

# ang KATIPUNAN



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## “RISE TO THE CALL FOR ACTION”: FWC '79 THEME

*The following interview was conducted with the three co-coordinators - Jerry Paular, Vangie Manesis and Maxi Villones - of the upcoming Sacramento '79 Far West Convention. Historically the Far West Convention has been an important yearly event for the community - Editor*

**AK:** Historically, the Far West Convention has been an important yearly event for the community. What is the significance of this year's FWC theme: "Rise to the Call for Action?"

**MAXI VILLONES:** When we chose our theme and slogans, they were seen as part of the building process of the Convention. It came from the fact that we had not worked together before as a community. We may have attended the same affairs, but had not really worked together. So we saw the Convention as a way to begin discussing the common problems we faced, as a vehicle for action, for working out common resolutions.

**JERRY PAULAR:** I think that when the people get together, regardless of occupation, age group or whether they were born here or in the Philippines, the fact that they attend the FWC workshops will start our common denominators surfacing.

**VANGIE MANESIS:** In talking about common denominators, I feel really strong and comfortable about the direction we are going in. We've worked through controversies...and I think one of the strongest points was that everybody, regardless of approach or method, wanted to work toward unity and was willing to take the time to struggle for it.

**AK:** In uniting the Filipino community around the FWC, what obstacles did you encounter and how were they resolved?

**MAXI:** One problem was this whole thing, the *kanya-kanya* attitude...to each his own. The anti-martial law issue, for example, was very sensitive, but we had to address the need to talk about it openly.

Before, people said, "Yes, it's a concern, but let's not talk about it." But being an immigrant community also, we could not ignore the fact that people are leaving the Philippines now for different reasons. Also, people have strong ties and concern for the homeland. We had to put it on the table. It was a very big challenge to us.

**AK:** What has been the most challenging responsibility in organizing the FWC?

**VANGIE:** In terms of learning from this process, I think the key was a lot of communicating and interacting - the unity we are experiencing now didn't happen overnight. A lot of pain and agony and confusion played into it before we achieved this. One key ingredient was that we wanted to work in unity...and it was this prevailing them that helped us through this rocky road.

**AK:** In what direction will the Filipino community here go after this, in your opinion?

**JERRY:** Maybe the question would be better posed: "What contributions has the Convention made to the community?"

I've lived in Sacramento for the last 25 years and did not have the oppor-



FWC '79 organizers at a recent meeting discussed preparations for the upcoming Convention.

[AK photo]

tunity until now to meet my own kind and share with them these common concerns like this. That just goes to show you...you can live in a town for years and years, raise your children, but be a stranger in your own back yard.

I've since met some really tremendous people, and overall, this kind of experience is going to have its impact on the total direction of the community, from a long-range viewpoint.

**MAXI:** There's been a lot of positive growth-learning on how to identify issues, learning together how to resolve them and pull more people in to get involved. It's like a 'new center' of activity that goes beyond the old lines of communication in the community. So the possibilities after the FWC are just immense.

**JERRY:** We all come from different directions, but if we're willing to listen we can learn a lot from each other. This attitude affects not only the Sacramento community, but every community that shares with us this year at the Convention.

The next community that has the Convention will really have 12 months of real enjoyment. I'm convinced that whoever get the Convention next year will have similar experiences. □

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA REGION

# Unity Essential To Oust San Jose

By the SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA REGIONAL EXECUTIVE BOARD

For fascists, coming to leadership is a cynical process marked by forcible entry into the center of power with little democratic pretensions. For fascists, maintaining power is a cycle of continuous exploitative actions which bleed others of their worth and sucks in benefits for personal gain. For fascists, their fall from power can be as turbulent as their rise since no amount of persuasion or reasoning will unseat their opportunism. When we make these assertions about fascism, we do so in light of the facts about our own home-grown dictator here in Los Angeles and how he fits this mold.

Antonio San Jose claimed power to the Filipino American Community of Los Angeles (FACLA) by seizing the presidential seat through vote-buying and deceit. San Jose has maintained his power out of the barrel of a gun when his goons stole the ballot box during the 1978 elections.

Has San Jose sought to achieve unity in the community through democratic processes? No. Instead he has attempted to railroad through his own narrow proposals. When confronted with legal battles to unseat him, has he recognized the authority of the law? No. Instead he has turned the other way and shamelessly stayed in office without regard or respect for the law or the community. Will San Jose step down from office on his own recognizance of his mistakes? Certainly not; and to believe this will happen is like believing a stone will hatch into a chicken. San Jose has proven time and time again over the past three years that dictatorial tactics are the

trademark of his character—and that spells fascism. Direct and simplistic minded as his actions may be, San Jose has tied up the community in law suits, frustrations and anger which has left the community in financial, moral and legal shambles.

