

30-Day Extension

PROP. 13 CUTS AVERTED . . . FOR NOW



By TRINITY ORDONA

OAKLAND—The Alameda County Board of Supervisors backed down . . . but only temporarily.

Under the onslaught of community pressure, the Supervisors conceded to grant a 30-day extension to 109 agencies faced with termination or crippling budget cuts as a result of Proposition 13 mandates. The original termination date was scheduled for June 30.

The fightback effort, organized by the Alameda Labor-Community Coalition bombarded the Supervisors with hundreds of letters, postcards, petitions and a continuum of demonstrations outside the County Administration Building that registered the anger of the people of Alameda County.

Most effective in the Coalition's employment of a multi-tactic educational campaign was the mass mobilization of community people to the Board's "appeal" hearings last

month. At that time, Coalition speakers exposed that enough monies existed in the County budget to fully fund all community services at 100 percent of the pre-Prop. 13 level.

According to the Coalition and sympathetic county officials, "enough non-essential budget items could be cut from county expenditures so these human services can be funded without losses in existing services and jobs."

In addition, the Coalition revealed that "another unspent" \$13 million is available in the County's Contingency Fund which is reserved for just such unexpected emergencies as Prop. 13.

Indicative of their anti-people priorities, community service programs were the only budget items that the Board planned to eliminate before the full extent of the State Bailout had been ascertained.

The Board, however, was successfully pressured to hold off any budget cuts until the State Bailout funds are released in July.

Intended to make up for Prop. 13 deficits, this year's bailout monies are expected to be bigger than last year's. Given the anticipated allocations, the overall budget for Alameda County would only fall four percent short of its projected needs.

FILIPINO COMMUNITY FIGHTS BACK

For the people in this county, it has been a year-long struggle against Prop. 13 cutbacks in jobs and services. Filipino community support has been consistent in these efforts, especially from the Union of Democratic Filipinos (KDP), members of the staff of Filipino Immigrant Services (FIS) and their Board, Filipinos for Affirmative Action (FAA), and the Filipino community at large.

For example, over 600 signatures were gathered for a petition submitted to the Board of Supervisors, while several community members have attended the various Board hearings to voice protest to the cutbacks.

Recently at the Philippine National Day (PND) celebration in Oakland, the Prop. 13 issue was vigorously decried as an attack against all working people and in particular, minorities.

United under the theme, "Maintain

Our Heritage of Achievements," the PND highlighted a skit by the KDP on Prop. 13 followed by a stirring keynote address by FIS director Jessica Ordona.

FIS, one of the many community agencies that faces termination on July 31, has provided employment counseling, bilingual assistance and job referrals to Filipino immigrants in Alameda County for the past six years.

Because of FIS' established reputation as an agency that has consistently provided services and has stood in the forefront in fighting against discrimination of the foreign-born, FIS/FAA was recently refunded \$20,000 by the United Way, a reputable private funding agency in the S.F.-Bay Area.

Another \$3,000, one of the larger donations this year was gathered from United Way donors who had specified FIS as the recipient of their donations.

But despite FIS' proven record and supportive funding from other private public sources, FIS/FAA will be seriously jeopardized should the Board of Supervisors go through with its proposed Prop. 13 cutbacks.

Because of the Board's actions, many community people have voiced their concern and anger over the future termination of FIS and other community agencies.

In an FIS/FAA statement to the press: "What is the Board trying to prove? They have shown their insensitivity to people in need. They have sat before us with blank faces and deaf ears. They have justified their priorities as keeping their computers, jails and bureaucracies running well.

"But what can they do for the numerous agencies serving the poor, the disabled, senior citizens, women, and minorities? They give us 60 days notice to terminate our services!"

Had the 30-day extension not been granted, several hundred Coalition supporters were prepared to demonstrate their anger with even more creative tactics.

