

Activists Hailed as 'Martyrs'

## SLAYINGS SPARK GRIEF, ANGER IN SEATTLE



Hundreds of mourners wearing black armbands march through downtown Seattle to the union hall for Gene Viernes' memorial service. (Seattle Sun/John Stamets)

### Crowds Pack Memorial Services

By BEN OCAMPO  
Staff Writer

SEATTLE—The recent slaying of KDP activists and union leaders Gene Viernes and Silme Domingo, both 29, sparked a tremendous outpouring of sympathy and vows to "carry on the struggle," from the Filipino community and a wide spectrum of this city's multi-racial labor sector.

Men, women, children and el-

derly citizens wept unabashedly, as the community paid its last tribute to Viernes and Domingo, who were fatally gunned down inside the Union Local 37 ILWU headquarters June 1.

The alleged assailants, Jaime Bulosan Ramil, 28, and Pompeyo Benito Guloy, 22, have been apprehended and are each being held on \$750,000 bail.

Domingo staggered out of the union hall and named the two as

his assailants to fire department medics who came to his aid.

More than 2,000 people attended the memorial and funeral services for the slain activists, where speaker after speaker pledged to continue the struggle initiated by the two prominent and well-respected union officials.

As leaders of the Rank and File Committee which pressed for major reforms in the corrup-

*Continued on page 10*

### Two Charged With Aggravated Murder

Special to the AK

SEATTLE—Two young Filipino men pleaded not guilty to charges of aggravated first degree murder in the June 1 killing of two cannery union officials, Gene Viernes and Silme Domingo.

Jaime Bulosan Ramil, 28, and Pompeyo Benito Guloy, 22, were arraigned June 16 before King County Superior Court Judge Gerald M. Shellan. The two are being held at King County jail with bail set at \$750,000 each.

The City Prosecutor's Office amended an original first degree murder charge to aggravated murder.

The latter is brought in cases where murder is committed as part of a scheme or a ploy, or if evidence of conspiracy is found.

Prosecutor Norm Mailing recommended that Guloy and Ramil, if convicted, should receive the maximum sentence of life imprisonment without the possibility of parole. This position is sup-

ported by the Committee for Justice for Domingo and Viernes (see related story on this page).

Guloy and Ramil were identified by Domingo, one of the victims, before he died of four gunshot wounds, the day after the shooting. Domingo was Secretary-Treasurer of Union Local 37, and a leading exponent of a reform movement within the corruption-racked union.

The other victim, Gene Viernes, was the union's Dispatcher who had abolished bribery and favoritism in cannery work assignments.

The killings were believed to be linked to the successful reform efforts initiated by the Rank and File Committee led by the slain officials, in cleaning up the scandal-ridden union.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) is similarly conducting a preliminary investigation to determine if federal crimes were committed by Ramil and Guloy, said FBI spokesperson Dave Hill.

— FM 'WINS' AGAIN —

### BOYCOTT, DEATHS, ARRESTS MARK ELECTION

(See story on page 3)



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## EDITORIALS/OPINIONS

## Deeper Questions in Seattle Slayings

An impressive array of political and civic leaders in Seattle have launched the Committee for Justice for Domingo and Viernes in order to seek more light on the murder of the two union leaders.

The committee has appealed to the public to break with intimidation and fear and to step forward with information related to the slayings. We wholeheartedly support this timely effort. Like the committee, we want to get to the very bottom of these crimes.

Viernes and Domingo were not just incorruptible union leaders who, early in their activism, were black-listed by the canneries' capitalists. They were also vocal opponents of political repression and racism; political opportunism, as well as of dictatorship in the Philippines.

Thus, while it appears that they were murdered by elements who were irked by their successful work of reforming and strengthening the union, other questions come to mind.

The political nature of their activities in the union and in the community and their reputations as revolutionaries evoke the questions: Is the motive behind this murder larger than what is thought to be? Is there wide conspiracy involved? If so, who are in it?

The prosecutor has charged the two suspects named by the dying Domingo with aggravated first degree murder and is seeking a sentence of life imprisonment without parole. The charge of aggravated murder is entered in cases where evidence of conspiracy has been found. This adds validity to the questions nagging people's minds.

Real justice for Viernes and Domingo will be served only when these questions have been answered and those who are guilty, pinpointed. We commend the committee's effort to mobilize the public in seeking answers to these questions and we commend those who are responding to its call. □

## Save the Unborn, Nuke the Living?

Proudly "standing up for human life," the U.S. Senate recently voted to forbid the use of Medicaid funds for abortions unless the mother's life is endangered. This holds firm even in cases of rape or incest. In one stroke, the fates of 5,000 to 10,000 women whose pregnancies result from rape are sealed. So are those of countless others, mainly minorities, whose precarious economic positions will be worsened by unwanted births.

Congress is trying to make a strong point here—that it stands with the squeaky-clean Reagan administration and a "moral majority" constituency in upholding "the sanctity of human life" and "the rights of the unborn." You bet this government is pro-life. God will always have a place for today's crop of American lawmakers and White House inhabitants! In more immediate terms, of course, its officials will have a place in the hearts of conservative voters.

It does not take much to smell hypocrisy underneath all this moralizing. This is the same "pro-life" government which stood alone in opposing a World Health Organization code that sought to control the sale of dangerous infant formulas in underdeveloped countries. Why? Because it did not want to restrict the profits of the formula's American makers.

At the same time it was dealing a death blow to reproductive choice in the name of life's sanctity, it was announcing the resumption of its biological warfare program. This is the same government which is snatching funds from those struggling to survive, to feed an already bloated nuclear arms budget. While it weeps over an unborn fetus, it has no qualms supporting inhumane regimes which are suppressing whole peoples' claims to life and liberty. Pro-life indeed.

This curious brand of morality, is not a mere aberration or the result of errors in judgment. Catering to backward ideas to reap votes, violating "hallowed" pronouncements if they stand in the way of earnings or continued political domination—these are instincts inherent in a system founded not on serving human needs but on profit-making. This is capitalist morality and to do away with it would require doing away with its very foundations. □-

## AK STAFF

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## SIGNS OF THE TIMES

There is no substitute for  
**CHEATING**

Win with KBL

The military will vote for  
**MARCO**  
Shoudn't you?

AVOID  
JAIL  
VOTE  
**MARCO**



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EVEN THE DEAD WILL VOTE FOR

**MARCO**

Ads from SICK OF THE TIMES Lampoon.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Ibig Kong Kumilos

Ako ay nagalak nang makita ko ang pahayagang AK. Matagal na akong nakikibalita ng mga kilusan ukol sa rebolusyong nagaganap sa ating bayan subalit ang nabalitaan ko dito sa kilusang Los Angeles ay pulos "power struggle" daw. Kung maari ay bigyan ninyo ako ng maaring daluhang ogranisasyon ukol sa pagbabago ng ating bansa, dito sa Los Angeles. Mabuhay kayo at ang pahayagang AK!

Gene G.  
Los Angeles, CA

(Huwag kang manalig sa bulong-bulungan. Walang "power struggle" sa Coalition Against the Marcos Dictatorship [dating AMLC] o sa KDP—and dalawang organisasyong maari mong daluhan. Ibinigay na namin ang pangalan mo sa KDP chapter sa Los Angeles—Editor.)

## Truly Filipino

Let me congratulate your newspaper for its boldness in exposing the devious nature of the Marcos-U.S. dictatorship and for adopting as its alternative the Ten Point Program of the National Democratic Front. This makes the AK truly Filipino compared to the *Philippine News* of a certain Alex Esclamado which is nothing but columns of rhetoric full of sound and fury signifying nothing (with apologies to Shakespeare). Mabuhay kayo!

Leni Gremer  
Seattle, WA

## Don't Be Stingy

Let us not be stingy in supporting the revolution back home. Those of us who cannot fight side by side with

the NPA, let us at least show our solidarity by financially supporting them. True the Filipino people are the decisive force in their struggle for liberation, but it's a fact that money (to buy medicine and food, to buy mimeographing machines, etc.) plays a supportive role, too.

Mr. Editor—How do we send money to the Philippines in support of the revolution there?

R. "Fernan" Fideris  
Seattle, WA

(The People's Aid Fund collects donations for the National Democratic Front or NDF-related groups. Its recipients determine how these funds are to be used. To contribute, send checks to People's Aid Fund, care of this newspaper or contact local KDP chapters—Editor.)

## Garbage

The article in the *Philippine News* (May 6-12), supposedly an expose on the KDP was insidious. I have seen this garbage published in this paper before. Its news value now, I think, has been lost, emasculated by its repetitions. But if it was intended as bombshell for sensationalism, I didn't hear it explode neither did I see it catch fire. It proved to be a dud. I, however, am intrigued, not by the article but by its author who, I suspect, had an ulterior motive.

Firstly, the allegations in the article were fabrications—they were lies. I should know because I work with people in the KDP, being a member of the "Anti-Martial Law Coalition of America and Canada." In my association with them, I find them to be very dedicated in causes where Filipino rights are being attacked. They have been involved in

the "Narciso-Perez" case and in the "Dr. Alona" case. In fact they spear-headed these respective fights to right the injustices that the courts have imposed on them. Presently, they are involving themselves with the Filipinos immigrants rights and with the problems our Filipino nurses have got themselves into through no fault of their own. And foremost, is their involvement in the fight to liberate the Filipinos from the shackles of Marcos' tyranny.

These are the things, the Philippine News charged, are communists' lines. How noble are the communists for them to involve themselves in these worthy causes! These are the same charges made by Philippine consulates. The KDP—or any Filipino organization for that matter—should be judged by its record and its quality of work, not by the "label" jealous and hateful people pinned on it.

Paul Sapuriada  
National City, CA

## From Across the Sea . . .

For a time, I thought you had closed shop since I irregularly received your paper for only about the first three months. Copies started coming again only when the subscription was about to expire. I hope you will be more regular this time. I really don't want to miss a single issue of *Ang Katipunan*.

Mr. Harri  
Beijing, People's Republic of China

(Note to Readers: We accept subscriptions from other countries. If you have friends and relatives you wish to give the AK to as a gift, the rate is U.S.\$12.50 for first class mail.)

## A CALL FOR SUPPORT

The KDP incurred extraordinary expenses in responding to the tragic slaying of our activists Gene Viernes and Silme Domingo. We will be incurring even more in taking up the political tasks brought about by this tragedy. We ask our supporters to assist us in the publication, travel, telephone, and other costs necessary for the thorough investigation of their deaths. Send donations to KDP, P.O. Box 2759, Oakland, CA 94602.



## PHILIPPINE NEWS

BOYCOTT, DEATHS, ARRESTS  
MARK ELECTIONBy VICTORIA LUNA  
Staff Writer

June 17—Government officials yesterday claimed a landslide victory for President Marcos in his election to a new six-year term.

At the same time, supporters of the massive nationwide boycott called their movement an overwhelming success.

Officials claim that 80% of the Philippine electorate turned out to vote, of whom 88% cast their ballots for Marcos. In some towns of Ilocos Sur, they add, a full 100% voted.

The self-assured claim of a staggering pro-Marcos vote, however, contrasts abruptly with the regime's behavior prior to the election. From every indication, the strength of the boycott movement had the Marcos government running scared.

## DESPERATION TACTICS

By mid-May, Marcos managed to find himself an opponent in ex-General and former Marcos devotee, Alejo Santos (*see AK, Vol. VIII, No. 11*). But, given the broad spectrum of support for the boycott movement—from expoliticians to the New People's Army (NPA)—this alone was not enough to lend the election an air of legitimacy.

