

ang KATIPUNAN

West Coast Supplement

San Francisco Gears Up for FWC '80

SAN FRANCISCO—An estimated 400 Filipinos from all over the West Coast and Hawaii are expected to attend the 1980 Filipino People's Far West Convention to be held at the Civic Auditorium of this city, August 29, 30, and 31.

At press time, more than half of these have pre-registered, according to Mr. Raddie Cadorna of the Registration Committee. "All working committees have intensified their preparations as the convention nears. It is so overwhelming and beautiful to see so many number of people moving as one," added Lodia Tejam of the same committee.

"All working committees are example of a very strong unity. Everyone doesn't seem to mind the late working hours and the intensity of the work. Everyone wants to see the convention successful," commented Gerrymon Igtanloc of the Outreach Committee.

Marissa Estabalaya of the Youth Outreach Committee stated, "This is the first time I've seen such cooperation and unity between the youth and adult members of the community. A number of us from the Youth Cursillo Group have learned so much working with them. Most of all, we have learned how to respect each other's opinions and decisions in the process of working together."

The convention, which will be held for three days, will focus its discussion on the issue of immigrant rights. Taken from its theme: "70s: A Decade of Awakening, 80s: A Decade of Action," the convention will attempt to carry an intensified education and sharing of experiences amongst Filipino immigrants. "This process of education and sharing will hopefully lead convention delegates to a more united action in fighting for their rights as immigrants in the next decade," stated Paul Estabalaya co-coordinator of the whole convention.

Presently, convention organizers have launched a "Register a Friend Drive" and small flags or "banderitas" are being distributed all over San Francisco to Filipino community members. The program and workshop descriptions of the convention are as follows:

Friday, AUGUST 29

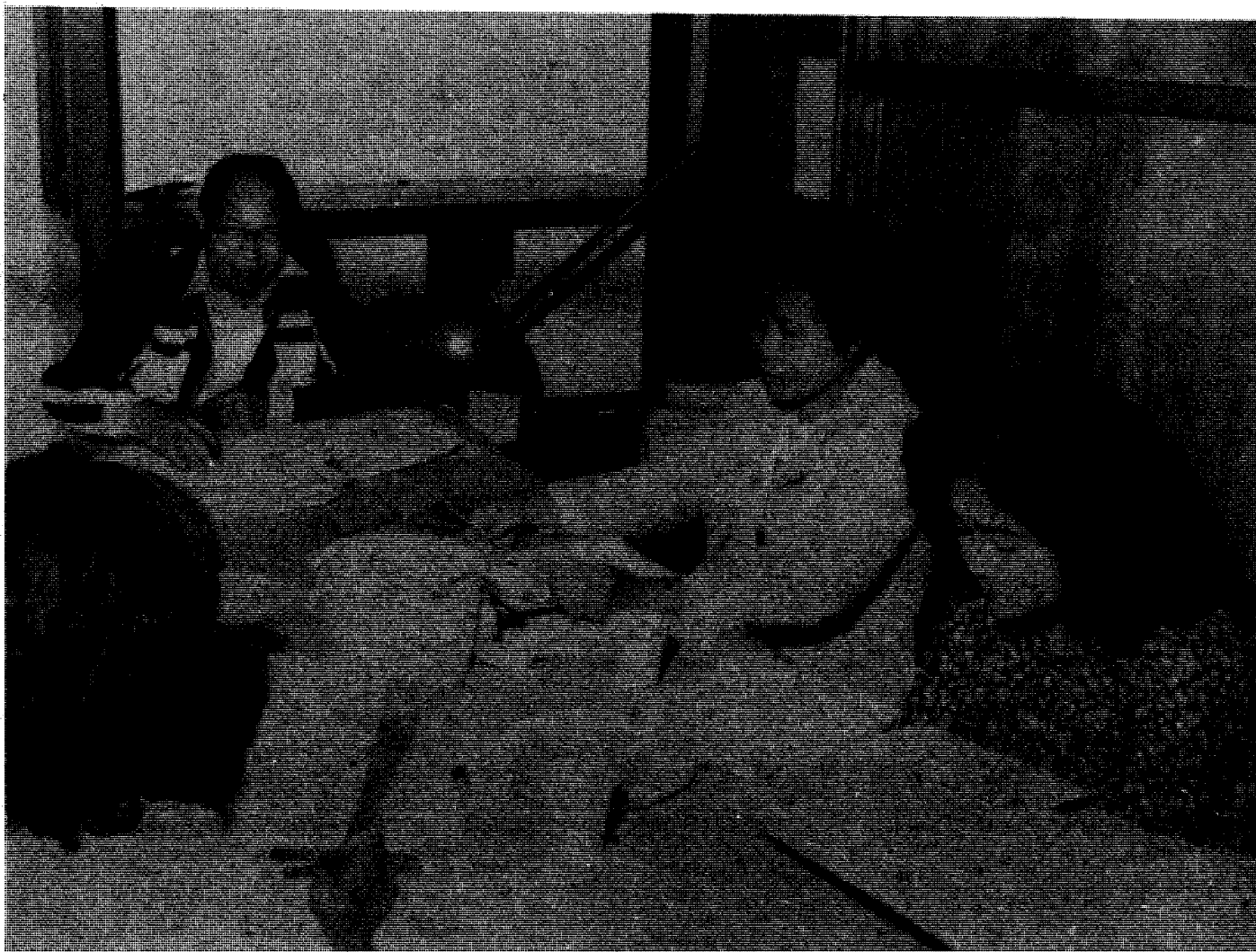
12:00 noon Registration Begins/
Holiday Inn
6:00 p.m. Community Dinner/
Nef Hall, Civic Auditorium
8:00 p.m. Facilitator's Meeting/
Holiday Inn Lounge

