

COMMUNITY MEETING STUDIES YOUTH PROBLEMS

SAN FRANCISCO—A community meeting, held Feb. 10 in the heart of the Latino community—the Mission District—provided a forum for Filipino parents, teachers, youth and elderly to study the problems confronting the Filipino youth in this city.

The forum, called by the Union of Democratic Filipinos (KDP), arose from a *San Francisco Chronicle* feature story which reported the slaying of a Latino youth. In that article, Filipino and Latino youth alike were portrayed as “knife wielding and gun toting kids, boasting threats of violence.” (See AK Vol. II, No. 2, Feb. 1-15)

The meeting was initiated by the KDP to begin a community dialogue that would better understand the problems of today's minority youth.

Wilma Cadorna of the KDP charged that the *Chronicle* “over-simplified a complex problem and over-dramatized ethnic differences to the point of stirring more resentment and antagonism between youth groups.”

“But most of all,” she stated in her opening speech, “by sensationalizing ethnic rivalries, it points the blame at minority communities.”

Youth Slay Suspect Charged in Adult Court

SAN FRANCISCO—Reynaldo V. Guintu, a 17-year old Filipino was arraigned and formally charged as an adult with the crime of murder at the Superior Court Feb. 15.

Guintu was accused of the fatal shooting of Arturo Duran, a Wilson High School student last Jan. 16.

Juvenile Court Judge John E. Benson ruled Feb. 11 that Guintu should be tried in an adult court.

If found guilty of first degree murder, Guintu faces 25 years to life sentence. Since the family could not post the bail set at \$250,000, he has been detained at the Youth Guidance Center since his arrest Jan. 19.

According to Assistant District Attorney Stuart Kinder, the jurisdiction of the Juvenile Court would extend “until he's 23 since more time is necessary to rehabilitate him.” □

Cadorna also criticized the San Francisco School Board of Education for “taking advantage of these sensationalized reports of gang violence by calling for the police recruits and instituting ‘closed campuses.’”

“By these repressive measures,” she continued, “the School Board implicitly agrees that minority students are violent and have to be watched, and kept under control—despite the fact that the criminal act only involved a few.”

Cadorna stressed that the problems

of minority youth should be understood in relation to their experiences in the family, in the neighborhood, and society in general.

Bill Maher, President of the School Board, remarked that class, as well as racial bias exists within the school system, to the disadvantage of the minority students.

“These students,” Maher said, “do not have the advantages of children who come from middle class homes. They have more availability to develop their

children at home, they have more recreational facilities and access to private schools.”

Maher pointed out that lack of funding is a major problem facing public schools. He added that if Proposition 9 (Jarvis II) is passed in June, many of the schools serving minorities will be denied state funding and subject to closure.

Hermo Jocson, a senior citizen, stated that schools have a major responsibility in resolving the youth problem. “There is a problem in the way the youth are brought up in schools.”

Cadorna ended her statement by saying that “while we do not condone anti-social activities like youth gang wars, it is not enough to simply condemn. For in reality, our youth are victims, too.”

“We need to understand the broader context of their problems; these are complex problems facing our community that need long term solutions.”

Towards the end of the meeting, the KDP passed out petition sheets that targetted the San Francisco Board of Education and Board of Supervisors for cutbacks in education, leading to the further deterioration of the public educational system. □

FCS PRESIDENT PROCEEDS WITH UNDEMOCRATIC ACTION



Lawsin: Martial Law in the Seattle Community?

BY DAVID DELLA

“It was just unreal. We couldn't believe what we saw today,” stated a community person who had just witnessed proceedings of the Filipino Community of Seattle (FCS).

This and other statements of disbelief were a reaction to the undemocratic moves of FCS President Vincent Lawsin, in the recent February meeting of the FCS.

LAWSIN RAILROADS RECOMMENDATIONS

This controversy was an offshoot of the January meeting where Mr. Lawsin attempted to arbitrarily change the chairmanship of three main committees of FCS. In this meeting, he moved that the committee chairmanship held by three active FAR (Filipino Americans for Reform) members, Mrs. Adelina Domingo of the Ways and Means Committee; Mr. Mel Fernandez of the Building Improvement Committee; and

Director Julie Nonog of the Community Fundraising Committee, be changed with new chairpersons.

Giving no substantial reasons for the changes, Lawsin merely stated that it is his “executive right” to do what he wants to do with Council committees. The motion sparked a heated debate as councilmembers tried to oppose it. When unity was not reached, it was decided to table the discussion until the February meeting.