According to Manila observers, by the last week of the campaign, the only "Vote Marcos" pitches were infrequent 60-second blurbs. Marcos supporters who began their campaign against Santos finished it by pleading with people just to come out and vote.



10,000 rally May 31 in support of boycott.

(Lyn Duggan)

A number of desperate tactics were employed. Perhaps the most pathetic was Marcos' campaign speech claim that Pope Pius XII had declared failure to vote a "mortal sin."

Ten thousand certificates of land ownership were distributed to peasants by the regime. On May 24, 13 days before the election, Marcos made yet another grassroots pitch. Using his extraordinary powers, he decreed a referendum asking villagers whether they wished to hold *barangay* elections after the June 16 poll.

According to the Santos camp, the Marcos machine spent more than \$26 million on the campaign. The election law places a ceiling on campaign expenditures at \$1.6 million.

## NAKED FORCE

When the carrot didn't work, out came the stick. On June 12, COMELEC (Commission on Elections) officials began the first hearings against non-voters in the

April 17 plebiscite. On the same date, the election body announced its intention to prosecute two million plebiscite non-voters.

The penalty for the offense is one to six months in prison. COMELEC teams spread out all over the country to remind people that the same would befall them if they participated in the boycott.

But most telling of the degree to which the boycott threatened the regime was the naked force it unleashed against boycott participants.

## CRACKDOWN

In Manila, 50 people were arrested distributing boycott materials. This came in the wake of a demonstration on May 31 which drew 7,000 to 10,000, principally workers, to support the boycott.

But the real crackdown came on the weekend of June 12 to 14. This had been planned as a nationwide day of protest with rallies in 30 towns throughout the country.

The most brutal attack on a boycott rally occurred in Daet, Camarines Sur on June 14. As 4,000 marchers reached the town center, military troops opened fire, killing five and seriously wounding four more. One hundred more suffered minor wounds.

Three hundred farmers on their way to Iligan, Isabela for a rally that same day were detained for 14 hours without food or water. Roads leading to the city plaza were dotted with checkpoints. During the rally, 37 were arrested. The rally pushed through with a crowd of 1,500 surrounded by fire trucks, troops armed with shields and truncheons, military photographers and agents.

The June 12 rally of 2,500 in Cabanatuan City was ordered to disperse by both a crowd of armalite-bearing PC and the provincial governor of Nueva Ecija.

A group of nuns helping to organize the 5,000-strong rally in Angeles City was held and their permit questioned. This, however,

was perhaps the most peaceful of the many events.

## UNPRECEDENTED BREADTH

It was clear that the breadth of the boycott movement posed a distinct threat to the Marcos government.

Never before had the opposition launched a campaign which cut across the entire country and drew upon, not just students, workers and religious, but farmers, fishermen, businessmen, elite politicians, and the New People's Army as well.

Under the coordination of PEOPLE, an umbrella organization made up of 45 different groups, boycott symposia and mini-workshops were held for all classes and sectors in the cities.

## NPA HOLDS BOYCOTT WORKSHOP

In certain remote areas of the countryside, peasants were treated to similar workshops by the NPA. On May 25, NPA guerrillas temporarily took over the town of Hungduan, Ifugao. Here, after confiscating weapons from the military, the guerrillas invited the townsfolk to a boycott workshop in the municipal hall.

NPA participation included annihilatory attacks on Marcos troops as well, which continued through election day itself. The U.S. press reported ambushes of government troops in northern and central parts of the country. In one such action, a battalion commander and two officers were slain. □

## Some in UNIDO Wavered on Boycott?

By VICTORIA LUNA  
Staff Writer

Belated reports from Manila suggest that some leaders of the elite opposition were vacillating over their participation in the movement to boycott Marcos' June 16 election.

In particular, the Laurel-wing of the Nacionalista Party (NP) sent out a series of confusing signals the month prior to the election.

Former House Speaker Jose Laurel, chief of the majority faction within the NP, had earlier expressed his opposition to the regime by joining UNIDO (the United Democratic Opposition). Composed of prominent ex-politicians, UNIDO declared complete support for the broad-based boycott movement.

But on May 7, Laurel declared his support for candidate Alejo Santos, in a meeting with the latter. The pro-Marcos splinter of the NP, Marcos' former party had earlier nominated Santos in what was clearly a desperate last minute effort to find an "available" candidate.

Observers agreed that the regime played a decisive role in the choice of Santos. Failure to find a candidate would have left Marcos running unopposed, fully exposing the farcical character of the election. (*See AK, Vol. VIII, No. 11*.)



Voters in Manila during plebiscite.

After declaring support for Santos however, Laurel confused observers by saying he would not go back on his commitment to the boycott. Then he added that he would not prevent his followers from supporting and voting for Santos.

Santos responded by welcoming any UNIDO boycott campaigners who might want to join his group.

Three days later, however, the Laurel group formally rejected Santos' call. The former speaker, joined by his brother, ex-Assemblyman Salvador Laurel, announced the NP-Laurel's decision to carry on the boycott in support of UNIDO.

If the Laurel group sounded lukewarm and undecided, a similar ambivalent note was struck by

ex-Senator Gerardo Roxas. Roxas gave away the underlying reasons for his colleagues' vacillation over the boycott.

## SHARING THE LIMELIGHT WITH THE LEFT

"The leftists are getting stronger and stronger all over the country," Roxas, an UNIDO leader, commented a few weeks before the polls. He went on to suggest that the longer Marcos remained president, the more certain the left was to take over the government.

Roxas was perhaps feeling some discomfort over sharing the limelight with the National Democratic Front forces in the boycott drive. The movement's momentum and broad support among workers, peasants, students and professionals was due principally to the left's organized participation.

## UNIDO'S DILEMMA: BOYCOTT OR PARTICIPATE?

The ambivalence of these expoliticians does not altogether surprise observers.

UNIDO leaders remained clearly divided on whether to nominate a candidate of their own or to boycott the elections up to the April 17 plebiscite. By that time, the boycott movement



Tanada: Stuck to boycott.

was well on its way with tremendous popular support. UNIDO, left with no alternative, jumped in.

Significantly, it was the Laurel group and former Senator Benigno Aquino who expressed most interest in running a candidate. Others, such as ex-Senator Lorenzo Tañada, expressed unwillingness to participate in any exercise which might be seen as legitimizing the Marcos regime.

## TWO STRAINS WITHIN ELITE

National Democratic observers in Manila point out that two strains exist within the elite opposition.

The first, the more confrontational, is more willing to oppose the regime militantly. This group,

claimed observers, is likely to resist being used by Marcos in his drive to prove that the country has achieved "normalization."

The second strain is more conciliatory and more willing to collaborate with the regime if a place can be found for it in Marcos' schemes.

UNIDO's overall enthusiastic support of the boycott suggest that, for now, the confrontational tendency is dominant. But Jose Laurel's shifting stand and Roxas' ambivalence toward fellow boycott advocates on the left reveal the shakiness of the elite opposition's political stance.

## MARCOS TO MEND FENCES?

Salvador Laurel recently told a Makati Rotary Club meeting that Marcos will attempt to mend his fences and "placate... political moderates" in the opposition after the election.

His tactic, Laurel explained, would be granting of amnesty to key opposition leaders and a call for general elections next year. He suggested that Marcos might then let as many as 60 opposition candidates win.

The announcement left observers wondering exactly who might be "placated" by this meager offer. Mr. Laurel, perhaps? □

## Buod ng mga Balita

### 10,000 CAGAYAN FARMERS MARCH FOR LAND

Thousands of farmers from Haciendas San Antonio and Santa Isabel capped the Lenten season with two huge marches protesting new owner Anca Inc.'s plans to subdivide the land and convert it into plantations for sugar, coconut and other export crops.

Anca bought the two lucrative tobacco plantations from their century-old owner Tabacalera in late 1979. (See AK, Vol. VIII, No. 9.)

On April 17, some 3,000 men, women and children of Hacienda San Antonio staged a procession-march inside the hacienda. The seven-hour march wound through five barrios and passed a Philippine Army detachment.

The protesters carried a giant cross marked "Calvary" to represent their hardships as tenant-farmers and as citizens. Placards and streamers stated their demands: "We want the land free!" "Stop military operations and harassment of our people!" "Raise prices of farmers' products and lower prices of commodities!"

The military and the local Civil Home Defense Force (CHDF) were left speechless at the sight of the sizeable crowd and no incident marred the procession as it ended in a rally at the parish church in Centro, Hacienda San Antonio.

#### 10,000 MARCH ON EASTER

Three trucks and several jeeps full of army soldiers, however, awaited the 10,000-strong march of Hacienda Santa Isabel and San Antonio residents Easter Sunday April 20. Firetrucks from two municipalities were also on hand, lining the national highway leading to the Hacienda Santa Isabel town center. Although the intimidating message was to stop the march, the people kept on.

A commotion ensued as the soldiers forced searches and confiscated streamers. Angry protesters chased a military man after he knifed an 18-year-old resident of Hacienda San Antonio. A rock-throwing incident was narrowly averted. Ten people were arrested and questioned.

Cagayan Governor Faustino Dy and Iligan Mayor Manuel Binag tried to dissuade the marchers from proceeding. Dy told the residents that he would personally go to Hacienda San Antonio on May 10 to "resolve the peasant problem once and for all" and "to seek the true solution." But to the tenants of Haciendas San Antonio and Santa Isabel, an instant solution to their 200-year-old problem remains doubtful. □

### ANOTHER BUSINESSMAN TAKES OFF

"What's the Philippines' latest non-traditional export?" ask Manila's coffee shop raconteurs. The answers: "stockbrokers."

Once again a prominent Manila businessman has taken to the skies leaving his debts behind him. Conrado "Jun" Pascual, 40, left the Philippines in mid-May following the collapse of his Pascual Securities Corp. He left behind debts of ₱90 million (\$11.5 million).

Pascual left aboard a plane bound for the U.S., though no one in the Philippines knows for sure where he is now. But, unlike textile magnate Dewey Dee who disappeared in January, Pascual took pains to prove that he was not running away. A letter he sent to two local newspapers insists that he left "to explore feasible alternatives abroad."

Coming on the heel's of Dee's disappearance, Pascual's departure is likely to shake up the already jumpy Philippine business community. Although he left insisting that his absence was temporary, Pascual took all four of his children. Observers suspect that he intends to be away for some time. □

### F.M. ATTACKS WESTERN PRESS, AGAIN

President Ferdinand Marcos late last May launched another furious polemic against the western press. Foreign journalists reporting on underdeveloped countries, he claimed, "come not as objective observers but as superior judges of our civilization."

Such outbursts by the Philippine president have become almost predictable. They occur each time he launches a "normalization" drive aimed to prove to the international community that all is well in the country. The level of his anger toward the press usually indicates the degree of failure of the current scheme.

Given Marcos' desperation over the effects of the boycott movement on his current election drive, observers were not surprised by the attack.

"Who elected them and to whom are they responsible?" Mr. Marcos asked of the western media. "Private power and authority without responsibility to anyone is irresponsibility to the highest degree."

Marcos' practice suggests that his concern is principally over who privately controls the media. The Philippine press, which Marcos considers "responsible" today rests completely in the hands of his close friends, relatives and cronies. □

#### INTERVIEW:

## AÑEJO KANTOS

The following is taken from **SICK OF THE TIMES**, a recently published lampoon which bitingly pokes fun at the Marcos regime—particularly the election —Editor.

