



Loud, but orderly picket held in San Francisco called attention to U.S. support for the Marcos dictatorship. Meanwhile, a hushed cocktail party ensued inside the Philippine Consulate for mayors undergoing a training seminar at U.C. Berkeley. (AK File Photo)

## Visiting Mayors Speak Candidly on Issues

Special to the AK

SAN FRANCISCO—At one of the cocktail parties held in their honor, this writer recently had a chance to “rub elbows” and chat candidly with the visiting mayors from the Philippines.

The relaxed and free atmosphere gave me the opportunity to solicit “off-the-cuff” statements from the mayors, who obliged willingly under the circumstances.

After being introduced to Mayor Figurado Plaza of Butuan City, I asked what his reaction was to the series of protests from opposition groups, that greeted their arrival at the Berkeley campus.

“They should be ashamed!” the mayor quipped. “After all, we are all Filipinos and if they have any questions, they should ask us directly. We cannot tolerate such actions!”

“Ano ba ang reklamo nila?” (What’s their complaint?) Mayor Carlos del Castillo of Naga City asked impatiently. “That they’re not in power? It all boils down to that question!” he answered.

**MARCOS IS THEIR MAN**  
A number of mayors I spoke to  
*Continued on page 5*

## Filipino Mayors “Train” in Berkeley:

# University Assists Marcos Regime

By ANITA BORJA  
Staff Writer

Controversy and protests surrounded the arrival of 22 Filipino mayors who are presently attending a month-long “management training seminar” at the University of California in Berkeley. The seminar began on August 3

and ends by August 28.

While sponsors claimed the seminar was “non-partisan,” a wide array of critics denounced the entire event as an attempt to legitimize and sanitize the Marcos dictatorship.

On Friday, July 31, a picket of some 40 demonstrators chanted loudly in front of the Durant

Hotel in Berkeley where the mayors held room reservations. Berkeley police were called in to stop demonstrators from using a public address system.

“Marcos, Mayors . . . Philippine Traitors!” resounded again underneath the Philippine Consulate offices in San Francisco on Wednesday, August 5. A picket

of 50 protestors carried on with chants and speeches for two hours.

According to reliable sources, the mayors sneaked into the building through another entrance to attend a Consulate-sponsored cocktail party in their honor.

“They tried to evade us,” said

*Continued on page 6*

## Marcos Keeps Promise: Military Harassment Escalates

By CRIS TAGAM  
Staff Writer

The normalization show is over. But military harassment and abuse remains a distinct fact of Philippine life and may indeed, be on the upsurge.

Case reports trickling in from the Task Force Detainees Philippines (TFD) indicate a continuation of martial rule.

Ferdinand Marcos’s 88% landslide victory on June 16 placed him in office for another six years. Marcos vowed to maintain stable “normalized” conditions. In his June 30 inaugural speech, Marcos

launched an all out campaign to “take care” of dissidence in the country once and for all.

**TARGET: NPA AND MNLF**

Marked as violent dissidents were the New People’s Army (NPA), military arm of the Communist Party of the Philippines and the Bangsa Moro Army of the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF).

Implementation of this program is already in evidence, given the numerous government releases of clashes between the “rebels”

*Continued on page 4*



Silme Domingo (left) and Gene Viernes (right). The Committee for Justice organizes to uncover the parties involved in their murders. (AK File Photo)

# UNION MURDER TRIAL OPENS

Special to the AK

SEATTLE—The aggravated first degree murder trial of two men charged with the killing of two prominent union leaders of the Alaska cannery workers union formally began August 11 before King County Court House Judge Lloyd Bever.

The trial opened with the jury selection, expected to take at least a week to finalize.

Pompeyo Benito Guloy, Jr., 23, and Jaime Bulosan Ramil, 28, were accused of gunning down Silme Domingo, Secretary/Treasurer of the International Longshoremen’s and Warehousemen’s Union (ILWU) Local 37, and Gene Viernes, the union’s job

dispatcher, inside union headquarters, June 1.

Prior to the trial opening, Deputy Prosecutor Joanne Maida indicated the case has been “incredibly difficult” to prepare. She

requested for a court order to keep secret the names of “certain witnesses in this case whose discovery at this time would lead to

*Continued on page 5*



Metrocom goes after Manila students; Reagan’s approval of Marcos regime means increased harassment. (AK File Photo)

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## EDITORIALS/OPINIONS

### For the Undocumented: Gov't-Sanctioned Serfdom

Some observers lambasted Reagan's recently unveiled immigration plan as "government-sanctioned serfdom." We couldn't agree more. And we may add that it also contains repressive elements characteristic of pogroms.

The government's plan falls hardest on those already stigmatized and victimized by U.S. society—the undocumented worker.

According to Reagan's plan, the government would bestow legal status on an estimated three to six million undocumented workers if certain restrictive measures were met: for those living in the U.S. without legal status before January 1, 1980, a 10-year residency would be required, during which time spouses or children would not be allowed to immigrate.

In addition, while paying into Social Security, income and other taxes, these undocumented workers would be barred from receiving welfare, federally assisted housing, food stamps, or unemployment insurance.

Thus, a form of indentured servitude is what the Reagan administration offers the undocumented workers. Never mind the fact that these workers, recoiling before increased border and sea patrols. \$75 million will be the lowest wages and hardest working conditions, all the while paying taxes. Reagan's "gift" to these workers is a continuation of their already meager existence, with a promise of "legality" after 10 years.

Disturbing as this aspect of Reagan's immigration plan may be, it is only part of an overall conception which places immigrant labor at the complete mercy of capital, and which will fan the vicious flames of national chauvinism and racism. Companies hiring undocumented workers would be fined. This process would inject a stronger dose of racism and chauvinism in hiring procedures. It would automatically cast a cloud of suspicion on all "foreign-looking" job seekers and reinforce the treatment of undocumented workers as "hunted animals."

A "guest worker" program would import 50,000 workers from Mexico yearly, to work in industries that would use their labor without needing to take responsibility for long-range questions of health, safety and welfare.

Haitian refugees would become the special target of increased border and sea patrols. \$75,000 more will be allocated for detention facilities and the recruitment of more Border Patrol agents.

For those seeking political asylum, it is to be expected that those applying for anti-communist reasons will continue to be welcomed with open arms. However those suffering from repression under reactionary, yet pro-U.S. military regimes or oligarchies, such as El Salvador, Haiti, or the Philippines will continue to find the door closed. Already, the administration is preparing to deport thousands of Salvadoran refugees back to where certain death and persecution await them.

The Filipino community, one of the fastest-growing immigrant sectors of U.S. society, should be critical of the anti-alien, racist, repressive, and pro-business bias of the Reagan plan now before Congress. The legal and human rights of all immigrants must be strongly upheld, and the community's activists, reformers, and organizers should contribute to the fight for these interests. □