However, between the meetings and without the discussion of the Council, Mr. Lawsin sent formal registered letters to the committee chairpersons in question, requesting their resignations from chairmanship immediately.

LAWSIN'S A'LA MARCOS STYLE EXPOSED

In the February meeting, Lawsin presented the same motion again, but opposed any thorough discussion from Councilmembers and concerned community people who attended the meeting.

Because of this, Councilmember Silme Domingo pointed out that the unjust manner by which Lawsin was conducting the meeting was not right. He suggested that it would be in the best interest of both the community and the chairpersons involved to table the meeting so as to give everyone a chance to develop opinions on the matter.

Mr. Lawsin refused recognition of Domingo's proposal and insisted that the Committee changed be passed.

Lawsin entertained the motion by Councilmember Charles Tangalan to accept all the Committee changes, despite several more oppositions from both Council and community members.

Continued on page S-3

Youth Slay:

WHO IS THE REAL CULPRIT?

The fatal shooting of Arturo Duran, a Latino youth, has brought our community's attention to the social problems facing young people in inner city schools and neighborhoods. The phenomena of gang warfare, continued decay of inner city schools are just some of the problems that stare at our face everyday. In fact, such tragedies as the senseless killing of this youth occur in smaller scale, and will continue to occur until they are addressed squarely.

ARTURO DURAN'S KILLER—A VICTIM OF A LARGER SOCIAL PROBLEM

However, the *San Francisco Chronicle*, together with the S.F. District Attorney's office have done an excellent job in diverting our attention from the root of this problem. Reading through the *Chronicle's* coverage of the incident gives one a distinct impression that locking up Reynaldo Guintu, the Filipino youth suspected of the shooting, will solve the problem. In fact the *Chronicle* has gone so far as convicting Guintu long before the trial began.

In this most recent coverage of the case, the article reads Guintu is “... not fit and proper person to be tried in juvenile court. It is not reasonable to expect that he [Guintu] can be rehabilitated if [he is] treated as a juvenile.” With the push for Guintu to have an adult trial on first-degree murder by the prosecution and the *Chronicle*, one gets the impression that they are out to put Guintu away, lock him up for life or even, if possible, sentence him to death.

This is a far cry from the case of two white men in Chico who went out deer

hunting, and failing to find one, decided to shoot down two innocent black folks. The case was settled out of court; the men received reduced sentences on the lesser charge of manslaughter. On top of it all, the judge issued a gag order on the case.

By comparing both incidents, one would clearly see the underlying anti-alien and racist prejudices that runs through the Guintu case. A 17-year-old immigrant is obviously being set up for life imprisonment by the prejudicial media coverage his case is getting.

We in the KDP do not condone the killing of the Latino youth. We do not condone crimes that are committed against the people no matter who committed them. However, we oppose making Guintu a scapegoat for the social problem facing our inner city youth. While the guilty party should be punished accordingly after a fair trial, we reject the implicit assertion of the *Chronicle* and the prosecution that Guintu is the source of the social problem.

