

Ang KATIPUNAN

VOL. 1, No. 2

West Coast Supplement

June 16-30, 1979

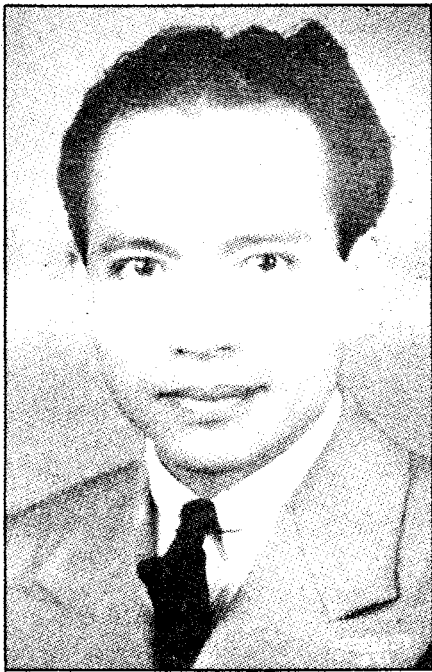
The Issue: Secretary/Treasurer's Incompetence

RECALL EFFORT UNDERWAY IN LOCAL 37

"As long as I can remember, during this administration and previous administrations, Brother Ponce Torres has never filed a finance report, and I am sick and tired of it . . . If he and others like him were really concerned with the welfare of the workers and the strength of this union, they would relinquish their positions immediately."

The frustration exhibited by the veteran union member is the catalyst for a recall effort by members of ILWU Local 37, the salmon cannery workers union, of Secretary/Treasurer Ponce Torres for gross negligence and incompetence in carrying out his duties.

The move initiated by the Rank and File Committee in conjunction with a broad cross-section of the membership, will involve a mass petition campaign to launch a referendum as outlined in the Union's constitution. The whole process will take place over the summer and promises to involve the whole membership in re-evaluating Brother Ponce's job. If the recall is successful, the union's Executive Council will appoint someone to finish



Ponce Torres in 1952: Torres is charged with "negligence and incompetence" by ILWU Local 37 members. (Local 37

out Brother Ponce's term till 1980.

The move was precipitated by events over the past nine months where it became increasingly obvious that

Brother Ponce was neglecting his union duties as outlined in the union's constitution.

Numerous efforts were made, both by members of the Executive Council and the rank and file to raise these criticisms in a spirit of helping Brother Ponce to perform his duties. These were met with arrogant and defiant refusals to reform by Brother Ponce.

THE ISSUES

Ponce Torres, 75, was appointed to the salaried position in 1973 to fill the vacant office after the death of former Secretary/Treasurer Johnny Lucero. In 1974 he was re-elected and has maintained the position since. (Union elections were arbitrarily cancelled in 1976, ostensibly due to "lack of interest.") In 1978 he was once again re-elected to that position amidst many complaints of intimidation, lack of cooperation with officers of the election committee and irregularities during the election procedures.

According to Sue Williams, Executive Board and Rank and File Committee member, as Secretary, Brother Ponce has failed to produce systema-

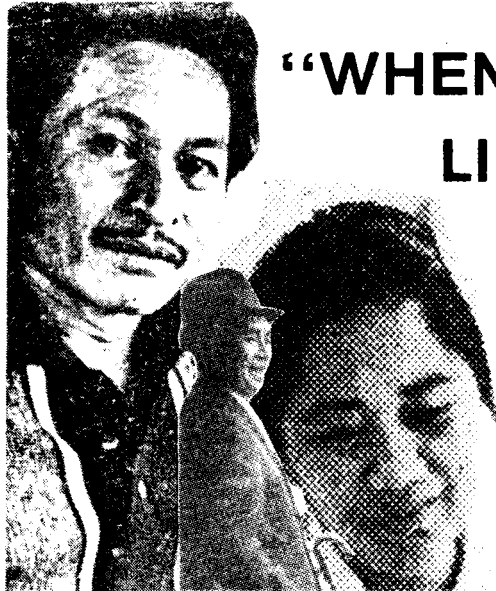
tic and written records of all proceedings of union meetings and of other union business. He seldom notifies the general membership of union meetings or Executive Council meetings or responsibly implements any requests issued by the membership or Executive Council. This has led to a weakening of the office and irresponsibility in carrying out his constitutionally mandated duties.

For example, earlier this year, Torres had failed to submit the per capita dues of Local 37 to the ILWU International. Consequently, International Secretary/Treasurer McClain sent a letter stating that unless Local 37 submitted payment representatives of the Local would not receive credentials or be seated at the International convention held in April 1979 in San Diego. This would have jeopardized the Local's participation at the International level.

