

NEWS FRONT

AID TO FISHERMEN

The government is constructing 17 ice and cold storage plants in strategic fishing ports of the country, according to Vice President and Secretary of Agriculture Fernando Lopez. With the establishment of these plants, some ₱50 million worth of spoiled fish is expected to be saved for the fishing industry each year.



SSS DRIVE

The Social Security System plans to undertake a massive drive to ferret out employers who have been deliberately withholding premium payments to the SSS. Reports said that out of some two million SSS members in the labor force only about one million are paying their premium payments. The SSS management says that most employers are not remitting to the System the premiums which they deduct from the salaries of their employees.

SPECIAL SESSION

The Congress is scheduled to go into another special session next week as the opposition succeeded in sidetracking vital measures, including the national budget. Senator Dominador Aytona, chairman of the Senate committee on finance and sponsor of the budget, deplored what he called the Liberals' "filibustering" that prevented the passage of the budget and thereby forced the calling of an extra meet. Aytona also said that this would mean an additional expenditure of ₱1.5 million and "the Liberal senators should be made accountable to the people for this wasteful expenditure."



FARM DEVELOPMENT

A new twist in farm development—the supervised credit—is being pursued by the government, according to Vice

President and Agriculture Secretary Fernando Lopez. For this purpose, he said, the Development Bank of the Philippines has programmed ₱240 million. The measure is initiated by the Rice and Corn Production Coordinating Council and is being undertaken with the cooperation of government and rural banks.

CAR FACTORY IN ILIGAN

The Fiat automobile manufacturing concern of Italy is planning to put up an automobile plant in Iligan City, together with a big Philippine company. It is believed that such an ambitious project to manufacture cars locally instead of importing knocked-down units and assembling them would have far reaching effects on the Philippine industrialization program.

LP CANDIDATES

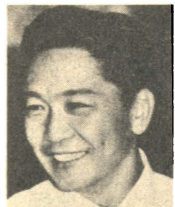
Senator Genaro Magsaysay has announced his bid for the LP nomination as presidential candidate last May 21 barely three days after he bolted the Nacionalista Party to join the Liberals. Magsaysay's announcement has finally put an end to speculations on his political plans in the coming elections. The senator had earlier said that he was joining the Liberal Party "with no strings attached."

DOLLARS FOR RP

The so-called Marcos dollar remittance program has netted some \$5 million as of the week ending May 25. The dollars remitted through the Philippine National Bank represented the dollar equivalent of peso requirements of the American government in procuring supplies and equipment in the country. PNB officials estimate that the rate of dollar income from this specific source would be at the level of \$5 million every two weeks.

LAND REFORM

President Marcos has declared 64 municipalities in Central Luzon including all towns in Tarlac as land reform areas. The inclusion of the entire province of Tarlac is an answer to the demand of the farmers of the province who threatened to march to Malacañang sometime ago. The President has simultaneously directed the budget commission to release ₱30 million to buy up the lands for distribution to the farmers.



ELECTRICITY FOR BARRIOS

A bill filed by Senator Emmanuel Pelaez and fully endorsed by President Marcos plans to provide electric power to the barrios all over the country through the cooperative way. The bill seeks to declare it a national policy that total electrification be given the highest priority in implementation and that it should be given "continued support" by the government.



BOI APPROVES MORE PROJECTS

As of April 30, the cut-off date for the first IPP, a total of 191 applications were received by the Board of Investments, 167 of which have been approved for registration. Of the remaining 84 applications, 25 were either withdrawn or abandoned by proponents while the rest are in various stages of evaluation by the BOI technical staff. The projects of the following firms were approved in April: Philite Industrial Parts, Inc., Philex Mining Corporation, Matalin Coconut Co., Inc., Fil-Eastern Wood Industries, Inc., and the Misamis Lumber Co., Inc.

PUYAT PREDICTS NP WIN

Senate President Gil J. Puyat predicted that President Marcos and the Nacionalista Party would win the national elections in November. Speaking on his arrival in Hongkong this weekend, Puyat said that his party (Nacionalista) is "predominantly in control," with 17 senators out of 24 and 36 governors out of 56. Judging from average reactions, he said, the administration of President Marcos is doing quite well.

BILL FOR NEW VOTERS

Senator Arturo Tolentino filed a bill in Congress that seeks to remove the time limit on the period of registration for new voters. The bill will eliminate the disqualification of new voters from voting as a result of their failure to register within 60 days after reaching the age of 21. According to Comelec Chairman Manuel Arranz the approval of the bill will open the door for the registration of every qualified 21-year old citizen for the coming November elections.