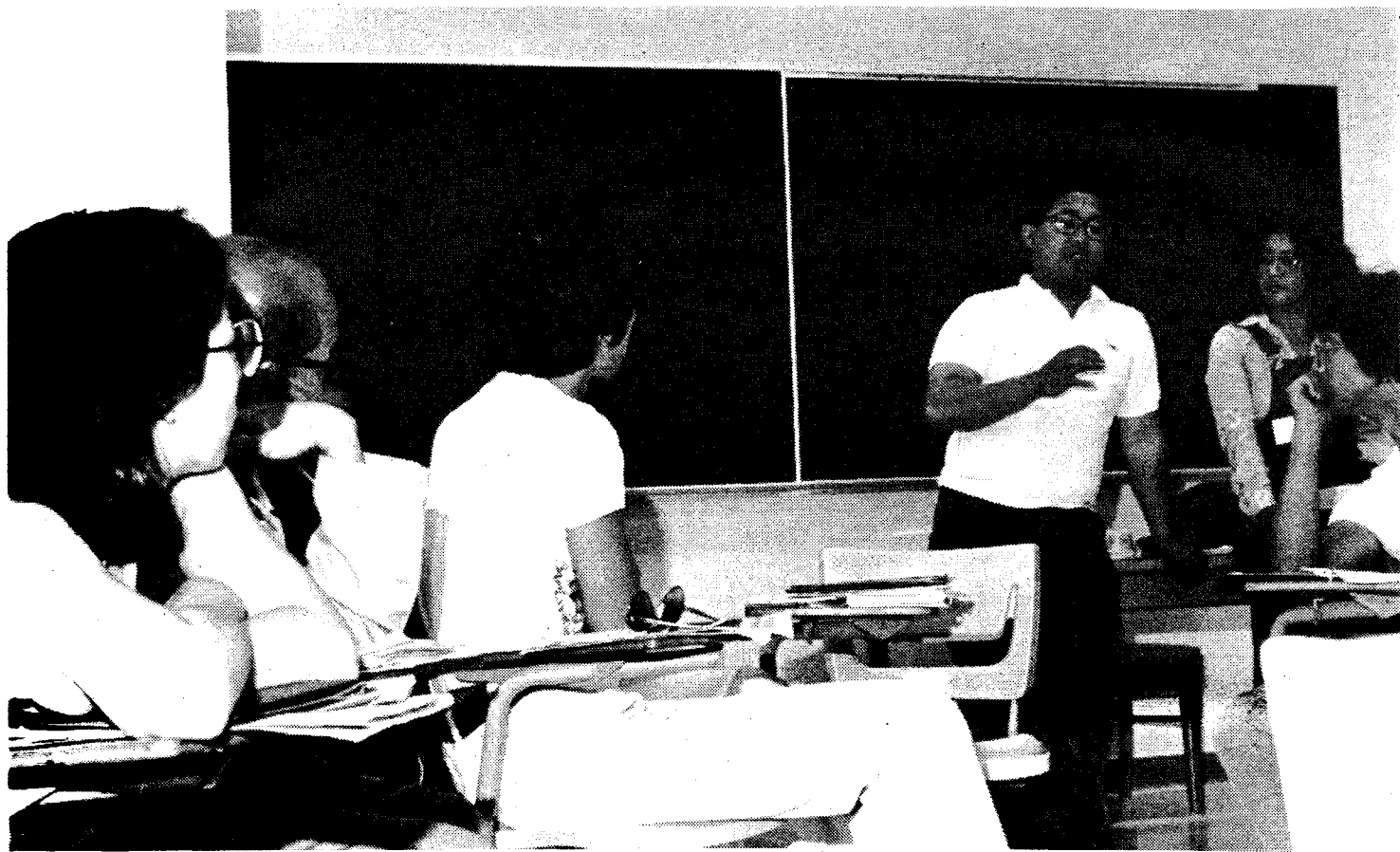
In fact, Guintu is only a product of the crisis that face the youth in the inner city. We say this is not a way to defend him but rather to put the incident in perspective.

To focus our attention solely on Guintu, as the *Chronicle* and the prosecution would like us to do, will only divert our attention from the real source of this complex social problem.

Both Guintu and Duran are, in the final analysis, victims of their class and racial position in this society. As minority youths, they have been economically and socially disadvantaged. Coming

Continued on page S-4

SAN FRANCISCO GEARS UP FOR 1980 FWC



"To educate the community around issues is not going to be enough. We need to organize around the issues in order to be effective."—Emil DeGuzman, co-coordinator of the 1980 FWC, a forum for action in the Filipino-American community for the past nine years.

AK Photo

BY PAULETTE VITIN
AK Correspondent

SAN FRANCISCO—"We want to bring the 1980 Far West Convention back to where it started—San Francisco, here we come!"

These were the lyrics sung by an enthusiastic delegation from San Francisco at the 1979 Convention held in Sacramento last September.

In keeping with this pledge, preparations are underway for the tenth anniversary of the Filipino People's Far West Convention (FWC) to be held in this city on August 29, 30 and 31st this year.

HOW DID THE CONVENTION BEGIN?

According to Luisa Blue, Co-coordinator of the Preparatory Committee for the 1980 FWC, "The Far West Convention began in 1970 during the height of the struggles for Ethnic Studies on college campuses.

"The initial years of the Convention focused on discussions of Filipino identity and sharing information about each of the Filipino communities on the West Coast."

HOW HAS THE FAR WEST CONVENTION CHANGED?

"Through the years," continued Ms. Blue, the FWC matured and Convention delegates came from far and wide, reaching over to the East Coast, and representing a broader cross-section of the Filipino community."

In the 1975 Convention in Berkeley, the principles of unity established are the following:

1. Active opposition to racial and national discrimination; and
2. Concern for conditions in the Philippines.

Towards the 1970's, the FWC transformed into a forum for education and support for the common issues pressing the community.

The FWC attracted issues like Narciso Perez, International Hotel, Alaska Cannery Workers struggles, Bakke, Proposition 13, Immigrant Rights.

THEME: 1970's—A DECADE FOR AWAKENING 1980's—A DECADE FOR ACTION!

In an attempt to direct the focus of the community for the coming decade, the planners of this year's Convention selected this theme for 1980.