"I JUST DIDN'T WANT TO DO IT!"

But the straw that broke the camel's back happened at the May Executive Council and mass membership meet-

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"WHEN WE GET TO AMERICA, LIFE WILL BE . . ."



Since the new immigration laws of 1965, Filipinos rank second in total number of entries into the U.S., only slightly behind the Mexican people. In 1965, Filipino immigration was 2,545; in 1970, it soared to 25,417 and has since grown at a rate of 3,000 a year.

For San Francisco, this has meant a population boom and today, Filipinos make up the fastest growing minority in the city. Because it has been the historic "main port of entry" for Filipinos since the 1920's, San Francisco has always had a large Filipino population: 10,000-12,000 in 1965. By 1980, however, Filipinos are expected to number up to 70,000 in the San Francisco-Daly City area alone. The social impact of this massive immigration is only now coming to the surface.

Among Filipinos, an understanding of the special concerns and need of our community are just beginning. Already, senior citizens and new immigrants are having the most difficulties in obtaining basic necessities like suitable employment; decent, affordable housing, etc.

Our understanding of these problems and our response to them are pressing questions facing the commu-

nity. Therefore, in this and future issues of the Ang Katipunan, the KDP San Francisco chapter will share with our readers some analysis and perspective on these various problems. We encourage our readers to respond with questions, criticisms or comments.

By TRINITY ORDONA

SAN FRANCISCO — Today, Filipinos come to San Francisco for a lot of different personal, social, cultural, and economic reasons. One strong appeal is the presence of a large Filipino community of over 50,000. One can usually find a relative, friend, or townmate and they can be a great practical help and moral support while having adjustment problems like finding a job, place to stay, homesickness, etc.

But the main "lure" of San Francisco is the job opportunities found in a big city. The Financial District of the West and national tourist site, San Francisco needs a large professional as well as clerical and service labor force for its finance/commerce and tourist industries. As a result, many

Filipinos find work in banks, insurance companies, government offices, hotels, restaurants, hospitals and convalescent homes.

BENEATH THE ROMANTIC DESCRIPTIONS

Most Filipinos, however, are not working in positions commensurate to their education and training because of discriminatory licensing policies, hiring and promotional practices and prejudicial attitudes towards minorities. Therefore, unemployment is prevalent, while those working are oftentimes underpaid, working without benefits or in jobs without unions. Competition, and therefore, unemployment is especially high among men, requiring mothers, sisters and daughters to hold down the "bread and butter" jobs for the family's survival. Women are highly underpaid and many Filipinas work in low-paying jobs like clerks, typists in the Financial District, salesgirls in stores along Market Street or aides in S.F. General or Laguna Honda hospitals.

On top of these economic difficulties, most families have huge debts

from the loans they took out to pay for the visa and transportation costs to the U.S. And once they arrive, new debts easily accumulate, the high cost of living quickly eat up their wages, and savings disappear with basic expenses like a car, appliances, furniture, and a home. The family continually struggles to make ends meet and scrimp together even small amounts to send back home.

This is just a common scenario of the daily experiences of Filipinos, a life that all immigrants, then the first wave, and now the newcomers, undergo.

Given these economic considerations, it is no wonder that about 10,000 Filipino senior citizens and third wave immigrants are found in the inner-city area of South of Market as compared to other neighborhoods in San Francisco.

INNER-CITY GHETTO

Perhaps the largest Filipino ghetto in the U.S., South of Market contains the highest concentration of Filipinos per block, with as many as three families in one household. It is a microcosm of all the major problems Filipinos face in America — poor housing, high unemployment, poor quality education, lack of recreational facilities and health services, high juvenile delinquency rate and a host of other social problems brought about by their poor economic situations.

Housing typically is run down, substandard and expensive for what you get. The apartments are usually 2-3 room units in walk-up flats or situated alley streets sandwiched between warehouses, light industries or small businesses. Like the inner-city ghettos typical of American cities, South of Market is the industrial "back-door" of S.F. with factories, transportation depots and various as-

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NORTHERN CALIFORNIA REGION

OUTRAGE OVER DAN WHITE VERDICT

By DAVID POLAND
AK Correspondent

After cold-bloodedly murdering the city's mayor and its first gay supervisor, George Moscone and Harvey Milk, ex-cop Dan White was given a very lenient 5-8 year sentence in a voluntary manslaughter verdict that triggered mass protest throughout the city.

Major irregularities on the part of the prosecution and in particular, District Atty. Joseph Freitas, have surfaced in the aftermath, exposing that Freitas withheld evidence and never tried to establish intent.