But the extension is only a "temporary victory" until July 31, and the essential issue . . . the Board's priority commitment to human needs has yet to be won. □

INS HARASS P-1 VISA HOLDER

By DEBBIE KO
AK Correspondent

SEATTLE—It's like a replay of events occurring simultaneously up and down the West Coast. The scenes are all the same, the Port of Entry—Hawaii or San Francisco. The rude and menacing INS official surveilling the gates, the "third degree" questions, the loss of individual rights, human dignity, status, and consequently, the green card. The bewilderment, mental anguish, the gripping fear and insecurity are all the same, only the names and faces are different.

The sudden increase of deportation cases facing members of the Filipino communities and other Asian immigrants prove that these are not random aberrations in the INS policy but rather are conscious and organized attempts to harass and deport immigrants. Almost overnight, the INS began earnestly enforcing their immigration laws, giving them new interpretations, making them retroactive and investigating each prospective victim with a fine-toothed comb. According to a local Seattle lawyer, there are 700-plus reason the INS can use to deport an alien. As one recent victim bitterly remarked, "If they really want to get you, they will get you for one thing or another.

Most of the recently reported immigration violations amount to no more than being elderly, poor and seeking government assistance, or being professionally trained but unable to find

the right job.

Another case of the latter description was brought to the attention of the *Ang Katipunan*. Fely Lao, a Filipino Community of Seattle (FSCI) member arrived in the U.S. in 1975 trained to be a Math teacher. She arrived in Cleveland, Ohio as a third preference professional and after two months of searching for a teaching profession to no avail, she resorted to her previous job experience as a computer programmer. She was successful in landing job positions for this field even after her relocation to Seattle in 1977 till the present.

Mrs. Lao made two trips home to the Philippines in 1977, once for her marriage and on another occasion due to a family death. Both times she re-entered the U.S. with no problems. However, it was upon her return from her third Balikbayan trip on May 25, 1979, after a four week visit, when she was "fished out" as an "illegal" immigrant.

When she arrived in Honolulu all seemed business as usual. "I was asked the same questions that I was asked the two previous trips and each time I gave the same answer. But why then have they only decided to question me now?" Mrs. Lao's answer to the INS official was that she was an employee of the Seattle-First National Bank as a computer programming analyst. The apparently alert official shot back, "It says on your papers that you are a teacher, so

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NORTHERN CALIFORNIA REGION

Interview with Manong Mario Hermoso:

HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE ON REDBAITING

The recent redbaiting attacks against KDP by Alex Esclamado's Philippine News didn't faze Mario Hermoso, the 74-year-old KDP activist who has been through this before, . . . only much worse.

It may be hard to imagine for some that the white-haired, gentle-faced old man with his familiar beret and cane was once one of the most militant organizers of the Alaska Cannery Workers and one of the founders of Local 37 in Seattle. Together with a progressive journalist along with his friend, the writer Carlos Bulosan, he put out many union newsletter and leaflets in his day.

Along with other well-known labor leaders of that period such as Chris Mensalves, Ernesto Mangaoang, Pablo Valdez, Mario was hounded and persecuted by the FBI during the McCarthy period of the late 40's and 50's. Their crime? They were among the most militant leaders of the Filipino people in America at that time, fighting for their rights in the union and defending the workers.

The AK was able to talk to Mario about the recent attacks on KDP and about his own experiences during the anti-communist redbaiting hysteria of the McCarthy period — Editor's note.

What do you think of the recent attacks on KDP by Esclamado and his newspaper, Philippine News?

Well, I think we have to consider Esclamado's opportunity to make a bigger circulation for his paper printing such attacks. Also, you and I must understand fully that Esclamado knows too well what is meant by the KDP and the *Ang Katipunan*. So in his article "Calling a Spade a Spade," he deceives readers by telling them that the KDP is a hidden revolutionary Marxist organization. So in a demagogic approach, he tried to harass and disrupt the growth of our organization and perhaps he has in mind to curtail the circulation of the *Ang Katipunan*. So that is the scheme as far as my own personal analysis is concerned of Esclamado's approach with regards to the attack.