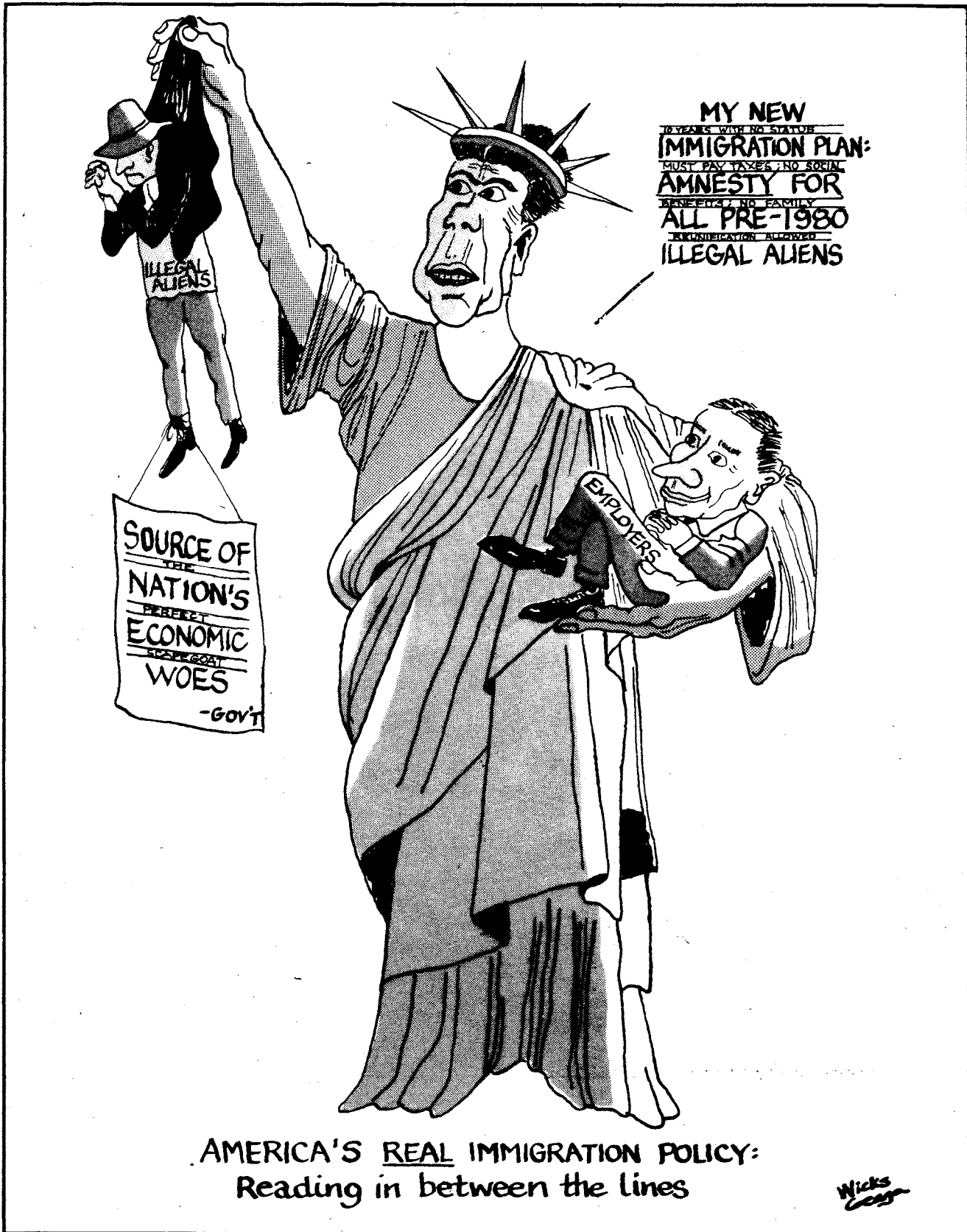
### Cheating the Poor, Helping the Rich

Huge government subsidies for U.S. business have always been called "welfare for the rich," and rightly so. But with the Reagan administration's recent tax cut victory in Congress giving some \$60 billion to U.S. corporations, a new phrase came into use: "Wall Street's soaking-the-poor tax cut."

Reagan lobbied for his bill as an across the board 25% tax cut, equally benefitting individuals and businesses. However the benefits from the Reagan bill run along the philosophy that "the more you make, the more you get." Poor and lower income workers will get a few dollars while corporations and the rich will get a huge infusion of mega-bucks.

Consider this: a family of four with an annual income of \$10,000—not uncommon in our community—will get a tax break of \$69 next year, rising to \$113 by 1984. Yet the managers of corporations who make \$100,000 would receive tax breaks of \$2,749 next year and \$6,872 by 1984. Corporations and businesses get even larger tax-saving benefits.

Since inflation and higher social security taxes will eat up the poor's "tax cut," Reagan is literally giving peanuts—and a smooth-talking sales job—to the average worker. And since corporations were avoiding many taxes through loopholes and government tax breaks anyways, the average worker is being forced, once again, to finance government's attempt to save big business. □



### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### Is This Democracy?

I cannot believe that Vice President Bush praised Marcos's "adherence to democratic principles" but a friend showed me the clipping and it is true. If that is Bush's and Reagan's version of democracy then I am afraid of what will happen here under their administration.

D.E. Pintor  
Atlantic City, NJ

#### Furious

Cardinal Sin and some ex-politicos who are now opposing Marcos sometimes make me furious. They always charge Marcos with "driving the people to the Communist" as if the Filipino reds are the same as Marcos and are one of two evils. I say, these conservative anti-Marcos elements should put up or shut up. The NPAs are winning support because they have a clear alternative and are willing to die for it. Meanwhile, the Cardinal and these people offer more of the same society without Marcos. They are not even willing to die for this crude alternative they are insisting on.

Efren Balintong  
Tampa, FL

#### Have No Fear . . .

I was not able to vote at the last election although I was not a participant of the boycott. I am visiting here. Is it true that if I went home I will not be admitted back here?

Name withheld upon request  
San Francisco, CA

(Marcos promised to prosecute those who failed to vote. However, how he will be able to punish several million people—60% of the electorate stayed away from the polls—is not clear. There is no reason why you should not be admitted back here—Editor.)

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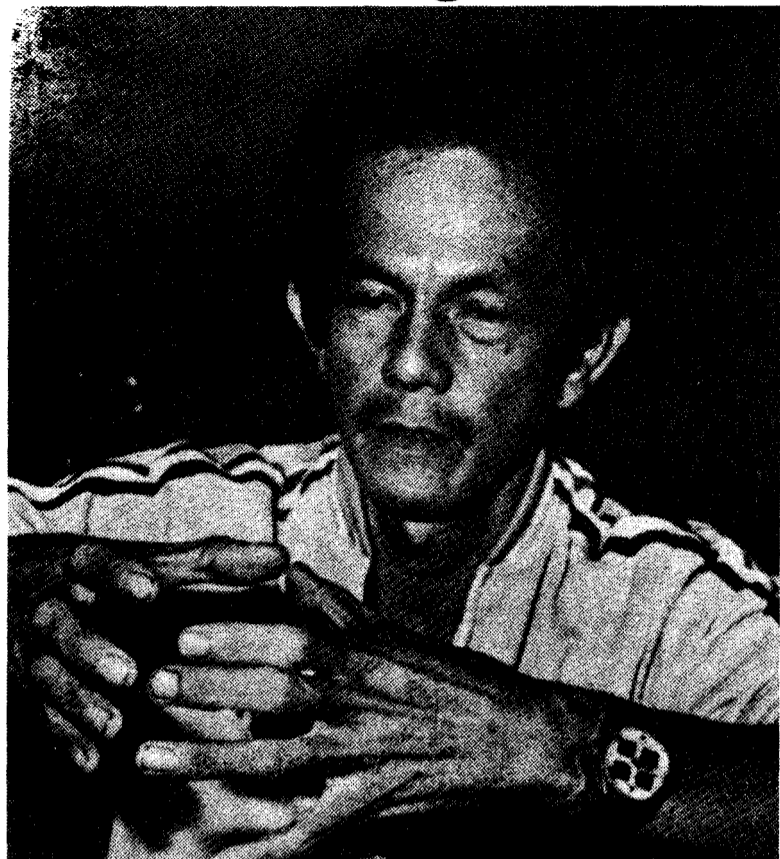
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PHILIPPINE NEWS

Philippine Media Protests  
Beating of Newsmen



Media angered: Newsmen Reyes describes Caruncho's attack. (Asiaweek)

forced to caution the government that it was "taking a calculated risk in trying to take the side of Mayor Caruncho of Pasig against the media and against public opinion." Valencia, however, warned of "propagandists disguised as journalists."

The unpopularity of the case, fanned by strong media denunciations, finally resulted in Caruncho's month-long suspension. This suspension was ordered by President Marcos.

GROWTH IN MEDIA DEFIANCE

The media's growing defiance reflects the current growing upsurge in resistance to government repression. Philippine media was effectively clamped down with the declaration of martial law. Radio and television stations were closed, as well as all newspaper publishing houses. Exceptions were the government-controlled Kanlaon Broadcasting System and the *Daily Express*, owned by Imelda Marcos' brother, Benjamin "Kokoy" Romualdez. Many leading anti-Marcos newsmen were arrested and detained.

DEMAND: RELEASE DETAINED JOURNALIST

But in recent months, members of the media establishment have been stirring. Even prior to the wave of resistance sweeping the country with the recent election boycott, the NPC had taken steps in defense of civil rights.

For several months, this organization has led a campaign demanding the release of political prisoner Satur Ocampo. Ocampo, assistant business section editor of the defunct *Manila Times*, has been detained since 1975. □

The nationally televised film clip lasted only 53 seconds. But the blatant display of media harassment was enough to send outraged newsmen on the warpath.

On election day, June 16, millions of Filipinos witnessed long time Pasig Mayor Emiliano Caruncho and his bodyguards beat radio reporter Ador Reyes.

Reyes, covering election results for Radio Veritas, the international Catholic news agency, had questioned Caruncho on the possibilities of flying voters and fraud in Pasig. Caruncho, irked at the query, suddenly grabbed Reyes, hit him on the neck and back. They then dragged Reyes out of the room.

All was recorded on camera and shown on nationwide television.

'SHAMEFUL AND SHOCKING'

Reyes's telecast manhandling immediately stirred the Philippine media from its long induced silence.

The 425-member National Press Club (NPC), decried the scene as an "open assault on press freedom by nothing less than a person in authority." The Justice and Court Reporters Association called the incident "shameful and shocking."

The controversial tape over GMA Channel 7, which initially filmed the incident was continually repeated on election day. The tape was distributed to other stations which telecast the incident as a protest of the ill treatment of newsmen.

REPEATED AIRPLAY UPSETS IMELDA

Upset over this repeated airplay, a tearful First Lady was shown in a nationwide 'plea' to newsmen to stop "drumming up" the incident. Imelda Marcos said that it was putting the President in a bad light and was an embarrassment before foreign visitors in the country for the presidential inauguration.

A commentary from the government controlled Kanlaon Broadcasting System's Ronnie Nathanielz further fueled the fired Philippine media by calling for a

close to the case. Nathanielz pointed out that Caruncho had already made a public apology and that was enough.

Nathanielz then proceeded to question Reyes' credentials as a journalist. He even cast doubts to the authenticity of the tape stating that film clips could be edited to put persons in bad light.

CONTINUED MEDIA DEFIANCE

The media, however, grew increasingly defiant. A series of front page editorials and commentaries contradicted Nathanielz.