Saturday, AUGUST 30

7:30-8:30 a.m. Breakfast/Nef Hall
9:00-11:00 a.m. General Assembly/
Polk Hall, Civic Auditorium
11:00-12 noon Workshop Orientation/
Workshop Rooms, 3rd Floor,
Civic Auditorium
12 noon-1:00 p.m. Lunch, Entertainment,
Walk-a-thon Awards/
Nef Hall
1:00-5:00 p.m. Workshop Sessions
5:00-6:00 p.m. Dinner, Entertainment/
Nef Hall
7:30-10:30 p.m. Cultural Night
Civic Auditorium, Main Arena

Sunday, AUGUST 31:

7:30-8:30 a.m. Breakfast/Nef Hall
9:00-12 noon Workshop Sessions
12 noon-1:00 p.m. Lunch, Delegation
Sharing Check-Out from
Holiday Inn



FWC organizers busily prepare for the convention to be held Labor Day weekend.

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1:00-5:00 p.m. General Assembly/
Polk Hall, Civic Auditorium
5:00-6:00 p.m. Dinner, Delegation
Sharing and Community Singing/
Nef Hall
9:00 p.m. FWC Disco/Civic
Auditorium, Main Arena

Nurses and Medical Workers—The focus of discussion will be on discriminatory licensure and visa problems that face the nurses and medical professionals, H-1 nurses and CGFNS exams are some of the specific issues. Also, joining unions or establishing collective bargaining associations are other issues facing this sector. The growth of the health care industry toward corporate control and its effects on the administration, hospital patient care and the role of the medical professionals are also pressing concerns.

Labor and Union Organizing—A historical review of trade unions will be presented, with focus on the role that Filipinos have played in such unions as the Alaska Canneries, agricultural labor organizing, and domestic and service work. Filipino trade union organizers will share their insights and experiences on how unions affect the Filipino community as part of the working class in America. Specific topics may include the Alaska Cannery union organizing and the recent San Francisco Hotel and Service Workers (Local 2) labor strike.

Youth and Society—Topics to be covered are current pressing issues facing the youth sector of the Filipino community. Suggested areas of discussion may revolve around how the military draft registration affects the youth, how the educational system, neighborhood and social environment lead to problems

such as youth gangs, early school dropouts, and runaways.

Progressive Community Organizing

Organizing for the advancement of the Filipino community around relevant issues will be discussed. Delegates from different areas will share their experiences in organizing progressive community council that address the needs of the Filipino community, which are also involved in community activities that develop the community's consciousness, and assist to organize for their rights and welfare.