*When people first learned that Añejo Kantos was running for president, the foremost question on everybody's mind was: "Añejo who?" Hoping to crack this riddle, the editors sent journalist Jack Stone to talk with this extraordinarily ambitious man. Stone reports:*

*"The first time I met General Kantos was in his campaign headquarters in Quezon City. streamers bearing the Kantos battlecry: "BUSOG NA SIYA, AKO NAMAN" flitted in the warm morning air. The general greeted me in his pink pajamas, ordered two cups of coffee, and without further ado sat down for the interview. Añejo revealed that his original family name was Kwarto-Kantos which he cut short to Kantos to save space on campaign materials. He talked uninterruptedly and in detail about his childhood, his family, his war record, his past achievements; and after four days allowed me to ask my first question."*

JS: Tell me, how is the campaign coming along?

AK: Splendidly. Kid Tatak, my campaign manager, informed me that in our next rally, we won't have to pay half of the audience.

JS: What made you decide to run against a formidable opponent like President Marcos?

AK: As you know, I was drafted by former Senator Boy when he couldn't find anyone else who wanted the nomination. Boy assured me of the support of the entire party machinery.

JS: The Nacionalista Party?

AK: No, the KBL.

JS: Did Senator Boy ask you about your foreign policy?

AK: No.

JS: Did he ask about your domestic policy?

AK: No.

JS: Did he ask about your economic program?

AK: No.

JS: Then all he did was ask you to accept the nomination.

AK: Correct. I think he knew I couldn't answer the other questions.

JS: People are saying that you were personally picked by Mr. Marcos to run against him.

AK: That's absolute nonsense. Boy picked me. However, I must admit hearing Sen. Boy talk to someone about a "nakatakas na kaming."

JS: Nakatakas na kaming? . . . Oh, you mean a scapegoat.

AK: Is that what it means? . . . Hmmmmmm.

JS: Were you not identified with the Loyalist for Marcos movement. In fact, you were listed as one of its ranking officers.

AK: That was before they knew I was running for president. Anyway, the loyalists will vehemently deny that I was ever connected with the movement. How would this election look if that were true?

JS: But isn't your hopeless candidacy positive proof of your loyalty to Marcos?

AK: Who said my candidacy was hopeless? Just this morning, the KBL promised to give me a small percentage of the rigged votes.

JS: Another person astutely observed that you kept referring to Marcos as "ang minamahal nating pangulo" during your TV appearance in Channel 2's Tell the City. Isn't your true color showing off a bit?

AK: That was just a force of habit. I hope my supporters will understand. I promise to be more careful next time.

JS: Do you think you could preside over the affairs of the state?

AK: Why yes! Remember, I was the former director of the National Penitentiary. I don't

think running a prison is any different from running any nation.

JS: What is your personal opinion of Cabangbang's Philippine Statement Movement?

AK: My friend, I am against it. If we become an American state, we will start to have snow. Many of our people cannot afford to buy winter clothing.

JS: What about the UNIDO's boycott movement?

AK: Boy Scout? I'm all for it. Did you know I was once elected head of the Boy Scouts. I loved wearing short pants. But then, the UNIDO should also think about the girl scouts.

JS: No, I mean the B-O-Y-C-O-T-T!

AK: Oh, that. That would only encourage the KBL to vote in places of those who boycott. But, who cares. Those who'll boycott won't vote for me anyway.

JS: How would you go about solving the country's deteriorating peace and order situation?

AK: I will blame them all on Aquino. A wise man once said that anything can be solved by just pointing a finger.

JS: But aren't people tired of that old hack?

AK: Then I'll blame them on the NPA or the MNLF. Then there's always Salonga and Kalaw. JS: I notice that your friends call you Añejo Five Years Old. Any reason for this term of endearment?

AK: My wife told me it has something to do with my intellectual capacity. I can't figure out why.

JS: One last question. Many of our readers would like to know your stand on any abortion bill.

AK: As long as the girl can prove that I'm the father, I will gladly pay for it. Now, if you'll excuse me I must answer a very important call.

JS: But I don't hear any phone ringing.

AK: It was not. I'm answering the call of nature. □

#### Prostituting a Nation:

### R.P. Tourism in Trouble



Ad for new hotel bar: prostituting a nation?

Hotel executives recently interviewed by the *Wall Street Journal* predict another gloomy year for the industry in 1982.

The problem? According to industry executives, there simply isn't enough for a tourist to do in the Philippines to keep Manila's hotels full.

To solve the problem, they are looking to the Philippine government. The hoteliers' demands are

threefold.

- Increase overseas promotion by the Ministry of Tourism.

- Designate regions like Nasugbu in Batangas province, known among locals for its beaches, special tourist development areas. In the process, offer special incentives to developers.

- Plan and build transportation facilities to make places such as Banaue, with its renowned

rice terraces, easily accessible.

#### A SICK JOKE

The Philippine tourist industry has long been something of a sick joke in financial circles—in more ways than one. In perhaps no other area of the economy has "development" based on the whims and ego of the first family been more apparent.

It all began in 1975. At that time, Metro-Manila had exactly three first-class hotels: the established Manila Hotel on Roxas Boulevard in the tourist belt, the newer Intercontinental in Makati and the newest, Mrs. Marcos' Philippine Village near the Manila International Airport. All were almost always well-occupied.

Then the International Monetary Fund (IMF) agreed to hold its 1976 annual meeting in Manila. Mrs. Marcos, ever the gracious hostess, could not bear to think that IMF representatives visiting her country might spend the night in anything less than a five-star.

Continued on page 10



# 'Filipino Martyrs Worked to Make Their Union Fair'

By DICK CLEVER  
(Reprinted from Seattle Times)

While working at the fish cannery at Uganik Bay, Alaska, in 1970, Silme Domingo found an inscription carved on the wall of the bunkhouse.

It said, "Nemesio Domingo—1942."

The cycle was complete. Like his father, who had scratched his name on the wall 28 years before, Silme had become an "Alaskero."

But he was set upon a path that would lead him and his friend, Gene Viernes, to attempt sweeping reforms of the union that controls hundreds of cannery jobs for Filipinos—Local 37 of the International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union.

Friends say the two men were doing just that when they were fatally shot last Monday afternoon at the union hall on South Main Street in Pioneer Square.

For a young American-born Filipino, the trek to the Alaska canneries was part of what Silme's older brother, Nemesio, Jr., described as an important "identity experience."

It was a trek that began in the early part of the century when young Filipino men immigrated to the United States in search of their fortunes.

They drifted from the fields of Central California through Seattle to the Alaska canneries, where the owners found them to be inexhaustible workers, and easily exploited.

The elder Domingo had survived the brutal contract-labor system, under which Filipinos were prey to excessive charges for room and board, rigged cock-fights, exorbitant company-store prices and random brutality.

The first cannery workers' union was formed to get rid of the labor contractors, but not without the violence that has marked all labor-organizing efforts. The union's first president, Virgil Duyungan, and Aurelio Simon, secretary, were murdered in Seattle in 1936 by the son of a labor contractor.

Nemesio, Sr., came with the "second wave" of Filipino immigrants in 1929. He and three other men lived in one room in the International District.

"We only had two pairs of shoes for all of us, so two of us slept in the day and two at night so we could use the shoes," he recalled, laughing.

He landed in Seattle and immediately went to the canneries, where he worked until 1942 before beginning a 23-year career in the Army.

"I knew that would be my last year, so I marked my name on the wall of the bunkhouse," he said.

Silme's odyssey would take a different course from that of his father. Galvanized by a growing political consciousness among young Asians in the early 1970s, he fought to ease the impact of the Kingdome on the early residents of the International District.

He graduated cum laude from the University of Washington in 1975 with a bachelor's degree in

political science. Soon after that he joined other young Filipinos who opposed the martial law regime of Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos.

Also in the early 1970s, while fighting the Kingdome battle, he met Viernes, a young Filipino from Wapato who shared his political views.

Viernes had been traveling to the Alaska canneries since he was 14, having lied about his age to get his first job in 1966, friends say.

A soft-spoken, introspective man, Viernes graduated from Central Washington State College in 1973. He was deeply interested in the history of Filipinos in America.

Nemesio, Jr., said Viernes was estatic when several crates of old newspaper clippings and other historical documents were found tucked away in the basement of the University of Washington Library.

Based on that material and other sources, Viernes produced

They had gotten no help from their own union and its president, Gene Navarro, who actually seemed to be cooperating with the New England Fish Co. in keeping the young men out of Alaska.

In the course of a discrimination suit filed by the Domingos and several others against the company in 1971, NEFCO produced a memo that suggested they were fired because of their agitating.

It was written by the company controller, R. H. Lynner, to another NEFCO official on November 11, 1971, after a meeting with Navarro and the two Domingo brothers.

"There is question that they are a couple of young 'smart alecks' who no doubt were involved in creating and maintaining a certain amount of unrest or trouble within the Filipino crew," he wrote.

"I agree with you in that we would not want them back, but I don't think we can make the ter-

says Navarro always carried. He remembers how, under Navarro, men often had to pay a special "fee" in exchange for jobs in Alaska canneries.

"We would complain to the authorities, but they would do nothing," he said.

Navarro's power base as president of Local 37, brought him other honors and positions, including the presidency of the Filipino Community of Seattle, Inc., the biggest Filipino organization in the city.

Silme's mother, Ade Domingo, only last year was ousted from an important committee post in that organization by a group she says was opposed to her attempts to broaden the base and range of services offered by the Filipino Community.

Mrs. Domingo is also involved in the anti-Marcos movement, which is apparently the touchstone for many political cross-currents in the Filipino community.

Her sons and daughters were

Now the father and the son were working side-by-side in the union, with a reform of the corruption-prone job-dispatching procedures being the top priority.

Instead of jobs being doled out on the basis of bribes or friendship, they were to be awarded, as the contract provided, on the basis of seniority.

Nemesio, Sr., recalled what happened when the first men were dispatched to Alaska from the hall on May 29, a week before the murders.

"We only had 15 jobs that day and there were more than 100 men in the hall," he said. "A bunch of guys came through the hallway and they were cursing Gene (Viernes). I said, 'What's the matter.' And they said, 'That guy, he don't know nothing.' I went to Gene and asked him what happened. He said, 'All I was doing was following the procedure here in the contract.'"

Last Monday morning, the elder Domingo was working at the union hall when two men came in that he recognized as Pompeyo Benito Guloy and Jimmy Bulosan Ramil.

Nemesio, Sr., recalled this conversation with Guloy:

"Where's Silme?" Guloy asked. "He is not here. What do you want?"

"I want to give him something." "Why don't you leave it with me?"

"No, I'll come back later."

The names of Guloy and Ramil were gasped out by the mortally wounded Silme to medics who worked over him on the sidewalk in front of the union hall later that day.

Viernes had died almost instantly of a gunshot wound. Silme Domingo died the next afternoon in the hospital. Silme left his wife, Terri, and two small children.

"When Silme was dying, he knew what he was doing," said his brother, Nemesio, Jr. "He made a point to identify the assailants. It was important to know the killers and why this has happened. There have been too many unsolved murders in the Filipino community."

Guloy and Ramil were arrested later that night at their homes on Beacon Hill and charged with the slayings. The investigation is continuing.

The memorial services last week for Domingo and Viernes attracted a multi-racial crowd that represented a spectrum of political groups, indicative of the changed political outlook of the young martyrs.

"Silme and Gene had become revolutionaries," said Silme's sister, Lynn. "They were attacking the root causes of oppression."

Nemesio, Jr., talks of his brother's political evolution.

"Silme went through different stages. The lawsuit (against NEFCO) crystallized something. Then there was Kingdome.

Silme awoke to his own history, the brother says.

That awakening could be symbolized by the moment in a bunkhouse in Uganik Bay when he suddenly looked at an inscription on the wall that said, "Nemesio Domingo—1942." □



Cindy Domingo, sister of slain activist Silme, being comforted at memorial service.

a series of articles in an Asian community newspaper in 1977 that for the first time laid out the history of Local 37.