Even Teodoro Valencia, a known Marcos apologist, was

Melchor In, Sicat Out:

Marcos Engineers Cabinet Shake-Up

After a six-year absence, Alejandro Melchor returned to President Marcos's cabinet while Gerardo Sicat is to retire as Minister of Economic Planning and head of the National Economic Development Administration (NEDA).

These were the most dramatic of the changes announced by Marcos in his cabinet reshuffle following his recent "re-election" as Philippine president.

Melchor, a top technocrat known as a U.S. favorite and "CIA boy," formerly served as Marcos's Executive Secretary. He will return to serve as a presidential advisor.

MELCHOR RESURRECTED

Melchor, a Harvard man, was instrumental in the recruitment of a number of the regime's top technocrats including Sicat and Prime Minister Cesar Virata. But his career ended abruptly in 1975 when he launched an over-zealous effort to weed out graft and corruption among public servants.

Included on his cleansing list of 2,664 officials and public servants were appointees of Melchor's chief rival Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile and fa-



Melchor (FEER)



Sicat (Fortune)



Virata (Fortune)

vorites of Imelda Marcos.

Melchor had clearly overstepped his limits. A political uproar was created by government officials and the private sector. The criticism was so severe that the government became paralyzed forcing Marcos to drop Melchor. The position of Executive Secretary, however, was so powerful that Marcos never appointed a replacement.

RESPONDING TO WORLD BANK CRITICISM

Sicat, on the other hand, may have asked to be removed. According to the *Asian Wall Street Journal*, "Mr. Marcos said that many of those removed from ministerial posts had asked to

leave." Another reliable source, however, pinpointed Sicat as a chief formulator of Philippine economic policy which received stinging criticism from the World Bank through the Ascher Memo and the Poverty memo.

Other changes suggest that the shake-up does indeed represent a response to World Bank criticism. While Sicat leaves, he is to be replaced by another top Harvard-trained technocrat, Placido Mapa, Jr.

SOOTHING WESTERN FINANCIERS

Mapa, highly respected in U.S. banking circles, returns to the cabinet after serving for three years as Executive Director of

the World Bank. He will also take on many of Virata's former responsibilities as Minister of Finance.

Observers suggested that Virata's appointment as Prime Minister was part of an attempt to soothe the worries of western financiers in the wake of the World Bank report targeting cronyism and corruption as key problems of the Philippine economy (see related story, page 8). The Melchor and Mapa appointments, reinforce that interpretation.

As for Sicat, in spite of the blow he received with the Ascher report, there is speculation that he may eventually take over as Chairman of the Philippine National Bank. □

Buod ng mga Balita

OPPOSITION MAYOR VINDICATED

One among 22 Philippine mayors traveling across the United States has recently gained increasing public attention.

Mayor Aquilino Pimentel of Cagayan de Oro City was recently vindicated in a fight to overturn a Commission on Election (COMELEC) suspension from his office. Just prior to the recent election, the COMELEC suspended Pimentel, charging him and others in the Mindanao Alliance of "turncoatism."

Using an anti-turncoat provision under the 1973 Constitutional Convention, the COMELEC charged Mr. Pimentel and others in the opposition Mindanao Alliance with "switching parties" illegally in a one-year period. His 1980 election was declared invalid and his opponent Francisco Velez, a Marcos man whom Pimentel defeated by a three to one margin, was sworn in at Malacañang Palace.

At the time of the election, Mr. Pimentel was tremendously popular and won 60,000 of the 80,000 votes. When the city residents learned of Pimentel's suspension last June, they organized a barricade to stop any takeover of the city hall and in addition, some officials went on a hunger strike.

Mayor Pimentel had won points as an administrator by U.S. officials for his water development projects and handling of needs of the city's poor. These works were established with no funds from the Manila central government.

Observers speculate that U.S. support may have been a factor in the regime's willingness to back off on the Pimentel issue. □

RAMOS PROMOTION?

Reports reveal that Philippine Constabulary Chief Major General Fidel Ramos is under consideration for promotion to the position of Chief of Staff of the Philippine Armed Forces.

According to recent government reports, Ramos would replace General Romeo Espino who would be given an ambassadorial position. The move is allegedly part of the reorganization of the Ministry of Interior and Ministry of Public Safety, which may be altered to include the PC, the police, and other agencies.

Observers report that Ramos' promotion indicates political jockeying within the armed forces. Marcos has allegedly retained Espino in his current position long past his slated retirement date in order to avoid having to make a choice between two top military favorites.

Both Ramos and Chief of the Presidential Guard, General Fabian Ver are both known to have their eyes on Espino's post. Marcos has not wanted to appear to favor either of the two most powerful of generals.

The recent report, however, suggests that the scales have tipped in favor of Ramos. □

## News Analysis:

# Scandal Envelops Silverio Firm Collapse



Silverio (Asiaweek)

By VICTORIA LUNA  
AK Staff Writer

Nervous observers of the Philippine financial world were jolted last month by the collapse of Philippine Underwriters Finance Corp. (Philfinance), an investment house owned by top Marcos chum Ricardo Silverio.

The collapse of a major firm owned by a Marcos crony was shock enough in itself. But the case was further enlivened by talk of a scam involving the company's top officers from President Hermilio Rodis down—somehow excluding Silverio. Silverio was quick to file suit accusing them of engaging in fraud and manipulation.

This final bit of spice came in the form of banner headlines alleging bribery of government officials by Philfinance executives. According to the newspapers, the company had purchased cars for two "ranking officials," of the SEC and the Central Bank.

## TOO BUSY WITH TOYOTAS

Of course they were Toyotas. The top firm in the Silverio Empire, Delta Motors, assembles Toyotas for local sale. And it was Delta which provided Silverio with his excuse for being unaware of the shenanigans involving his corporate officers.

"You won't believe this," Silverio told Asiaweek magazine, "but I didn't institute controls in a company in which I owned 84%, and which had more than P900 million (\$113 million) in assets. I was too busy with Delta."

Observers noted that it was indeed difficult to believe. For the goings on allegedly involved the firm's seven top executives and dated back as far as 1979.

## P14 MILLION SCAM

Among the charges lodged against Philfinance officers are issuing commercial paper in the names of nonexistent companies and bad checks.

One incident involved a loan of P14 million (\$1.76 million) which passed through three sets of hands in a fifteen-day period before winding up once more with Philfinance as a deposit. At each stop, the money earned sizeable interest for the parties involved.

Following several more twists and turns, the same P14 million allegedly found its way into the hands of the Philfinance executives. They used it to purchase 60% of the company's stock.

Justice Ministry spokesmen revealed that company officers are likely to be recommended for prosecution under charges of corruption and knowingly issuing bad checks. Silverio however, has managed to keep himself remarkably clear despite the exposé.

## MAKING EXCEPTIONS FOR SILVERIO

But questions raised by the Philfinance scandal go beyond the shenanigans of company executives. Why, observers wonder, were Central Bank rules violated? According to Central Bank Governor Jaime Laya, all money market operators who lend to more than 20 people must have a "quasi banking license." Philfinance did business with roughly 700 debtors, yet it had none.

The answer, say longtime observers of the Philippine financial world, lies in Silverio's longstanding relationship with Marcos. This is not the first time that laws have been circumvented for Ricardo Silverio. Ford and GM executives are still fuming over rules which require all cars manufactured for export in the Philippines to contain a substantial amount of locally made parts. The only exception to the rule? Toyota and Silverio. □



Cuenca (Asiaweek)



Disini (Fortune)



Enrile (Asiaweek)

## MORE CRONIES IN THE NEWS

While Silverio's finance company seems to be beyond government help, recent months have witnessed massive efforts to rescue huge conglomerates owned by two top Marcos cronies.

At stake are the Cuenca empire under the umbrella of the Construction and Development Company of the Philippines (CDCP) and the tangled web of companies owned by Herminio Disini.

CDCP recently received a P550 million (\$80 million) injection of emergency bailout money to help pay its massive debts. More is reportedly on the way.

The company faced a \$650 million debt, much of it in short-term loans bearing interest rates as high as 30%. The cash to make the payments simply was not available and paying off would have meant selling key building blocks of the Cuenca empire.

As for Disini, three of his finance companies—two in serious financial trouble—are to merge into a single bank. The government through Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP) will provide an additional P280 million (\$35.3 million) to create the new International Corporate Bank.

## TECHNOCRATS ON THE DEFENSIVE

The merged assets of the three companies, combined with DBP funds will mean that Disini will wind up owning one of the two largest commercial banks in the country. Its size will make it eligible for "universal banking" status which means a number of privileges for its owner.

Highly sensitive to charges of favoritism, government officials

are quick to point out that Disini will be forced to sell off his less profitable subsidiaries and that the DBP will control 70% of the new bank.

Laya acknowledges that there may be "some criticism," but defended the move as a "good trade off."

"If we don't save them," commented former Minister of Economic Planning Gerardo Sicat, "the country will be in worse



BENEDICTO

shape." Sicat was referring to both the CDCP and Herdis bailouts.

## CRONIES—THE WEAK LINK

The current focus on cronies highlights one of the chief embarrassments—and insoluble problems—of the Marcos regime. The highly critical World Bank report issued last October targeted cronyism as the regime's weak link.