74-year-old Mario Hermoso, past victim of McCarthyism, still active today . . . selling *Ang Katipunan* at San Francisco's PND. (AK Photo)

How do you relate this to the McCarthy period?

Esclamado's harassment is still not comparable to what I have experienced when the FBI knocks at your door at midnight. I have been subjected to this 19 times. They force their way and if possible ask all kinds of goddamn questions. If you don't know your rights, naturally you'll be hounded to answer their questions. Esclamado's was more of an attack in the field of journalism. It was not something to dignify Esclamado or the *Philippine News*.

Could you elaborate more on the McCarthy period? Who was behind it and what was it like?

As far as who was behind it, Richard Nixon, Edgar Hoover and McCarthy were the three who were instrumental in instituting this anti-communist business. J. Edgar Hoover in his 40 years of administration of the

FBI was the most vicious there was. He was instrumental in getting Julius and Ethel Rosenberg executed.

Please elaborate more on the McCarthy period.

In Chinatown and San Francisco, there were big signs printing "Beware of Communists." The San Francisco Examiner and Chronicle (Hearst papers) had an ad in the classified section raging "We do not send for workers who are communists." You never could tell when the FBI will knock on your door — you can see how vicious they were at that time. Those are really harassments. You know in those days we had a *People's World* newstand over the city. You know what happened? Some people were hired by the Chamber of Commerce through the FBI to take them to the dump and burn them. This is another manifestation of fascism, the McCarthy Era was the foretaste of facism.

Mario, I believe you were a member of the CPUSA at that time. Why did they attack the communist party?

Because the Communist Party was the most militant there was and the most intelligent there was to awaken the masses. They were a very revolutionary organization who was producing more and more militants.

What did they do for the Filipino Community?

Who did you think fought for the Filipinos to buy homes? The first Pinoy to buy a house was someone named Polanco. It was with our help he was able to buy a home. Principally because of the activities of the Council for Civic Unity and who do you think sparkplugged the organization? The Communist Party. That goes for interracial marriages. On the marriage forms, they asked whether you were Chinese, Filipino or black. But we were able to challenge the law and reverse it because there were many supporters and sympathizers of the party. The party also produced many labor leaders who were great defenders of the rights of the Filipino workers such as Mensalves and Mangaoang.

Mario, why did you join the KDP and still remain active until today?

My personal philosophy is this I don't give a damn about how much exploits a person has done in the past. What's important is now what's ahead of you, what you are doing for the movement now. I joined the KDP because it is aspiring to unify our people.

Now don't worry about the *Philippine News*, they can say all the lies and accusations they want, they are all lies. The main thing is to unify our people. Can the *Philippine News* unify our people — No! It is only the bread and butter of Esclamado. Only the KDP can be the sparkplugs of our movement. So we just have to keep on working ourselves. If Esclamado's idea is to wipe out the KDP it is a goddamn hell of a dream. □

SACRAMENTO '79



Filipino People's Far West Convention Bangon at Kumilos

August 30-September 2, 1979
Sacramento Convention Center

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Make checks payable to Sacramento '79 FWC

SEATTLE REGION

Votes of "No-Confidence"

