced with the dispatch of troops to Greece in order to save its monarchist friends and eliminate Greek independence by force of arms.

a. *In what ways has the United States aided the Greeks?*

b. *Are women all over the world or her foreign aid on Greece?*

c. *Would it be right to say that the struggle between Communism and democracy?*

d. *Can you draw any parallelism between the present situation in Greece and that in Spain during the civil war?*

5. The International Council of Women, whose delegates come from 26 nations, adopted a declaration of principles in which it pledges support of the UN and condemns war.

a. *How may women help discourage war?*

b. *Why has America centered much of her aid on Greece?*

c. *In the Philippines are the women now in a position to influence national issues and elections? Now proof.*

6. France offered Indochina her independence if she would remain within the French union and give military concessions. Another condition was to give France control of her foreign policy.

a. *Why did the Vietnam Government refuse to consider the last condition before the outbreak of hostilities?*

b. *Is the independence being offered real independence?*

c. *Compared to the offers of France, does Philippine independence look the real thing?*

7. The Arabs hail the British decision to surrender her mandate over Palestine and to withdraw her military administrative personnel as soon as possible. The Arabs, however, will resist any attempt at control by the United Nations. They also would have Palestine returned to Arabs only.

a. *Why do you think has Great Britain voluntarily offered to withdraw from Palestine?*

b. *Would the arrangement desired by Arabs insure peace? Why?*

8. Prominent Dutch industrialists and culturists and Indonesian leaders in Holland made the following recommendations for the solution of the Indonesian problem:

"1. The formation of a joint Dutch-Indonesian policy force to replace the Dutch army in Indonesia

"2. Free elections throughout Indonesia

"3. Each separate state to decide on the status of its own government

"4. A round-table conference to decide on the formation of federated Indonesian states."

a. *Would these recommendations meet the approval of the Indonesians? The Dutch? Why?*

b. *Why do the Dutch consider foreign intervention as shameful?*

9. The proposed Far Eastern Trade Union conference next year will have

for its objective the strengthening of the trade-union movement in the Philippines, India, Malaya, Indonesia and other Asiatic countries.

This proposed conference was supported by the recent Congress of Australian Trade Unions. This was because the rest of the world might be affected by problems of over-production unless the standard of living of Asian and Pacific peoples be raised.

a. *How may the standard of living be improved with the establishment of trade unions among Asiatic countries?*

b. *Why is Asiatic and Pacific labor a factor to be reckoned with?*

10. Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek before the Kuomintang executive committee said "blind dependency" on loans have delayed his plan for currency reforms.

a. *Have our leaders learned this lesson as clear as Chiang Kai-shek? Prove your answer.*

b. *How may our Government increase its income so as to avoid loans.*

11. General C. P. Romulo, permanent delegate of the Philippines to the UNO proposed that the veto privilege of the Big Five be amended to allow the Security Council to come to a decision by a vote of seven members on non-procedural matters, including at least three of the permanent members. General Romulo proposed not the "inequitable one nation one vote rule" but "a system of weighted representation whereby each member state would be accorded voting strength proportionate to population, cultural progress, military power, and industrial resources."

a. *Isn't it more equitable to base decisions on the "one nation, one vote rule?" Reason out.*

b. *How has the veto privilege of the Big Five delayed the work of the UN Security Council?*

12. Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek in a directive to the Kuomintang warned against anti-democratic activities. Chang-Kai-shek ordered the Kuomintang to "avoid any appearance in power politics during the election for members of the National Assembly on October 21, 22 and 23.

a. *What is the Generalissimo's aim in keeping the Kuomintang from appearing in power politics?*

b. *How may the people help keep elections clean?*

c. *Why should elections be clean?*

d. *What have party in power in the Philippines have to learn yet?*

13. Tulsidas Kilachand, head of the Indian trade delegation in Japan, accused American vested interests of preventing free flow of trade in Japan and of maintaining a high price level for Japanese textiles as they want to sell cotton at a very high price.

a. *What is the aim of the capitalists in restricting the free flow of trade in Japan?*

b. *Why is the U. S. willing to throw Japan open to foreign trade?*

c. *Should Japan be thrown open to foreign trade, would Filipinos buy Japan-made goods?*

14. Japanese looted gold and jewelry amounting to millions of dollars will be used by Allied authorities to help finance a revival of Japanese peacetime economy.