The Philippines' economic elite today consists of a group of newcomers whose rise to power corresponds to Marcos' political ascent.

It is a matter of public knowledge

that the personal wealth of Ferdinand Marcos, known as the richest man in Asia, is thoroughly entangled with the empires of Cuenca, Disini, Silverio, and others such as sugar baron Roberto Benedicto, banana magnate Antonio Florendo and coconut kings Juan Ponce Enrile and Eduardo Cojuangco. Between the network of Marcos cronies and those loyal to his wife Imelda, the Marcos family personally controls nearly every sector of the Philippine economy.

## KEEPING THE ECONOMY OUT OF THE SWAMP

Western investors, as evidenced by the World Bank report, find this concentration of economic power dangerously unstable. Marcos is therefore under a good deal of pressure to clean up his act and appear to be less biased toward his chums. As a token gesture, buddy Silverio's scandal-ridden Philfinance must be allowed to collapse. Silverio will simply have more time to devote to Delta and his numerous other holdings.

But Marcos can hardly afford to take more than cosmetic action against his chums without endangering his own fortune. Furthermore, government funds are so thoroughly tied up in Cuenca-Disini-Silverio ventures that even the Harvard-bred technocrats have no choice but to continue to pour in the cash.

Sicat's words thus take on a ring of truth. Cuenca's and Disini's companies, though tottering on economic quicksand, cannot be allowed to collapse without dragging the entire economy down into the swamp. □

# Repression . . .

Continued from page 1

and the government troops. Areas reporting attacks of government troops were Cagayan, Quezon, Iloilo, Bicol, and Mindanao. Marcos had clear intentions to "let them [the NPA] know what it is to be on the defensive."

## . . . AND OTHERS

But "taking care" of dissidents does not limit itself to NPA and MNLF activities. Government troops have been known to operate under orders to "shoot now, ask later." And they have been known to be indiscriminating. Workers, students, youth, peasants, and the religious have oftentimes been targets of military abuse:

● SODACO workers were arrested in a raid conducted by

Philippine Constabulary troops in New Cebu, North Cotabato late June. They are now detained at the PC Provincial headquarters.

● Tomas Javenillo, a vacationing University of the East student was shot dead by PC troops in Sta. Cruz, Ilocos Sur.

● Two farmers in Pangadian, Lanao del Sur were arrested by paramilitary troops. Epifanio Simbayon and Teodoro Alegado were booked at the Danlagan city jail. They were then taken outside and shot to death.

● Cecilio Fumar, a Catholic layworker and two other companions were arrested and detained at the PC headquarters in Surigao City. No formal charges have been made.

● Magtanggol Roque, leading

member of the national democratic resistance in Mindanao, was killed in a military raid in June.

● Various cases of police harassment, abuses and arbitrary arrests by PC-Integrated National Police elements in the Ilocos Sur towns of Salcedo, Sta. Cruz, del Pilar, Quirino, Sogay, Galimpod, and Suijo, are still being reported.

## REPRESSION MEET STEPPED-UP RESISTANCE

Military harassment and abuse have remained the cornerstone of Ferdinand Marcos's political control even after the January 17 "lifting" of martial law. The upsurge in popular opposition required an even stronger hand in quelling such resistance. Reaching a peak in the nationwide election boycott movement, the resistance, also faced a peak in repression.

While intimidation of the electorate remained the principal means of control during the June

election, harsher methods were used in certain cases.

PC troops opened fire on some 3,000 demonstrators in a Daet, Camarines Norte rally. Four were killed and hundreds wounded.

An alleged assassination plot, the "June Bride" Operation, led to a massive manhunt in Metro-Manila's Muslim community. Of the reported 48 persons missing, 19 have been accounted for. They were arrested and detained for involvement in the plot. Two young men, however, were found murdered and left on the steps of a mosque in Manila.

The current wave of harassment in the Philippines does not differ much from those before the lifting of martial law. But the election of Ronald Reagan to the U.S. presidency last year has eliminated the fragile human rights qualifications limiting Carter's support of the Marcos government.

Marcos's re-election was praised as a "wonderful victory" by Secretary of State Alexander Haig, visiting Manila just in time for the re-election. Vice-President George Bush, on Inauguration Day, issued assurances of continued U.S. cooperation and support.

No longer needing some of the "democratic" charades with which Marcos coated his repressive rule in earlier days—"referenda," "plebiscites," "elections," and the like, the Marcos government can be expected to step up even further the attack on the Philippines' local version of the Reagan administration's favorite targets.

The NPA and the MNLF, fighting for genuine liberation, fit all too clearly the Reagan mold of "international terrorist." In the interest of purging them from the Philippine scene, observers here predict a significant step-up in attacks on progressive forces all over the country. □

# FILIPINO COMMUNITY NEWS

## Nurses Confront Roosevelt Hospital

By EDDIE ESCULTURA  
Chicago Correspondent

CHICAGO—What started as a routine assertion of power by the Director of Nursing at Roosevelt Hospital has sparked widespread dissension from its predominantly non-white nursing staff.

Last July 13 the hospital enacted a policy of forced rotation of nurses from floor to floor for a period of three months. Outwardly, the policy was to promote "professional growth" for the nursing staff. Yet the new policy provoked the anger of the nurses who saw the action as arbitrary and even dangerous to the hospital's patients.

In a letter to the administration, concerned nurses criticized the policy and the administration's handling of the new regulation. In particular the nurses noted:

- The forced rotation was never discussed with the nurses, depriving nurses of needed time to adjust to new floor assignments, and leaving many disoriented and unhappy with the changes.

- The nurses do not gain "professional growth" when the rotation does not necessarily move them to different specialty areas, such as intensive care units.

- Floating of nurses on an emergency basis from day to day, is a practice which the nurses say "increase the risk of errors in giving medications, carrying out orders, etc."

### ROTATION, THE LAST STRAW

Nurses feel that trouble was brewing for some time and the forced rotation was simply the straw that broke the camel's back.

Nearly two years ago, the hospital relegated eight to ten patients to the full charge of one nurse and a nursing aide. Prior to this, se-

veral graduate nurses were terminated. The remaining nurses took the brunt of the workload, with the introduction of this new pattern.

"It's money-saving, but a slave-driving move," commented one nurse.

For the increased workload, the nurses got only a 3% raise in salary in the face of two-digit rate of inflation. Graduate nurses were not even given a raise.

Wasting no time, the nurses drafted a petition with three main demands:

- 1) The 3% salary increase be raised to catch up with the rate of inflation;

- 2) Positive measures be implemented to resolve the growing problem of understaffing which results in forced rotation, involuntary floatation, overtime and increased workload;

- 3) Fair treatment be accorded to all regardless of race or nationalities and sex; and that the relationship between staff and management be on the basis of equality.

### HOSPITAL'S LONG- STANDING RACISM

The third demand seek to correct conditions of racism that have existed in the hospital for years.

Of the total 180 employees and administrators in Roosevelt Hospital, 90% are minorities. The small 10% of whites call most of the shots, with token minority head nurses or supervisors.

According to some nurses, foreign-trained nurses receive lower basic salaries compared to their American counterparts. These nurses are registered, they are not on working permits or H-1 visas. Also, unlike the latter, the former are subject to reprimand for relatively minor infractions. The use of foreign languages is prohi-

bited in the hospital, especially between nurses of the same nationality.

"Discriminatory practices as these," observes Ester Simpson, a Roosevelt Hospital nurse, "is a way of keeping workers divided."

### CONFRONTATION MEETING DRAWS NURSES TOGETHER

Approximately 70 nurses readily signed the petition in three days.

More than 50 nurses bravely joined the confrontation meeting with the administration to discuss the petition, despite one-to-one intimidation from head nurses.

"It was the best thing that ever happened to Roosevelt," Simpson described the meeting.

"It showed the concern of many nurses of different nationalities were willing to speak out but did not have the chance," she added.

The administration, represented by Robert Weinstein, Chief Executive; Jo Ann Frinsein, Director of Personnel; Judy Brown, Director of Operations, and Ralph Ramirez, Director of Nursing, did not move on any of the demands.

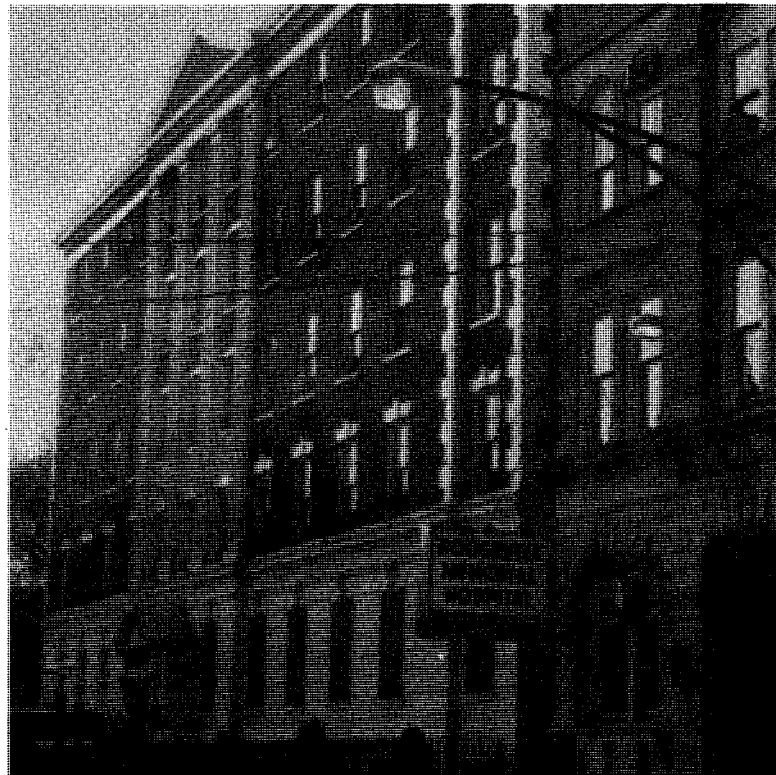
"They [the administration] were just arrogant," said Edith Asidao, another active nurse.

