

# OFFICIAL SECTION

GRAND LODGE  
of  
FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS  
of the  
Philippines

August 30, 1960

MEMORANDUM TO:

All Lodges under the Jurisdiction of  
Philippines

Greeting:

The Freemasons' Educational Bulletin relative to stabilizing the support of our public schools is self-explanatory.

It is abundantly clear that unless our public schools have the proper financial support, it will not be possible to maintain efficient standards in our elementary and high school work.

It is suggested that the contents of this bulletin be discussed thoroughly at one of your stated meetings.

It is of utmost importance that the parents of our public schools be convinced that additional financial support of our schools be made available. However, it is believed that in discussing this matter with the parents of the public school children, it might be more effective to work as individuals who are interested in community welfare particularly in having our public schools, receive adequate financial support.

(Sgd.) LUTHER B. BEWLEY  
*Grand Master*

*To all Secretaries of Scottish Rite  
Bodies and Lodges of Perfection:*

Greetings:

The Supreme Council of the Thirty-third and Last Degree, Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry of the Republic of the Philippines fully subscribes to the principle of the public educational system guaranteed by our Constitution. It is realized, however, that the public educational system of our government has been carried on under difficulties due to unstabilized financing as evidenced by recurring annual school problems.

Your Supreme Council, jointly with the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines, launched a campaign to obtain a strong support from the public to the end that appropriate legislation might be enacted which will establish a public school fund on more stabilized basis.

The Freemasons' Educational Bulletin, a monthly enterprise of the Grand Lodge and the Supreme Council 33°, will undertake the dissemination of information that is calculated to focus public attention on the need of a stabilized financing program that will inject life into our public school system. A limited supply of this bulletin is being sent to you with the request that the same be passed out among your members to obtain maximum results. On all occasions, particularly during your stated meetings, the subject of this bulletin should be fully discussed, and efforts should be made to enlist the interest of local civic organizations on the



specific needs and problems of the schools. It is desired that the monthly Bulletins be translated into local vernaculars to enable the common people to understand fully their contents.

Your full support and cooperation in making possible the success of this undertaking will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely and fraternally yours,

(Sgd.) CONRADO BENITEZ, 33<sup>rd</sup>  
Acting Sovereign Grand Commander



## PLEADING FOR COOPERATION

Greetings!

Deeply concerned over the downgrading of our public schools, which cannot function as a truly free and democratic system for the proper education and training of our youth, largely due to inadequate financial support, the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines and the Supreme Council of the Thirty-third and Last Degree, Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry of the Republic of the Philippines have launched jointly an educational program for the purpose of arousing public opinion and interest to improve the standards of the public opinion and interest to improve the standards of the public schools by providing them with sufficient and stable means of financing. It is hoped that full cooperation of the members of the fraternity will be given this program, adopting such measures as the following:

1. Form Lodge committees to carry on the program in the community.

2. Discuss in stated meetings and with local civic organizations the spe-

cific needs and problems of the schools.

3. Promote campaigns among civic leaders and enlightened citizens of the communities to initiate movements petitioning Congress to meet squarely the yearly financial difficulties of the public schools.

4. Translate into local vernaculars the contents of the Freemasons' Educational Bulletin, the organ of the Joint Educational Program, and publish same in the provincial or community papers.

The support and cooperation of the brethren in every Lodge will enhance the aim of this joint educational program.

## ACTION COMMITTEE

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### 1. COORDINATING COMMITTEE

1. Bro. Werner P. Schetelig, *Chairman*
2. Bro. Federico Piedad, *Secretary*
3. Bro. Venancio Trinidad, *Educational Consultant and Writer*
4. Bro. Luther B. Bewley, *Member*
5. Bro. Conrado Benitez, *Member*
6. Bro. Camilo Osias, *Member*
7. Bro. Howard R. Hick, *Member*
8. Bro. Henry Gilhouser, *Member*
9. Bro. Domingo C. Bascara, "
10. Bro. Vicente Garcia, *Chairman*,

### PROGRAMMING AND PLANNING

1. Bro. Vicente Garcia, *Chairman*
2. Bro. Isayas Garcia, *Secretary*
3. Bro. Jose C. Velo, *Member*
4. Bro. Federico Piedad, *Member*
5. Bro. Manuel C. Garcia, *Member*
6. Bro. Venancio Trinidad, *Member*

## II. ACTION COMMITTEE

### 1. *Elementary and Secondary Education —*

- (1) Bro. Estanislao R. Lopez,  
*Chairman*
- (2) Bro. Luther B. Bewley,  
*Member*
- (3) Bro. Artemio C. Vizconde,  
*Member*