Raddie Cadorna, one of the organizers of the 1980 FWC, predicted: "We can expect that the problems faced by our community in the 70's will intensify in the 80's as a result of the deepening economic crisis."

"To educate the community around issues is not going to be enough—we need to organize around the issues in order to be effective....," adds Emil DeGuzman, Co-coordinator of the Preparatory Committee and 10-year veteran of the FWC.

For Paul Estabalaya, member of the Preparatory Committee, this year's theme signifies the beginning of a "Crisis Movement." "As immigrants to this country, we face certain problems or crises. Through forums like the FWC, we become aware of these crises and from the discussion at the FWC, we take the crisis home and organize a movement to resolve it."

WHY SAN FRANCISCO?

Organizers of this year's Convention also chose this theme to specifically address the needs of the San Francisco Filipino Community.

"With a population of close to 60,000, San Francisco hosts one of the largest concentrations of Filipinos in the U.S.," reveals Emil DeGuzman. "This large population faces a whole spectrum of social as well as economic problems."

DeGuzman mentioned that there are over 150 Filipino organizations in San Francisco, most of them solely geared toward social activities. Both Mr. DeGuzman and Ms. Blue, born and raised in San Francisco, agree that "...out of these 150 organizations, not one addresses issues of discrimination and harassment." Ms. Blue continues, "Not one of the organizations have successfully encompassed the participation of the whole community."

When asked what effect the 1980 Convention will have on the San Francisco Filipino Community, Raddie Cadorna, also a native San Franciscan, speculated: "One just needs to look at the communities that have hosted the last few Conventions. For Seattle and Sacramento, their communities were able to unite and work together to carry on the spirit of the FWC. Each city is confronting the issues and injustices head on. Each is seeking the participation and support of the entire community young and old alike to fight back. This is the type of spirit we want to generate through the Far West Convention." □

The 1980 Filipino People's Far West Convention is set for the week-end of August 29, 30 and 31, 1980. A meeting will be called for early March for everyone interested in joining the preparations. For more information, call Luisa Blue at (415) 333-4699.

TASK FORCE PREPARES FOR IMMIGRANT RIGHTS CONFERENCE

BY PAULETTE VITIN
AK Correspondent

Preparations are in progress for the Bay Area Conference on Filipino Immigrant Rights Problems set for March 1, 1980.

According to Llorete Tamayo, Co-coordinator of the Bay Area Task Force for the Defense of Filipino Immigrants: "We've scheduled speaking engagements to various Filipino Senior Citizen organizations and centers to reach out to those most affected by this issue."

The Task Force also visited many elderly Bay Area residents with pending SSI cases to mobilize them for the Conference. "We hope to share our findings from our discussions with them at the Conference," Tamayo said. In conjunction with the theme, "Edu-

cate to Organize," the Task Force is planning a full day program which will allow the community to study the problems.

The Task Force hopes that by educating the community, it can elicit their active involvement and organize a response to the current anti-immigrant policies of the INS.

Conference speakers will address the topics of immigrant exclusion of Filipino elderly receiving SSI; harassment of Third Preference visa holders; problems of H-1 visa nurses; pending legislation affecting alien rights to public assistance; and President Carter's Select Commission on Immigration.

An evening cultural program/potluck is also on the agenda featuring a slide-show presentation. □

If you know of any Filipino elderly who have withdrawn from receiving SSI benefits because they went home to the Philippines for a visit, contact the coordinators of the San Francisco-Bay Area Task Force to Defend Filipino Immigrant Rights: Llorette Tamayo—221-7564
Nonie Espiritu—861-4476

The task force is also mobilizing the community to study this issue and determine the necessary action to resist the INS attacks. This will be in the form of a one-day conference. Those affected by this issue are especially invited.

"EDUCATE TO ORGANIZE"

A conference on Filipino Immigrant Rights Problems:

- Immigration exclusion of Filipino Elderlies receiving SSI
- Pending legislation that will affect rights of aliens to public assistance
- Other immigration issues (harassment of third preference visa professionals, H-1 visas for nurses, etc.)
- Role of Pres. Carter's Select Commission on Immigration

When: MARCH 1, Saturday
9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
6 to 7 p.m. (cultural presentation)

Where: Mission Cultural Center
2868 Mission Street (bet. 24th & 25th) San Francisco

clip and mail to Filipino Immigrant Services, 164 11th St., Oakland, CA 94607

- ☐ Yes I would like to attend the Conference, please register my name. I am enclosing my fee.
☐ No, I cannot attend but please send me more information on this issue.