Among other things, the two agreed that a major goal must be to reform the union, one of the most important economic entities in the Filipino community.

Silme Domingo saw the "cumpadre system," deeply engrained in centuries of Filipino culture, as an obstacle to reform in the union and the community in general.

As his brother, Nemesio, Jr., explained it, the cumpadre system creates a complex web of personal obligations, allegiances and favors given and owed.

"Silme believed that the cumpadre system is used politically to stifle new, innovative things," he said.

Silme and his brother, Nemesio, Jr., were "blacklisted" by the Alaska cannery industry for sowing discontent among Filipino Alaskeros over working conditions.

minations stick in the event it was carried to arbitration."

In that same memo, Lynner expressed confidence that Navarro would not support the Domingos in their complaint, and in fact, said Navarro had told them privately that he was trying to discourage the young men from filing it.

Meanwhile, the Domingos, Viernes and others organized the Alaska Cannery Workers Association and, a short time later, the Rank and File Committee to press for reforms in Local 37.

The iron-fisted rule of Gene Navarro over Local 37 ended in 1975 with his death from a long illness. For more than 20 years he had his way with the union.

"He was like a Jimmy Hoffa," recalled one union old-timer, Salvador Delfierro, who served 15 years on the union's board of trustees.

Delfierro, now retired, remembers the .45-caliber pistol he

members, with Viernes, of the anti-Marcos Union of Democratic Filipinos, as are other members of the reform slate that took control of Local 37 last fall.

Nemesio, Sr., is a vice president of the union, although he did not run as part of the reform slate.

In fact, in 1978, he found himself at odds with his son, Silme, when the union's board had to fill a vacancy for the secretary-treasurer's position.

Nemesio, Jr., explained that his father felt that he could neither go against the wishes of his friends, many of whom immigrated with him 50 years ago, nor vote against his son. So he abstained.

That gave Tony Baruso, the president, the power to choose the new secretary-treasurer. He chose someone other than Silme.

Last fall, the reformist group gained control, with Silme winning the secretary-treasurer's post, Viernes the always sensitive dispatcher's job and Silme's sister, Lynn Domingo, winning election to the board of trustees.

Seattle Post-Intelligencer/John Holmberg



## Martyrs' Song

*How many acres to be plowed?  
How many miles to go  
How many mouths to be fed,  
how many words left unsaid  
How many more may die before  
we strike the final blow*

*No one ever said that it'd be easy  
No one ever said we'd all see it through  
Somehow though I never thought that  
we'd be  
Standing here without you,  
saying this without you*

*How many forces stand against us  
Trying to strike us low  
Whether they use laws or use the gun,  
we will do what must be done  
Though many more will die before we  
we strike the final blow*

*For if it is justice that we're wanting  
Well you know it won't just come in  
one day  
Don't you know we've got to  
keep on fighting  
They would want it that way,  
want it that way*

*How many banners to be raised  
How many things to know  
How many lessons in their years,  
How many songs, how many tears  
How many more will live so  
we can give the final blow*

*For it is history that we're changing  
Well you know that won't just  
come in one day  
Don't you know we've got to  
keep on fighting  
They would want it that way,  
want it to be that way*

Written for Gene and Silme by  
Christopher Hershey  
Seattle, Washington

**They have not died!  
They stand  
in the midst  
of the gunpowder  
Like burning fuses.**

—Pablo Neruda



Some of the people who will miss the two activists march to the Local 37 hall.

John Stamefs



Gene returns to his union hall for the last time.

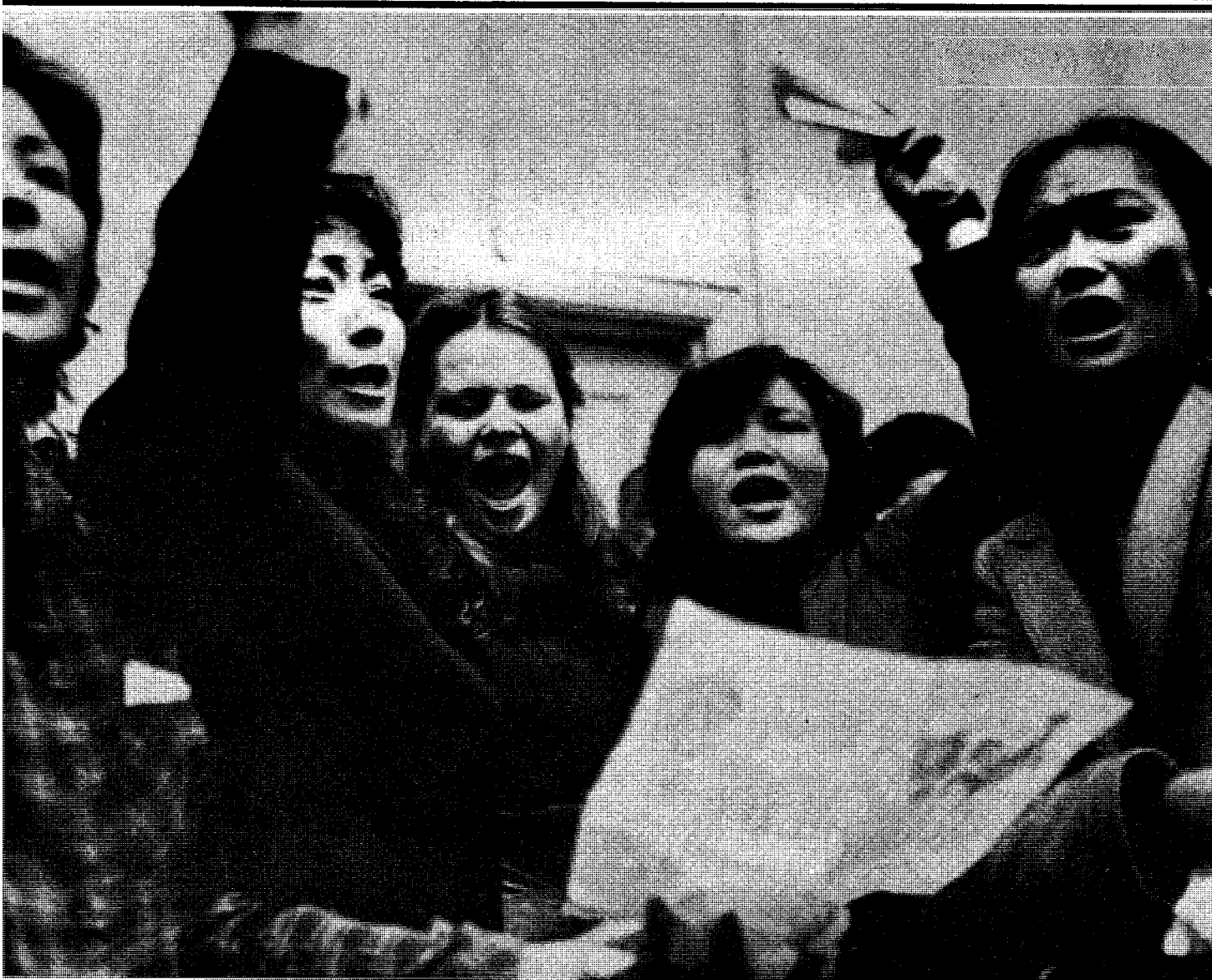
John Stamefs



Leni Marin of KDP, Tony Baruso, Local 37 president and Dave Della of the union's Rank and File Committee at a press conference the day after the murders.

(AK Photo)





Comrades sing "Solidarity Forever" at memorial service.

John Stamets

## THE VISION OF A REVOLUTIONARY

Dedicated to the memory of Gene and Silme, to the Domingo family and the Viernes family.

### I

A solemn sorrow lingers over hearts and minds  
A precious loss, a painful reality  
Mother, you have nurtured, you have loved  
Brother, you have taught, you have learned  
Grieve . . . feel . . . unleash  
And grasp that hidden emotion  
Aching to burst asunder  
For behind every ounce of emotion  
A cauldron of inner strength smoulders  
Their memory shall not be forsaken.

### II

Two fallen comrades  
struck down by wretched assassins  
Inherent by-products  
Of an irrational  
And historically obsolete society  
Hail! Beloved tribunes of the people  
Staunch champions of the working class  
We salute your determined and unswerving  
Adherence to just and progressive principles  
Principles not even death's fateful knocking  
Could corrupt  
We are deeply inspired  
By your revolutionary vision  
A vision that brilliantly shines  
As a beacon for the stormy struggle ahead

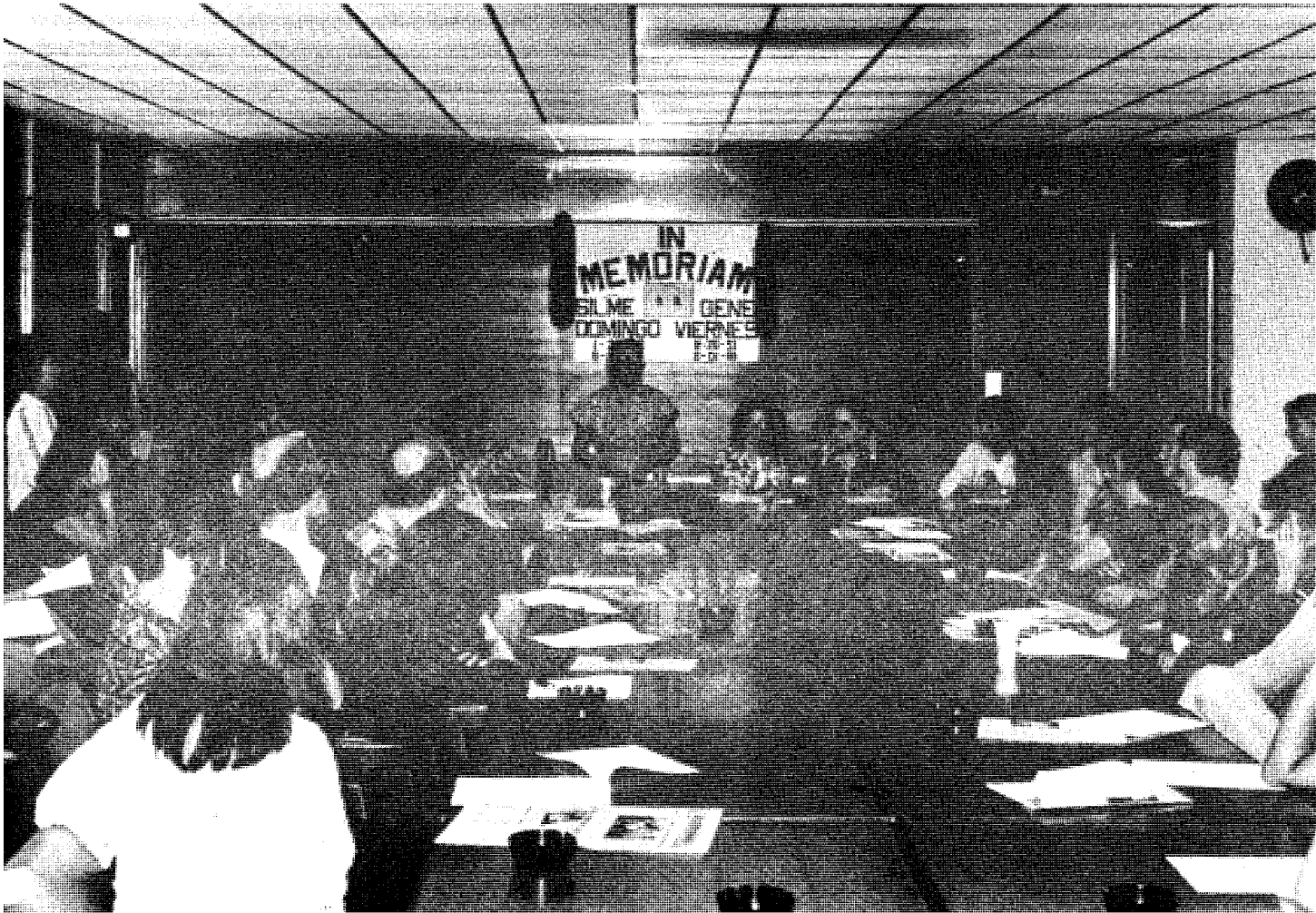
### III

For a revolutionary affirms life  
Its essence of justice, equality, freedom  
He, she can consent to nothing less  
Definitely not  
To the "eternal evil and greed of human nature"  
A sorry figment and indictment  
Of the bourgeoisie's imagination.  
A revolutionary uncompromisingly  
Upholds the inevitable and final triumph  
Of human justice  
This is his one absolute principle  
Is it any mystery then  
That any sacrifice, even the ultimate one  
Can be no deterrent to a revolutionary's quest  
To forever end  
Exploitation and oppression in society  
He may not live to bear witness  
She has no illusions  
For freedom's requirement  
Is a life and death struggle  
Only the enemies of social change  
Can be blind to history's forward march  
But the beauty of a revolutionary  
Overshadows all doom and despair  
A person of all seasons, of all colors  
Of all walks of life  
A living testament  
To the final liberation of humankind.