### ORGANIZATION IN THE WORKS

"The refusal of the hospital to grant any of the demands, not even the minor ones, such as end to forced rotation is shortsighted on the part of the administration," quipped an organizer of the petition.

The nurses feel strongly about forming an organization, possibly a union that would address their working conditions.

Talks of a newsletter to share among the signers of the petition was on the nurses' agenda. □



Site of nurse-administration controversy.

## Filipinos Top Asian Group in California

The recent U.S. Census Bureau's 1980 figures confirmed Filipinos comprise the largest Asian group in California, and is the second largest Asian immigrant population in the whole country.

The latest census statistics show Filipinos now number 357,514, a 158% growth since 1970, surpassing both the Chinese and Japanese populations. California's Asian population now totals 1,253,987 or 5.3% of the state's population.

California and Hawaii are the only states nationwide with significant Asian populations, with other states "having a very small percentage of Asians," reported Patricia Berman, chief of the

Census Bureau's facial statistics branch.

Nationally, the 1980 Census figures indicated that while the Chinese represented the largest U.S. Asian population, Filipinos represented a larger percentage growth.

Koreans showed the most phenomenal growth, increasing their numbers dramatically over the last decade, both in California and the U.S.

Berman attributed the upsurge of Asian immigration during most of the 1970s to the 1965 amendments to the Immigration and Naturalization Act, which removed restrictive quotas on Asian countries. □

## Mayors Unrehearsed . . .

Continued from page 1

openly displayed their avowed reverence and admiration of President Marcos.

"*Buhayin man si Andres Bonifacio, buhayin man si Rizal, buhayin man ang pinakamakisig na lalaki, walang tatalo kay Presidente Marcos!*" (Even if Andres Bonifacio or Rizal were alive, they're a long shot from President Marcos!), Mayor Conrado Berberabe of Batangas City exclaimed proudly.

Mayor del Castillo echoed his colleague's statement: "Marcos is the most powerful man in the Philippines . . . that man is really unbeatable. In the last election, he was very confident he will win—so confident he even made it the law not to vote!"

"But he threatened to arrest those who would boycott the election," I commented. "That's right!" the mayor retorted. "If he was planning to cheat in the elections, he would not have made it illegal not to vote."

Somehow, I had difficulty following the mayor's logic but before I could move on, Mayor Berberabe chimed in: "You know,

Marcos got 89.9% of the votes in my city. You know what the President told me?" to which I answered, "no."

With obvious glee in his eyes, he repeated Marcos's famous words to him: "I salute you, Berberabe!" to which I didn't know whether to pat his head for a "job well done."

### 'NPA COUNTRY'— A PROBLEM

My next "encounter" brought me to the mayor of Calbayog City, Samar—Pablo Lucero. Aha, NPA country, I said to myself.

"I heard there's a lot of NPA guerrilla activities in Samar, is that true, sir?" I asked him respectfully.

"That's not true!" he responded, somehow defensively. "They're not just in Samar, the NPA is all over the country!"

He proceeded to explain to me what his thoughts are of the NPA: "Some time ago, nine of my barrios were actually captured by the NPA, including all the local mayors, town officials, the police

. . . everyone! When we recaptured the barrios, we found many documents and you know what we confirmed? They really are communists!"

Mayor Lucero continued to describe how "deceitful" the NPAs are, saying: "The NPAs oftentimes operate in their civilian clothes, so you cannot tell if a person is NPA or not!"

He reported Samar mayors are often summoned by Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile to explain why there is so much insurgent activity in their province.

Lucero somewhat admitted he still does not have a solution to the problem.

"That's why, *pare*," Pabs Pañares, the local project director, jokingly added: "On our way here to the U.S., Mayor Lucero asked me: '*Pabs, may maituturo ba ang mga 'kano tungkol sa NPA?*'" (Can the Americans teach him how to solve the NPA problem?)"

Mayor Lucero did not appear amused by his colleague's comment. □

## Trial Opens . . .

Continued from page 1

a threat of great bodily harm or death."

Informed sources indicated identities of witnesses lined up by the Prosecutor's Office will be revealed "only after they actually take the witness stand."

### COMMITTEE FOR JUSTICE RALLIES COMMUNITY

"We can confidently say that the Committee for Justice for Silme Domingo and Gene Viernes, has been responsible for bringing forth dozens of witnesses and pushing the Prosecutor's case forward," stated Cindy Domingo, 27, sister of the slain labor leader and a steering committee member.

The Committee, formed immediately after the June 1 slayings of Domingo and Viernes, announced at its August 7 community meeting it will conduct regular weekly meetings at the Local a37 Union Hall "to update and prepare supporters for the unfolding of trial developments during the next month."

Since its formation, the Committee has received widespread support from the labor movement, the Filipino community, the women's community and the religious sector.

They pledged their support for the Committee's efforts "to bring

to justice all those responsible for Silme and Gene's deaths."

"As the publicity for the trial continues to spark more interest in the case," Ms. Domingo stated "it will be up to the entire Committee to update and actively involve each individual to step forward."

### FIGHT ANTI-UNION, RACIST MOVES

At the community meeting, the Committee for Justice warned against anti-unionism and racism that may be highlighted in the course of the trial.

Domingo reminded community members that some of the pre-trial publicity already attempted to portray the Filipino community as "one filled with violence, gangsterism, gambling, and disunity."

She stressed this is not the general character of the community, and "it's racist and derogatory to perpetuate such stereotype of our people."

She further indicated the canning industry in Alaska were using some union officials' well-known links to gambling and gangsterism to discredit Local 37.

"This type of anti-unionism," said Domingo, "tends to distort the reform work spearheaded by

Continued on page 8

## Far West Convention in Seattle:

## Confab to Highlight Labor's Legacy

SEATTLE—"Both out of state and Seattle delegates will have something to look forward to in the upcoming 1981 Filipino People's Far West Convention," declared Mrs. Adelina Domingo, Co-Coordinator of the 1981 FWC Steering Committee.

The Convention, to be held September 4, 5, and 6 at the Seattle University campus will feature panel presentations, a cultural evening, workshops, an ecumenical service and a farewell dance.

"These activities will provide a variety of educational and social interaction opportunities for the participants," Domingo added.

"This is the third time that Seattle is hosting the FWC and this year, we want to highlight the historical role of Filipinos in the labor movement, especially in Seattle and Hawaii," announced Leni Marin, co-coordinator along with Domingo.

Hence, she said, the theme of the convention is "Build a Progressive and Active Filipino Community—Our Link With the Past, Our Hope for the Future."

## A NEW PROGRAM FORMAT

"We want to provide something new," said Mila Rodriguez, chairperson of the Program Committee. "Panel discussions, which all delegates can attend, will be more stimulating and will provoke more interchange," Rodriguez added.

According to the FWC organizers, the 1981 FWC "promises to be a major innovation in its



An elated Seattle delegation extend their welcome to the 1980 FWC assembly after winning a bid to host the 1981 FWC in Seattle. (AK File Photo)

format by providing a variety of panel presentations."

The new format will allow delegates to attend at least four or five panel discussions, including a workshop. The new format is designed to give delegates more direct exposure to today's pressing issues.

The following are the different panel topics:

- The Changing Character of the Filipino Community: Today's Political Priorities
- U.S. Foreign Policy: How It Concerns the Filipino Community
- Reaganomics: More Cut-backs for Minorities
- Defending Immigrant Rights: An Anti-Racist Struggle
- Filipinos and Labor: Ex-

panding Roles of Workers and Organizers.

All the participants will attend the Filipino community, Cut-backs and Foreign Policy panels, and choose between two other panels. In addition, workshops will be held on the following topics: women, youth, art and literature, Philippine Conditions, Foreign Nurse Licensure, and Trade Unionism.

The panel speakers will come from a wide spectrum of backgrounds, allowing diverse perspective on the topics, said Marin. Panelists, she noted, are expected to come from church organizations, government, social service agencies, community organizations, and scholars.

Furthermore, other minority

communities are being invited to participate, particularly from other Asian groups and the Latino community.

## CULTURAL EVENING: A TREAT

The 1981 FWC is billed as a tribute to the lives and work of Silme Domingo and Gene Viernes, two prominent trade unionists who were recently murdered in Seattle.