Is this situation simply the result of a poor administrator? It is not that simple. San Jose represents a faction which made no bones about its connection with the number one Filipino crook and dictator—Ferdinand Marcos. San Jose clearly spelled out his ties with Marcos by splashing their picture together all over Filipino community newspapers. A whole new can of worms opened up when the attempt to construct a "trade center" on FACLA grounds housing the Philippine Consulate came to the attention of the community. At that point the community was aware that any benefits it could gain from a trade center managed by the dictators would purely be incidental to Marcos who could lay claim to the support of Filipinos in Los Angeles—the trade center being the "proof of the pudding." Again, let us face the facts—how can fascists be serious about the welfare of the community when their whole motivation to maintain the power of the status quo is dependent on the violation and suppression of human rights and genuine democracy?

What can stop this wreckless rampage of San Jose's power? The position of the KDP is that it takes the power of a united community. It takes people in mass numbers working in unison with the goal of overthrowing the dictator to spell the end of his reign of corruption. In order to build a community organization suitable to its needs, people cannot put up with a

die-hard, stubborn opportunist of the likes of San Jose who would rather please his own interests than the community he was supposedly elected to serve.

San Jose has shown how far he will go to maintain his power by blatantly



Tony San Jose

using fascist tactics. Face facts again—no amount of persuasion or legal battles will convince San Jose to relinquish his authority.

However, the community has a weapon stronger than any two-bit dictator like San Jose can throw out. That weapon is the sincere desire to re-direct and transform their community organization into a viable component which serves the broadest needs of its members. This type of motivation produces leadership that serves, nurtures, and maintains the

principles of unity and progress. This type of leadership must be earned through hard and consistent work. Most of all it has the distinction of being respected by its members. This type of leadership is something that cannot be bought, stolen, or personally possessed.

Fascists like San Jose ignore this type of leadership and brazenly take power into their own hands. However sooner or later their repressive tactics will be met with opposition. Fortunately for FACLA, the progressive opposition has been diligent in exposing San Jose's true and ugly features. His actions have been controversialized to the point that a large sector of the community understands the implications of the damage he has done. Whether San Jose becomes unseated by a court battle or by popular demand, the community must concretely get involved with the loud voice of the opposition. This type of energy is something that San Jose must seriously consider. People united against fascism in their own community represent a force much stronger than one stubborn person holding on to a gavel and microphone.

The type of unity needed to topple San Jose is a more long lasting unity because it is based on people's real needs and concerns—not just the superficial trappings of fame or prestige so often associated with bankrupt leadership. A change in FACLA's leadership represents the community's basic challenge to the backward and reactionary politics that San Jose represents. Support of the opposition to San Jose is the decisive element to return FACLA to the community. Everyone's involvement is needed to make this endeavor a success. □

## FACLA OPPOSITION HALTS NEGOTIATIONS, ASKS SAN JOSE TO STEP DOWN



One of FACLA general membership meetings where members question San Jose about the December 1978 elections.

The following is the position paper of the Committee to Save FACLA on FACLA's president Tony San Jose's administration — Editor.

Jaime Geaga, the principal spokesperson of the Committee to Save FACLA (CSF) and of the broad opposition against Antonio San Jose, incumbent president of the Filipino American Community of L.A. (FACLA) announced recently in a letter to San Jose that the opposition is stopping all negotiations with San Jose and is demanding that San Jose step down from the presidency. He cited a number of reasons for this, such as the futility of negotiating with San Jose given his past record, and the seriousness of the wrongs already committed which disqualify San Jose from these talks.

This development is the latest in the period after the opposition won a court victory nullifying the last elections because of violations by the San Jose administration. This decision also mandated the holding of new elections to install the rightful officers. This decision was not implemented because San Jose again appealed it thus legally tying it in the courts as he did last year after a similar court decision. This year, the opposition led by Geaga filed for a retrial to force the courts to intervene and implement a court-supervised election through a re-

ceivership. It was at this juncture that the negotiations were explored to see if an out of court settlement was workable.