### IV

Hearts and minds carry on  
The pain only time can ease  
Sister, let the tears flow  
But flow into a river  
Of renewed determination  
Ponder the fond memories  
Recollect their shining example, comrades  
Transform the pain into selfless sacrifice  
Into inner strength  
We must take over the helm!  
Father, turn anguish into anger  
Justice we demand no less  
Let words abound on the lives  
Of our revolutionary heroes  
And the memory and vision  
of Kasamang Gene and Silme  
Shall live on . . . and on . . . and on . . .

—Wicks Geaga  
Oakland, California



John McElrath of the ILWU, Local 142, speaks at memorial held at the union hall in Honolulu June 7. Also speaking was Legado (seated left) of the KDP.



San Francisco political activists and trade unionists give Gene and Silme a last salute on June 14 at the Service Employees International Union Local 87 auditorium.

(AK Photo)

# MESSAGES OF SYMPATHY AND SUPPORT (EXCERPTS)

## **James Herman, President International Longshoremen and Warehouse Union, San Francisco, CA**

It is very difficult to express the sorrow and anger which we all feel at the vicious and cold blooded attack on Local 37.

Gene Viernes was among the best young leaders developed within the ILWU in recent years. His loss is irreplaceable. He had impressed all of us at the International as a young man of great ability and with his desire to be a real service to the membership and to promote an efficient and fair dispatching system.

Silme Domingo is also a young man in whom we had placed great hopes. We have all been impressed with his maturity, his strength and commitment. He demonstrated enormous courage during the attack.

These two young men were elected into office with a mandate to ensure and strengthen the ILWU principles of internal democracy. . . (They) were fulfilling these mandates to the very best of their considerable ability. . . we share your belief that it was precisely because of their adherence to these principles that they were shot. These attacks, therefore, is an attack not only on Local 37 as a whole but on the entire ILWU. It is long and part of history that Local 37 and its members have never been intimidated by violence. We share in your determination to continue all the tasks which you, Gene and Silme established for the Local. I will do everything possible to assist and support you in this.

## **Eddie Lapa, Vice-President, ILWU Local 142 Honolulu HI**

It was with shock and sorrow to learn of the fatal shootings of Brothers Silme Domingo and Gene Viernes on Monday. Many of us met Silme and Gene at our International convention and were impressed by the intensity of desire and devotion to make Local 37 a truly democratic and vital union for its members. We do not know if either of the young men had families. If they do, we should be grateful if you would offer our condolences to them.

Over a hundred years ago, Joe Hill, when he was about to be shot in prison, said, "Don't mourn for me; organize!"

## **Pauline Basconcillo Winston Ching**

## **Patricia Lee Executive Board Members, Hotel and Restaurant Employees and Bartenders Union Local 2 San Francisco**

Brothers Domingo and Viernes represented the finest qualities of the Filipino people and stood for all that is good in the working class.

During their all-too-short lives, these brothers dedicated themselves to the reform and revitalization of their union by uniting the rank-and-file workers into a movement for trade union democracy. As respected union leaders, they sought to introduce fair and equal practices free of graft and corruption. In their last year, they established strong ties of solidarity between the labor unions of the Philippines and the United States.

In this dark hour, as tragedy brings us closer together, let the shining example of Brothers Domingo and Viernes give us the courage to overcome ignorance and fear, the strength to promote unity and the vision to strive for a just society.

## **Officers & Members of Local 23**

## **Billy Lilly, President Seattle, WA**

We would like to express our condolences to the family of brother Viernes and our regards to brother Domingo. The membership of Local 23 will observe a moment of silence for departed brother, Gene Viernes at a membership meeting this evening. Please accept our deepest and sincerest sympathies. (Received before Silme's death.)

## **Russell Valparaiso, Vice-President, United Public Workers, Honolulu, HI**

The United Public Workers Private Sector Division Executive Board representing 2,500 workers in Hawaii has heard with alarm and deep concern the report of the recent murder of Brothers Gene Viernes and Silme Domingo in Seattle.

Our Division has unanimously voted to send our condolences to you in Local 37 of the ILWU and to families and friends of the two slain union leaders.

## **Officers & Members of Puget Sound District Council, Seattle, WA**

We send our sympathy to you, the members of Local 37 and families of brother Viernes and brother Domingo. The Council shares with you the concerns that those responsible for their acts of violence towards members of the union will be dealt with. We send this message of sorrow and we also send a message of hope and support.

## **Employees of Todd Shipyard Seattle, WA**

We, the undersigned employees at Todd Shipyard would like to express our deep sorrow over the deaths of Gene Viernes and Silme Domingo. The loss of these two union brothers is a blow against the Cannery Workers Union and serves to weaken the union with respect to the employers. It is therefore a loss which is felt by all labor.

## **Dave Della, Rank-and-File Committee, Local 37**

We in the Rank-and-File Committee of Local 37 are greatly saddened by the loss of Silme and Gene. We will miss their friendship, their concern for others, their dedication to the trade union movement. In remembering them, we pledge to heighten our determination to drive the hoodlum elements out of the union.

We rededicate ourselves to push through the advances of the Reform program and to continue the work cut short by the untimely deaths of Silme and Gene.

We join with so many others touched by their strength and commitment of Silme and Gene in upholding the task of turning our grief into anger, and continue to build an honest, democratic and progressive union.

## **Campaign Against the Marcos Dictatorship (formerly AMLC)**

Silme and Gene having been members of KDP were strong supporters of the movement against the Marcos dictatorship. We know they always gave their best to help our work in Seattle. We will miss these good colleagues and friends.

## **Elaine Elinson National Coordinator Philippine Solidarity Network**

On behalf of the Philippine Solidarity Network, our national staff, our chapters and our supporters, we promise to carry on the work that Gene and Silme devoted themselves to—to expose and oppose U.S.-backed repression in the Philippines and the joining together of U.S. workers and Filipino workers for our common goals.

We enclose a donation in their memory for the work of KDP.

## **Northern California Alliance**

We would like to offer our condolences and express our sorrow and outrage at the tragic loss of our two brothers as two leaders in the trade union movement and in the Filipino community. Gene and Silme stood firm in their dedication to the struggles of workers and

oppressed people everywhere. The memory of their lives is an inspiration to all who seek a world free of exploitation.

We salute their example, the ultimate sacrifice they made, and their fearless, tireless dedication to the cause of reforming the union and making it stronger for the rank-and-file. We condemn the slaying, no doubt carried out by those who want to preserve corruption and to prevent strong rank-and-file democracy in the union.

Please let us know how we can stand with you at this trying time. We must stand together in the face of the mounting attacks on our unions and on those who struggle for justice and decency within labor and the larger society.

## **The General Membership of Hawaiian Union of Socialists**

The membership of Hawaiian Union of Socialists is shocked by the killings of Gene Viernes and Silme Domingo. Both brothers recently visited Hawaii and shared freely of the knowledge and understanding of today's world. Gene spoke at a forum on El Salvador. Silme was also active in sharing his experiences here on trade union work.

The union movement in Hawaii is raising the issue of these killings. The United Public Workers Union has already scheduled a meeting to take up this issue. The Hawaiian Union of Socialists expresses its support in cooperation and any help that is needed from Hawaii. We share your grief and pledge our solidarity.

## **Venceremos Brigade**

The Bay Area Regional Committee of the Venceremos Brigade wishes to express to you our deepest sympathy and shares with you grief and outrage at the murder of comrades Gene Viernes and Silme Domingo. They will live on in those whose lives they touched, in the communities and sectors where they left their imprint, and for the movement as a whole, they will serve to make us firmer, more resolute in the tasks before us.

"Wherever death may surprise us, let it be welcome if our battle cry has reached even one receptive ear and another hand reaches out to take up our arms. . . " Che

HASTA LA VICTORIA SIEMPRE!

## **Partial List of Others Who Sent Messages**

Officers and Executive Board of Longshore Local 10, ILWU  
Keith Eichman—President, Warehouse Union Local 6, ILWU\*  
Leon Harris—Secretary-Treasurer, ILWU Local 6\*  
Joe Lindsay—Business Agent, ILWU Local 6\*  
Abba Ramos—Business Agent, ILWU Local 6\*  
Roberto Flotta—Business Agent, ILWU Local 6\*  
Victor Pamiroyan—Board of Trustees, ILWU Local 6  
Jim Ryder—Business Agent, ILWU Local y\*  
Ben Madrid—Business Agent, ILWU Local 6\*  
Jan Gilbrecht—Executive Board Member, ILWU Local 6\*  
Ellen Schaffer—Executive Board Member, ILWU Local 6\*  
Richard O'Toole—Executive Board Member, ILWU Local 6\*  
Robert Seltzer—District Council Delegate, ILWU Local 6\*  
John Dalrymple—District Council Delegate, ILWU Local 6\*  
Leo Robinson—Executive Board Member, ILWU Local 10  
Herb Mills—Secretary-Treasurer, SEIU Local 87\*  
Barbara Pottgen—Executive Board, OPEIU Local 3\*  
Lester Radke—Vice President, AFT Local 866\*  
National Filipino Immigrant Rights Organization  
International Association of Filipino Patriots  
Line of March  
National Anti-Racist Organizing Committee  
Southern Africa Organizing Committee  
Alliance Against Women's Oppression  
Marxist-Leninist Education Project  
Democratic Workers Party

\*Individual's organizational affiliations listed for purposes of identification.

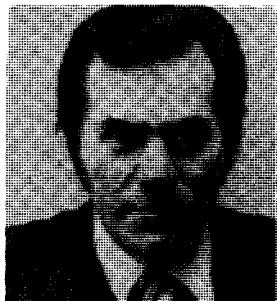


## MESSAGES AT THE MEMORIALS (EXCERPTS)

### 'they were the future leaders of our organization—I mean top leaders.'

*George Martin, VP ILWU International*

My observations of them were that they were bright stars in the horizon as far as the labor movement is concerned. They were decent people; they had the attributes that we could foresee some great things for them in the overall union, and I mean by that, the International level also.



They had the kind of qualities that were recognizable right off the bat. The more I sat down with them and discussed problems that concerned the organization, the more I was convinced that these were the future leaders of our organization—I mean top leaders.