Name _____

Address _____ Zip _____

Phone () _____ Organizational Membership _____

FEES: Individual \$3.00, Family \$1.50/adult, Senior Citizens donation only. Make checks payable to Bay Area Task Force.

SEATTLE GROUPS DENOUNCE PHILIPPINE NEWS

A recent editorial by Philippine News entitled, "A Lesson in Infiltration" attempted to discredit and vilify the reform movement in the Filipino Community of Seattle, Inc. (FCSI). The Philippine News attack on the Seattle Filipino community angered several groups and individuals and sparked debates amongst community members. Below are reprints of letters from some of these groups denouncing Esclamado's editorial.

INTERNATIONAL LONGSHOREMEN'S AND WAREHOUSEMEN'S UNION, LOCAL 37

Dear Mr. Esclamado:

On Wednesday, Feb. 6, 1980, the Executive Council of Cannery Workers Union Local 37, International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union (ILWU), unanimously passed a motion moved by Trustee Salvador Del Fierro Sr. and seconded by Executive Board-member Ricardo Farinas, Jr. to respond to an editorial that appeared in the *Philippine News* dated Dec. 1-7, 1979. This letter is being written based upon this action by the Executive Council.

Before we explain our concern regarding the article, we would like to explain our reasoning in concerning ourselves with the editorial. The Cannery Workers Union was organized in Seattle in 1933. Since its inception, the Union has played a major and leading role in the Seattle Filipino Community. In fact, prior to the establishment of the Filipino Community of Seattle, Inc. (FCSI) in the late 1930's, the Union assumed the responsibility to advocate and represent the best interests of Filipinos in Seattle. Ever since those earlier days, the Union has never relinquished its role as a "vigilant representative" for the rights and concerns of the Filipino community.

For decades now, the Union and the FCSI have jointly fought for the best interests of Filipinos in Seattle. Most of our members in Seattle are also active members of FCSI. Scores of our members have served as officers of FCSI. Furthermore, we are proud to claim that several of our members have held the presidency of FCSI in the past. And finally, no one can deny the fact that the Union has been a "pillar in the financial support" of the FCSI, especially in the community effort to purchase the Community Center.

FCS . . .

Continued from page S-1

Visibly outraged by this lack of democracy. First Vice President Ade Domingo stood up to protest Lawsins' arbitrary action, stating: "Why are you (Lawsin) doing this? Please tell the community and the Council why you are removing me and others who are doing a good job."

Mrs. Domingo was on vacation in the Philippines when Lawsin made his recommendations known to the Council in January. She had to cut short her trip so she could return to Seattle in time for the February meeting. She arrived on the evening of Saturday, and attended Sunday's meeting.

"Lawsin never mentioned anything about replacing me before I left. When I arrived, he did not even call me up to explain his actions. Instead, he proceeded to present his recommendations on Sunday, knowing full well that I just got back from the Philippines. I am not going to resign because Lawsin violated the due process of law, and he has no justifiable reason for replacing me."

Second Treasurer Vilma Fernandez stated that Lawsin's move was an out-

rage, and read the letter of response from her husband, Mel Fernandez, who was out of town. He stated: "Lawsin's move to ask for my resignation is unjustifiable. On the one hand, he stated that I was doing a good job but in the same breath, he demands for my resignation. He contradicts himself. I will not render my resignation because there is no basis for it."

One of Mr. Lawsin's reason for revamping the Committee chairpersons was "to give others a chance." His choice was to replace Mr. Fernandez with Silvester Tangalan who was President of the Community for eight years! Lawsin's response to all this was: "I am the president and I have the right to do what I want and when I want, so no more discussion."

With this, Lawsin denied any more discussion and called for the vote to Tangalan's motion. His recommendation passed narrowly, 18 in favor and 17 against.

How you formulated such distorted and untrue allegations baffles us, especially given that longstanding FCSI Councilmembers cannot remember ever seeing you at an FCSI Council meeting. However, allow us to briefly explain how the FCSI Council functions.

First of all, any FCSI member can raise an issue in front of the Council, regardless of position or merit. Second, the issue gets democratically debated. And quite frankly there are differences raised from time to time that end up in a sharp exchange of ideas and opinions. This we will never deny, nor discourage. In fact, we find that it is generally an important practice. The next step is that a democratic vote is taken in which every Councilmember is expected to take full responsibility for their actions. Finally, all members of the FCSI are expected to abide by any decision, regardless of the outcome.

We feel that the democratic process of the FCSI is exemplary. Let us assure you that we would not stand for any lesser standard since these are the same principles that the Union was founded upon and continues to operate upon.