Immigration and Immigrant Rights

Discussion will revolve around the experiences of racial and national discrimination that Immigrant Rights Organizations have encountered. Specific topics will concern the SSI elderly who have been harassed by the INS, licensure discrimination toward third preference immigrants, and "English only" policies that have been initiated in San Francisco city office workplaces.

Racism and Affirmative Action

Since the Bakke decision and the recent Weber decision, Affirmative Action programs in employment and education are being stripped away. The workshop discussion will take up the current problems facing the Filipino community as a result of racist attacks on Affirmative Action and other minority programs.

Government Propositions and Cutbacks

Lessons from the Proposition 13 and Proposition 9 tax initiatives will be discussed. The organized community fight against cutbacks to vital social services for the community are suggested topics. Discussion of future cutbacks and how the Filipino community is affected will be done in the context of the overall

attacks on social services, health care, education, and senior citizens programs.

Art and Culture

Discussions will include comparative art in the Philippines and in the U.S., how art reflects the needs and sentiments of the society. Formal presentations of artists' work will be shared and discussed. Also the FWC art display and presentations of the cultural night will be subjects for discussions.

Philippines Today

In relation to the point of unity of the convention that we continue our concern for conditions in the Philippines, the workshop will provide an update on the current social, economic and political situation in the Philippines. Topics of discussion will revolve around the different and alternative views of the conditions in the Philippines. Open forum presentations will be conducted to raise all viewpoints on the subject of the Philippines today.

Senior Citizens Workshop

The Senior Citizens Workshop has been reconsidered by the Preparatory Committee because current pressing issues related to Senior Citizens will be included in the Immigration and Immigrant Rights Workshop and the Government Propositions and Cutbacks Workshop.

Although the Senior Citizens Workshop in the past has had a central focus on problems of the elderly, this year the issues of INS harassment toward elderly SSI beneficiaries and recent threats of funding cutbacks to Senior Citizens programs will undoubtedly draw seniors into different workshops. Therefore, the Senior Citizens workshop has been deleted to avoid problems in workshop overlap. □

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA REGION

L.A. Couple Calls I.N.S. Bluff

By FLORANTE IBANEZ
AK Correspondent

"Do you want these two old people to live in the street?" asked Gloria Ackerson, the granddaughter of two recent SSI exclusion victims.

Their story began on Aug. 29, 1976. Silverio, age 79 and Rufina Bartido, age 74 were both petitioned by their married daughter Candida Bartido Brock. Neither spoke English and brought few belongings. The Bartidos applied for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and started receiving checks in November of the same year.

For various reasons the couple decided to visit the Philippines and stayed there from April 5, 1980 to May 29, 1980. Upon returning by way of Hawaii, Immigration and Naturalization Service Officers (INS) questioned the elderly couple as to why they had stayed over 30 days. Silverio produced a doctor's verification notice that he had suffered congestive heart failure during their visit. When asked if they had ever received SSI, the couple answered yes and promptly their passports and green cards were confiscated.

As requested by the INS, the Bartidos went to the INS Los Angeles office on June 12, where they were accompanied by their granddaughter, Gloria Ackerson, an R.N. There the INS officer threatened that if they re-applied for SSI, they would be deported. Gloria Ackerson then questioned the basis for deportation for receiving SSI.

Gloria: "Who is going to take care of



Silverio and Rufina Bartido nearly lost their SSI benefits.

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these two old people? Are you willing to take care of them? Who is going to buy their medicine?"

INS: "That's not my business. Didn't you and Mrs. Brock sign affidavits of support?"

Gloria: "Yes! But now my aunt (Mrs. Brock) is divorced and has to support four children. I am also divorced and have to support my child and pay for my house. We both pay taxes and that is why we have the Social Service Department for people like my grandparents when they are in need."

INS: "Well, that's not my problem. All I can say is that they face possible deportation if they continue SSI."

Gloria: "Okay, take me to court. But they are going to receive SSI unless you

are going to pay for them. You want these two old people to live on the streets?"

The INS officer then left to get their file. When he returned, however, he gave the old couple their passports and green cards back and told them that if they wanted to risk continuing SSI, that was their choice. Apparently the threat of deportation was just a bluff on the part of the INS to discourage the Bartidos from receiving SSI.