TORRES OUSTER SURGES AHEAD

By LENI MARIN
AK Correspondent

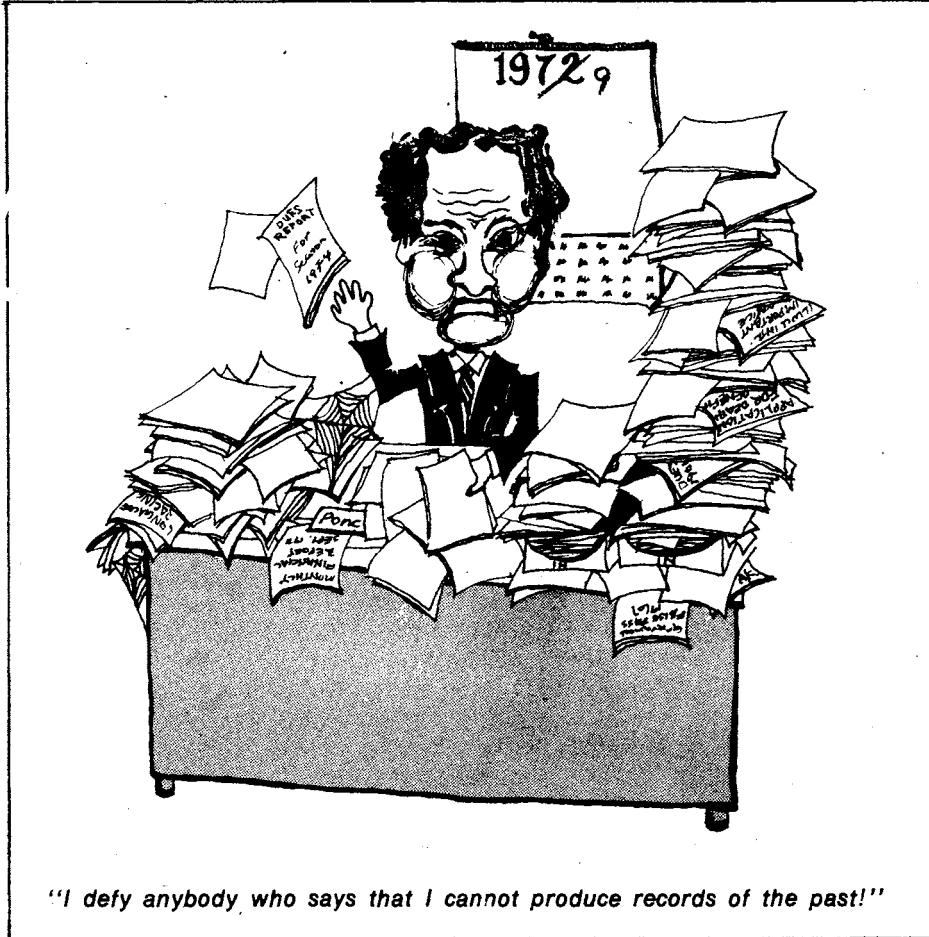
SEATTLE — Despite documented charges of incompetence and negligence coupled with a no-confidence vote by the Executive Council and a mass membership meeting, Local 37 Secretary-Treasurer Ponce Torres has refused to resign his position.

In a tension-filled Executive Council meeting June 6, Silme Domingo, Executive Board and Rank and File Committee member, raised a motion asking for the resignation of Ponce Torres. Domingo stated that if Torres refused to resign by June 8 a recall campaign would proceed.

Then, in what is interpreted as the depth of support for the ouster, the Executive Council members overwhelmingly passed a 10-2 "vote of no-confidence" on Torres' ability to carry out his duties.

By June 8, however, Torres still refused to resign — adding fuel to the charge that he is interested only in his career as a veteran union bureaucrat and not the well-being of the union.

That afternoon a meeting was held in the union hall where the "Local 37 for a More Effective Secretary/Treasurer Committee" where a petition for Torres' recall was issued. The petition charged, among other things, that Torres had failed to consistently and



accurately report the finances of the union; failed to maintain official minutes and records of all meetings and proceedings; and failed to keep a

current list of the union's membership.

At a mass membership meeting,

June 13, Silme Domingo, on behalf of the Committee, presented the petition.

Then, in another affirmation of support for the ouster, a vote to censure Torres and another vote of no-confidence was passed.

At present the petition is being widely circulated. Following the gathering of signatures and the filing of the petition, a referendum vote will be conducted within 30 days by mail ballot. If successful, the replacement of Ponce Torres will take place at a time when hundreds of cannery workers will be returning from Alaska in August.

