

# ang KATIPUNAN



West Coast Supplement

## New Progressive Union for Nurses and Health Care Workers

*Editor's Note: This is the second part of a series of two articles based on an interview with Fran Spector, founding member of CUHP (California Union of Health Care Professionals), Local 723.*  
PART II

Nurses and various health care professionals, like most workers, are rapidly recognizing the basic need to organize into unions.

The health care crisis in this country—inadequate hospital staffing, soaring medical costs, poor patient care—has also led to a deterioration in the working conditions of nurses and various health care professionals. And yet, the traditional professional organizations like the California Nurses Association (CNA) are ineffective as a body to bargain for their rights. Because of this, an increasing number of professionals are recognizing the need to organize into unions.

From this view, Spector spoke frankly about her opinion of the current status of nurses in the workplace. "I think nurses have been treading a line between being a professional and an employee for a number of years. And its leaning more to being an employee who has to follow orders, rather than take responsibility for their individual code of professional practice."

"Under the present hospital system, nurses are forced to practice 'bad nursing.' Also divisions are created among them along 'professional' lines."

"The nurses associations want to make four-year degrees as the basic professional degree, making everyone else who does not have this into a technical LVN (Licensed Vocational Nurse). A division will be created therefore, between two-year and four-year nurses. The four-year nurses will be put into management positions. I think that is going to have a lot of long-range impact on the workforce and how it gets divided up and differentiated by salary scales."

### COMMON INTERESTS FOR PHILIPPINE AND AMERICAN TRAINED NURSES

Another area of concern which Spector addressed is the foreign-trained nurses. Spector is concerned that these



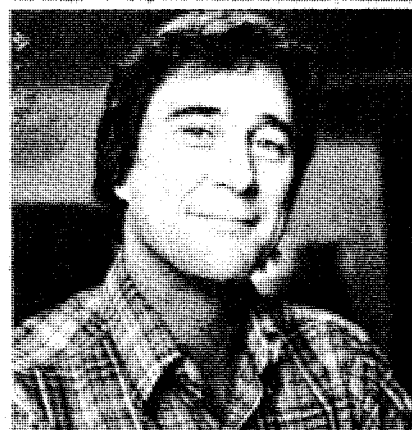
*An autonomous local in an international union means we'll be much stronger . . . at the bargaining table, in Sacramento and in Washington, D.C.*  
Fran Spector



*The only way that health care professionals can gain control over their practice is through collective bargaining. CNA has proven incompetent in that arena.*  
Laurie Ventresca



*I'm glad to see nurses unionizing, in my opinion that's the right way to go for a stronger future.*  
Clarita Ramos



*CNA lacks commitment to bargaining for control of practice. I believe that with out autonomous local, we will have the strength we need to control our profession, while winning the wages and benefits we deserve.*  
Mike Smith

foreign-trained nurses are not pitted against American-trained nurses.

"I think the answer lies in education. We have a lot of things in common. And it is in the interest of management to keep us apart."

"I think there needs to be more shared cultural understanding. We have a big segment of Filipino nurses and yet very few American-born nurses understand Filipino culture. Cultural events and educational kinds of experiences would increase each others awareness."

"I think we have a commitment to take a firm stand against racism and any kind of exclusionary policies. Those of us forming the union now are very much against the ANA's (American Nurses Association) position on foreign nurse graduate licensure exams for H-1 visas."

### WHY SEIU?

In speaking about the CUHP as a union, Spector clarified that, "an advantage in being with SEIU is that there is a broader focus on health care profession-

als. CNA and ANA have always been very narrow in representing only nurses."

"Although some people may feel that by leaving CNA and ANA you are leaving a large lobbying power, I think we have that with SEIU. As a part of SEIU, we are in a much better position to get support from other unions because we are a part of the labor movement. CNA always held itself apart from the labor movement."

### HIGH MORALE FOR CUHP STAFF

Regarding the on-going work of CUHP, "I think none of us were prepared for the amount and complexity of the work. It has been a lot of struggle. But we are optimistic. It is so much more exciting doing this work. All the time we felt frustrated with CNA, where there was really no hope of change."