Unfortunately, the case of Silverio and Rufina Bartido is the exception rather than the rule. Most families get intimidated by the INS threats and lose their benefits simply because they are not aware of their legal rights as immigrants. □

L.A. South Bay TEACHERS QUESTION TRANSFERS

"I just can't understand why these Filipino teachers are being transferred when there are so many Filipino students in Area 1."

Dr. John Lingel's (Superintendent of Area 1) reply to this statement was a lengthy one. He cited some 2,000 job cutbacks for the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD), union contracts stipulating keeping teachers with seniority, and comments he had received reports about Filipino teachers' accents and inability to communicate effectively

This dialogue occurred last Aug. 18 at the LAUSD Area 1 office in Gardena. Area 1 covers the communities of Wilmington, Carson, Gardena, and San Pedro. The meeting was initiated by Dr. Rose Algalindo and other teachers after an initial meeting with Mr. Greenwood, a members of the L.A. School Board. The issue at hand was the seemingly senseless transfer of at least 10 Filipino elementary teachers out of Area 1, an area of high concentration of Filipino-speaking children, to Areas 8, 9, and 10, all in San Fernando Valley, 50 miles away at the north end of the sprawling Los Angeles County and with few Filipinos.

Community supporters, Alan Constantino, Tino Andres, and Florante Ibanez, joined the discussion pointing out the increasing immigrant character of the growing community and questioning how affirmative action would be carried out if transfers and layoffs were considered solely on seniority.

Teacher Mila Costa also responded to the "language problem" and stated that she had personally received complimentary comments from others concerning her English. Mary Basmillo added that had it not been for her teaching skills and knowledge of Filipino culture, the two Filipino first graders she tutors voluntarily would probably not have been given the needed help at their school to pass their vocabulary and spelling tests.

In addition, questions were raised as to why the only L.A. Filipino Bilingual/Bicultural program at Hawaiian Avenue School is not being continued and how the community could get this program reinstated.

At the close of the dialogue, Dr. Lingel emphasized his desire to do what he could, but cautioned about the "bureaucracy." The teachers and their community supporters later assessed that the meeting had been fruitful, for at least Lingel understood the problem facing immigrant children and the community's need for Filipino teachers in Area 1. The group, however, knew that any action would probably be small and many would soon be traveling the long distance to their new jobs. At the same time, they felt good that they had stood up and not just taken their transfers lying down. □

Constantino were engaged in a "hug", a euphemism for pushing each other. One witness claimed that Constantino grabbed the microphone from Calzado who was in the middle of a song, which Calzado never mentioned in his testimony. Yet, two witnesses, who were unable to attend the first hearing, appeared during the continuance of the hearing and confirmed that Calzado grabbed the microphone from Constantino which started the disruption during the affair.

Individual opinions of the Committee members will be forthcoming. □

CCDP Presses for Investigation of Calzado

By CRIS TAGAM
AK Correspondent

LOS ANGELES—Marking a first in FACLA's troubled history, an investigation was conducted last Aug. 4 by the center on the attack by Marcos supporter Vincent Calzado on anti-martial law activist Alan Constantino. A protest letter filed by the Coordinating Committee for a Democratic Philippines (CCDP) prompted the creation of a committee to investigate this incident. The committee was composed of FACLA officers Remedios Geaga, Rod Cruzada, and Henry Quema. Witnesses and other interested parties were invited to attend the hearing.

The supposed "impartial" committee was subject to question even before the hearing started. Its very composition belied the image it tried to project—of being impartial. The presence of Henry Quema, a known Marcos diehard and who in a separate incident, supported Calzado's undemocratic proposal to prohibit distribution of literature (specifically anti-martial law materials) at the FACLA, gave the impression that the hearing was going to be one-sided, in favor of Calzado.

The suspicion took a more concrete turn as the event unfolded. One of Quema's first acts was to propose that only those present and eyewitness to the incident be allowed to remain in the hearing and everyone else should be asked to leave because "these people are disruptive." Immediate opposition from the floor and the other committee members killed his motion.

VICTIM BECOMES DEFENDANT (OR CCDP IS PUT ON TRIAL)

Having failed in his blatantly undemo-

cratic proposal, Quema's subsequent moves amounted to harassment of the plaintiff, in this case, Constantino. Presenting a prepared statement on what happened, Constantino was constantly interrupted with interjections on the "motive of the CCDP as an anti-martial law organization" and leading questions such as, "whenever you come to the Center, do you not always bring leaflets with you?" (Constantino—"Not always") "But most of the time you do, don't you?"