Asked about the intent of the campaign, Silme Domingo stated that, "We will get more than our required 100 signatures to effect this recall. Ponce Torres' ouster is critical to the well-being of this union.

"However," Silme Domingo continued, "I want to emphasize that we don't see Ponce's removal as a panacea which will heal all the ills of this local; or even resolve the fundamental question of the relation of our leadership to fulfilling the needs of the membership. It is a beginning — and we intend to prove through the campaign that the majority of our members in Local 37 do want a real trade union that is responsive to their needs." □

INS Harass P-1 . . .

(continued from front page)

why aren't you working as a teacher?" Mrs. Lao replied that she was not sufficiently qualified to teach in the U.S., neither as a public school teacher because she never took education training courses in college, nor as a university professor because she lacks a Masters degree which is a requirement for the job. She was abruptly cut off and told that she could have tried to get her Masters degree if she had worked days and studied nights. "Besides," they remarked sarcastically, looking at her husband, "he looks big enough to support you." Like clockwork, her passport and papers were taken away with the promise of "further investigation on you in Seattle."

INS: "THERE'S A DEMAND FOR MORE TEACHERS"

The Lao's deportation hearing is set for June 25, when she will be told if she will be allowed to stay in the U.S. The premise upon which the INS prosecution rests is that Mrs. Lao is working as a computer programmer when there is an oversupply of professionals in this field and less jobs available, and as a result, she is competing with others who are more qualified than her. In addition, the terms of her immigration agreement presumes that there is a shortage of teachers in the U.S., an abundance of jobs, and she is needed in this profession. To this Mrs. Lao says, "if that were true then how come I never found any open position?"

The INS' assertion is believed to be untrue and many feel it was devised to fool naive and vulnerable immigrants into thinking they committed a crime. It contradicts what is reality for most minorities on the job market. The reported shut down of 30 schools in the San Francisco school district alone and the layoff of 545 teachers, 70 percent of whom are Filipinos, do not confirm the INS' argument. Likewise,

the U.S. Department of Labor statistics rate computer programming and systems analysis as one among the top business courses to offer better job opportunities.

At the hearing, Mrs. Lao must prove that she took initiative to find a job as a teacher, show a labor certificate to show demand for computer programmers and produce a job offer.

"SHE IS NOT ALONE"

The community, however, has expressed support for Mrs. Lao.

"I was really very surprised and worried that this could happen to such a nice person. They had such problems adjusting to life in the U.S. and I think they just made the decision to make this their home," confided Ade Domingo, Vice President of the FCSI and co-worker of Mrs. Lao.

"When she called me for advice she really was taking a gamble, she was so ashamed and felt so alone . . . she had nothing to lose by fighting this and telling others her story. I know she is not alone," she added.

Mrs. Lao has come to realize that fact also. "They (the INS) know that they cannot go on witch-hunting from house to house looking for immigrants, so the only way that they can do this is to survey every port of entry."

Upon reading about the identical case in San Francisco (see AK, Vol. V, No. 10) Mrs. Lao said, "My case is exactly like the other woman, Leticia Monserta. The only difference is that my profession is teaching and hers is accounting."

She added, "Our friends have been very supportive and inspirational for us. If the INS wants to deport me from this country, I am going to go out fighting. Even my American friends feel very bad, but I tell them that it is not the fault of the American people, it is the whole system — something is just wrong with the system." □

SEATTLE CELEBRATES PND



Some 2,000 people participated in Seattle's PND celebration this year at the Filipino Community Center grounds. (Above) The crowd visiting booths; (below) children participating in the sack race. (AK Photo)



SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA REGION

First Wave Filipinas

HOPES AND COURAGE TO SURVIVE

By VINCE REYES

Picture the developing first wave Filipino community of the 1920's and 30's, then composed mainly of single males under twenty-one years of age. Subjected to discrimination and prejudice, their chance for social advancement was extremely limited.