Both Domingo and Viernes were also known leaders in the Filipino community.

Thus, according to Mrs. Domingo, mother of the slain union activist Silme, the FWC will "fittingly portray the hopes, struggles, joys, and sorrow of Filipinos in the U.S., particularly in the cultural presentation."

The cultural program will feature a multi-media concept, including photo exhibits, slides, traditional dances, interpretative dances, songs, poetry, rondalla music, and individual and choral recitations.

"All these creative forms will be used to highlight the Filipino community experiences in the U.S., and the Filipinos' continuing struggle for fair standards in their workplaces," remarked Joe L alas, another member of the Program Committee.

Attention will be given to the history of union organizing initiated by Filipinos from the fish canning industries, from the early 1930s to the present.

Another highlight of the cultural show will feature Danongan Kalanduyan, a well-known professor at the University of Washington, who will perform *kulintang* music with his ensemble.

## ADDED ATTRACTION

Welcoming out-of-state delegates, the Seattle community is offering a salmon dinner Friday night, September 4.

"As the host city, we want our visiting delegates to enjoy a traditional salmon dinner," said Mrs. Domingo.

Furthermore, there will be an ecumenical service on Sunday morning, followed by a farewell dance for all participants that evening.

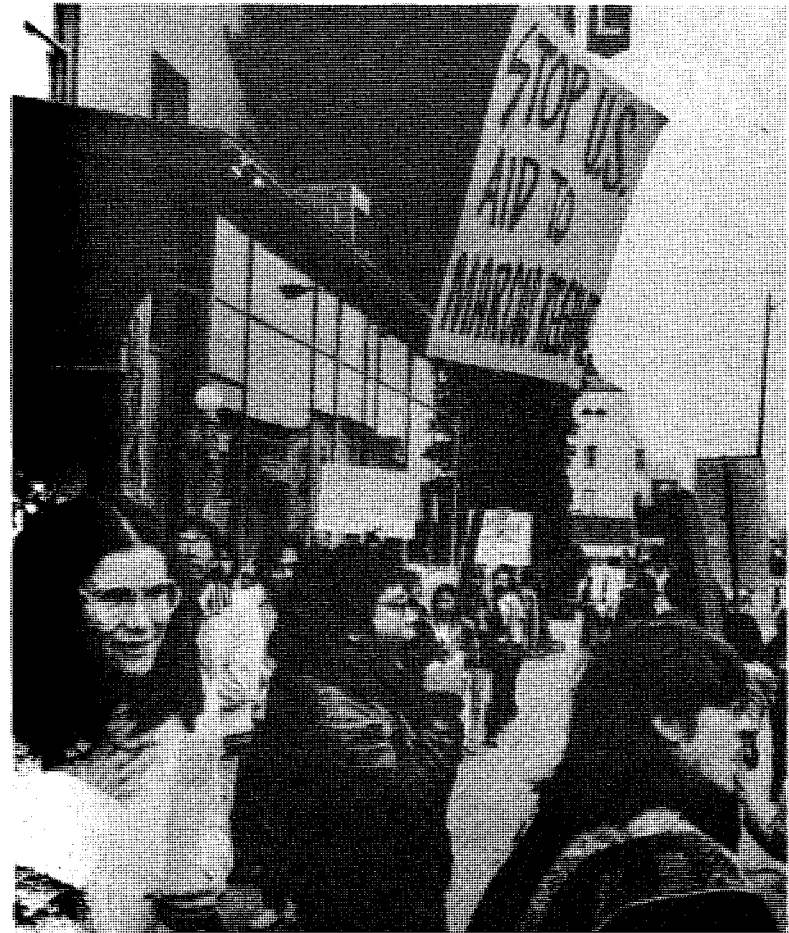
For registration, contact Leni Marin or Frank L alas at (206) 682-0690, or write 1981 FWC, P.O. Box 14304, Seattle, WA 98114. □

## Mayors at UC . . .

Continued from page 1

Wilma Cadorna, Coalition Against the Marcos Dictatorship (CAMD) spokesperson.

"They must know they are unwelcome, and U.C. Berkeley knows it cannot get away lightly with supporting the Marcos dictatorship," she concluded.



A picket protest greeted the mayors' arrival in Berkeley. (AK)

Prior to the arrival of the mayors, a coalition of four groups: the Philippine Solidarity Network (PSN), International Association of Filipino Patriots (IAFP), Coalition Against the Marcos Dictatorship (CAMD), and the *Katipunan ng mga Demokratikong Pilipino* (KDP), made every effort to discourage the university

from holding the seminar.

Recalling the recent visits to Manila of Secretary of State Alexander Haig and Vice-President George Bush, a joint statement by the PSN and CAMD stated: "The seminar is being held amidst a concerted campaign by the Reagan administration to build up the political image of the Marcos dictatorship."

The four predict a Marcos visit to the U.S. will follow sometime this fall.

## COALITION HITS VISIT

The coalition set precedent for widespread opposition.

Letters urging the cancellation of the seminar flooded Chancellor Ira M. Heyman's office.

Congressman Ron Dellums, Berkeley Councilwoman and Auditor Florence McDonald, and Mayor of Berkeley Gus Newport were among those who denounced the role of the university in assisting a notoriously-known dictatorship.

In his letter to Heyman, Mayor Newport stated:

"I am persuaded to add my voice to those who have urged the university to disassociate itself from the event, in the name of democratic human rights."

Fifty students, employees and instructors of the university criticized the "diminished role of the university as center of independent and critical thinking on political issues with the holding of

this seminar."

Amidst the barrage of protests and criticisms, seminar organizers responded with "It's too late to cancel" or "It's just a technical seminar."

## TECHNICAL VERSUS POLITICAL

Opponents of the seminar however, challenged the "non-partisan," "technical only" stance assumed by the organizers.

A delegation of representatives of anti-Marcos groups met with Prof. Peter Hall, a key seminar organizer, and clarified their position that "the seminar clearly contributes to the legitimization of the Marcos dictatorship."

"U.C. has a particular responsibility to help Third World countries in technical assistance, even if they are under regimes," emphasized Hall.

City Auditor Florence McDonald quickly countered, "I think it hard to separate technical from political. If Hitler came to the U.S. and asked for technical assistance, where will we draw the line?"

Hall further asserted that in keeping with the sponsoring USAID program, the seminar serves to strengthen local autonomy for local governments.

"Under the highly centralized Marcos dictatorship, there is no local autonomy," responded Madge Bello, also of the IAFP.

"The current crop of local government officials, including the invited mayors, were 'elected' in rigged elections," she continued.

To further thresh out the issue of the university's support of the Marcos dictatorship, Peter Hall

and opponents agreed to hold a debate at the U.C. Berkeley campus on Wednesday, August 12. The debate will force the university to defend its controversial stand publicly.

"Mr. Hall is going to discover that he cannot defend his seminar without defending the dictatorship," said Hillary Crosby, PSN spokesperson.

Referring to an orientation for lecturers held earlier, Joel Rocamora of IAFP criticized the flippancy way Martin Landau suggested that Marcos's main interest is in the counterinsurgency aspects of the project.

"Yet nothing was said about eight years of martial law, and how martial law continues today, even without the name," Rocamora pointed out.

## ANOTHER USAID PROGRAM

The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) financed this seminar for \$60,000 to complete a phase in its Rural Services Center Project (RSCP) in the Philippines with the training of local government executives.

USAID programs are part of a multi-million dollar package of U.S. military and economic assistance to the Marcos regime.

The Institute of Urban and Regional Development (IURD) of the university is conducting the seminar, which includes a trip to Disneyland, wine-tasting in Napa, and other sightseeing tours in its agenda.

Of 20 lecturers invited, five have declined from participating in the seminar for "various reasons." □

## DOMESTIC/INTERNATIONAL NEWS

## White House Backs Begin:

## Israeli Terrorism Against Palestinians Escalates

By VINCE REYES  
Staff Writer

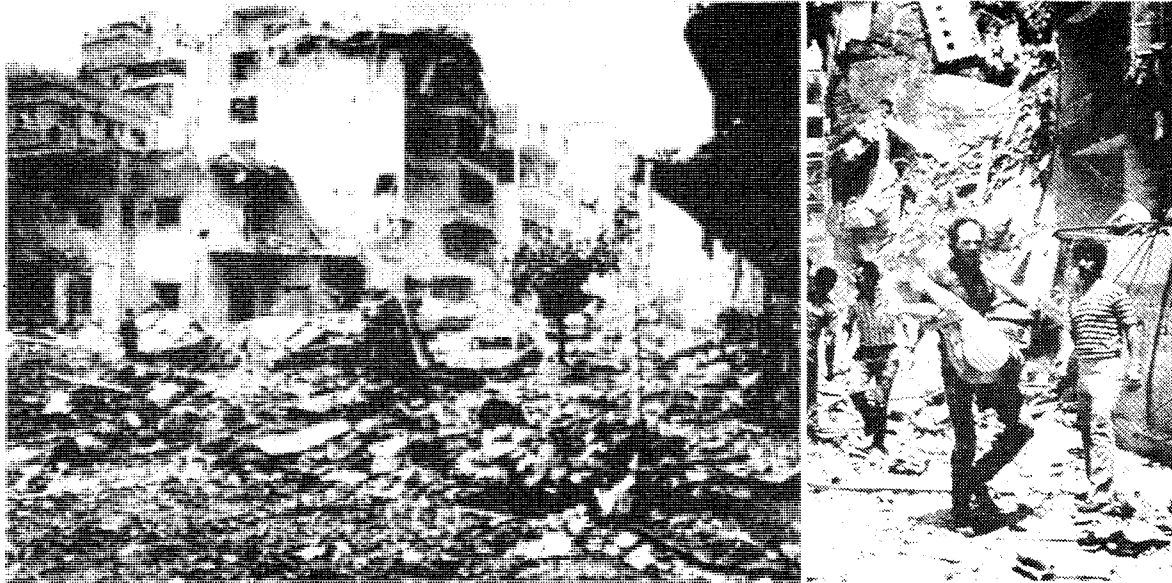
Continuing a policy of naked aggression against the Palestinian people—Israel Prime Minister Menachem Begin ordered his U.S.-supplied bombers to attack thousands of Palestinian refugees residing in Beirut, Lebanon.