Geaga's letter to San Jose recalls the ballot boxes that were taken at gunpoint by hired armed guards in the December 1977 elections which touched off the crisis in FACLA, the financial scandals generally associated with San Jose's assumption of power, the stalling tactics used by San Jose in appealing the two court decisions which ruled against him and the paralysis of the social services to the Filipino community under San Jose. Geaga emphasized that in his view, "... the key thing to realize is that it was San Jose who injected dictatorship rule over the FACLA membership and for the first time plunged it into deep division and strife. The two court rulings is proof enough to dispel any lingering doubts as to who is the real villain in all this. We have always stood against arbitrary one-man rule as a matter of principle. We will not negotiate with this dictator. We know he must step down from his undeserved post as president before fairness and unity can even be given a chance. Like Somoza, the ousted Nicaraguan dictator, it is imperative that San Jose step down, and return FACLA back to our members and our community. We can't seriously settle for anything else than this." □

## NORTHERN CALIFORNIA REGION

## Bay Briefs

## FILIPINO CPAs QUALIFICATIONS CHALLENGED

SAN FRANCISCO — Attempting to block a recent ruling favorable to Filipino CPA's, the California Society of Certified Public Accountants charged that changes in the certification process would "lower the quality of the profession."

The CPA Society voiced its objections to the California Board of Accountancy July 26 in a move to reverse an earlier board ruling benefitting foreign-trained CPA's. Earlier, on June 1, the Accountancy Board raised the status of Filipino CPA's to that of CPA's from British Commonwealth countries, thus granting an equal right to a waiver of an exam for certification.

Public accountants conducted a long struggle to change the discriminatory policy of requiring an exam for the foreign-trained CPA's. After the favorable June 1 Accountancy Board ruling, the CPA Society said that they were not given the proper 30-day notice about the waiver hearings as required by the Administrative Proceedings Act. Now they have called for new hearings, to be held from September 27-28 in Los Angeles, and the June 1 decision has been temporarily suspended.

Responding to the Society's allegations, an angry Franco Consolacion, president of the Filipino Accountants Association said the charges were "all baloney."

"Filipino CPA's are academically more qualified than most CPA's trained in the U.S.," said Consolacion. "You cannot take the exam in the Philippines without being a degree holder. And most of the Filipino CPA's here were also professors in accounting in the Philippines. Our participation would improve the profession!"

### DOUBLE STANDARD CHARGED

"At issue here," continued Consolacion, "is a blatant double standard whereby CPA's from British Commonwealth countries are automatically given test waivers, while Philippine-trained CPA's are blanketly denied them. We are asking that the waivers be granted on a case-to-case basis and that academic background and work experience be given consideration in the evaluation."

Countering the Society's allegation that they were not given proper notice about the hearings, Public Advocates attorney Sue Hershman said that "They have been well-informed of the issue for the last seven years since it's been going on." Hershman, who represents the Filipino CPA's in the case, also noted that several Society officials testified at the June 1 hearing.

For more information on this issue, contact Franco Consolacion, 870 Market St., Suite 551, San Francisco, CA 94102, (415) 391-8095 or 666-4837. □

## SOUTH OF MARKET RESIDENTS PRESS FOR PARKING PERMITS

SAN FRANCISCO — Alarmed by the rise in parking tickets, residents of the South of Market neighborhood are pressing for approval of "preferential parking permits." This permit, if approved, would grant the residents the privilege to park their cars in front of their residence without getting ticketed.

"We have been asking the Board of Supervisors, especially Carol Ruth Silver who is in charge of this district, to approve the permit since February," pointed out Rudy Aquino, coordinator for the SAFE (Safety Awareness for Everyone) program in the neighborhood. "A ticket can cost you as much as \$25 a violation if you park in a yellow zone since this is a downtown area. Parking tickets can cost you more than a hundred dollars a month around here."

Over 200,000 commuters converge in San Francisco everyday and while most utilize public transportation, thousands still drive into the city. Thus the fight over the few free downtown parking spaces available is very sharp. The South of Market, an area especially bad for parking since the streets are "alleyways," requires drivers to park halfway on the sidewalk to allow room for traffic to flow.

On Minna and Natoma Streets, for example, there are 200 families, mostly Filipino immigrants, who live there. If preferential permits were issued, non-residents would be discouraged from taking up the valuable space. "Vandalism would also be reduced. If we were able to park in front or close to our residence, then we could watch our cars," said Aquino.

Since meeting with Supervisor Silver, parking tickets have declined, but the proposed resolution has not received any approval. So the residents are circulating a petition to press the city's officials for speedy action on the matter.