Pool halls, taxi dance halls and gambling existed as their limited forms of recreation. Anti-miscegenation laws would prevent their marriage to whites. When seen in the company of white women, they would be called "monkeys" and "go goos."

Anti-Filipino riots opened wounds which would scar more than just the physical body. And in this struggle for survival were also Filipina women. Although they were only a few, they too had to endure the same hardships as a result of their exploited conditions as working people. Like their male counterparts the women also shared the same hopes and aspirations — and the same courage to survive.



(Left) Filipinas at the turn of the century: Only a few ever left for America. Mrs. Amparo Paat (right). First Wave Filipina still active today.

RESTRICTED IMMIGRATION

Some Filipinas immigrated to Hawaii and the U.S. mainland the same time the men did. However, specific labor needs of the U.S. and certain cultural characteristics of Philippine society defined the restraints which limited large numbers of Filipinas from immigrating.

Firstly, labor contractors who represented the lucrative agri-business of California and Hawaii were not interested in recruiting women since the labor needs specifically wanted workers who would be able to endure the back-breaking work of cane cutting and crop harvesting. Although those women who were accepted proved their physical ability in the fields they were given very low preference. Also, and perhaps more importantly, recruiters wanted workers who would not be tied down to a family and children, enabling their work force to migrate with the crops. Denying Filipinas the opportunity to immigrate suited the needs of agri-

business.

In the Philippines, cultural barriers existed which prevented large numbers of women from leaving. The adventurous idea of leaving home to earn money in a foreign country was viewed more in the realm of a "man's world." The expression "a woman's place is in the home" more characterized the life of the Filipinas.

Filipinas were restricted from travel and not encouraged to seek careers. The task of taking care of family and home was still the predominant view women were made to hold. The hundreds of years of Spanish romanticism of idealizing the role of women had relegated women to accepting "mahinhin" as a way of life.

In reality the romanticism actually meant scrubbing floors and being bone-tired after years of child bearing.

Some women did come to the U.S. as students and were usually unmarried seeking a career. But the majority of those who immigrated were already married travelling with their husbands. Some women worked right along side their husbands in the

fields doing the stooping and picking. Many worked in the packing sheds where fruits and vegetables were sorted and made ready for shipment. Women also worked the long hours of cannery shifts and in garment sweatshops.

Mrs. Amparo Paat, a long-time civic leader and former president of a number of Filipino-American organizations including the Filipino American Community of Los Angeles is a first-wave Filipina who immigrated with her husband to the U.S. in 1934.

Mrs. Paat recalls difficult times for Filipinos: "Filipinos came during the Depression. It was hard for everybody to get a job. It was hard to advance in life. People called us "monkeys." We could not eat at certain places, we couldn't buy homes, men couldn't even marry . . . Women especially had a hard time. When they worked in the fields with their husbands they usually worked in the shed bringing their children with them."

For working women childcare was not provided in the workplace and affording it was out of reach. Mrs. Paat herself stayed home with her four children which she explained most women also did.

She also related the experience of women who worked in the garment industry as seamstresses who "worked long hours during the day and then had to bring work home with them that had to be finished when they came to work in the morning."

Women were also employed in restaurants as cashiers and waitresses. Mrs. Paat explained that "Filipino women were just ordinary work-people. They did not have access to white collar jobs or jobs with a career or future.

Despite arduous working conditions, Filipinas still saw the necessity to organize themselves for social and political reasons. Women were active in social organizations and union support work. In 1947 Mrs. Paat was instrumental in organizing the "Youth and Parent Association" in Imperial Valley in 1947 which is still active today.

Still active at present, Mrs. Paat is president of the "Federation of Senior Citizens" which is a multi-ethnic coalition serving greater Los Angeles. Mrs. Paat seems to embody the spirit and selfless determination that many of the pioneer women must have possessed when she stated that "We have to help one another, when I see people in trouble, I feel remorseful. I'm not happy unless I can do something for them."