"If we don't win this election, we will be back again. We will be in other hospitals where we don't have any organizing at all."

"We have done a publicity campaign,

mailing to all nurses in Northern California. We've started an organizing drive in a number of hospitals that are not yet organized in Sacramento. We have representatives in cafeterias on lunch-time breaks. We go there at night and we will also organize committees in each facility to keep information coming out. We will also be having a public debate with CNA."

### CNA THREAT CHALLENGED

In response to this union drive, CNA has been charged with harassing nurses who joined CUHP. Spector stated that CNA is using expulsion and suspension from the professional organization as a way of intimidating nurses. "We are going to file an unfair labor practice suit against CNA for interfering with the rights of workers to organize."

Local 723 has its office in San Francisco at 648 Taraval in the Sunset district. Nurses and other health care workers who are interested in their program should contact Fran Spector. □

## Domingo Named Secretary-Treasurer of Local 37

SEATTLE—Executive Board Member and Rank and File Committee (RFC) leader Silme Domingo, was recently named as the new Secretary-Treasurer of Local 37 (ILWU).

Domingo, an active member of the union since 1969 has been unanimously confirmed and voted into the position by both the Executive Committee and the union membership. He filled the position vacated by the untimely death of longtime union official Rudy (Amin) Abella who died March 16, 1980.

"The confirmation of Domingo signals another important turn in the history of Local 37," says Gene Viernes, a member of the Rank and File Committee. "It is a recognition of the progressive leadership in the union. Domingo is not only a well-known leader in the reform caucus of the union, but has also been a consis-

tent advocate for changes in the union," Viernes added.

Viernes also emphasized that the union has a lot of problems to deal with. "The problems between the union and the industries are encompassing. Union busting, attempts to close down many canneries, and the recession in the seafood industries are problems that the union faces. Domingo's appointment is indeed a confirmation of the need for a more responsible leadership to take up this wide variety of problems."

In an Executive Committee meeting to discuss the appointment of Domingo, Tony Baruso, president of the Local 37 stated: "I know that this is the time for changes in the union. The expertise of Domingo to help out in the improvement of our organization is the reason for the nomination." He also cited Domingo's

good understanding of the composition of the union membership and his good grasp of the union's function both at a local and on the international level.

Domingo has been a member of the Executive Board since 1977. He has also been a delegate to the Alaskan Canneries, and a Local 37 representative at the International Convention in San Diego. He is also an active executive council member of the Filipino Community of Seattle, Inc. and a member of the Union of Democratic Filipinos (KDP).

In a recent interview with Domingo, he stated: "My appointment as the secretary-treasurer of Local 37 is indeed a challenge to the reform movement in the union. I am confident that this position will give me an opportunity to gain new experiences in the union's day-to-day activities. This will help me gain new



*Silme Domingo speaking at an Executive Council meeting of the Filipino Community of Seattle, Inc. (FCSI): "He fights for reforms wherever he is in the Seattle community."*

understandings on how to address the complex problems that the union faces and will help deepen the reform program in the union. □

## NORTHERN CALIFORNIA REGION

## INS Harassment — A Bitter Experience

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** The following is a personal account of Tony Fedelino of Daly City, based on an interview conducted by the Ang Katipunan.

Mr. Fedelino, one of the many participants in the March 1 Conference sponsored by the Bay Area Immigrant Rights Task Force, relates the painful experience his parents suffered at the hands of the INS. His parents' plight is something that hundreds of Filipino elderly have similarly undergone in this last period when the INS harassed Filipino elderly on SSI benefits. Because there was no Bay Area Task Force at that time, Tony Fedelino had to fight his family's battle single-handedly. We invite our readers to submit their stories.

In August, 1978, my parents decided to take a trip to the Philippines. It was their first vacation in 10 years—and perhaps their last—since it is so expensive to go on vacation.

My father would not have gone on vacation if the immigrant officer who interviewed him for his naturalization application (and approved it) had not said it would take around three more months before he can be naturalized, and become a U.S. citizen.

Later, I found out that my father should have been naturalized no longer than one month instead of three months, because he belonged to a special immigration class.

Before leaving for the Philippines, my parents received their August SSI checks. (They have been receiving SSI benefits since December of 1976.)