I considered Silme, for example, just conversing with him from time to time just the few moments we had together, as an international progressive working man's man; that he had that kind of deep convictions and knowledge that it's not very often you see in a man his age.

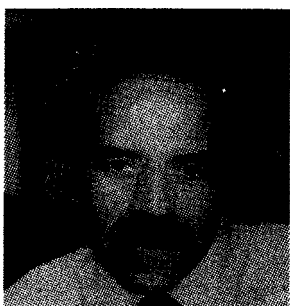
Gene had a history and a track record of assisting people throughout the world. We've taken up social causes and other political causes that at times were unpopular. We've taken some positions that we've had some threats, but we never wavered . . . and we won't be intimidated in this case, too.

As an International officer, I pledge to you that we will not let these two young men down.

Whoever it is interested in filling up those two vacancies, then its incumbent upon this membership, your responsibility to examine the candidates and make certain that these are men or women who have integrity and who believe in the philosophy and principles of this organization.

### 'Thieves have entered our house . . . we will not be intimidated.'

*Curtis McClain, Sec.-Treas., ILWU International*



We were proud that they had chosen the ILWU as the vehicle to express their ideas of social justice and equity. We will always remember them and will strive with all of our resources to continue on in their memory. Gene Viernes, Silme Domingo were killed, we are convinced, because of the work that they were doing. Someone, some group did not want to see Local 37 strong and united. Someone, some group did not want to see Local 37 organizing oppressed workers at Dutch Harbor. But we want it understood that it won't work, and that we will continue to do the work that they were doing. We will continue to build and strengthen our union as a monument to them. We will not be intimidated.

Thieves have entered into our house. They have violated it. They have attacked every single one of us. We are not going to let them get away with this. We are going to get to the bottom of this situation. We will do whatever is necessary together to make sure it never happens again. Anything less would be an insult to the memory of Gene Viernes and Silme Domingo.

### 'Silme—a brother to countless others who have never even heard his name . . .'

*Larry Cotter, All-Alaska Labor Council*

Silme Domingo was my brother. I loved him dearly for his compassion, for his wisdom, for his capabilities and his insights. But he was not only my

brother—he was a brother to all of us. A brother for countless thousands and millions of others who have never heard the name Silme Domingo.

He was a man of courage, a man of commitment and thus a man of vision. He knew this road was rough and fraught with peril; yet, that knowledge served not to discourage him from his ideals and beliefs but only to further and to finally convince him of the necessity for him to follow that road, to blaze and pave it for those of us who might follow it.

But it takes a loss to realize a loss.

In Silme's case, however, the irony is not complete. Look around you. Do you see how many of us are here at this memorial? And have you noticed the massive attention of the media and the public?

Silme was no ordinary person. He offered us hope through his convictions, courage through his precedence. He said to all of us things can be better. And it's obvious: people have heard that message, from remote factory ships in Alaska, in the Aleutian Islands off Alaska, to sugar plantations in the Philippines. Hundreds and thousands of people, from all walks of life, have recognized an overwhelming tragedy.

His spirit and his convictions belong to all people. He has become a symbol of determination, a kind and gentle warrior of decency, a steadfast vision of hope.

### 'Silme chose revolutionary work over self-advancement . . .'

*Leni Marin, KDP National Council*



Silme was not just a good teacher—he was also a good student. Because of his desire to change the system he so hated, he listened and learned from all of us.

By the early 70s, Silme was already an established figure in the Asian student and anti-war movements. He was instrumental in the development of the *Kapisanan* newsletter, and the *Asian Family Affair* newspaper.

When martial law was declared in the Philippines, Silme was also deeply affected, having developed a special interest in his parents' homeland while seeking his own racial identity. Silme's political involvement was very deliberate, and he grew and matured quickly in those early years.

In 1973, Silme became a member of the KDP, and helped establish the first chapter in Seattle. Silme had already decided that the things he cared most about—the conditions of minorities and other working peoples—would not qualitatively improve without a revolutionary change in society.

Here was a young man who was clearly one of the up and coming leaders of the community, whose individual qualities and principles left a decided influence on those who met him.

Several times, Silme was offered opportunities to advance himself—individually—if he would give up his revolutionary involvement. But Silme would not bend towards political opportunism, to selfish personal ambition. Instead, Silme moved more central to the revolutionary movement.

The KDP is even more determined to continue in building a progressive people's movement, and we draw inspiration from the spirit which Silme and Gene brought to their tasks. We will not be intimidated by the Marcos dictatorship, the capitalist class, or the petty hoodlums who are willing to take any life for their own narrow interests, or for the right price.

### 'Gene was poor but he was wealthier than all of us . . .'

*Andy Pascua, Gene's boyhood friend*

Like most people in our community we began at the age of 12 or 13 to work on the farms, earn extra money for the family and then when we reached 15 or 16 we would attempt to go to Alaska as was the custom in our community.

It was in our stints in Alaska that we first became aware of the conditions and the trials that our fathers had gone through for decades to provide for us. And I

think it was our first real awakening as to how much we owed them and our mothers. And I know for Gene as well as myself that this was the catalyst that allowed us to look deeper into why we were the way we were and why we did the things that we did.

The thing that was admirable about Gene was that he was such a multi-faceted person. He went to the Philippines a few months ago, visited his relatives, and researched some of the causes and stuff that he'd never seen. He developed a family tree so that he could pass on to his family a sense of heritage. And he brought back little gifts for just about everyone in the community. Gene was one of those people who while taking on international issues and striving for national causes maintained his ties with his communities. I can't think of a single person that we grew up with that Gene lost contact with. And whenever any of us would meet and ask about old friends we would ask about Gene. And even though we had him for 29 years, his ability and dedication never ceased to amaze us.

I think if there was one thing Gene taught all of us, it wasn't the quantity of your life, it was the quality. He gave up a great deal. He never got married, he wasn't wealthy, he didn't have a great deal of time to spend with his loved ones. He wasn't selfish in any aspect. But I think that he was wealthier than all of us. And that even in death he could still win victories.

They had to shoot Gene, because he was totally dedicated, he was incorruptible and he believed so strongly in everything he did. . . . And that you knew, if you knew Gene at all, that eventually given time he would have triumphed.

### 'I understand why Gene felt strongly about changing society . . .'

*Cathi Tactaquin, KDP National Executive Board*



I saw him in Honolulu on his way back from the Philippines. He told me that he was the first of his brothers and sisters to make that trip.

But, even this trip was not just for personal reasons for Gene. His visit was planned as an investigation

into the conditions there and especially to get a sense of the labor movement.

While there Gene visited with the New People's Army in the countryside. The NPA is organizing and fighting a guerilla war against the US-backed dictatorship. They are fighting for true land reform and genuine independence for the Philippines. Gene said he was amazed about how young some of the NPA members were. Some were boys and girls 15 and even younger. He said he asked a young boy why he had joined the NPA—did he understand what he was doing? And the young soldier told him: "You can be exploited no matter how old you are, and no matter how old you are you have to fight back for your liberation."

Having started as a cannery worker at an early age himself, Gene certainly agreed with his Philippine counterpart. In the Philippines, Gene also made contact with militant labor leaders, shared notes on their experiences and brought back the need to build here in the United States strong support for the Philippine labor movement. Immediately after his trip, he helped fight for a resolution at the ILWU International Convention in Honolulu to do just that.

So that others could share his experience in the Philippines Gene took many pictures and slides and intended to write a series of articles for the KDP's newspaper, the *Ang Katipunan*.

Gene's death is a great loss to his family, his friends and his comrades. Even those of us who never worked directly with Gene have been inspired by his qualities and beliefs. During the times that I was able to talk with Gene, I learned quite a bit about his life which was very much like my own. He was just three months older than me. We graduated the same year from high school. We were both raised in rural farm areas. Our families were not wealthy but in fact were very poor. We are even both Mestizos so I felt that I knew Gene very well and I understand why he would choose to become an activist and feel so strongly about changing society.

## Slayings Spark Anger...

Continued from page 1

tion-wracked union, Domingo and Viernes won the Secretary/Treasurer and Dispatcher positions respectively, at last year's election.

Holding the important dispatcher post which assigned workers to jobs in Alaska canneries, Viernes put a stop to bribery and other forms of corruption from job-seekers, who wanted to skirt the union's preferential system of dispatching.

Previous dispatchers were known to have accepted bribes in exchange for jobs.

Viernes and Domingo were reportedly assassinated as the reforms were effecting positive changes in the union.

### COMMUNITY SHOCKED, OFFERS SUPPORT

Viernes was killed by an initial volley of fire to his chest, according to the coroner's report.

Domingo was rushed to the Harborview Medical Center, moments after he sustained four bullet wounds to his abdomen. His blood pressure was very low from loss of blood and he required 80 units for transfusion. Several heart surgeons worked on Domingo whose heart was considerably weakened.

The slayings produced shock waves within the Filipino community, triggering responses from disbelief and sorrow, to anger and concern.

As Domingo underwent three major operations, and hovered between life and death in the next 24 hours, scores of people came to the hospital at different times and stood vigil.

As Domingo's condition deteriorated from loss of blood, a phone tree for blood donations was activated. According to a blood bank employee, up to a hundred people lined up at the blood bank.

Among them were a group of "Alaskeros" who had known Gene and Silme. "Buddy ko siya, alam mo (He's my buddy, you know)," one Alaskero explained as he visibly held back tears.

On June 2, around 5:40 p.m.,

Domingo died.

The emotional scene at the hospital caused one medical assistant to mutter loudly: "Who is this Silme Domingo, and what has he done to cause all this?"

### HUNDREDS TURN OUT FOR MEMORIAL SERVICES

Local 37's office was besieged with phone calls and telegrams from union locals up and down the West Coast, offering condolences and sympathy. (See pages 8 and 9.)

Cables were received from as far as Honolulu, from unionists who met Viernes and Domingo at the ILWU international convention in Hawaii, about four weeks before the fatal shooting.

The slain activists successfully pressed for an ILWU-sponsored investigating team to study the conditions of Filipino labor under the Marcos regime.

In Oakland, telegrams and phone calls poured in from fraternal organizations at the Union of Democratic Filipinos (KDP) national headquarters, offering their sympathy and assistance.

Domingo and Viernes were leading activists of the KDP, a revolutionary organization opposed to the "U.S.-backed Marcos dictatorship in the Philippines." The KDP also leads anti-discrimination struggles of Filipinos and considers itself part of the socialist movement here.

"Not only will we refuse to be



Ramil (left) and Guloy (right) at arraignment where they entered a "not guilty" plea; the two were identified by Silme Domingo as the assailants. (Seattle Post-Intelligencer/Phil Webber)

intimidated, we will re-dedicate ourselves to the work and goals our comrades have died for," pledged Leni Marin, spokesperson for the KDP in Seattle, at Viernes' memorial service, June 3. The event was held at Local 37 union hall and attended by some 500 people.

A special speaker system had to be installed outside the building, where throngs of mourners who could not get inside the 200-capacity hall listened to the eulogies, despite the intermittent light rain. Blacks, whites and Asians in tearful embraces, were a common sight.

A banner leading the march which preceded the memorial service said: "Turn anguish into anger."

The funeral service at Viernes' hometown in Wapato, a small farming community in eastern Washington, was attended by another 400 people.

"Manong Johnny," a first wave immigrant who knew Viernes remarked: "This is probably the biggest funeral crowd Wapato has seen in a long time."

After the funeral, a luncheon was served at the Filipino Community Center where the community prepared their "Wapato boy's" favorite dishes: *dinuguan* and *kalding*.