Five thousand people, mostly gays, marched to City Hall intending to peacefully protest the injustice. But with a history of police harassment of the gay community and the forceful presence of riot-equipped police at City Hall, the protest escalated to a confrontation, touching off a full-scale riot, leaving 15 police cars in flames and the City Hall in shambles. Despite the sensationalized report of the riot, another 7,000 people turned out the next day in commemoration of Harvey Milk without incident.

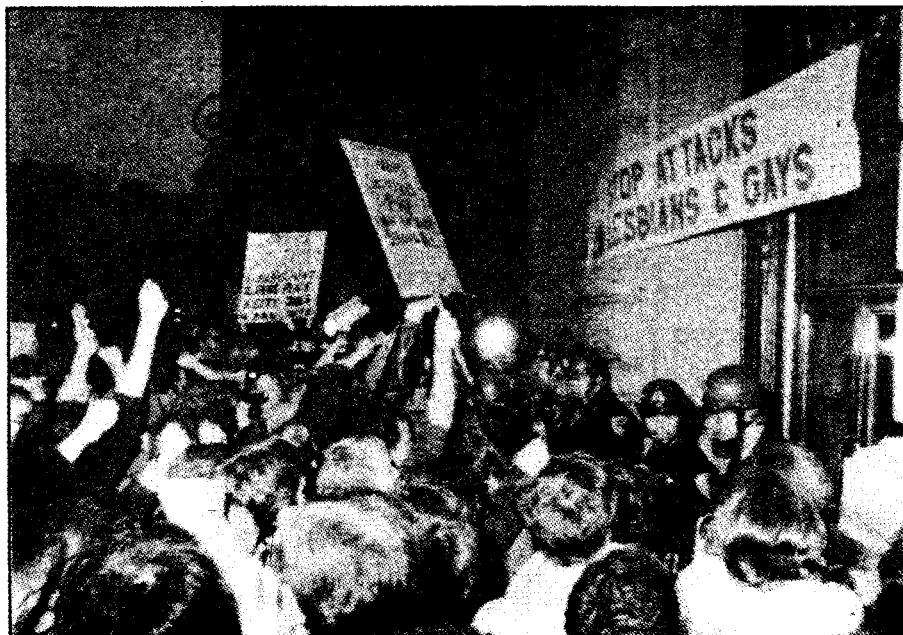
Most minorities, gays and progressive people righteously pointed out that if they had been in White's shoes, not only would they have been found guilty of murder, but would have been locked up and the key thrown away. How was the double standard of justice allowed to rear its ugly head?

CITY POLITICS — RUTHLESS COMPETITION

A self-proclaimed "All-American Boy" who made good, Dan White, was an ex-cop and ex-fireman elected to the Board of Supervisor in 1977 from the Excelsior District of San Francisco. A controversial political conservative, he campaigned on a law and order ticket, crusading against "social deviants" and "criminal elements" which were veiled references to gays and minorities.

Once on the board, according to the Bay Guardian, "White ingratiated himself with the city's rich and powerful interests (including most notably Warren Simmons, whose Pier 39 development White fought for as a supervisor; White later leased his "Hot Potato Stand," a food concession at Pier 39).

White was also the political arch rival of Harvey Milk and liberal mayor, George Moscone. Only once



The light sentence accorded Dan White triggered a protest, May 21, in San Francisco.

during the trial was evidence of this antagonism brought out by the prosecution.

Claiming family and financial problems as the basis of his resignation, White later changed his mind and insisted on getting his job back. By then, Moscone had decided to appoint another man. White, in a fit of revenge, murdered Moscone and took the "opportunity" to eliminate Milk at the same time.

WHITE: COLD-BLOODED-MURDERER

White, according to his own testimony, climbed through an open window at City Hall, avoiding the metal/gun security check at the entrance. White then went directly to Moscone's office to supposedly see him to convince the mayor to give him his position back. Instead, White dumped five bullets into the body of Moscone and killing him in a coup d'grace shot on his head as he lay on the floor. White then coolly reloaded his gun and did the same to Milk with a fatal shot to the head.

According to the defense, this was not pre-meditated murder. The defense argued that White was "so depressed" that he could no longer control himself (sic). In one incident, they called a psychiatrist who claimed that White was under the influence of too much sugar in his blood, offering as evidence, the fact that White had the habit of devouring large quantities of Twinkies and other sweets.

But the real mockery of justice came actually from the prosecution.

D.A.'S ROLE

The D.A.'s office never vigorously prosecuted the case. Neither did they try to establish pre-meditated and malicious intent, the key point in determining first-degree murder. Key witnesses who would have established White's political motive as well as his history of violence were never presented.

White's taped confession which was presented by the defense, was the most blatantly distorted evidence. It portrayed White as a distraught man, crying helplessly as he recounted the incident. Observers say that White's confession is what sprung him. "I could not have produced a better confession if my client came in and I told him what to do," said a veteran trial attorney.