In September, their SSI checks came, but my sister and I decided that since my parents were away longer than a month, it was just plain honest to return the checks to SSI.

After three months in the islands, they finally returned through the port of Honolulu on Nov. 7, 1978. At that time, they were no longer receiving SSI benefits, even though they were both eligible.

Like other elderly Asians, my parents were separated at the airport, were asked if they were receiving SSI benefits, and in turn, had their passports and green cards confiscated.

At that time, they were not told they would be subject to exclusion hearings. It was my father's belief that once they returned to San Francisco, their green cards and passports would be returned. They were instead told to report to the INS in San Francisco to get back their green cards.

When we went to the INS office, we



Tony Fedelino (second from right) at the S.F. Immigrant Rights Conference last March 1. He pledges to be an active BATF member.

AK Photo

were told to report for an interview later in November.

When we reported back, my parents were interviewed by a Filipino-American. Even though he himself acknowledged he didn't know much about a pending application for U.S. citizenship. But he nearly bit my head off the way he was speaking so sharply! After pacing back and forth, he turned to us and said we should post a \$6,000 cash bond (explicitly cash) to get back their green cards.

I told him we didn't have much money. He disregarded my remark and gave us a deadline for posting the bond. However, we were able to get an extension until Jan. 15, 1979.

When my sister engaged a well-known lawyer, he advised us to post the bond. It seemed that there was no chance for us.

At that point, I was ready to give up. But a friend of mine encouraged me to fight it. You know, the more I thought about it, the more I saw the injustice of it all. It really got me so mad. I'm not really the type of person who fights or looks for a fight, but I was really angry!

Even though I knew very little at that time, I felt that it was just a matter of time before we would win, because justice was on our side.

Fighting my father's case brought a lot of hardship and financial burden upon my family. It was also at this time that my father became ill.

A few days before the deadline to post the \$6,000 bond, I noticed my father's health was not good. I took him to the doctor. It turned out that he had not been feeling well for some time since he came back from the Philippines, but he

was so ashamed to tell me, because he knew he wasn't entitled to Medi-Cal benefits since his SSI was cut off in September.

The doctor advised that he be admitted right away. He had to be hospitalized for congestive heart failure.

By the time my father was admitted to the hospital, there was already a marked deterioration in his mental abilities.

After my father was discharged, he could hardly speak. When he did, he would say things he didn't mean, and say words we didn't understand. For example, he started calling my mother "Tatay" (father).

His condition worsened and in April, the doctor suggested another hospitalization. Because I feared incurring another big debt (the cost of the first hospitalization was over \$4,000), I took the chance of flying my parents to New Jersey, hoping that my sister, a nurse, could get some kind of discount. We really had no choice.

My father was again hospitalized, and was to receive a pacemaker implant soon after arriving in New Jersey.

Meanwhile, I wrote a letter to Rosalyn Carter, and I soon received a notice from the INS informing us of the final naturalization hearing for my father. I don't know why, but later this appointment was cancelled. We were instructed to post a \$3,000 cash bond for the release of my father's green card which was needed to complete the naturalization process.

I couldn't understand it. While a letter from the INS office in Washington, DC agreed to set a hearing for my father's citizenship, San Francisco INS stopped

it all!

Our lawyer advised me again to pay the bond, allow my father to become naturalized, and then ask for the bond money back.

But I didn't want to pay the bond, because I thought we were right. Just the same, I tried to apply for a loan from my credit union, but my application was denied for the first time in my life, because I already had too much *utang* (debt).

The third appointment with the INS was set for July 17. I was determined to get my father back from New Jersey for that appointment. But the doctor in New Jersey refused to release my father from the hospital unless my sister paid \$1,000 of the bill. Again, we had no choice.

My parents arrived in time for the July 17 hearing, and my father was finally naturalized even without his green card. We immediately inquired about my mother's green card, but we had to fill out two new affidavits of support. My mother finally received her card back on Dec. 5, 1979.

Five days later, my father, Angel Fedelino, died at the age of 75. It was as if he was waiting for my mother's case to be settled before he could finally rest.