### 'INTERNATIONALE' SUNG

Some 600 people attended a rosary service arranged by the Domingo family the evening of June 6th. Practically every Seattle Filipino organization was represented.

The following day, a mass was held in Domingo's honor at St. James Cathedral, followed by his funeral.

A long car caravan to the burial site snarled traffic in downtown Seattle.

The memorial service for Domingo, held at the AFL-CIO Labor Temple, was marked by pledges to "emulate the courage and persistence" of the two slain leaders "in their struggle to bring about changes not only in the union, but in the entire society as well."

George Martin, International ILWU Vice-President, renewed

his organization's commitment to assist Local 37, and pledged that the International will "get to the bottom of this incident."

Michael Withey, Local 37's legal counsel asked the community to step forward and offer information that would help lead to "the full prosecution of those responsible for the killings."

In closing, Cindy Domingo, sister of Silme, announced the singing of the "Internationale," the anthem of the international socialist movement, "as Silme would have wanted it." The mourners raised clenched fists at the last verse: "The international working class shall be the human race."

The Seattle press gave extensive coverage to the aftermath of the killings. The *Seattle Times* hailed Domingo and Viernes as "Filipino martyrs." The *Seattle Post-Intelligencer* ran a strongly-worded editorial, calling for the "prosecution of perpetrators of this criminal act."

### MORE MEMORIAL SERVICES

Memorial services are still continuing all over the country for Viernes and Domingo.

KDP chapters in Honolulu, Washington, D.C., New York, Los Angeles, Sacramento, Chicago, and San Francisco have extended invitations to their respective communities, to recount the slain activists' deeds, and "to re-double our efforts to achieve the KDP goals as Gene and Silme would have wanted it," stated Cathi Tactaquin, member of the KDP's National Executive Board. □

## Union Elects New Officials

In a related development, a Local 37 membership meeting June 10 attended by some 200 union members elected Lynn Domingo as Secretary-Treasurer, to fill the vacancy left by her slain brother, Silme.

Domingo, 23, is a three-year veteran Alaska cannery worker and a former union shop steward.

At the same meeting, Union Executive Board member John Foz, formerly of San Francisco, was elected Dispatcher, to replace Viernes.

"I will do my best to carry out my brother's ideals," Domingo said immediately after her election.

Her mother, Ade Domingo was worried, but was supportive of

her daughter's decision. "I know there is a risk, but everything in life is a risk," she said.

The general membership also voted approval of a "dispatching team" to work with Foz on the dispatching procedures for the immediate future. □

### Appeal for Information on Killings Issued 'Committee for Justice' Launched in Seattle

Special to the AK

SEATTLE—A broad spectrum of civic and political leaders announced the formation of the Committee for Justice for Domingo and Viernes at a press conference here June 10.

The committee's aim is to assist the City Prosecutor's Office in solving the June 1 murder of the two union officials.

It immediately issued a public appeal for anyone with information on the killings to come forward.

Two suspected gunmen have been apprehended. (See related story on front page.)

The committee includes Norman Rice and Michael Hildt, city council members and spans a cross section of this city's Filipino organizations and leaders, from the Union of Democratic Filipinos (KDP), to Dolores Sibonga, the first Filipina city council member.

Other members include the following: Tony Baruso, President of Union Local 37; Sylvestre Tangalan, President of the Filipino Community Council; John Ragudos; Bob Santos, Director of Inter\*Im; and the Domingo family.

The committee has also been joined by prominent leaders of the Asian and Black communities.

At the press conference, Santos remarked: "We pledge to speak out and bring this senseless violence to a halt."

Elaine Ko, a well-known housing activist, said the Committee for Justice has assembled a legal team to assist in finding all those directly or indirectly involved in the fatal shooting.

She noted that a significant amount of evidence has already been submitted to the prosecutors form the members of the Filipino community and the general public. □

### R.P. Tourism . . .

Continued from page 4

Low-interest, long-term, government-backed loans were quickly made available to anyone who wanted to build a luxury hotel. Thus nine elegant new hotels rose in Manila. In addition, the Manila Hotel and the Philippine Village were vastly enlarged and modernized.

### MAD SCRAMBLE FOR BUSINESS

Few of the glamorous new structures were fully complete by the day the conference began. But conferees were well-housed and went away with the impression that Manila is a "first-class" city.

With the conference over, occupancy rates in the new hotels plunged to 40%. Executives consider 55% the minimum needed to break even.

Then began the mad scramble for business. Rates were kept competitively low. The average room rate for a Manila five-star today is \$36 to \$38. Rates in

Singapore and Hong Kong are double that.

### SEX, THE HOTTEST COMMODITY

Tourist industry executives have sought business when and where it could be found. Conventions have been a key source. Last year's American Society of Travel Agents meet, which ended abruptly in a bombing, was to have meant a breakthrough in this area.

The other main source of business, though executives hesitate to admit it, has been Japanese sex tours. Large parties of Japanese men sampling Manila's nightlife, in particular its young prostitutes, have become a frequent sight in Manila's tourist district.

But the popularity of Japanese sex-tours provoked a growing volume of outrage both in Japan and in Manila. Last January, anti-sex-tour demonstrations

greeted visiting Japanese Prime Minister Zenko Suzuki.

The demonstrations had a devastating effect on the sex-tour business and has stung the entire tourism industry sharply.

### A GOVERNMENT PROBLEM

Meanwhile, the problems of the hotel industry have become increasingly the government's problems. Built with public loans, owned by top cronies of the first family, the hotels now belong in large part to the government. As the occupancy problem made it impossible for owners to pay their debts, the regime's solution was to convert government loans into equity.

Therefore, the hoteliers' pleas that part of the country be reshaped and rezoned, in order to attract more visitors fall on highly sympathetic ears.

The regime appears to have two choices. It can cultivate Manila's child prostitution business in hopes of revitalizing the slumping sex tours. Or it can boost the hotel industry's plans to prostitute the entire nation. Most likely, it will choose both. □



# PROTESTS HERE HIT RP ELECTION

"Boycott the election!" "Marcos election is a one-man rule" and other chants resounded in several U.S. cities on June 16, date of the first presidential election in the Philippines after 12 years.

Demonstrations held in Chicago, Hawaii, Los Angeles, New York, Sacramento, San Francisco, Seattle, and Washington, D.C. echoed the massive boycott movement in the Philippines in denouncing "the false normalization of the Marcos dictatorship."

The Coalition Against the Marcos Dictatorship (CAMD), organized a host of activities culminating in the street protests.

Local CAMD chapters distributed thousands of copies of *Taliba* (newspaper of CAMD) and leaflets denouncing the elections as sham. Forums and house meetings were held in several cities as build-up activities for the demonstrations.

## INVADING CONSULATE CELEBRATIONS

June 12 Philippine National Day celebrations provided excellent opportunities for CAMD chapters to reach a number of people through leafletting.

Hawaii's Committee for Human Rights in the Philippines (CHRP) gave out 4,000 leaflets during a well-attended barrio fiesta. The group also gave out balloons with "Boycott Philippine elections" printed on them.

Chicago CAMD ventured into



Demonstration at San Francisco Philippine Consulate June 16; similar actions were organized in several cities by the Coalition Against the Marcos Dictatorship. (AK Photo)

a June 12 celebration sponsored by the Philippine Consulate. When the group appeared with banners bearing slogans against the elections, consulate authorities summoned the police immediately.

The police instructed the group to go to "the other side" which turned out to be an area near the stage where the banners had greater visibility. Up to 700 leaflets were easily passed out to passersby.

All the demonstrations were militant, spirited and informative. Several attracted media and press

coverage in their respective cities.

## LIGHTNING PICKET, MOCK BALLOTING

The Philippine Solidarity Network (PSN) and the Katipunan ng mga Demokratikong Pilipino (KDP), affiliates of CAMD, played prominent roles in the protest activities.

In Chicago, a silent picket stood in front of the Philippine Consulate from 4:00 to 5:00 p.m.

The Los Angeles demonstration

drew Consul General Armando Fernandez outside, until protestors chanted "Manding Fernandez, you can't hide. We know you're on Marcos' side." At that point, he ducked back into his office.

A lightning picket formed at noontime in front of the Philippine Embassy in Washington, D.C. Two CAMD members sought audience with an Embassy official just as the picket began. The two brought a letter for Marcos, requesting that the embassy see to its prompt delivery.

That afternoon, between 4:30 to 6:30 p.m., a larger picket was held in front of the White House.

The Seattle demonstration attracted the most media and press coverage, coming at the wake of the recent murder of two KDP activists there.

On the opposite coast, New York gathered several solidarity messages from various anti-imperialist groups.

During their forum, N.Y. CAMD held a "balloting" where people expressed approval or disapproval of the Marcos regime in ballots. Out of a total of 445 ballots, 440 expressed their disapproval.

## 'HE'S A HOAX'

Gary Coates of the Bay Area PSN chapter posed the question, "Why should the U.S. citizen sacrifice our human rights of social security and equal opportunity to health care, education, public safety and decent jobs to line the pockets of one of the leading international terrorists of the world today, a terror institutionalized against his own people by Marcos and his U.S.-trained torturers?"

His speech was one of the highlights of the San Francisco demonstration.

"Even as the latest results from elections in the Philippines proclaim Marcos the winner, in the eyes of the people, he is a hoax," commented a demonstrator. □

## SUIT AGAINST NURSE BOARD QUESTIONED

**SAN FRANCISCO** — The Deans and Directors of Baccalaureate and Higher Degree Nursing Programs may have no legitimate grounds to sue the California Board of Registered Nursing (BRN) for the latter's decision to extend the interim permits of nurses who failed recent licensure exams in February.

The issue surfaced during a hearing before Judge Ira Brown on June 4 at City Hall. No decision was made but a response from the court is expected in two weeks.

Weaknesses in the Deans and Directors' suit emerged when questions were raised whether the plaintiffs were a beneficially interested party in revoking the decision of the Board.

Neither the Deans and Directors and other petitioners such as the California Society of Nursing Service, San Jose Hospital, Fay L. Bower, nor Lorraine A. Williams, is seeking a registered nursing license nor is in danger of losing any license.

The Board maintains that the extension of the permits was appropriate in light of the Board's power to determine who is qualified to practice and pending a study of the SBTPE Licensing exam's job-relatedness and validity. An earlier report by the Department of Consumer Affairs assessed the exam as having "adverse impact" on minority and foreign graduates.

On the other hand, the plaintiffs charge that the BRN's decision make conditions unsafe for patients by allowing "unlicensed" nurses "who can't speak English" to prac-

tice. The plaintiffs allege that the BRN is "lowering the standards of the nursing profession."

## SUPPORTERS ON BOTH SIDES

The hotly contested issue drew supporters from both sides into the packed courtroom. The plaintiffs' supporters were identified mainly with the Californians mainly with the California Nurses Association (CNA). The BRN had an array of backers representing various civil rights, labor and minority interests.

They included Assistant Deputy Attorney General Richard Arnold; Bill Tamayo, lawyer for the Asian Law Caucus; Carmen Estrada of the Mexican American Legal Defense Fund (MALDEF); Vince Harrington (SEIU 250 & 400), Art Taggart of the Department of Fair Employment and Housing; and Bob Ganizda, of Public Advocates.

Tamayo presented arguments from an amicus brief supporting the extension of interim permits. In addition, he highlighted the political merits of the case:

"The actions of the defendant Board in extending the interim permits of nurses in April, 1981 were proper and necessary in order to comply with this country's and this state's commitments to eliminate all vestiges of racial and national origin discrimination."

He also pointed out that preventing nursing permittees from practicing will be of no help in nursing shortage already affecting

the quality of health care.