Parking, however, is only one of the many problems South of Market residents face.

Inadequate housing and lack of recreational facilities are pressing problems. The construction of the George Moscone Convention Center nearby has caused land value in the area to skyrocket. Landlords have therefore consciously neglected to keep up maintenance of their property, waiting for the city's Redevelopment Agency or private speculators to buy their property. In many cases, property has been allowed to rundown for 10-20 years while the city's sanitation and public health officials "close their eyes" to the violations. □

## Coming Soon: 'Visions Of A War Bride' New Play To Pay Tribute To Second Wave

BY JESSICA ORDONA  
AK Correspondent

OAKLAND — From 1946-55, hundreds of young Filipinas came to the U.S. to join their new husbands in building a new life, thus beginning the second chapter in the history of the Filipino community in America.

What were their experiences? How did their lives turn out? This is a history largely unknown to most Filipinos, but will now be told for the first time in a new play dedicated to the "second wave," or the post-World War II Filipinos and their families.

"Visions of a War Bride," was written and will be performed by members of the *Sining Bayan* (People's Art), the cultural group of the KDP. This musical is scheduled to premiere at the 1979 Filipino People's Far West Convention in Sacramento on Saturday, September 1.

### AFTER THE WAR— A NEW FUTURE

Written in four acts with original songs, dance and instrumentals, the first scene of "War Brides" begins in the Philippines immediately after the War.

Claring, the central character of the play, is a simple woman from Pangasinan whose family has undergone extreme hardship during the war. In the prologue, the cast sings,

*"The war is all over. You must realize that now. Don't just weep for the past. You must climb out of it somehow."*

Yes, the war has taken its toll . . . the whole nation has suffered from the occupation and bombing but now is the time to heal the wounds and rebuild people's lives.

For many young Pinays, there is an added hope . . . marriage and life in America.

Throughout the country, hundreds of Filipino GI's sought young wives to bring back with them to America. Due to the racist laws in the '30s prohibiting interracial marriages, many Filipinos were not able to marry. Now as servicemen, with U.S. citizenship and the opportunity to go back to the Islands and return, many were anxious to take advantage of the new



situation.

### WHIRLWIND ROMANCE AND . . .

The atmosphere in the Philippines is typically exuberant and youthful. Claring, like her friend Josie, are caught in the whirlwind process of match-making, romance, courtship, parental approval and marriage . . . all within a short 30-day leave.

Says Erning, who nervously proposes to Josie:

*"J-J-Josie, uh, my time is very limited. My captain says I will be sent back to the States soon. Although I love you I must find someone else if you cannot marry me right away."*

Josie responds:

*"But I haven't had time to fall in love with you."*

Erning pleads:

*But my time is very limited. When we marry there will be plenty of time to fall in love."*

And so they marry and like the hundreds of others like them, come to America to build a new life.

### THE ADJUSTMENT BEGINS . . .

Once in the U.S., life is

filled with many changes. Away from her native Philippines and without family and friends nearby, Claring must grow up overnight and she struggles hard to adjust to American ways.

The play depicts Claring's struggles to cope — as a mother, later as a single parent who must work to support her family. It also gives an insight into the Filipino community's activities; the efforts of its members to send money and clothing back home to assist in the reconstruction.

In the end, Claring's experiences and viewpoints are radically broadened and she finds herself no longer the naive province girl nor dependent wife, but a mature, working mother with a full life of challenging experiences ahead. Claring's story then becomes every working woman's story.

"Warbrides" is historic and symbolic, representing the life experiences of a whole generation of Filipinos, who too have made contributions to America. It is a moving drama of the Filipino community's struggles to survive. □

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## SEATTLE REGION

# LOCAL 37 WOMAN DELEGATE SHARES ALASKA EXPERIENCE

Terri Mast prepared for dispatching to the Diamond E. Fisheries Salmon Cannery in Egigik, Alaska for the Bristol Bay season early last June with the responsibility of Union delegate weighing heavily upon her shoulders. She was to be entrusted with the role of "the on-the-job sentinel" for the cannery workers' right to safety, health and decent living and working conditions in accordance with their union contracts.

Mast is among the first women delegates (union representatives) ever to be working in the salmon canneries in recent years and is probably the first white woman to hold that position in the 40-year history of the



predominantly Filipino union.