She also recalled the story of an elderly first wave Filipina who worked extremely hard to send money back to the Philippines. "She was not wealthy, yet she sacrificed her income for herself to put several of her relatives through school. All of the Filipina women, maybe did not get rich in America, but they were rich in their hearts."

The pioneer Filipinas experienced a life-long endeavor of sacrifice and struggle. They held up half the heavy load of enduring the hardships placed upon the Filipino community by American society. Although pioneer Filipinas contributed to keeping the Filipino community intact through the years, the problems of racial discrimination they faced still exist today. Their legacy of survival is an experience the Filipino community of today can draw inspiration from in its continuing quest for equality. □

DR. ALONA DEFENSE COMMITTEE FORMED

By FLORANTE IBANEZ
AK Correspondent

SAN DIEGO — The perjury case of an Oxnard Navy doctor has stirred up a lot of interest recently. Lt. Bienvenido Alona, a practicing Filipino physician at Port Humemene is on trial for perjuring himself as a witness in a previous child abuse/murder case. It is widely believed that he is being singled out because the District Attorney's office was unable to get the full murder indictment against the Navy parents of the child, and that he is being used as a scapegoat.

An earlier hearing conducted by the Navy cleared Dr. Alona of any negligence of action. The Navy, now, however, seems to be washing their hands in the perjury proceedings and has forced Dr. Alona to seek legal defense outside the Navy. Congressman Barry Goldwater, Jr. has even come to the aid of Dr. Alona in his difficulties trying to obtain legal defense from the U.S. Department of Justice.

A local defense committee was formed last June 8 at the home of Nick Abueg, who has taken Lt. Alona around to speak at various Filipino organizations including the Council of Pilipino American Organizations (COPAO), and So. Calif. Cavite Assoc. The committee's goals are to distribute factual information about the case to the community as it unfolds and rally moral and financial support for his defense. Members of the San Diego Support Committee for the National Alliance for Fair Licensure of Foreign Nurse Graduates (NAFL-FNG) as well as other individuals have expressed their interest in and support for his case.

Others involved in the formation of the Dr. Alona Defense Committee of San Diego are Jess Quinsaas, local community attorney; Carlos Linayo, former Cavite Assoc. President; Zeny Babao, Philippine News-S.D. Editor; Henry Empeno, USD law student. For more information on how you can help, call Jesse Quinsaas, 232-6771 or Florante Ibanez, 477-5225. □

WEBER EDUCATIONAL FORUM HELD

By FLORANTE IBANEZ
AK Correspondent

SAN DIEGO — Over 40 people attended a "Learn About the Weber Case" forum May 22nd in this city.

The case of *Weber vs. Kaiser Aluminum* extends the Bakke decision to the "bread and butter" issue of equal employment opportunity. The case is now before the U.S. Supreme Court which will judge whether affirmative action programs for minorities and women illegally discriminated against whites or not. If the Supreme Court decides favorably for the case, it will lead to the dismantling of affirmative action programs.

An informative slide show tracing the history of discrimination of minorities and women opened the forum. This was followed by an update report and talk on the case by a member of the National Lawyers Guild.

During the open forum, a panel of speakers answered questions on the

subjects of seniority in unions and the effects of the Weber decision on San Diego's Consent Decree. This decree guarantees affirmative action in the San Diego County. It passed through the joint efforts of the Black Federation, Council of Pilipino-American Organizations, Chicano Federation, and the Union of Pan-Asian Community.

The echoing call throughout the discussion was the need to organize to overturn the Weber decision and to be aware of attempts used by industries to divide workers — whites, women and minorities — with the issue of "reverse discrimination."

While affirmative action rights, won through struggle, are being targeted as the cause of the economic crisis, the real issue is that there are not enough jobs. The dominant feeling at the forum was that the decision must be overturned and affirmative action continued to be implemented. □