Speaking for nurses on H-1 visas (under which many Filipino nurses come to the U.S.), Tamayo says, "while the validity of the SBTPE is in question by those who administer it, deportation is inevitable for the minority H-1 nurse who faces deportation. Her only misconduct has been her failure to pass an examination which has been found to have an adverse impact on minorities. Yet her life and opportunities for employment in the U.S. will be virtually destroyed and disrupted forever."

Judge Brown also questioned the plaintiffs having cause to sue. He also recognized the political underpinnings of the case, and acknowledged that it is a "hot issue."

## INFORMATIONAL PICKET

Outside City Hall, a stationary, informational picket was organized by the National Filipino Immigrant Rights Organization (NFIRO).

Meanwhile, the California Board of Registered Nursing will hold a hearing on Thursday, June 18 at 722 Capitol Mall, Room 1098, Sacramento, CA, at 10:00 a.m. The BRN is planning to enact new regulations for licensure. The hearing allows public testimony on the proposed regulations.

The Asian Law Caucus and NFIRO called on all opponents of discriminatory licensure to testify at the hearing. □

## PINOYS CELEBRATE 'NATIONAL DAY'



From Los Angeles to Vancouver, and from San Francisco to Toronto, thousands of people gathered to celebrate Philippine National Day.

For six years the popularity of PND has spread

throughout North America, establishing the event as an annual tradition.

The attendance ranged from several hundred in San Francisco to nearly 10,000 in New York. □

## New Amnesty International Report

## Tortures, Rub-Outs Continue Despite 'Normalization'

By CRIS TAGAM  
Staff Writer

Despite government claims that, in the wake of the January 17 "lifting" of martial law, it is proceeding to "normalize," torture and salvaging continue. There are some indications, in fact, that such practices are increasing.

"Two hundred and thirty-three prisoners 'disappeared' between 1975 and April 1980," claims the recently-published Amnesty International Report on Disappearances.

"Many reappeared after several weeks or months in military detention camps. Others were eventually found dead . . . mutilated victims of salvaging."

The government, however, quickly dismissed these cases as "isolated acts of violence committed by poorly disciplined military personnel." "Ridiculous and malicious," bristled Deputy Defense Minister Carmelo Barbero in a statement issued by Malacanang. But the pattern of methods used— indefinite detention, torture and isolation, "disappearances," and "salvaging"—indicates instead, the implementation of an established and official policy.

#### "NORMALIZED" MILITARY OPERATIONS

The lifting of martial law by no means meant the lifting of military restrictions and easing of military presence.

The Armed Forces, by decree of its Commander-in-Chief Prime Minister Ferdinand Marcos, was not to be "restrained from the task of policing the security of the nation."

Marcos, in an Armed Forces Day speech implored the military to "stay in place, continue your operations and attain your objectives," even after the "lifting."

To aid in attaining these objectives, legislation favoring the practice of preventive detention was passed just before martial

law was formally lifted.

Typical of preventive measures used to quell dissent in recent times are the arrests which occurred in Legaspi City a few days before the April 17 plebiscite.

Two raids in that city yielded the military eight known "No"

Samson Rivera, having been subjected to the military's standard water cure, was to suffer even more humiliating torture.

Electric shocks and blocks of ice were alternately applied on his genitals. Rivera, stripped naked and blindfolded, was forced

1980.

When their parents inquired about them, detachment officer Sgt. Carlo Zambro denied knowledge of their whereabouts. What was left of the young men was found in the jungle in January of this year. Shredded clothes filled

for the marchers left three dead and many injured. The dead included Julia Hara whose husband Carlito remains missing, another "disappeared" prisoner.

Arrests, tortures and "salvaging" not only continue under "normalized" conditions—a distinct pattern has also emerged. Observers note an increasing tendency to use such methods in the countryside rather than in urban areas.

In the earlier years of martial law, torture and salvaging occurring in urban centers such as Manila were well publicized. This proved damaging to the smiling martial law image the regime wished to project. Accessibility to media, especially the foreign press, in the cities greatly aided the exposure of such practices.

Even now urban centers such as Legaspi have similar access to media and organized protests. For example, media and petition campaigns immediately after the most recent round of arrests led to the release, after 10 days and ₱1,000 bail, of the three detained "No" campaigners.

from SICK OF THE TIMES Lampoon

**NO ONE BUT NO ONE HAS BEEN TORTURED**  
*another presidential fantasy*

<p>Report of an Amnesty International Mission to The Republic of the Philippines 22 November - 5 December 1975</p>	<p>Report of an Amnesty International Mission to The Republic of the Philippines 22 November - 5 December 1975</p>	<p>Report of an Amnesty International Mission to The Republic of the Philippines 22 November - 5 December 1975</p>
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● DOUBLE WITH ●

**MAG-INGAT SA ASSO**  
*Arrest, Search and Seizure Order*

**The rabid truth about tutas in the armed forces.**

vote campaigners. After hours of questioning, five were released. Of the three detained, two were treated to further interrogation and torture.

#### A NEW TWIST TO TORTURE

For Francisco Cinco, 21, torture under "normalized" times literally acquired a new twist.

In a perverse new adaptation of the medieval rack, Cinco was "cantilevered" across a 5-foot frame of 2x2s—his spinal column and neck severely strained.

While Cinco's feet were held by two men, another alternately, twisted his neck and pounded against the wall next to the "rack." His interrogators also punched his stomach repeatedly. For six hours Cinco withstood this terror—the shock of it lasting for days.

to masturbate in front of his interrogators. He was also made to sleep on the bare cement floor wet with his interrogators' urine.

#### SALVAGING CONTINUES

Francisco and Samson were brought back to the Legaspi Provincial Commander's Office. Others are not so fortunate.

Residents of Guinayangan, Quezon have lived through two years of horror as military brutality has become an everyday matter. Documentation of the Task Force Detainees numbered 6 "disappeared" and 14 salvaging victims including three young brothers.

Garciano, Gaudencio and 15-year-old Eriberto Lagatok were forcibly taken by the military to their detachment on November

with stab-holes, covered their bones.

Gaudencio was a former chairman of the New Society-sponsored Kabataang Baranggay. Friends say that his criticism of barrio fund misappropriation led to his death. Another Lagatok brother, Macario, an army man, disappeared earlier. He was last seen in the company of fellow soldiers.

#### COUNTRYSIDE TARGETED

The people of Guinayangan, however, refused to tolerate such military brutality. In a display of outrage, they marched 5,000-strong to protest continued torture and salvaging last February 1.

But, in spite of the "lifting," their action was met with an even stronger dose of brutality. A burst of gunfire from soldiers waiting

#### TORTURE AND SALVAGING—'NORMAL'

Significantly, those tortured in the countryside reveal that the questions asked during their interrogation focused on links with the New People's Army (NPA). Information concerning the NPA, has, in fact, become the key goal of torturers and interrogators.

It is no coincidence that these recent reports come from Quezon and the Bicol region, two areas of current NPA expansion activity. Some of the most horrifying and brutal stories of torture have come from Samar, an NPA stronghold.

The pattern thus seems clear: increased strength of the people's army means increased military brutality.

And recent months have revealed that such practices under the Marcos regime are "normal." □

## Labor Woes Make Gov't, Business Edgy

Labor relations are once again the worry of both Philippine business and government.

Since martial law was lifted January 17, some 200 strikes, at least one a day, have hit Manila firms and industries. Hotels have not been spared. Even salesmen of the San Miguel distillery have struck.

Most strikes were short-lived and have ended in the suspension

of their leaders. Violence, however, has erupted in some, resulting in a few deaths.

#### GOV'T ASSURANCES

Business executives are nervous because the strikes have zeroed in on the Labor Ministry's and the industries' refusal to bargain—in addition to protests over unfair labor practices and non-

payment of fringe benefits.

Always in need of foreign investment, the government was forced to call a meeting between Labor Minister Blas Ople and worried foreign businessmen late May.

Ople had previously criticized management's refusal to heed President Marcos' orders to "raise wages" as the cause of labor unrest.

#### PASSING THE BUCK

The Employers Confederation of the Philippines and the Philippine Chamber of Commerce, however, refused to accept blame for the problem.

The Confederation, through spokesman Benildo Hernandez, stressed that the new strike bill now before the National Assembly should offer something to employers to balance the workers' renewed assertion of the right to strike.

#### LABOR STILL HARDEST HIT

However, even the passage of the bill, which might formally concede the right to strike, will not increase labor's capacity to fight for its economic betterment.

The ban on strikes in vital industries will remain effective. Under the present definition of vital industry, 95% of businesses and firms are protected from strikes.

While labor leaders are willing to settle for a limited "vital industry" definition, passage of the strike bill will be delayed. With the National Assembly starting

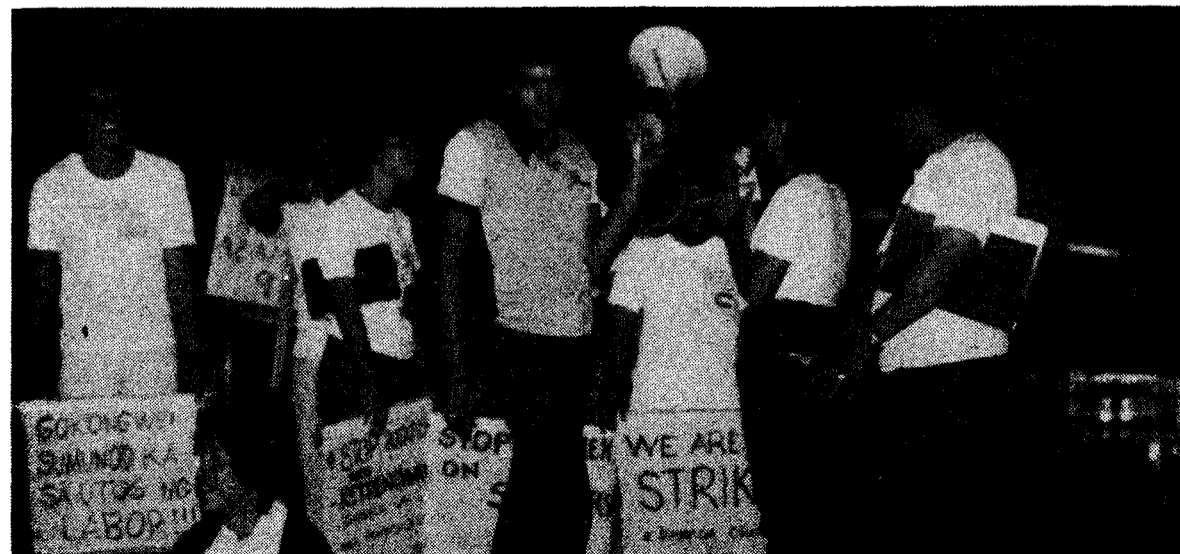
sessions on July 24, the strike bill's passage will not be until late August.

#### SELECTIVE 'EXTRA-ORDINARY POWERS'

Prior to May 1, International Workers Day, union officials urged Marcos to hasten the lifting of the ban on the right to strike. The regime had promised to lift the ban during the Tripartite Conference of government, labor and management in late March.

When it became evident that ponderous legislative processes would delay the decision until well past May 1, workers asked Marcos to make use of his "extraordinary powers" institutionalized in the April 17 plebiscite. These allow him to make legislative decisions by decree in cases of emergency. Marcos refused.

Kilusang Mayo Uno (KMU) leader Felixberto Olalia, in a recent five-minute tirade before the KBL sharply criticized Marcos for implementing these extraordinary powers only for "emergencies" which endangers his personal position. □



Hotel workers on strike last May; dramatic increase in strike activity scares business. (AK File)