The warplanes rained death and destruction for two straight weeks over parts of Lebanon in mid-July. The large-scale bombings were the first on the Lebanese capitol since 1974 and were intended as a bloody threat aimed at the Palestinian Liberation Organization.

The air attacks also struck Palestinian refugee camps outside Beirut, Tyre, Sidon and also destroyed a number of main roads and bridges.

On July 19 as Begin and U.S. President Reagan's special envoy Philip Habib were meeting in Jerusalem, 18 different areas were attacked by Israeli ground, air and seaborne commandos. The devastating raids followed a week of bombings which pummeled other Palestinian towns and villages along the coast of Southern Lebanon.

In these latest attacks, 450 Arabs were killed and hundreds more were wounded. U.N. officials estimate that 90% of the victims were civilians; many were children. In retaliation, Palestinian rocket attacks hit northern Israel, killing 6 Israelis. In the 18-month period prior to July, 21 Israelis were killed from Palestinian ground and rocket attacks from Lebanon yet over 400 Palestinians and Lebanese were killed in the Israeli attacks.



Bombed-out civilian quarters of Beirut, Lebanon. At right, a man carries the body of a young girl, victim of the Israeli attack. (UPI)

But what does this scorecard of human bloodshed represent? **PALESTINIAN PEOPLE THE TARGET**

Although Begin claims he is seeking to destroy military arsenals of the PLO his targets have been civilian concentrations—apartments, factories, shopping centers—where the PLO is organizing. Begin boldly proclaimed that "We shall continue to attack terrorist bases and headquarters, even if they are purposefully located in the vicinity of or within civilian concentrations."

Despite their consistent heavy losses the PLO under the leadership of Yasir Arafat continues defensive attacks and remains un intimidated against the better armed and equipped Israelis.

"Maybe they can break our hearts with our dead women and children, but they will never break our determination and will" stated PLO spokesperson Mahmoud Labadi.

**ZIONISM UPROOTS PALESTINIANS**

Since the turn of the century, the Palestinians have been driven from their homeland by the Zionist movement seeking reclamation of the Mideast Holy Lands and the creation of a secular Jewish state.

In 1948 when the state of Israel was formalized the neighboring countries of Jordan, Lebanon and Saudi Arabia were forced to open their borders to accommodate the uprooted Palestinians.

Some 500,000 Palestinians now live in refugee camps in Lebanon. Those Palestinians remaining in Israel do so as an underprivileged and discriminated social and economic class. More refugees line the West Bank and Gaza strip.

But it is in Lebanon, where Arab unity is taking a strong pro-Palestinian and anti-imperialist stand, that the PLO has its strongest political centers. Their work

includes overseeing the tremendous social welfare, medical aid, educational and cultural needs that emanate from a life of destitution within the makeshift refugee camps where generations of Palestinians live.

It is the PLO's politicizing process that Begin is trying to eliminate. The determination and success of the PLO to educate and move the Palestinians as a decisive force against Israel's aggression has incurred the wrath of that country's hardline leadership.

Thus, killing civilians is of little consequence to Begin since he views any organization of Palestinians as a threat to his regime and portrays any pro-PLO Arab organization as part of a "terrorist" scheme to topple Israel.

**U.S. IN THE BACKGROUND AGAIN**

Recently Begin appears to have a strong spark of confidence which

has impelled him to show to the world he is an ace in the playing deck of world leaders. However his arrogant political and military actions cannot possibly emanate solely from a small country wracked in economic crisis with a yearly inflation rate of 133% and rising.

Begin's strength largely comes from the United States's open-arm policy to Israel which is now fueled by Reagan's tactic of lining up reactionary allies in the Mideast sympathetic to imperialist interests against the Soviet Union.

These allies include Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Jordan, and Israel. Of these allies Israel is the main force launching offensives against the PLO which poses the biggest threat to western interests in the Mideast.

Israel, through a mixture of religious and ideological tenets has portrayed the Arabs as an irritant to Israeli progress and internationally as a race of terrorists. This logic in part, diverts the Israeli population's attention from the severe internal economic and domestic crisis and masks Begin's schemes for expansion of new sources of labor and markets in the region.

Although the U.S. takes a critical posture towards Israel's blatant violence, it continues to be the biggest supplier of arms to the Mideast—particularly Israel.

Although Reagan says that the fiery Begin's moves "makes it awfully hard for us to help him," the U.S. president was decisive in curbing any outspoken criticism of Israel over the latest Lebanon raids. With Reagan in the U.S. presidency, Israel's Begin has a friend and benefactor in the White House. □

## CIA Behind Cuba's Plagues?

## HAIG RATTLES SABRE AT CUBA

By VICTOR UNO  
Staff Writer

Washington has recently escalated its verbal assaults against the Cuban Revolution, reflecting a dangerous and provocative Reagan administration stance towards that island nation.

Only July 30, Secretary of State Alexander Haig accused Cuba of accepting huge shipments of arms from the Soviet Union. In the two months of April and May, Haig alleged that enough arms were sent to equip a militia of one million.

The former chairman of the Pentagon's Joint Chief of Staff used his allegations to threaten Cuba with a "reinvigorated" trade embargo as well as the establishment of a Radio Free Cuba transmitter in Florida to broadcast anti-communist propaganda.

Cuba, which has never denied its support for anti-imperialist struggles in the hemisphere, is seen by the Reagan administration as the chief troublemaker in the region and has vowed to "quarantine" that nation of eight million.

As part of Washington's offensive against Cuba, Haig dis-

patched former CIA deputy director Vernon Walters as an ambassador-at-large to tour the hemisphere seeking support against the Castro government. While Walters has met limited success in his efforts to isolate Havana diplomatically, the White House remains optimistic that some countries—such as Venezuela, Colombia, Costa Rica, and the Dominican Republic—will at least tacitly support Washington's latest offensive.

**MORE THAN IDLE WORDS**

Concern that the recent utterances by the White House were more than just idle talk has been expressed by the leaders of the Cuban Revolution.

At a huge rally commemorating the 28th anniversary of the attack on the Moncada garrison which signalled the beginning of the revolution, Fidel Castro expressed his suspicion that many of that country's difficulties have been caused by covert activities of the CIA.

"In the last two years, four harmful plagues have hit our country—the African swine fever, the "roya" of sugar cane, the blue fungus of tobacco, and dengue

fever," Fidel noted.

"We share the convictions of the people, and we keep the deep suspicions, that the plagues which have hit our country—especially the hemorrhagic dengue fever—could have been introduced into Cuba by the CIA."

The recent epidemic of dengue fever affected over 270,000 Cubans, resulting in the deaths of over 100 people, including 81 children. The other blights referred to by Castro all had disastrous effects on that country's economy, seriously hurting the production of pigs, tobacco, and sugar cane. Damage by the diseases was estimated in the millions of dollars.

**THE CIA CONNECTION**

Suspicion that the CIA was somehow behind these seemingly "natural" disasters has been reinforced both by past covert actions of the spy agency and present revelations about more cloak-and-dagger activities.

Recently a whirl of controversy surrounded current CIA director William Casey, on one hand for his shady business activities and on the other for his plans to "neutralize" Libya's Col. Muam-

mar Kaddafi.

The CIA plot to get Kaddafi was unveiled before the House Select Committee on Intelligence by Max Hugel, former director of covert operations. While the House Committee nixed the kill Kaddafi plot, suspicion remained that the CIA of earlier times—which was involved in over 90 plots to kill Cuba's Fidel Castro—was reemerging phoenix-like from earlier criticism.

Beside these nefarious attempts to assassinate foreign leaders, the CIA has experimented extensively with biological warfare. During the 1977 Senate Intelligence Committee hearings into covert CIA activities, then-CIA director Stansfield Turner testified that the agency carried out tests in U.S. cities to see if the agency could start plagues and epidemics in populated areas.

If connected with the U.S. Army's biological warfare experiments, which includes dengue-carrying mosquitos in its arsenal, the charge that somehow Washington is behind the outbreak of natural disasters appears not so fantastic and in fact, quite legitimate.