Whatever semblance of impartiality Quema tried to project vanished altogether when he verbally denounced Constantino's claim to freedom of speech stating, "you claim your right was violated, but no one can just barge in on an affair and claim to exercise their right, you have to respect authority and ask permission."

The CCDP's main complaint of the manhandling of one of its members because of his political views was covered up by the "more important" issue of a law which supposedly prohibits the distribution of political propaganda in a federally-funded program such as the Senior Citizens' Nutrition Center. When asked to specifically cite this law, not one member of the Panel nor Calzado could do it, a vague and general remark of "It's there in the law" was accepted by the Committee.

This raised the question of what constitutes "political propaganda". Is this solely limited to propaganda that concerns the Philippine issue, specifically anti-martial law propaganda? Are not the issues of affirmative action, school integration, bilingual education, job discrimination, or the presence of Philippine Consul Fernandez at FACLA events

considered "political" in nature? These issues are welcome and, in some instances, progressive stands are taken (e.g. FACLA's endorsement of the resolution on bilingual education and appointment of representatives from FACLA to actively participate in this issue). But as soon as the issue becomes anti-martial law, backward ideas under the guise of "it's political and we cannot allow it" are taken. During the hearing, the CCDP and Constantino were made to appear like disruptive forces that cause nothing but disruption of "peaceful affairs" (in this case, lunch), discounting the fact that these very disruptors are partly responsible for exposing San Jose's ties with the Philippine government and his subsequent downfall, ridding the community of a despotic leader.

On the other hand, Calzado smelled like a rose during the hearing. Questions like "to your knowledge, were these people (Sister Marianni and Constantino) invited?" (Calzado—"No"); "Did he (Constantino) ask permission to use the microphone?" ("No") were asked to ascertain the "truth". When Constantino tried to question Calzado's past manhandling of another anti-martial law activist, the Committee (led by Quema) quickly ruled it as irrelevant to the issue. A panel member, Mrs. Geaga, concerned about the use of violence, asked Calzado, "Could you not have handled this in a more civil manner instead of such a violent reaction?" to which Calzado replied, "I tried to reason with him but he wouldn't ask permission."

Calzado presented two witnesses whose testimonies contradicted each other. One stated that nobody shoved Constantino, he left the premises voluntarily; the other stated that Calzado and

SEATTLE REGION

Everything You Wanted to Know About:

HOW LANDLORDS PROFIT

SEATTLE—They say it's not really the rich against the poor, but more accurately, those who "own" versus those who have to "pay".

And so it is with housing, for while shelter is a basic need, it is also highly profitable business.

Take big real estate developers. They aren't your neighborhood mom 'n pop landlord who promptly fixes your leaky faucet. They are large-scale corporations who own large blocks of buildings throughout Seattle, who buy and sell rows of condominiums and raise rents and demolish housing left and right. This is happening now in Seattle.

These very landlords are screaming bloody murder about the impending rent control law, Initiative 24, to be voted upon in November. They see rent control cutting back on their profits.

If only this were true. The real fact is: rent control cuts into a minor portion of profits made by big landlords. (The small landlord who may own one or two homes depends more on rental income, and Initiative 24 will ensure them adequate profits.)

HOW DO BIG LANDLORDS REALLY PROFIT?

The biggest profits come from what are called income tax "shelters" and selling and refinancing.

There are a myriad of laws designed to ensure your landlord will profit from



ROOF members collect signatures for rent control initiative.

(AK)

simply owning property. Greedy landlords aren't the sole problem (although they certainly exist) but there is an intricate system of laws backing up the unequal relationship between you and your landlord.

Take income tax shelters. Landlords save thousands by showing less income by deducting operating costs (usually exaggerated expenses); property taxes; interest on mortgage; and building depreciation. The latter deduction is most unfair because, while the building may be depreciating in value, the property it sits on is fast increasing, especially in Seattle where land is prime.

Thus, with some fancy figuring a landlord can show little or no income on record and realize huge tax "breaks" to the Internal Revenue Service. So it is really no surprise then, that Boeing Company paid no taxes last year!