Once again, we find that your article does not represent the true character of the Seattle Filipino Community or the FCSI. We feel that your article has served only to incorrectly portray the Seattle Filipino Community and the FCSI. While only you know your motive for writing such an editorial, we are con-

vinced that in the final analysis, your editorial only serves to hurt the prestige and the integrity of the Seattle Filipino Community and the FCSI. Thus, we demand that you refrain from writing irresponsible and damaging journalism that impacts the Seattle Filipino Community.

Constantine (Tony) Baruso
President/Business Agent
Cannery Workers Union, Local 37

AN OPEN LETTER TO ALEX ESCLAMADO

Dear Mr. Esclamado:

Your editorial, "A Lesson in Infiltration," in the December 1-7 issue of the *Philippine News* has sparked both anger and disgust within the Filipinos for Action and Reform (FAR). Anger because your accusation that our organization is "successfully" being used by the KDP to "infiltrate" and "manipulate" the Filipino Community of Seattle (FCS) is grossly inaccurate and unsubstantiated. Disgust because, rather than reporting fairly and objectively, you have used your newspaper to spread rumors and innuendo. We, therefore, feel it is incumbent upon us to clarify who and what the FAR is.

FAR was established around a specific Reform Program designed to make the FCS more responsive and active in addressing the varied needs and concerns of our growing community. This program was developed through discussions with many people in our community and addresses the most important and immediate problems facing our community.

FAR is composed of many different individuals, some of whom have been actively involved in the Filipino community for years, and others who are relatively new to the community. We share not only our concern for Filipinos, but also the belief that everyone is entitled to openly express his or her own opinions and ideas. This has been shown in our participation in the FCS. Over the past year, we have brought fresh, new ideas and proposals to the FCS for discussion and vote. And it is the vote of the whole Council which determines whether or not these ideas and proposals become reality.

Of the major accomplishments made by the FCS recently, many have been FAR proposed and initiated. The fi-

office and the Council." He charged that Council member Leni Marin, the AK correspondent, had "written against the President and his administration and therefore has no right to be in the Council anymore and should be removed."

Rafanan, who himself was removed from the Council for absenteeism, was recently reinstated at the recommendation of Lawsin. Presently, he continues to play the role of giving legal sanction to Lawsin's dictatorial actions.

Lawsin acknowledged Rafanan's recommendations by stating: "I agree that I cannot have someone who writes against me and my administration in the Council, so I am removing her from the Council immediately!"

Ms. Marin responded by pointing out that Lawsin's actions are indeed very undemocratic. She noted Lawsin's discriminatory attitude between the *Ang Katipunan* article and Esclamado's attack in the *Philippine News*. She stated: "Just last month, Lawsin disapproved a response to Alex Esclamado's editorial, and yet now, he is ready to kick me out of the Council for writing about events at the FCS."

Because of this, Councilmember Connie Pacis angrily suggested that the Roberts Rule of Order used in FCS meetings instead be changed to Lawsin's

nances of the FCS have become more stable through creative fundraisers that were FAR-proposed, and through other fundraisers in which FAR members have worked side by side with other councilmembers. These events have also drawn the participation of many other community members.

Our community center is undergoing major improvements under the leadership of FAR members. These improvements are giving our community a center we can be proud of and is increasing the rentability of the hall, again generating more income. Also, through FAR initiative, the FCS is now beginning to more actively take up issues of social concern facing Filipinos, including discrimination cases, immigration problems, and human and individual rights cases.

Given the above, we in the FAR feel that you, Mr. Esclamado, are taking potshots in the dark! In your paranoid attempt to create a "hysteria" about the KDP, you have chosen to unjustly implicate the FAR and FCS. In effect, this hysteria can only serve to slow down or destroy the progressive direction in this and other Filipino communities. We will not allow your ramblings to compromise the integrity of our organization or our community; nor will we allow you to destroy the very things we have been and are working hard to accomplish.

We also condemn your methods of journalism. As a newspaperman, you carry the responsibility of writing fairly and objectively. It is obvious that your editorial lacked either one of these qualities.

We suggest that, before you make accusations as serious as those in the editorial, you strive for more thorough investigation. You made allegations about FAR and FCS, but did you take time to talk to people from these organizations? We know for a fact that no one in FAR was ever contacted by you. It is only through direct investigation and consultation that you can achieve a thorough understanding of any subject. And subsequently, fair and objective reporting can only serve to facilitate the forward, progressive direction of the Filipino community, both here in Seattle and nationwide.

Sincerely,
Filipinos for Action and Reform
Seattle, Washington.

Rule of Orders.