It is ironic that while we were still fighting the case, we got publicized in the *Philippine News* and the *San Mateo County Post*.

In the *Philippine News*, their correspondent wrote things that were not true. And then, when I wrote them a strong letter of response, they took away the strong parts of my letter.

Then also, when my father was about to become a U.S. citizen, I sent information to the *Philippine News* publisher, Mr. Alex Esclamado, about the possibility that my father might already become a citizen. The victory of my father was not publicized. Of course, now he is dead. So a lot of people did not know what really happened.

I am both happy and sad about the emergence of the Bay Area Task Force. I am sad because it came late for my parents, especially my father. But I'm happy that Filipinos are beginning to realize that there needs to be a strong movement to protect the rights of Filipino immigrants.

The important point is not that some of our Filipino elderly had their green cards confiscated. The point is that an injustice has taken place.

There is only one language that the INS understands and that is *LABAN!* (FIGHT BACK!) □

## Elderly Filipino Challenges INS...and Wins!

SAN FRANCISCO—Mrs. Epifania Lopez, an elderly Filipino who dared to challenge the Immigration and Naturalization Services, recently chalked up an important victory.

On March 21, the INS was forced to return her green card and passport without Mrs. Lopez having to withdraw from her Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits.

This ended almost a year's trauma for Mrs. Lopez and her family. Last June 1979, she went to the Philippines to accompany her daughter who was just recovering from an open heart surgery performed in Houston, Texas.

Upon her return, her green card and passport were confiscated by Immigration officials in Honolulu because she



Mrs. Epifania Lopez: Together with the BATF, her struggle with the INS resulted in victory.

was receiving SSI benefits. She was then told to appear before a hearing on July 17 where she was declared by the INS as a "public charge" and was asked to terminate her SSI benefits.

Mrs. Lopez refused, and consequently gained the ire of INS officials. She requested a court hearing to challenge the INS' claim that she was a "public charge."

Later, she contacted the Bay Area Task Force Co-coordinator, Nonie Espiritu, who then referred her to Task Force member Bill Tamayo of the Asian Law Caucus. Together with the Task Force, they pursued her case with the INS.

At the March 21 hearing, the INS admitted and agreed that her emergency

trip to the Philippines to accompany her daughter was not sufficient to make her return an "entry" which would make the exclusion laws applicable.

In effect, her lawyer, Bill Tamayo, forced the INS to view her case properly under the Atanacio Decision.

Prior to the hearing, Mrs. Lopez brought her case before the Bay Area Task Force Conference last March 1, where she narrated the whole pattern of INS harassment placed on her and her family.

At that conference, Mrs. Lopez remarked: "We must organize ourselves in order to have strength so that we will be heard, just as the other nationalities are doing here." □

## SEATTLE REGION

## An Open Letter to Lawsin and Corsilles

## Who is for Reform and Who is Against it?

By the Regional Executive Board  
KDP—Seattle

The Seattle Filipino Community has been hit recently by a number of articles appearing in two Seattle Filipino community newspapers. An open letter written by Vincent Lawsin, President of the Filipino Community of Seattle, Inc. (FCSI) entitled, "An Open Letter to the Filipinos of Seattle and King County" appeared in the **Filipino American Herald**. In his letter, Mr. Lawsin laboriously attacks the reform caucus of FCSI members' Filipino Americans for Reform (FAR) and their supporters and the Union of Democratic Filipinos (KDP) and stoops to lengthy and libelous accusations of FAR members.

An edited and revised version of the same letter appeared in the **Bayanihan Tribune** as an alleged "paid advertisement." In the **Bayanihan Tribune's** edited version, we are spared some of the personal attacks that characterized the **Filipino American Herald's** version. However, we find it quite disturbing and unusual that Lawsin's paid advertisement received a front page "kicker" announcement to lead readers to the so-called unbiased and impartial paid advertisement.

In the same issue of the **Bayanihan Tribune** appears an editorial entitled, "This Business of Speaking Out" which we assume was written by Editor Diony Corsilles. In his editorial, Corsilles gives his version of the recent controversy that has erupted in the Filipino community over Lawsin's removal of three committee chairpersons and the ousting of Council-member Leni Marin. Corsilles describes the present furor that has engulfed the Filipino community as being the result of petty squabbles between two factions in the community.