In the past, the union representative held one of the strongest and most respected positions in the canneries, but since the 1950's, the cannery workers union lost most of its strength and militance due to the McCarthyite red-baiting attacks. In recent years, the role of the union delegate has been weak, with many sent to Alaska who are ill-equipped to protect and enforce the union contract. "As far as I know, there was never any procedure by which delegates could be trained to do their job in the past," revealed Mast. "Many of them didn't know the contracts and therefore were unable to enforce them. Most members, especially new ones, aren't even given copies of their contracts so they have no understanding of their rights. This is why it is so important for the delegates to have that knowledge," she added.

The Rank and File Committee (RFC), a reform caucus within the Local 37, of which Mast is a member, has been trying to change the role of the delegates to be more effective on the job. This year the RFC instituted a

delegate training program which provided classes that studies the union contracts and the workers' rights.

## CHANGING ROLE OF WOMEN

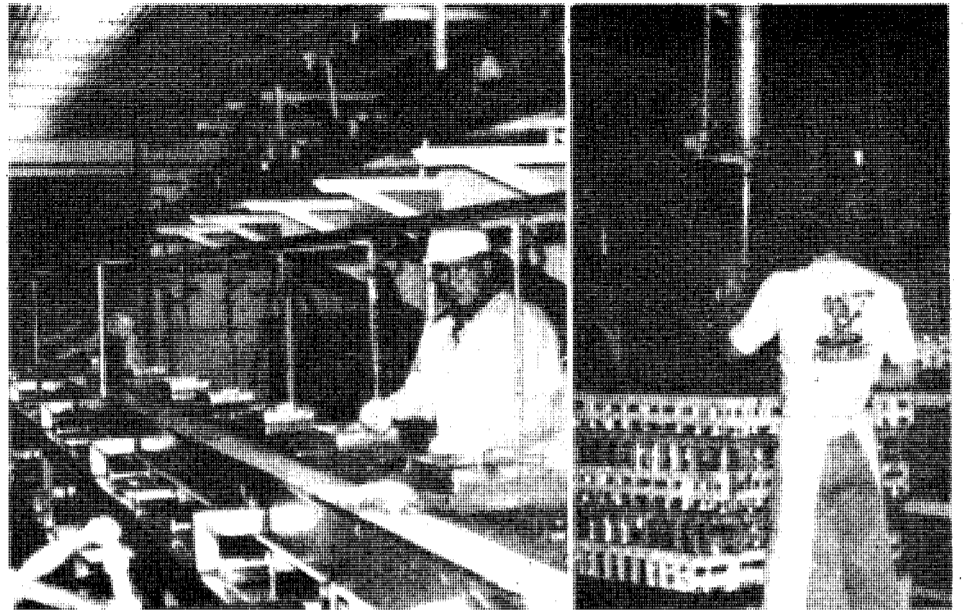
"In the past year, we have seen some marked changes in the participation of women cannery workers of all ages in the union activities," revealed Mast. "In the last election we saw two women elected to the nine member Executive Board of the Union and now we see a lot more Filipino women working in the canneries." Many of them are no longer held in sex-segregated job classifications where women do most of the less physical jobs, such as in the "egg house" and on the "patching tables." Because of the hiring practices and the frequent shortage of workers, women are transferred to all sections of the canneries where workers are needed including the once all-male jobs like "sliming", "catching cans" and "palatizing."

But according to Mast, the industry is still dominated by men and most men hold the delegate positions. "As a delegate, I primarily dealt with day-to-day grievances of the workers and I realized that it was difficult at first for many of the men to come to me with their problems and then have confidence in my ability to handle them," confided Mast.

Some of the "routine" grievances that confronted Mast included lack of hot water and heat in the bunkhouses (the most common occurrence), broken toilets, unkept and unclean bathrooms and showers, windows that do not close, doors that do not lock and broken washing machines. Under such circumstances, the risk of sickness, perpetual colds, flus and contractable diseases such as athlete's foot and others are prevalent.

Says Mast, "It is only when you are trying to uphold and enforce the union contract that weaknesses in it become apparent—for example, adequate washing facilities are guaranteed, but when you get there you find only one washer and dryer for 60 women to use. That hardly seems adequate to me, yet the company disagrees. Adequate can mean two different things to the workers and to the management."

Besides violations in the unsuitable and unhealthy living conditions, Mast described grievances can be as ser-



ious as the need for medical attention (the Egigik cannery has no hospital nearby) or contract violations concerning seasonal guarantee pay, long hours and type of work assigned.