Part of the loot will be set aside for reparation purposes; part to help revive Japanese foreign trade.

a. *Should the Japanese be allowed to stand on their own feet again? Why?*

b. *How may local business be affected should Japanese competitive trade be resumed?*

15. President Roxas and Spanish minister Teodomiro de Aguilar y Salas signed a treaty of amity and general relations between Spain and the Philippines.

a. *What ties bind us to Spain?*

b. *What mutual benefits may be reaped by both countries who signed the treaty?*

c. *In what way may the signing of the treaty be a test case for Spain and her relations with other countries?*

16. Vicente Villamin, Filipino economist in America, believes that the Philippines is allowing herself to be dragged into another war because of the presence of American military forces in her territory.

a. *How may the existence of U. S. military bases in the Philippines involve us in another war?*

b. *How can we avoid this situation?*

c. *What commitments of ours make this situation inevitable?*

17. President Roxas overhauled the national government and government own corporations. Under this reorganization, basic pay by 1950 will be ₱80 of those receiving now less than that amount.

Several units in the government were abolished but 10 new entities were created and 12 others were raised in rank. No government personnel will be dismissed; they will be absorbed in other units.

a. *What are the aims of the government reorganization?*

b. *How was economy attained if no government employee is to be dropped nor salary reduced?*

18. President Roxas has gone South on an inspection trip.

a. *Do you believe the Roxas trip is well timed? Why?*

b. *As head of the state, should the president take active part in political campaigns?*

19. President Roxas promised the women of Zamboanga woman participation in the city council if they vote for a straight Liberal ticket. He promised also the redemption of guerrilla notes.

a. *Are these mere election promises?*

b. If guerrilla notes can really be redeemed after the elections, why has no action been taken to have them redeemed sooner?

20. Living bonuses have been granted to city, provincial, and municipal employees by President Roxas, September 25, 1947, under his emergency powers.

a. In what ways may this benefit government employees?

b. If the Government has the money all the while, why has it just been extended when R. A. No. 29 (grant of living bonus) expired last June 30 yet?

21. Miss Maria Ortaliz of Capiz, public school principal teacher, is being investigated for allegedly saying: "We have nothing to do with the President" and refusing to dismiss classes in order to go to the railroad station when President Roxas was supposed to pass.

a. Granted that the report is true, is the President's presence so important educationally as to warrant dismissal of classes?

b. Granting again that the principal teacher said what she said, is that enough basis for having her investigated?

22. The NCA (National Cooperatives Administration) lost P150,000 worth of

canned milk, cookies, canned foodstuff, etc., and may lose more unless its stock gets sold out. The reason for this condition is that the NCA cannot compete with the already overstocked market.

a. Is this situation another proof of inefficiency of the Government in business? Or is it the inefficiency of the management of this particular unit?

b. Why cannot the Government compete with private dealers? Do these dealers get goods at cheaper prices? If so, why?

23. The Philippines, which does not produce enough rice for local consumption, has given its IFC rice quota of 10,000 tons to the Netherlands and agreed to sell another 10,000 to it.

The Government too allowed the release of only 25 per cent of sugar production for sale in the domestic markets; the rest for foreign markets.

a. If we do not have enough supply of rice and sugar for local consumption, why has the Government decide to export these needed commodities?

b. Is there a reason for sacrificing immediate necessities for a remote benefit?

c. What remote benefit can possibly come as a result of this?

Letters . . . (Con't. from page 39)

Sir:

Having been authorized to negotiate with the national authorities of the Philippine Public School Teachers' Association for the affiliation of our Division's teachers' league, the Bukidnon Teachers' League, I have the honor to request that we be furnished the following:

1. Steps and procedure for the affiliation of our league. Please furnish us necessary papers for our accomplishment.
2. A copy of the PPSTA's new and complete Constitution and By-Laws.

3. Any other data or information you would like to send us.

DIONISIO D. YBAÑEZ

President,

The Bukidnon Teachers' League

Dear M. Ybañez:

If you write us a letter together with your remittance corresponding to the number of members you wish to propose, you will have done all there is to do to get affiliated. We send membership cards to each teacher who becomes a member. Our Constitution and By-Laws were printed in the July and August issues, copies of which we are sending you.

—ED.