First of all, Public Inspector Frank Falzon, a personal friend of White, fellow police officer and at one time, his softball coach interrogated White. Reported by the Bay Guardian, "Coming from a sympathetic friend, it failed miserably to ask the pertinent questions that are normally asked to establish intent." (Why White had entered City Hall with a gun, taken extra bullets, and fired coup d'grace shots at the victims' heads as they lay on the ground.)

According to S.F. Chronicle reporter Warren Hinckle, "When the assassin was met at City Prison, James Denman, the jailer, observed that "most of the policemen were being chummy to White. "When I put him in his cell, when the bars slam-

ready cropped up and the construction of middle-to-high income bracket apartment complexes will soon follow.

Yet typical of "urban renewal" programs, there is no "progress" for the South of Market residents. 10,000 units of low-income housing have been torn down without replacement and the pattern will continue. In the meantime, real estate speculators and landlords have doubled the rents, forcing many to accept the rent-gouging or move out to even poorer areas like the Tenderloin, the off-Broadway "red light" district of the city.

FROM PAST TO PRESENT

Although nearly 60 years have passed since the first wave of Filipinos reached the U.S. mainland, little has changed in the discrimination and exploitation of new immigrants.

Filipinos living in the South of Market area today are re-living the bitter struggles of the past. Filipinos

med down behind him, there was no reaction. He was cool. He just laid down on his bunk with his hands behind his head." Denman reported this behavior to Freitas, but it was never brought out in the trial.

Winckle also reported some biased behavior on the part of the police. "He was met with a reception inconsistent with that of a killer. One police officer gave him a pat on the behind when he was booked."

All of this, of course, runs counter to the penitent, uncontrollable Dan White portrayed in the "taped confession."

WHY DID THE D.A. FAIL TO PROSECUTE?

Freitas led in the cover-up of White's crime. According to Jack Webb, member of City Charter Commission, "There was clearly some sort of a deal cut not to hit on the political aspects of this case." Webb felt that it would have placed the D.A.'s office in the difficult position of criticizing the police department, exposing the hostile attitude of White and thus, break down the "All-American Boy" image associated with policemen.

Freitas has since refused to appeal the case. In a classic case of shifting blame, Freitas and the Hearst papers and others in the media have blamed the jurors while sensationalizing the rioting that followed after the verdict to obscure the issue.

DOUBLE-STANDARD JUSTICE FOR MINORITIES

For the Filipino community, there has already been a lot of experience with this double standard of justice. It was Freitas' office that was the first to try a minor as an adult in a major crime. Ironically, a 17-year-old Filipino, Julius Domantay, was the first to be tried this way for the robbery-shooting of a grocery store owner. Although it was his first crime, Domantay was not given any lenience, and was tried as an "example" to others. He was sentenced to life imprisonment.

More recently, Freitas collaborated with the Marcos regime in the prosecution of the AMLC-7 for a peaceful sit-in at the Philippine Consulate.

There is no doubt that today in America, if you have connections and are an ex-cop, you can kill the mayor and your political opponents, draw the sympathies of people, be hailed a hero by some and be out on the streets a few years later. □

of the 20's and 30's were used as cheap labor and forced by this circumstance to live in ghettos or farm labor camps, cast off and segregated from the rest of society. This experience was captured in Philip Vera Cruz's well-known poem about Filipinos in America, "Profits Enslave the World."

Minorities in shanty towns
Disgraceful spots for all to see
In the enviable garden of Eden
In the land of affluence and
poverty . . .

Another legacy, however, has also been passed down to succeeding groups of Filipino immigrants by these same pioneers—that is, to struggle against discrimination and exploitation and assert our basic right to equality, justice and a decent standard of living.

How to do this is perhaps the most pressing problem facing the Filipino community today. □

"When we get to America, life will be . . ."

(continued from front page)

sembly, packing and packaging plants filling the main streets and alleyways with traffic, noise and air pollutants from production.

Although a public school and clinic have been built there (only after public pressure to improve the area), the neighborhood is ill-equipped for wholesome residential living. For example, the only outdoor public recreation is a set of children's swings and bars on a grassy "park" the size of an empty lot. And worse still, there are so many "winos" around the area, that children do not feel safe to play there.

In the meantime, other unhealthy social influences, like crime and drug traffic, are prevalent in the area.

Burglaries, beatings and robbery are common occurrences and few residents go out alone at night.