Due to lack of quorum, the removal of Ms. Marin was tabled. But a day after the meeting, Marin received a certified letter from Lawsin, removing her from the position.

DICTATORSHIP CANNOT BE ALLOWED IN THE FCS: MEMBERS CALL FOR RE-INSTATEMENT

Lawsin's undemocratic practices have triggered off reactions from a number of concerned members of the Filipino community.

Tony Baruso, President of ILWU Local 37, stated: "There is already an abuse of power. Those Committee chairpersons were doing good, and yet he wanted to remove them. No good administrator would do such a thing."

A meeting of concerned members of the community is being called to oppose Lawsin's undemocratic moves. Plans to conduct a petition campaign to reinstate Mrs. Ade Domingo, Mr. Mel Fernandez and Mrs. Julie Nonog, and also to prevent the unjust ousting of Leni Marin are underway.

"If we allow this transgression of our rights by Lawsin, he will continue to practice such undemocratic action. We can never allow this in the FCS!" stated Andy Domingo. □

NAFL-FNG CHAPTER HOLDS MINI-CONFERENCE

LOS ANGELES—A successful mini-conference highlighting issues and problems faced by foreign nurse graduates (FNG's) in the U.S. was held at the Filipino-American Community of L.A. cultural center on Feb. 9, 1980.

The event, sponsored by the local National Alliance for Fair Licensure of Foreign Nurse Graduates (NAFL-FNG) was attended by 25 people, 80 percent of whom were nurses.

The mini-conference is one of the most significant events sponsored by the NAFL in L.A. and marks the first time problems of FNG's were discussed in depth with participation from both nursing and non-nursing sectors of the community.

Maribel Salomon, local coordinator, stated in her keynote address that "the struggle for fairness and equality for FNG's can be effectively carried out only with a realistic and thorough understanding of the licensure and other problems, not in isolation from but in relation to the overall situation of the U.S. health care delivery system and the U.S. society as a whole."

The NAFL-FNG has unequivocally led the fight against discriminatory practices against FNG's since its formation in 1976. The local chapter has boldly played an important role since it

was formed two years ago.

The mini-conference was marked with spirited discussion of issues such as the DVD status agreement whose non-extension by the INS will again dislocate the lives of many FNG's who have been recruited to serve our health care needs; the licensure examination which has been the main hurdle in the integration of FNG's into the nursing profession because of high failure rate; the lack of adequate adjustment and review opportunities for FNG's, and the subsequent threat of deportation upon failure. Participants of the conference also tackled the exploitative working conditions, and cultural biases and validity questions surrounding the exam itself.

A discussion of the CGFN Exam pointed to the fact that this newly created exam has only constituted another hurdle which FNG's must overcome. Intended as a pre-immigration exam, it does not guarantee passing the licensure exam and does not answer the problems of the FNG's surrounding the licensure exam.

The role of racism and discrimination was also drawn out graphically as the motives and scheme of the heads of businesses involved in the health care industry was exposed.

The conference also discussed the increasing stratification and routinization



L.A. conference participants discuss issues facing foreign nurses in the U.S.

of nursing as a job, and the role of unionization as an important issue today. They discussed the need for nurses to fight for better wages, benefits, and working conditions like other skilled and unskilled workers in society. They felt that as the economy enters deeper into crisis, nursing has plunged into a transition period where "professionalism" fostered by the elite section of the American Nurses Association (ANA) no longer addresses the real "bread and butter" issues and problems that the rank and file nurses face. Because of this, the need for relevant and viable nurses organizations, accountable to thousands of rank and file nurses, has become evident.

Adding spice and an internationalist

perspective to the discussions was Mrs. Minda Luz Quesada, president of the Philippine Nurses Association, who counter-posed the dramatic and desperate situations nurses in the Philippines face to those faced by FNG's in the U.S.

The mini-conference was overall an inspiring and motivating event for those who attended and has given the NAFL in L.A. all confidence to proceed with the ambitious plans set forth in the 3rd National NAFL-FNG conference held in Chicago last November. The chapter hopes to reach and inform as many community members as possible about FNG problems and issues and link them to other various issues and problems they face as a minority in the U.S.—

NAFL-FNG Testifies in Select Commission Hearing in L.A.



Maribel Salomon, NAFL-FNG coordinator for Los Angeles addresses Commission. AK Photo

With the present adamant position of the Immigration and Naturalization Service to deny the extension of the Deferred Voluntary Departure (DVD) status agreement for FNG's who fail the licensure examination, Maribel Salomon, coordinator of the NAFL-FNG, L.A. Chapter, spoke on behalf of foreign nurse graduates in the open mike session of the Select Commission for Immigration and Refugee Policy public hearing held in Los Angeles on Feb. 5, 1980. The public hearing created a lot of furor as some racist speakers called aliens "garbage" and "free-loaders on our economy who should be sent home."