While 1981 marks the 20th

anniversary of the defeat of U.S.-backed mercenaries at the Bay of Pigs invasion, there are constant reminders that the U.S. has not given up its armed attacks against Cuba.

**CUBA READIES AGAINST ATTACK**

Recently, Radio Havana announced the capture of armed commandos who were about to carry out sabotage against the country's sugarfields and refineries. Members of the anti-communist Alpha 66 organization, these terrorists are tolerated by the U.S. government in their Florida-based headquarters. Claiming a membership in the hundreds, Alpha 66 has vowed to continue its attempts to assassinate Castro and overthrow the socialist government.

The Castro government has denounced Washington's tacit support of Alpha 66 and has vowed to remain vigilant against these or any other anti-Cuba provocations based in the U.S. With Washington sounding ever more belligerent in its stance towards Cuba, the defense of the revolution remains high on Cuba's list of priorities. □

'Lay Down or Lay Off':

# Filipino Woman: Facing Exploitation on Two Fronts

By LYNN DUGGAN and  
VICTORIA LUNA

The growing Philippine labor movement has made it starkly clear that Filipino workers nationwide face acute exploitation and instability.

But women workers in the Philippines face exploitation on two fronts. As laborers, they must deal with the same depressed wages, oppressive working conditions and job insecurity as their male counterparts, while as women, they face sexual exploitation by their superiors.

Nowhere is this dual exploitation of women more evident than in the Bataan Export Processing Zone (BEPZ) in Mariveles where 80 to 90% of the workforce is female. Here is a series of shocking statistics that reveals the sordid truth.

- Venereal disease, according to local authorities, is "borderline epidemic";

- Infanticide is increasingly common, with 20 babies found in trashcans since 1975 when the zone became operational;

- The rate of abortion is well above the national average—this in spite of the fact that most of the 25,000 workers are single and abortion is illegal;

- The level of infant mortality has doubled since the zone became operational.

## HIGHER COST OF LIVING

Cheap, docile labor is what export processing zones are all about. An integral part of the Marcos regime's "export-led growth" policy, they offer multinational corporations tax exemptions, a fully developed infrastructure and, most importantly, a cheap labor force held in check by martial law.

The women who work in the Mariveles BEPZ are young, many between the ages of 14 and 17. They have come attracted by promises of wages higher than elsewhere, hoping to make enough money to help support their families.

But all hopes of sending money home disappear once the young women come to the zone. For, though the wages are higher, so is the cost of living.

## PERMANENT APPRENTICES

Then there is the problem of "apprenticeship." Many of the BEPZ workers never see the wages they are supposed to receive because each factory demands that they spend the first three to six months of their employment as "apprentices." Frequently factories orchestrate their employment schedules so that workers are laid off just before their apprenticeship ends and another company opens up positions for new apprentices the same week.

Workers further face abominable living conditions in Mariveles where the population has swelled from 10,000 to 45,000 since the zone opened. Six to ten workers sleep in a single room in boarding houses holding a total of 50. All must share a single bathroom. The lack of a sewerage system means what little water is available is often contaminated.

Conditions on the job are equally hard on workers' health. Quota speed-ups take place often forced to do overtime. Twelve to 14-hour days lasting for months on end are not uncommon.

## WHY WOMEN?

If the oppressive conditions under which the young women of



Mattel worker assembles Barbie doll.

(Lynn Duggan)

the BEPZ work make them susceptible to any offer of escape, society-wide concepts of a woman's role make them easy targets for sexual exploitation.

The semifeudal culture of the Philippines places heavy emphasis on feminine passivity. Women are raised to see themselves as dutiful wives and loving mothers whose role in life is obediently and patiently to do the bidding of fathers, brothers, husbands.

This feudal feminine ideal is overlaid by another, one equally disarming to the women. This is the image—propagated worldwide by contemporary business and culture—of women as commodity, sex-objects to be bought, sold and used by men in the interests of filling their pleasure.

## LIVING BARBIE DOLLS

The hybrid feminine ideal of women as passive sex objects is

deliberately reinforced by the multinationals in the interests of perpetuating a passive, docile workforce.

Mattel, manufacturer of that personification of beauty, the Barbie doll, and other companies regularly sponsor beauty contests among workers. Well-advertised in the companies' free publications, these events encourage the women who spend their days assembling Barbies to look at themselves as living, breathing Barbie dolls.

## 'LAY DOWN OR LAY OFF'

The alternatives facing women who seek additional cash beyond their below-subsistence wages are minimal. They may choose to work as waitresses or "hostesses" in nearby beerhouses.

But sooner or later most women are confronted with the unwritten code of most zone factories: "Lay down or layoff."

Workers testify that they are often approached by their superiors asking if they have any financial problems which might be resolved in exchange for sex. Behind the offer lurks the threat, spoken or unspoken, of losing an already tenuous job if the woman refuses.

Workers themselves testify that at least 50% of the women are willing to have sex with their superiors for economic reasons. But for the woman forced to sell her body to escape from oppression, the oppression, in fact, intensifies.

## GRIM ALTERNATIVES

Lack of contraception often means unwanted pregnancy. Lack of clinical abortion facilities leaves a woman with little choice. She must bear the child or resort to dangerous home remedies such as violent massage by traditional midwives, pill overdoses, or catheter insertion into the uterus.

For the woman who does attempt to raise a child, she must do so on the same wage which was too little in the first place. Since she must work all day, her only hope is to bottlefeed the child, both expensive and highly unsafe given contaminated water supplies.

Many children thus succumb to gastroenteritis and the statistics speak for themselves: in 1979, 115 children below six died, while, before 1975, the figure was 30 to 50 per year.

## PROSTITUTING A NATION—LITERALLY

Ferdinand Marcos and his wife Imelda, in their public appearances and cultural endeavors, project to the world an image of gallantry and chivalrous respect for delicate femininity.

But as the Marcoses compete with other Third World countries for the business of foreign multinationals, they push as their prime attraction the cheapest labor force around. Given the logic of maintaining a docile labor force, this means that they are literally prostituting their country.

For the sexual exploitation of women is an intimate component, part and parcel, of export-led growth. □

# Trial Opens . . .

Continued from page 5

Gene and Silme and at the same time, tends to portray all unions as bad for working people."

This brand of anti-unionism will only benefit canning industry

will only benefit the canning industry in its efforts to sabotage Local 37's organizing work with cannery workers, she said.

## CONSPIRACY THEORY UNVEILED

At the same community meeting, co-chairperson Nemesio Domingo, Jr., 34, linked organized gambling to the conspiracy angle in the murders.

"Partners in this scheme," he stated, "are certain corrupt union officials, the gambling racket and the gangsters. While they have their own individual motives or self-interests, they entered into an unholy alliance to breathe more life into organized gambling, that spanned Seattle's Chinatown to the Alaska canneries. Gene and Silme threatened this enterprise through the reform move-

ment and the union, thereby pulling the union out of this alliance.

"This may very well be the reason for the murders," Domingo concluded.

He further alluded that in the past certain foremen commented

past certain foremen connected with the union have been part of the gambling scheme, receiving cuts from the gambling as payment for their "assistance."

"The role of the union in this enterprise," Domingo, claimed, "is to insure that certain gangster elements are dispatched to Alaska for the gambling to continue."

These gangsters reportedly act as "musclemen" to the entire system, often using violence and intimidation to protect the gambling interests.

## HUGE SUMS EQUAL BIG SOURCES

In a separate interview August 10, leading spokespersons of the Union of Democratic Filipinos (KDP) posed deeper questions as to why fellow activists Domingo and Viernes were murdered:

"While it seems apparent that gangster elements indeed pulled the trigger on our slain comrades, and that substantial gambling interests were visibly threatened by their reform movement, there are still huge chunks that don't quite fit the puzzle.

One way these gangsters get to the Alaska gambling halls is through the dispatching system. However, assassination plans were reportedly circulated within the underworld circles, even before the list of dispatched workers were made known. Also, these gangster elements manage to circumvent the dispatching procedures, finding their way in the Alaska gambling dens, even after the shootings.

Why then would they have to kill these two union officials?

Why was the assassination committed in broad daylight, when chances of witnesses are even greater?

This leaves us to speculate that the murders were committed with a certain amount of hastiness, triggered by possibly large sums of money in the contracts.

If large sums were involved, it seemed there was a mad rush to accomplish the job before other gangsters could get to it.

If indeed large sums were in-

involved, it could only come from big sources. Could it be the canning industry afraid of the sweeping union reforms generated by the slain union leaders? Or could it be the Marcos regime in the Philippines who could have panicked by these activists' attempts to build closer links between their union and the militant labor movement back home?"

## UNION TRIAL POSTPONED

Meanwhile, the Local 37 Executive Board meeting August 5 postponed the trial of Union President Constantine (Tony) Baruso and Executive Board member Abe Cruz on charges of election fraud to the August 19 mass membership meeting.

The union's Rank and File Committee filed the charges based on an alleged election which supposedly was held sometime mid-June this year, in which Baruso garnered 420 votes "electing" him regional representative to the ILWU International Executive Board.

No one in the union recalled such an election ever having taken place.

Meanwhile, the Rank and File Committee has already begun the recall petition against Baruso. □