While many of the issues that are raised by the articles in the **Filipino American Herald** and the **Bayanihan Tribune** merit response, we feel that many issues can best be responded to by the FAR and its members. However, there are issues that can best be responded to by the KDP.

In our response, we will comment on Lawsin's open letters and Corsilles' editorial. We feel that both articles can be handled adequately in one response since we feel that they both represent similar perspectives.

While Mr. Lawsin's letters are much longer than Corsilles' editorial, we will not belabor ourselves in responding to Lawsin's petty accusations of FAR and its members. We are confident that FAR will put the clamps on Lawsin's foolish mind, while a court of law will probably put an end to his libelous chatter. However, we will take issue with Mr. Lawsin on a few points.

On the other hand, Corsilles' editorial merits greater attention, not because of its great journalistic merits, but because of its subtle liberal efforts to explain the present phenomena in the community. In the tradition of the uncommitted liberal, Corsilles tries to rationalize what is occurring and appeals to our "sense of humanity" to "please don't fight now...its not worth it." At any rate, we will deal with Mr. Corsilles later on in this response.

#### LAWSIN AND CORSILLES COME OUT OF THE WOODWORK TO ATTACK KDP'S "SECRET" ACTIVITIES

In reading these articles, it is very conspicuous that accusations and insinuations of infiltration and manipulation are being leveled at the KDP. Yet, we



Seattle community members put up placards of "Let the people when Lawsin refused them to present their concerns on the arbitrary removal of three chairpersons and the clubhouse director."

are not surprised by these crude and off-the-wall accusations. We have heard them before many times, but usually behind our backs or as rumor-mongering. What is different this time is that Lawsin and his friends, Rafanan and Corsilles, have come out in the open for the first time as acknowledged rumor-mongers. It's about time! Really now fellows, you should have come out sooner and let the rest of the community know what your true colors are. You should encourage others of your same persuasion and colors to do the same.

In his open letters, Lawsin attempts to reconcile his differences with the FAR by stating that he "has no quarrel with the FAR," and even goes to the extent of admitting that the FAR played an instrumental role in his election in Jan., 1979. However, in the same breath, Lawsin laments that "it is unfortunate that FAR has to be influenced by the KDP elements in our community."

Thank God! We should all appreciate Vincent's concern. But Vincent, as far as we know, no one in the FAR is complaining about the participation of the KDP in FAR. In fact, this is public knowledge. Members of the Council over which you preside have stood up time and time again in front of you and other Council members of the community to acknowledge and uphold the participation of KDP members in the community-at-large.

In the letter that appeared in the **Filipino American Herald**, in the name of "freedom," Lawsin deduces that "(you) can almost smell a known group and their strategy of infiltration." Unfortunately, Lawsin cowardly refuses to disclose the "group." However, we are sure Vincent is once again discussing the KDP.

Lawsin takes the opportunity to paint the KDP as sneaking around behind people's backs or mysteriously moving in to brainwash people. Vincent, how ridiculous can you get! Have you forgotten the many meetings that you have been to with KDP activists participating? Most anyone who knows us can attest that it is a general practice of our activists to openly disclose their membership in the KDP and because of this practice, the membership of the KDP is probably one of the most well-known "secrets" in the Filipino community.

Furthermore, our newspaper, *Ang Katipunan*, can be bought at any number of places or from any activist at most

major events in the Filipino community. Vincent, you know as well as anyone, you only have to read the AK to find out what we are involved in or what is our opinion on a broad scope of issues.

What makes your "warnings" of infiltration even more ridiculous, Vincent, is the fact that KDP activists are a central part of this community and do not have to resort to lurking behind corners! Perhaps you and your friend, Rafanan, are reading too much of the *Philippine News*. After all, you and Rafanan are beginning to sound like *Philippine News* Editor, Alex Esclamado, who calls on the community to watch out for the KDP. Yet, most people already know of the existence of the KDP. People know that our activists are working in the areas of low-income housing in the International District; helping to rebuild the Cannery Workers Union, Local 37; and fighting employment discrimination in the Alaska seafood industry; actively organizing to educate our people on the present conditions in the Philippines; fighting for immigration rights for Filipinos; actively organizing against racism; and much more. People also know that we pride ourselves upon being organized. We are organized because we are convinced that this is the only way that our people can respond in their fight to meet their needs.