S.F. REDEVELOPMENT — PROFITS, NOT PEOPLE

Aggravating these social conditions, the S.F. Redevelopment Agency has planned major reconstruction for the area to upgrade the property to continue Downtown expansion, leaving the area an eyesore with empty lots and noisy construction all around. Already, ground has been broken for the construction of the Yerba Buena Convention Center, a multi-million dollar project that will bring in thousands more tourists, conventioners, and businessmen each year. Small businesses and restaurants have al-

SEATTLE REGION

PAST FCSI PRESIDENT EARNS IRE OF FILIPINO COMMUNITY

by DAVID DELLA, JACQUE AGTUCA and SELMI DOMINGO

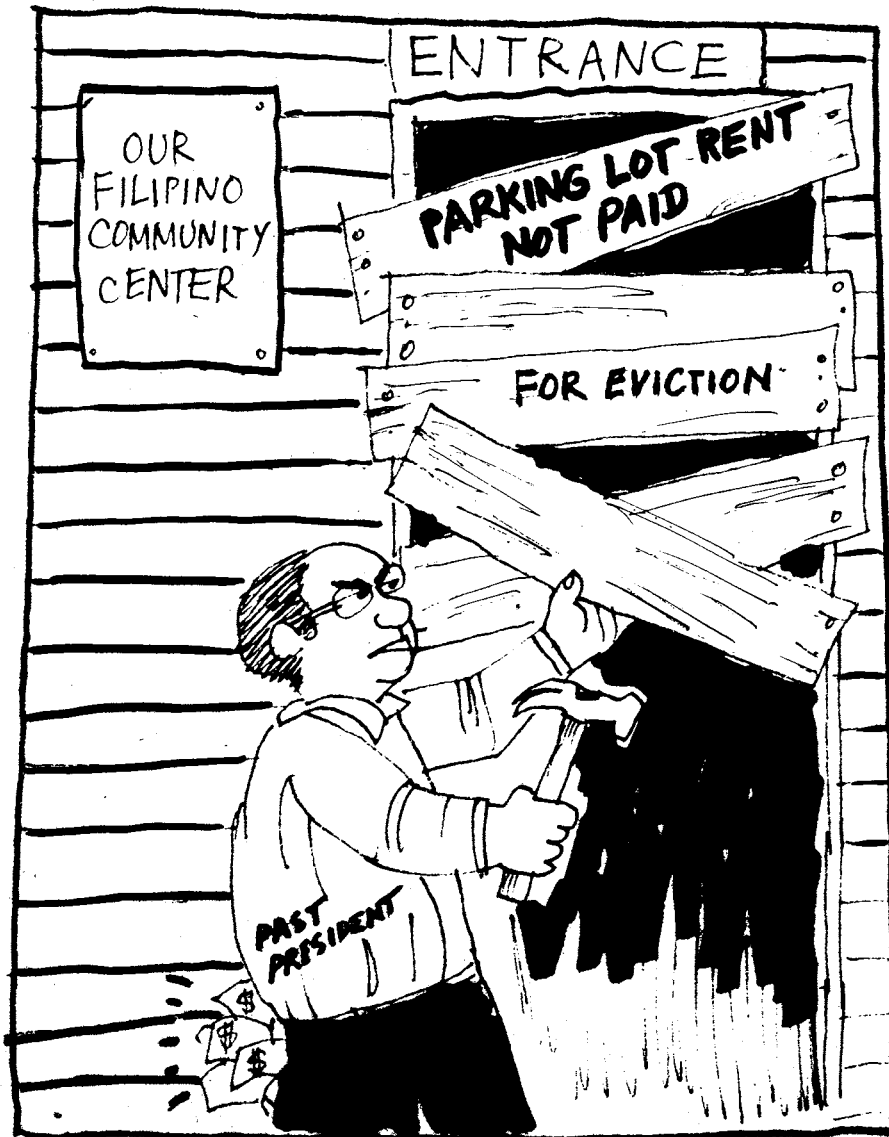
"We're sorry, Mr. Tangalan. But no thanks." What else can people say in Seattle's Filipino community when offered a "deal that cannot be refused." In typical fashion, the "benevolent" Mr. Tangalan who was not elected as president of the Filipino Community Council last January, has offered to do us a favor, by "renting" a parking lot (adjacent to the Community Center) to the Council for the outrageous sum of \$200 a month.

Yes, \$200 a month! \$200 a month for a parking lot that can park no more than 25 cars and that would be used only 3 or 4 times a month. Even Joe Diamond could give us a better deal in downtown Seattle!

Most people feel that Mr. Tangalan's latest ploy is ridiculous, preposterous and under-handed. Indicative of the people's feelings have been responses such as: "He can fence his property in if he wants to" or "Tell him to go to Hell!" And of course, there are those who are trying to defend Tangalan by saying: "After all, it's his property and doesn't he have the right to do what he wants?"