A landlord also makes money upon selling the building at triple or more over what his/her original investment was. And who really pays for the building? You do, through your rent payment. Since you pay the property taxes and mortgage payments, in 30 years, you should own the building! But, of course, this isn't how the game is played.

Landlords also multiply their profits

by refinancing; that is, by taking a loan off of their property to buy another piece of property. Through refinancing, landlords can increase the number of property owned over and over again while tenants pay off the loans through rents.

These are the less-known methods of profit in addition to traditional profits made from your rents. So when the big landlords wail about rent control "controlling" all their profits (using more sophisticated arguments of course), we can turn a deaf ear. They are really "sitting pretty" thanks to American capitalism—designed to protect those who own and to keep us paying. □

Reform Caucus Upholds Fair Elections:

Alaska Cannery Workers to Elect Union Officials



Local 37 gears up for elections. Above union members stand outside union hall.

As the well-known Alaska fishing season comes to a conclusion, the Seattle based cannery workers union, Local 37 International Longshoremen and Warehousemen (ILWU) finds itself in the midst of a highly controversial election. The bi-annual election determines who will fill the 17 positions in the Executive Council, representing over 1,500 cannery workers in Alaska. Positions that need to be filled are President/Business Agent, Secretary/Treasurer, Dispatcher, Sergeant-at-Arms, three Trustees, Vice-President and nine members-at-large.

NEED FOR FAIR ELECTIONS

Past elections have cast a cloud of controversy over the ability of the union

to conduct fair elections. In 1972, there were more votes cast than registered voters. Illegal campaigning in the Union Hall has traditionally plagued any effort to conduct fair elections. The 1978 election had the least controversy while the 1980 one is being closely monitored to prevent any illegalities. However, the fear of illegal maneuvers still lingers in the minds of all candidates.

Local 37-ILWU's elections began on July 28 with the return of the first crew from Alaska. At a special mass membership meeting, an election committee consisting of David Della (Chairperson), Charles Hatten and Felipe Dumlaog, were chosen to conduct a fair election.

Della stated, "Fair elections are cru-

cial because they assure the democratic process in the union. This goes against the grain of the legacy and leadership of Local 37 for the past 20 years." Della further emphasized that union members should realize the significance of the elections. He said, "members should exercise their right to elect leadership that truly represents them and thus responds to the needs of all cannery workers."

DEALING WITH APATHY AMONG VOTERS

Gene Viernes, candidate for the Dispatcher post and also chairperson of the Rank and File Committee, a reform caucus within the union, cited some problems in the elections. He said that, "this year's election is one of the most competitive in recent history. However, this may not be apparent because of the problem of limited voter turnout." So far, of the 400 returned Alaskeros, only 200 have voted.

Viernes pointed out that the voter apathy may be rooted within the changing character of the labor force. Recently joining the labor force are young white men and women, recent Filipino immigrants and second-generation Filipino-Americans. This new labor force enters the industry with a limited knowledge of the functions of trade unions. Furthermore, a good number of these new members see themselves as cannery workers only on a short-term basis, staying in the industry for only three to four years. Many of these workers will never vote in this election.

Historically, the union has a rich, militant trade union past. Successful strikes and a democratically run union was the order of the day. However, within the last 20 years, the union has been on a downhill slide. According to Viernes, the previous leadership undermined any semblance of trade union

democracy. The Executive Council seldom met. The day-to-day operations had been lax and inconsistent. "The dispatch procedure became so questionable that even the oldest and most concerned members of the union were ashamed to admit that they were a part of Local 37."

A MORE ACCOUNTABLE LEADERSHIP

The significance of this year's election lies in the growing awareness among older members and concerned members of the need for a more accountable leadership. There is also a rising trend in rank and file involvement and this provides some optimism around the life of the union.

Viernes pointed out that the formation of the Rank and File Committee has been instrumental in generating this growing awareness. Formed over three years ago, the Rank and File Committee has exhibited its leadership in contract negotiations, shop steward training, and day-to-day union operations. "We feel that with our efforts to reform the union, the overall standards for leadership have been substantially raised," stated Viernes. He further stated that, "as the reform caucus challenges the backward practices of the oldstyle leadership—such as the dispatch system where one must be close friends with the leadership or pay a bribe to get dispatched for work—the election becomes more and more controversial."