### 2. *School Finance —*

- (a) *Stabilization and Equalizing of School Fund (Foundation Program)*
- (b) *Financing of Masonic Projects*  
Bro. Domingo C. Bascara,  
*Chairman*  
Bro. Santiago Dumlao,  
*Member*  
Bro. Estanislao R. Lopez,  
*Member*  
Bro. Venancio Trinidad,  
*Member*  
Bro. Federico Piedad,  
*Member*

### 3. *Textbooks and other Reading Matters —*

- Bro. Juan B. Gonzaga,  
*Chairman*
- Bro. Michael Goldenberg,  
*Member*
- Bro. Manuel C. Garcia,  
*Member*
- Bro. Florencio Ilagan,  
*Member*
- Bro. Rex D. Drilon,

### 4. *Religious Instruction in the Public Schools —*

- Bro. Gumersindo Garcia,  
*Chairman*
- Bro. Enrique D. Tayag,  
*Member*
- Bro. Fructuoso Balquiedra,  
*Member*
- Bro. Macario Navia,  
*Member*
- Bro. Sesenio Rivera,  
*Member*

### 5. *Community Education and Literacy (Rural Problems) —*

- Bro. Federico Piedad,  
*Chairman*
- Bro. Juan S. Alano,  
*Member*
- Bro. Artemio C. Vizconde,  
*Member*
- Bro. Francisco C. Panganiban,  
*Member*
- Bro. Roman Lorenzo,  
*Member*
- Bro. Vicente Garcia,  
*Member*

### 6. *Vocational Education —*

- Bro. Luis F. Reyes,  
*Chairman*
- Bro. Romulo R. Mendoza,  
*Member*
- Bro. Teodoro V. Santos,  
*Member*
- Bro. Fructuoso Balquiedra,  
*Member*

### 7. *Higher Education —*

- Bro. Sinforoso Padilla,  
*Chairman*
- Bro. Manuel C. Garcia,  
*Member*
- Bro. N. B. Melocoton,  
*Member*

### 8. *Public Relations —*

- Bro. Howard R. Hick,  
*Chairman*
- Bro. Saturnino Davila,  
*Member*
- Bro. Esteban Munarriz,  
*Member*
- Bro. Jose J. de Guzman,  
*Member*
- Bro. Lucio R. Hdefonso,  
*Member*

### 9. *Educational Enlightenment Against Communist Infiltration*

- Bro. Vicente Orosa,  
*Chairman*



- Bro. William B. Quasha,  
*Member*
- Bro. Cecilio Putong,  
*Member*
- Bro. Gregorio Robles,  
*Member*
- Bro. Mariano Q. Tinio,  
*Member*
- Bro. Ildelfonso S. Reyes,  
*Member*
- Bro. Mamerto Ventura,  
*Member*

10. *Educational Leaflet Series —  
Organ of the Joint Educational  
Program —*

- Bro. Venancio Trinidad,  
*Chairman*
- Bro. Jose T. Enriquez,  
*Member*
- Bro. Manuel C. Garcia,  
Bro. Federico Piedad,  
*Contributor*
- Bro. Vicente Garcia,  
*Contributor*
- Bro. Luis F. Reyes  
*Member*
- Bro. Luther B. Bewley,  
*Member*
- Bro. Venancio Trinidad,  
*Member*
- Bro. Estanislao R. Lopez,  
*Member*
- Bro. Federico Piedad,  
*Member*
- Bro. Howard R. Hick,  
*Member*
- Bro. Teodoro V. Santos  
*Member*
- Bro. Domingo C. Bascara,  
*Member*
- Bro. Vicente Garcia,  
*Member*
- Bro. Werner P. Schetelig  
*Ex-officio*

## ***PUBLIC SCHOOLS***

The most obstinate perennial problem of education in the Philippines today is the stabilization of the financial support of our public schools. For the solution of this problem, proposals are not wanting.

It is recalled that about ten years ago, as a result of a nationwide survey of our education system by a Joint Legislative Committee, that committee embodied in its report a number of proposals calculated to place the school system on a stable financial basis. Almost simultaneously a similar survey was undertaken by a UNESCO survey mission. The mission likewise found that the fundamental problem of education in the Philippines is how to stabilize the financial support of the system.

To implement its recommendations, the UNESCO mission sent to the Philippines Dr. Gayce Morrison, an outstanding American authority on school financing to work out a concrete proposal for the consideration of the authorities concerned: Dr. perintendent Fructuoso Yanson and Dr. Pedro Guiang, now assistant director of the Bureau of Public Schools, evolved a plan which is now known as the Foundation Program. The program was submitted to congress in the form of a bill was taken upon it consideration, but no action was taken upon it. When the Board of National Education was organized it up-dated the Foundation Program and re-submitted it to Congress for action, but no action on any of the foregoing proposals was taken.

In 1955 the late President Magsaysay, perturbed by the vexing perennial problem, created a special committee headed by the then Secretary