Undoubtedly, opinions and emotions are mixed. But we can all agree that there is a fire smoldering in the Filipino community. There is a burning sensation in people's stomachs as they think about the idea of paying \$200 a month, when it is even plain difficult to pay existing monthly expenses on the building. Yet, we cannot just sit back and remain frustrated. It is important for us to come to an analysis and then move accordingly.

It is obvious that Mr. Tangalan's decision to rent is tied to his unsuccessful effort to be reelected last January. For years, the use of the parking lot was donated by Tangalan during his years as President. Was the use of the parking lot Tangalan's way of saying: "Vote for me and you can use my parking lot?" Our opinion is: Yes!"



successful effort to be reelected last January. For years, the use of the parking lot was donated by Tangalan during his years as President. Was the use of the parking lot Tangalan's way of saying: "Vote for me and you can use my parking lot?" Our opinion is: Yes!"

convened a committee to talk to Brother Ponce about his responsibilities and try to arrive at a satisfactory resolution.

At the May 21 meeting with this Committee, Brother Torres exploded "That I defy anybody who says that I cannot produce records of the past!" He continued to rant and rave that no union member has the right to see union records unless "They have been sanctioned by the Executive Board or if I give them permission to see them." When challenged on this unique interpretation of his office's "divine right" to determine how democracy works in the union, he

The entire parking lot story smacks of the most backward ideas and politics in the Filipino community. It is nothing more than the "compadre system" of "you scratch my back and I'll scratch yours." It is clear that it works to our detriment. Evidently, Tangalan did not get his back scratch-

refused to budge.

The Committee felt that Brother Ponce's statements, in what ended up to be a five-minute meeting, had effectively closed the door to any compromise solution to the problem.

Subsequently, the Rank and File Committee is taking the initiative to effect a solution to the problem — by taking the issue to the membership and in the most democratic way possible, arrive at a solution.

"Ponce's negligence and incompetent leadership in handling important union affairs has resulted in substantially weakening the effectiveness of the union," stated Silme Domingo.

DOWNTOWNER TENANT ASSOCIATION PROTESTS LAX SECURITY

PRESS RELEASE

We of the Downtowner Tenant Association are greatly disturbed by the inadequate security in our building. Due to bad management practices, the security has gone downhill, and has become a hazard to the tenants safety. Many tenants are afraid to leave their rooms at night for fear of muggings and assaults.

The Downtowner Tenant Association (DTA) has been meeting to figure out ways to improve the safety of the building. The tenants have brought problems to the attention of the management, but there has been nothing done. The DTA, along with the IDHA has written a letter to the

owners (Martin and Howard Seelig) and HUD listing demands to improve the security. Some of the items are: 1) lobby offices open 24 hours a day to screen all visitors; 2) patrol the building in the evenings and early morning to prevent further incidents; 3) enforce a curfew at night; 4) install deadbolt locks with a one-half inch throw. These are only a few of the improvements that are needed to better the security of the building.

We feel that these problems exist because of lack of concern on the part of HUD and the management to maintain the Downtowner as a safe and decent place to live. The locks are never changed when the tenants move. There are keys held by non-res-

idents who come in to prowl the halls at night. There is no manager or building maintenance person available after 3 p.m. in the afternoon and no security until 10 p.m. in the evening. The police have stated that if another mugging, assault, murder or robbery occurs, then the building will be closed and 250 tenants will be forced to leave.

ed hard enough during the election, so now he won't scratch our backs. However, we feel that there are many, such as the Filipino Americans for Reform and Progress (FARP), the senior citizens, the youth and countless others who no longer want to scratch backs. To put it flatly, "We're sorry, Mr. Tangalan. But, no thanks." In fact, this is not the first time that they have made their positions clear. The truth is that these hundreds of people supported the FARP slate which ran on a platform that criticized and opposed backward ideas and politics such as the "compadre" system, vote buying, etc.

NO MORE BACK-PATTING!

It is shameful that Mr. Tangalan has taken advantage of the weaknesses in the Filipino community. Isn't it enough that Filipinos have been conditioned for centuries under Spanish and American rule to hold this compadre system. Must so-called leaders perpetuate these attitudes of "back-patting" to benefit their own self-interest?

We feel that community leaders should work to destroy the backward ideas that continue to plague our community. It is these ideas and practices that only serve to obscure the real issues that face the Filipino community. For example, during the last election, FARP members raised that the "tradition of vote buying" should be condemned, yet it was staunchly opposed by a few council members. Their reasoning being that we should "not hang out our dirty laundry." However, we feel that the reason was a reluctance to "rock the boat" and challenge the ideas and practices that have time and time again only benefited a few community leaders. □

"The union is supposed to be the most potent weapon that organized workers have to fight for their rights. But if it suffers from callously indifferent officers, then it becomes paralyzed. In the interests of the membership, Brother Torres should resign. Nevertheless, just because Brother Torres refuses to be responsible, we cannot abrogate our responsibility as members of this union, to ensure that our union runs smoothly and in the most democratic manner. That is in essence why we are effecting a solution. Either Brother Ponce resigns, or the membership will democratically ensure that he is removed." □

LOCAL 37's RECALL EFFORT...

