

PROBLEMS in the NEWS

BY SILVINA C. LAYA



1. A systematic campaign to attract American capital into the Philippines so as to take advantage of the parity law will be launched jointly by the Philippine government and the Beyster advisory group on Philippine industrialization. The Beyster report points out that Philippine capital alone cannot adequately handle the possibilities of Philippine natural and mineral resources.

This campaign is also aimed at countering discouraging reports about lack of peace and order in the Philippines. The government campaign aims to prove that the Philippines is the best place for investment in the Far East.

- a. Why do you think American capital is slow in coming to the Philippines?
- b. Is Philippine capital not enough to develop our resources or is it only timid?
- c. Should the government conduct this campaign in America?
- d. Is this campaign necessary?
- e. How may our natural resources be developed without foreign capital?

2. Public bonds bearing $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent interest will be floated by the RFC (Rehabilitation Finance Corporation) to capitalize one-fourth of the government partnership with Westinghouse International on the establishment and operation of an electrical plant in Manila for the manufacture of incandescent bulbs and fluorescent lamps.

This bond series will be redeemable at the beginning of the fifth year of a ten-year amortization period.

- a. Do you think these bonds are good investment? Why?
- b. Is this partnership with a big foreign firm beneficial to the Philippines? How?
- c. What are the dangers of this partnership?
- d. Would not the Meralco be a better project than this Philippine Electrical manufacturing company? Why?

3. President Roxas ordered the Department of Finance and the Bureau of International Revenue to prosecute tax evaders. President Roxas was most emphatic in the prosecution of war-profit tax evaders who are alleged to have amassed wealth during the occupation.

- a. How may the Department of Finance and Bureau of Internal Revenue apprehend tax evaders?
- b. Will this measure improve our finances?
- c. Should those who amassed wealth during the Japanese occupation be heavily taxed? Why?
- d. What are the taxes which are most often evaded? Can you suggest ways of preventing evasion for each particular tax?

4. Modesto Farolan, Consul General for Hawaii, said that the once-flourishing million-dollar rattan furniture and cigar trade in Hawaii died as a result of dumping below-standard products by some local exporters.

- a. Why have goods of inferior quality been dumped into Hawaii?
- b. May we say that failure to meet specifications when orders are many is a weakness of our manufacturers and exporters?

- d. What measures can the Government adopt to prevent further exportation of inferior products?
- e. Give an example of countries whose export trade was stimulated by high-quality goods exported?
5. U. S. Ambassador Emmet O'Neal urged the youth of the Philippines to strengthen and perfect the democratic way of life which "is the highest plane to which civilization has climbed, and without it no education can be devoted to the search for truth."
- a. What part may the Department of Education play in developing the democratic way of life? the schools? the teachers?
- b. Can truth go hand in hand with totalitarianism? Give reasons for your answer.
- c. In what ways is democracy superior to, say, communism?
6. President Roxas in his rally speech in the Manila Jockey Club on October 18, 1947, took the Nacionalista Party to task for presenting themselves as champions of collaborators.
- a. Should the Nacionalista Party be condemned if it favors some collaborators? Why?
- b. What important "collaborators" are influential in the government today?
- c. Should amnesty be granted to so-called collaborators?
7. The Philippine Newspaper Guild and the Civil Liberties Union denounced the suspension of the broadcasts of Arsenio Lacson as an infringement of the constitutional right of free speech. Lacson is one of the most fearless critics of the government. Lacson had to stop broadcasting or else the station's charter would be revoked.
- a. Why are radio stations willing censors of radio programs?
- b. Should the broadcasts of Lacson be stopped? Why?
- c. Should the government tolerate criticisms? Why?
- d. The government owns and operates KZFM, a powerful radio station. Should this station be made purely a pro-administration mouthpiece? Is it actually so now?
8. Mayor Fugoso reprimanded Chief of Police Manuel de la Fuente for refusing to obey Secretary Zulueta when the latter ordered the reinstatement of Patrolman Alfonso Layog, who was found guilty by the Merit and Trial Board of connivance with crooks.
- Chief de la Fuente said: "I do not intend... to dispute the law or disobey orders. But above all these, I have to protect public interest and preserve the dignity of the department of which I am the head."
- a. What must have been the reason of Layog's exoneration?
- b. Has politics anything to do with the case?
- c. Do you favor de la Fuente's stand? What are your reasons?
9. It is believed that Russian-trained Chinese communists from Amoy, China, have been steadily getting into the Philippines. They are specially trained to help the Huks, it is said.
- a. How do these Chinese Reds get in illegally?
- b. If they do get in, what is the Bureau of Immigration doing to prevent their illegal entry?
- c. Why do Communists go into such trouble to extend help to the Huks?
- d. Are some sections of the Philippines fertile ground for communism? Explain your answer.
10. An "Eastern Bloc" to be composed of Turkey, Persia, India, Pakistan and Afghanistan is being discussed as a defense of the Middle East and Moslem World against future aggression.

It is said that communism lost what it gained for seven years in these countries in the one hour during which the Soviet representative in the UN supported the partition of Palestine into Arab and Jewish states.

Mustafa Al Umari, deputy president of the Iraqi Senate, said: "Neither the Americans nor the Soviets are really the guaridans of peace. Any nation must depend on itself for freedom and independence."

- a. Why has Soivet Russia lost ground in the Middle East?
- b. Do you believe in what Umari said? Has the Philippines learned this lesson already?
- c. What can the Philippines do to help maintain its freedom and independence? What is it doing now?

11. A group of British parliamentarians claimed that Josef Stalin advocates close political and econmic relations with the U. S. and Great Britain and has no thought of making war.

- a. Do the actions of Stalin support this statement? Prove your answer.
- b. Granted that it is true, what can Stalin get from the United States and Great Britain as a result of closer political and economic relations?

12. The Anti-Franco group in UN plans to ask the members to refrain from any commercial arrangement with Spain.

- a. Why is Spain unpopular in the UN?
- b. If the plan of the Anti-Franco group goes through, what should the Philippines do?

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