Salomon testified that the non-extension of the DVD status agreement giving FNG's a chance to adjust, review for and pass the licensure exams, FNG's will again be subjected to arbitrary deportation. She reiterated the recommendations made by the NAFL-FNG in the New York Select Commission hearing. They are:

a) that the INS immediately reinstate the DVD until either the H-1 program is phased out or the unjust conditions around the licensure procedure have been rectified.

b) that the H-1 program be modified giving H-1 nurses a preliminary three years upon first application of the visa, renewable every year thereafter. She

said this would serve to legalize the DVD status.

c) that the licensure exam for nursing be administered in the Philippines or home country of the foreign nurse, making the licensure exam the requirement (not any additional exam such as the CGFNS to obtain an H-1 visa, a measure which would completely remove any danger of deportation to those who qualify to come here and work).

According to Ms. Salomon, these recommendations were made in the spirit of removing the basis of exploitation which has plagued the FNG's upon their arrival in the U.S.

Her testimony also targetted the government and all its agencies for their failure to assume responsibility for the plight of these nurses whom they have recruited to serve in the U.S. health care industry.

The Select Commission is a presidentially appointed commission which will be studying the recommendations made by the various groups, organizations and individuals in the various cities where the Commission is conducting hearings.

Observers of the hearing have expressed skepticism regarding the effectivity of this body in stemming the present anti-alien tide sweeping this country. □

Future Remains Uncertain:

FILIPINO YOUTH PROGRAM RE-FUNDED

LOS ANGELES—After months of undergoing a program and salary freeze, Search to Involve Pilipino Americans (SIPA), the only Filipino youth service agency in Los Angeles, has been granted an extension for its continuation.

The decision came in the wake of an appeal made by the SIPA Board of Directors to the Los Angeles County Services Administration (CSA) last Jan. 29. Using the rationale that SIPA is the only youth agency with a Filipino focus, the CSA decided that instead of terminating the project, it would modify its program goals and resume services for a three-month period beginning in March.

MORE RED TAPE

Although the continuation is a positive step, a myriad of problems still surround the agency. As reported in the Jan. 15-31 issue of the AK, a freeze was put on SIPA's funds since November 1978 because of an alleged non-compliance with program goals according to CSA contracts.

"I was made to sign a blank contract at the start of the program," said Jeanne Abella, program Director of SIPA. This happened because, according to Abella, when the GLACCA (former funding source) folded last year because of mismanagement, the program was transferred to the County CSA. "This meant a mess in paper work so that they wouldn't let our cash flow until I signed the contract. It was blank—but they insisted I sign it or else we wouldn't get a cash flow." When SIPA finally got the copy of the contract, they were surprised to find

a program that they would not be able to operate. This began a series of SIPA's problems.

With a staff of three, SIPA had to carry out its administrative functions as well as its community programs. "We still came out over 100 percent in our efficiency measurements," said Abella. "In freezing us, the CSA focused only at technical things and not at what is the need for the program or what it has accomplished."

SECOND CHANCE?

The Board and staff of SIPA now have to prepare a new contract which would start in March and end in July. All CSA programs will terminate in July 1980, and at that time they will have to submit proposals to bid for refunding. This short space of time is a handicap for SIPA because they have since been evicted from their offices for failure to pay rent. Abella stated that "as we start the operations again, we will have to look for a new site and do our training and outreach for youth. By the time we're set to get going, we have to prepare to close down again."

Supporters of the program feel that, given this difficulty, what appears to be a second chance for SIPA may eventually prove to be a lot of trouble without a guarantee for refunding in the future. SIPA Board members, however, were strong in their conviction that as long as the community and the Filipino-American youth need services, SIPA would try their best to operate and fight for a quality program. □

daily battle against dehumanizing poverty and alienating racism. It is in this environment that the minority youth grows up and learns to survive, with some internalizing the worst aspects of this dog-eat-dog system.

The problem of our youth is a societal problem. One youth may have pulled the trigger but it is this society that perpetrates the crime of poverty and racism which drives a number of our youth to a life of violence and self-destruction. □

Youth Slay . . .

Continued from page S-1

from economically unstable families, who, together with other minorities, constitute the lowest strata of the working class. They live in run-down ghetto neighborhoods, attend overcrowded and understaffed inner city schools. For these youths and their families, life is a