We are greatly angered and disturbed by the accusations and innuendos of Lawsin's letters. The whole thing smacks of the anti-communist hysteria that once gripped this country during the McCarthy witch hunts of the 1950's. It was also during this period that Filipinos in Seattle were being persecuted for their beliefs. The most blatant act was the effort of the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) with the assistance of Filipino and company collaborators to deport scores of militant trade unionists such as Chris Mensalves, Ernesto Mangaoang, Ponce Torres and others for being "communists." Yet, it has been proven that the real motivation to deport these leaders was to break the progressive and militant character of the Cannery Workers Union.

Unfortunately, the efforts of the INS collaborators were partially successful. As a result, the progressive movement is still faced with the task of rebuilding the proud progressive heritage of the union.

Fortunately, we have learned from the past and this is why we will not let such attacks go unresponded. Likewise, we

are confident that the rest of the Filipino community will not allow such attacks to go unchallenged.

#### CORSILLES WRINGS HIS HANDS IN DESPAIR WHILE DOING NOTHING TO HELP THE COMMUNITY

In the same spirit, we would like to take issue with Diony Corsilles' editorial, "This Business of Speaking Out." In this editorial, Corsilles characterizes the Filipino community as being in "furor" over petty squabble between opposing factions and that "neither opposing faction appears to want to be reasonable and listen with and open mind." Corsilles attempts to portray the meetings as irresponsible fighting between two selfish groups, while supposedly ignoring the real concerns of the people. In a flash of wisdom, Corsilles even goes to the extent of prescribing a sure remedy to resolve the "furor" in the community.

However, we find that Corsilles' remedy is as inappropriate as his editorial. Corsilles' remedy is inappropriate because he has failed miserably to understand that the basis of the storm of the controversy and furor is the sharp clash between opposing interests! Yes, beneath all the surface phenomena, there is a bitter fight being waged between basic interests in the community. It is a fight between the interests of the community-at-large versus the narrow interests of a small elite and privileged clique within the community. And, the line between these two groups has been drawn along the question of: Do you support reform, or do you oppose reform.

Corsilles attempts to obscure the line that has been drawn by babbling about "What in the name of God can these so-called leaders do to avoid spinning their wheels?" Corsilles then adds, "They can start by abandoning their stance of 'you against me,' 'I'm right, you're wrong.' They have to start on a friendly setting and lay down all imaginary arms. They can concentrate on a quiet, unselfish question: What can we do to honestly help the community?"

The plain fact is, Diony, there can be no abandoning of positions nor any existence of a friendly setting when a struggle over basic interests is involved.

The struggle for reform is a struggle over basic interests. Through the call to reform FCSI into a more relevant organization and community center, a genuine movement has been launched throughout the community to meet the pressing needs and concerns of the community. As a result of this movement, a growing number of our people have stepped forward to become active in community affairs. And, at the helm of this movement is the FAR which launched the initial steps of the reform movement by single-handedly registering over 1,200 members during last year's membership and election drive. The FAR has never lost sight of its promises to reform the FCSI and as a result, has always concerned themselves with the needs of the membership. In the name of reform, FAR has strived to involve themselves in relevant issues such as immigration rights, youth activities, low-income housing, rather than being totally preoccupied in social dances and banquets. In particular, the FAR has focused much attention on the recently arrived immigrants whose many needs still go unmet.

Yet, it is this demand for reform and its accompanying demand to meet the needs of the broad community that run counter to the existing status quo in the

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# Los Angeles NAFL Answers U.F.O. Slanders

This is a response to the article submitted by the United Filipino Organization Executive Board of New York in the *Philippine Times* March 10, 1980 issue about the Makapili issue in connection with Mr. Policarpio's role in the INS harassment of the NAFL-FNG National Coordinator Aimee Cruz. In that article, reference was made by the UFO Executive Board to victimized nurses in Los Angeles.