(continued from front page)

ings. At the May 2 Executive Council meeting, Brother Torres, after failing once again to submit the monthly financial statement, was ordered by mandate of the Executive Council to present his report at the mass membership meeting the following week. At the May 9 meeting, Sue Williams inquired about his report and Brother Torres defiantly replied, "I just didn't want to do it," and refused to further comply.

For the next half hour, member after member stepped forward to condemn Brother Ponce's negligence, irresponsibility, and his incredible arrogance for refusing to comply with his legal duties. Several temporary solutions were aired. President/Business Agent Baruso suggested that Ponce resign if he could not uphold his responsibilities. There was an attempt to appoint a recording secretary to at least take notes of meetings. But, finally, Rank and File Committee member and Union Trustee, John Hatten, stated that these piecemeal solutions would not get rid of the basic problem, and that if Brother Ponce would not perform his duties he should be recalled.

Executive Board and Rank and File Committee member Silme Domingo stated that the Executive Council had

For more information contact Rick or Irene at 624-1802. □

— May 16, 1979

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA REGION

FACLA SAYS: "NO TO SAN JOSE'S APPEAL"



Tony San Jose

(AK Photo)

By JAIME GEAGA and
DR. GREG SANTILLAN

Perched on his chair like a king on a throne sits Antonio San Jose, the thrice-crowned president of the Filipino-American Council of L.A. (FACLA).

How has San Jose lasted all this time? First, in the 1977 elections — the eyebrows of the community raised when an unexpected 6000 registrants showed up at the polls as opposed to the usual 300-400. People were herded in by the busload from all parts of the county. Talk of registration anomalies was widespread. There were allegations that Marcos money was involved in financing the election because the regime needed a yes-man in the U.S.

A consequent court suit on this highly irregular election entangled the community. In the meantime, the monthly FACLA meetings became shouting matches as San Jose revealed his railroading style of chairing meetings which would become his trademark. Controversial issues such as lack of financial accounting were not allowed to be discussed. Yet, San Jose attempted to ram through his proposals, such as: raising the community center's property in order to construct a multi-million dollar trade center, half of which would house the Philippine Consulate.

MEMBERS ORGANIZE

If the 1977 elections were controversial, it was nothing compared to the following year's farce. The 1978 elec-

tion more than raised eyebrows when, at gunpoint, hired security guards seized the ballot box from FACLA premises. The ballots were counted out of town without a neutral witness and San Jose proclaimed himself president for a second time.

Not passively accepting this outrageous action, the more active and progressive members of FACLA formed the Committee of Concerned FACLA Members. This exposed San Jose's corruption by flooding the community with information regarding his actions and demanding explanations. A second lawsuit declared San Jose's administration null and void. But true to form, with gavel and microphone in hand, San Jose ignored the Los Angeles Superior Court's order to hold a new election and continued railroading his policies down FACLA's throat.

Consistent with his already corrupt reputation, San Jose conducted the 1979 election with serious procedural anomalies such as an illegal number of people on the election committee and a shortened registration period. Questions were already being raised for several months as to the accounting of FACLA's treasury where over \$20,000 unauthorized expenditures were spent with 10 months of the books unaccounted for.

With the reconstituted Committee to save FACLA (CSF) hot on his heels, San Jose tried to fight off yet another lawsuit which would again call for new elections to be supervised by the Courts. The CSF won this lawsuit last March.

Yet, San Jose has the audacity to blame the CSF for disrupting the community's business and bank account. This is ironic since it is apparent that it is San Jose that has been the main disruption of the community's work. Not only is his Administration bankrupt politically, but it is also literally draining FACLA's resources. He has had the audacity to use FACLA money for his own defense. Only this month, it was disclosed that he did not turn in FACLA's income tax forms. Thus, the community is now slapped with a



Under San Jose's administration FACLA's general meetings have been "undemocratic and disorderly." (AK Photo)

\$2100 fine, thanks to San Jose's neglect of responsibility.

Consequently, San Jose's support is in jeopardy since even many of his close allies have abandoned him. Most of his officers fail to attend meetings. San Jose's administration has caused such alienation and demoralization that many people even refuse to come to meetings out of frustration.