"It is difficult enough to be recognized by the Company as a union delegate, yet even more so because I am a woman," declared Mast. "The food we were served was a long standing grievance of all workers. It became a big issue because our complaints were not taken up. Not only was the food unappetizing, un-nutritious and full of carbohydrates, but at one point we almost ran out of food because the Company did not order enough. To top it off, our Filipino cook quit because of the poor conditions, another suffered a burn injury which left only one cook to feed 300 people, many of whom were left with nothing to eat at mealtimes. We were working incredibly long hours and we were not getting enough of the right foods to keep us going," recalls Mast. However, when Mast spoke with the Company supervisor, he haughtily ignored her and walked away from her in mid-sentence, then later told her that if she did not like working in the cannery, she should just leave. Many nonresident crew members quit, while nearly all of the Native Alaska workers walked out because of these conditions which created greater hardship for Local 37 workers who were already short-handed.

"The Company has a contract with us which was bargained in good faith and they should have taken on that

attitude," stated Mast.

The issue remained unresolved and has since been brought back to Seattle for further negotiations.

## THE COMPANY/WORKER RELATIONSHIP

Working long hours made on-going union activities difficult. Pulling the workers together to make contracts available to them or to share grievances at meetings was almost impossible.

"At Egigik we had no brines or such places to store fish to prevent rotting. So whenever a load of fish came in we worked round the clock, some 20 hours," recalled Mast. "Their attitude was simply to keep those machines running even if they all go down with the fish." "It was obvious that the Company had only one orientation which was the drive for bigger profits which came over and above any of the workers' welfare. We could see them standing over us while we worked hour after hour with dollar signs in their eyes on every can of salmon."

Of her eight-week stay in Alaska, Mast says, "The delegate's role becomes so important once the working crew gets on the job in Alaska. It is a difficult and big responsibility especially since you are up against a management that is principally profit-motivated, and also against male chauvinism. Going to Alaska is a learning process. This year I gained a lot of knowledge in how the Company operates and how to fight for workers' rights." □

## LOCAL 37 REFERENDUM HAS BEGUN

SEATTLE—The referendum asking for the recall of Ponce Torres began last week with the voting ballots having been mailed to Local 37 International Longshore and Warehouse Union members. Torres is Secretary/Treasurer of the ILWU and is being charged with negligence and irresponsibility as union officer.

The union constitution guarantees the right to recall any officer if a minimum of 100 members agree to sign and submit a petition. The wheels for this move were officially set in motion by the filing of petitions carrying the signatures of 200-plus Alaska cannery workers with the office of the Secretary/Treasurer last August 7.

This recall effort was initiated by the Local 37 Rank and File Committee (RFC), a reform caucus who formed

the petition sponsoring group "Local 37 Members for a More Effective Secretary/Treasurer."

But at an August 8 meeting of the unions Executive Board, President Tony Baruso raised a counter proposal in an attempt to check the recall campaign. Baruso proposed that the recall vote should be dropped if Ponce Torres also expressed an interest in finishing out his present term as Secretary/Treasurer which will end on October 31, 1980.

Spokesmen for the Members for a More Effective Secretary/Treasurer firmly rejected the proposal. They said that "in essence you (President Baruso) are admitting that the charges of negligence and irresponsibility cited on the petition are true and that they are, without any doubt, weakening our union." "Therefore,

we feel that this question should be dealt with immediately and not be allowed to plague us until October, 1980."

On the other hand, RFC member Silme Domingo stated that if Ponce Torres would resign his position and vacate it within 90 days, they would be willing to forego the recall. "The Secretary/Treasurer performs vital duties which are important for keeping the union united and active, such as keeping the rank and file information on the democratic functions of the union day to day. That is why we feel this recall is so crucial," said Domingo.

If Torres is recalled next month, the Executive Board will vote on a replacement that ultimately must be sanctioned by the membership at a general membership meeting. □

## ANTI-MARTIAL LAW GATHERING

The Seattle Anti-Martial Law Alliance (AMLA) will be holding a fundraiser at the Filipino Community Center, 5740 Empire Way South, on Friday, August 24th at 6:30 p.m.

Dinner will be served; entertainment will be provided by the Folklorico Filipino Dance Troupe and other Filipino musicians. Afterwards, a variety of household articles and clothing will be auctioned off. There will also be a special slideshowing on the present conditions in the Philippines.

This activity is part of the build-up activities for the upcoming September 22 anniversary in Seattle. Tickets cost \$2.00. For information call: 325-8360.