As members of the NAFL-FNG chapter of L.A., we want to clarify the serious distortions made regarding an important community issue that the NAFL-FNG chapter championed in L.A. in 1978 involving twelve H-1 visa nurses that were victims of deceptive recruitment in the Philippines. These nurses arrived in the U.S. with no jobs due to last minute cancellation of their work contracts. Two of the nurses contacted the NAFL-FNG in Los Angeles as a last resort for help and were given full NAFL-FNG support locally and nationally.

Aimee Cruz took the case directly and in an open way to the then Commissioner Castillo of the INS in an effort to get their status legalized during the NAFL-INS meetings of Dec. 1978. A community meeting was held in Los Angeles in Oct. 1978, exposing the issue and the in-

justice done to the nurses, and from the meeting, 60 telegrams were sent to the INS in full support of the representation made by Ms. Cruz. As a result, the INS verbally promised to send written permissions for the nurses to apply for the Deferred Voluntary Departure status (availed by H-1 nurses who failed the licensure examination) so that they could be allowed to seek employment in order to survive. However, the written permissions were never received despite follow-ups by the NAFL-FNG. In short, the NAFL-FNG did its best to help and defend these kababayan nurses.

We say, therefore, that the UFO Executive Board presented the issue in a grossly distorted fashion, making irresponsible attacks on the national coordinator and the NAFL-FNG as an organization.

Unless the UFO Executive Board corrects itself and submits a public apology, we consider their response to the issue as libelous and only serves to negate the efforts of the NAFL-FNG. It further insults the L.A. Filipino community which has given support to the 12 H-1 nurses and it only plants poisonous intrigues in the community.

Ms. Cruz has always been a staunch leader who has helped forge a nationwide



Maribel Salomon.

movement that has helped gain rights for both Foreign Medical Graduates and Foreign Nurse Graduates. Ms. Cruz led the NAFL negotiations with the INS which in 1977 resulted in the DVD status agreement that stopped deportations of hundreds or even thousands of foreign nurses. This achievement can not be ignored. People like Mr. Policarpio, who in the name of democracy and freedom, attack other people like Ms. Cruz who are fighting for the rights

of Filipinos in the U.S. must be grossly misinformed or have some ulterior motives.

What about Mr. Policarpio? What has he done for the foreign nurses? Why does he know about the activities of the L.A. INS when he is not even from L.A.? Why does he know so much about INS surveillance activities of people-information that is not even made public? Why has the UFO Executive Board allowed its name to be used without investigating the facts properly for itself and in the face of glaring evidence obtained by Ms. Cruz from the INS? Why is Mr. Policarpio so chummy with the INS when there is a need at this time to defend nurses and criticize the INS for its harassment of H-1 nurses?

It seems there are people who, for selfish gains, use the name of our community to undermine our rights and our efforts in NAFL-FNG to defend these rights! The term "makapili" indeed seems to fit these people.

Maribel Salomon, RN  
Nora Castillo, RN  
Evelyn Carandang, RN  
Cesar Salibay, RN  
Aleli Bautista, RN  
Ruby Marcelo, RN

of the NAFL-FNG Los Angeles Chapter

## Open Letter to Lawsin...



Seattle Filipino community members with the more than 500 signatures demanding the re-instatement of Ade Domingo, Mel Fernandez, Julie Nonog, and Leni Marin.

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community. It is this status quo that is insistent upon just working for the narrow interests of a small circle of privileged individuals. These "so-called leaders" of our community use their positions within the FCSI just to "hob-knob" with dignitaries such as the mayor and the city council or the Philippine Consulate. Little do they concern themselves with the day-to-day concerns of the common people in the community. While surely they can easily say: "Why, we support that issue. We even supported it in the Council meeting." But in reality, one only needs two hands and possibly a foot to count those that would actively come to the support of one of our kababayans if they were being deported.

Furthermore, these privileged individuals never fail to remind us that "they and their families have been in this community for generations and know lots of people." They even go to the extent of warning us that they will fight to keep their privileged roles in the community for generations to come.