FACLA has become synonymous with corruption and disorder. One skeptical FACLA member who has stopped attending meetings said, "Every month, it's the same old thing. Yelling, screaming... nothing gets accomplished. And you know why? Because that San Jose is a dictator. If you don't agree with him — you are his enemy. There's no democracy in FACLA anymore — only fascism."

This has been the result of San Jose's rule. People are beginning to equate his term in office with "fascism." When one thinks of the term "fascism," what usually goes through one's head is a form of government that subjects its citizens to callous mistreatment by taking away their democratic rights. One thinks of dictatorship and one-man rule. One conjures up visions of military force and abuse. Fascism could mean repression on a national scale such as Nazi Germany or Marcos' Metrocom.

But in our community fascism takes on a relative definition — all the elements are present. San Jose does disregard democratic rights, and he has used force to maintain his power — he is, the community's self-styled dictator.

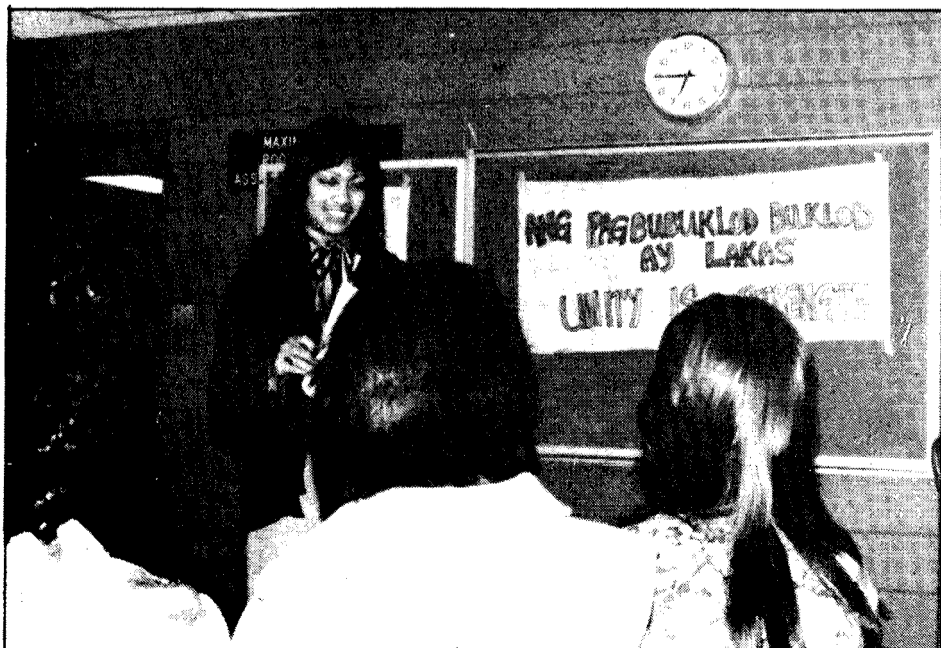
SAN JOSE APPEALS HIS COURT CASE

Now San Jose has announced that he will appeal his loss of the court suit. Insisting that he has the right to do so, San Jose is disregarding the fact that already previous court decisions have ruled that his administration is null and void and a large sector of the community is questioning his integrity as a leader because of this. By not abiding by the court's ruling, San Jose is once again showing that he has no respect for the sentiments of FACLA members. Legally, an appeal is San Jose's option — but exercising it in light of the situation is by no means a step towards unity in the community.

Members of the FACLA want change and want to see FACLA develop into a constructive organization which serves the needs of the community and not just one interest group. However, given San Jose's past practice it is evident that he will not just hand the community over to its members. San Jose has won all of his terms to office by outright cheating and scandal. Under these conditions it is important to recognize that new elections, held under strict court supervision is the only guarantee for the fair and honest unseating of San Jose. A court-supervised election could be the tool to keep his corruption in check.

The members of the Filipino community are fed up with San Jose's tactics. For the community there is no alternative but to organize to kick San Jose and his fascist tactics out of the community once and for all! □

SAN DIEGO PLANS EVENTS



Maria Abadesco of S.D. Philippine National Day rallies community leaders around the significance of PND celebrations. (AK Photo)

JUNE 9: Council of Pilipino-American Organizations to hold Flag Raising ceremony at Community Concourse in recognition of June 12, 1898 Philippine Independence.

Cavite Association of Southern California Philippine Independence Dinner Dance at the Sheraton Hotel, 6 p.m.

JUNE 10: PASACAT Dancers perform at Balboa Park, House of the Philippines.

Unified Pilipino Association meeting. New members invited. Call 477-5225 for planned activities.

JUNE 23: Celebration of Philippine National Day (June 12) at Kimball Park, National City. Entertainment, food and game booths for all.

If you would like to be included in the San Diego Calendar please call Florante Ibanez, 477-5225. □