Corsilles goes through great pains to call for "respect, decorum and order." However, in an effort to keep himself above the waters of controversy, Corsilles maintains a consistent "liberal"

image by refusing to comment on the clash to destroy the status quo. Corsilles would be better off in discussing the plight of the common people in our community who neither hold a privileged role in the community, nor have the luxury of being a part of a family legacy that enjoys special privileges, and so much literally beg and fight to address the FCSI Council such as what has occurred in past FCSI Council meetings. By addressing these issues, Corsilles might better understand the "furor" that has embraced our community, rather than taking the easy way out and chalking it up to another petty squabble amongst Filipinos.

Corsilles, as well as Lawsin, is quite concerned with "the erosion of the Filipino image..." They have requested that we should not "hang our dirty laundry" out in public.

But gentlemen, don't be so naive! Many people are aware of what is going on. And for those who don't, it is important that they know about what the issues are and are exposed to this clash of interests. What makes your request even more preposterous is the fact that while admitting that "the laundry is dirty," you don't argue that we should clean our laundry, but rather we close our eyes to it!

### KDP LEADS STRUGGLE FOR REFORM

In the midst of this present clash of interests, the KDP has been targetted for disrupting unity. While surely we feel that these attacks are unwarranted, we feel that our record speaks for itself. What is the record? Since the formation of the KDP Seattle Chapter in 1974, the KDP has openly and consistently called upon the community to meet the needs of the broad community. We have made these demands to the community because we fully understand the true character of our people, especially the wave of recent immigrants who face growing needs of employment, housing and other basic rights. We are also aware of the needs of the youth who face problems of employment, relevant education, meaningful social activities, or the needs of the elderly who face problems of low-income housing, adequate social and medical services.

On the other hand, what has been the practice of those with narrow interests? Where were they when the call came out to support the fight for low-income housing in the International District? Where were they when the call was made to support the residents of the Paul Revere Hotel when residents (predominantly Filipino immigrants) were hit by unreasonable rent increases? Or, where were our privileged elite when the Lao and Carcellar families were faced with overwhelming immigration problems? Probably they were preoccupied with such "major concerns" as: whether or not to have a banquet or dance at the annual Mrs. Filipino Community Coronation, or the planning of the next Grand Terno Ball that would be attended by no more than 150 people.

### THEN WHAT IS THE KDP GUILTY OF?

We are guilty of disrupting the past practices when such trivialities as dances, terno balls were the main areas of discussion of the FCSI Council and the community was supposedly so united. Really now, who is going to go out on a limb to argue over these matters. The KDP has persisted in demanding that the Council take up the real concrete needs of the community. Our record in initiating the Educational Task Force,

youth programs, the Social Concerns Committee, broad and more relevant fundraisers, proves that we have consistently put forward our positions on change.

Today, our so-called leaders are probably saying that our biggest mistake was to allow the KDP into the Council. Because it was at that point that the community had a reliable force that could hold the leadership accountable towards meeting the needs of the community.

For years, the KDP has openly challenged the most backward ideas and practices in the Filipino community. And, because of these practices, the KDP has now become the target of accusations of "infiltration" by Lawsin, Corsilles and Rafanan. Thanks to these gentlemen, they have pulled the alarm in predictable Alex Esclamado style! Next month these gentlemen will probably warn us that the KDP is working for a "foreign communist power."

However, as we stated before, we will not be intimidated by your desperate and foolish attacks. Your attacks are nothing but a demagogic trick to drum up the most backward ideas amongst people. Rather than addressing the issues before the community or refuting the record of the KDP, you opt to take the easy way out by spreading anti-communist warnings to mount hysteria in the community. Even in the midst of these anti-communist outbursts, Lawsin and his friends even to the extent of claiming that they are targets of a "witch hunt." This is insane! Shouldn't KDP activist Leni Marin, who is being ousted from the FCSI Council, be the one warning against a witch hunt!

As we have stated before, the KDP, the FAR, and its growing number of supporters and many other democratically minded Filipinos will not allow Lawsin and his friends to go unopposed. We are confident that the community will find Lawsin's open letters inaccurate, nothing but outright lies to obscure the real issues in the community. On the other hand, we are also confident that the community will also see that Corsilles' editorial is just a feeble liberal effort to try to obscure the basic struggle over interests of the broad community.