The election will culminate with the tally of votes on Tuesday, Sept. 30. This two-month voting period will allow as many members as possible to vote upon returning from Alaska. If successfully upheld, fair elections could set a positive trend toward once again making the ILWU Local 37 a strong, democratic union such as it was in the past. □

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA REGION

History of the Filipino People's Far West Convention

This year marks the 10th annual Filipino People's Far West Convention. The FWC has become known and established over the years as a progressive institution which actively builds the genuine unity of the community by educating and mobilizing the community around its concerns and problems.

The first Convention was held in 1970, and was hosted by the San Francisco Filipino community. Born at the height of the Filipino Identity Movement, the first Far West Convention saw the need to uncover, expose and define accurately our true history as Filipinos. The community was coming to grips with the reality that it has been and continues to be subjected to racism in many forms, which has caused many hardships and suffering.

Subsequent Conventions in Seattle, Stockton, San Jose saw the healthy exchange of ideas, experiences and issues of concern. Many of the delegates contributed to the political growth and maturity of the West Coast Filipino



community. The FWC in Los Angeles discussed the problems confronting the community and traced their roots in society.

The 1975 gathering at U.C. Berkeley saw a positive development in the character of the FWC. Projected goals and objectives were defined, establishing the foundation for all conventions that followed. Two basic principles became the points of unity that provided for a broader participation of Filipinos from all waves of immigration, ages, occupations, etc. These two principles are:

1. **To struggle against racial and national discrimination.** This is our recognition that Filipinos as a minority in the U.S. continue to experience racial prejudice and chauvinistic attitudes whether American-born or immigrant.

2. **To take active concern for the existing conditions in the Philippines.** This is a reflection of our ancestral link to the Philippines and our continued concern for the current economic and political instability that directly and indirectly affect us, our friends and our relatives.

With this turning point in the FWC's growth in making a firm commitment to take part in action oriented projects, the years 1975-1979 brought a remarkable impact of the FWC in influencing community involvement on current issues and on efforts toward Filipino unity. The highlights of these years include the following:

1975—a) Creation of the Educational Task Force: Its aim was to study the text books used in California public schools as they relate to Filipinos. The two-year study revealed that Filipinos were portrayed in racist and distorted tones aggravated by historical inaccuracies.

Despite recommendations to Sacramento, the majority of these books continue to be used in California! b) The beginning of relevant artistic and cultural theatrical plays was launched through the convention with the production of "Isuda Ti Immuna—They Who Were First." Since then, these plays have become very popular with the Filipino community.

1976—A resolution was made to support the struggle to maintain the International Hotel, an inexpensive housing for the poor and elderly located in the Chinatown/Manilatown region of San Francisco.

1977—The FPFWC (San Diego) unanimously adopted a resolution to educate and mobilize support from the Filipino community in the infamous case of the two innocent Filipino nurses, Narciso and Perez, who were framed by the FBI and the V.A. Hospital in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Through the national network initiated by the FPFWC's, the Filipino community proved that it could organize and move on issues on a local and national scope. This was confirmed by the acquittal of Narciso and Perez after 40,000 signatures were obtained and by the hard work in educating the public.

1978—The Los Angeles community recognized the plight of foreign nurse graduates from the Philippines who faced existing licensure practice from the American Nursing Association that were insensitive and needed to be altered. It was resolved in this FWC that support for the National Alliance for Fair Nurse Licensure for Foreign Nurse Graduates (NAFL-FNG) be established. Since then, the NAFL-FNG has made great strides on behalf of these nurses. Local chapters have been established throughout the U.S.

1979—a) The case of Dr. Bienvenido Alona, a Filipino physician in the Navy accused of negligence in a perjury case, was taken up by the FWC to obtain community support against another example of a racist frame-up. Through the determined efforts of the FWC, a strong national defense movement developed on behalf of Dr. Alona. The defense movement's successful impact was demonstrated when the case against Dr. Alona was dismissed on Nov. 14, 1979.

b) Formation of the National Task Force for the Defense of Filipino Immigrant Rights: This group is resolved to investigate the recent waves of Immigration and Naturalization Service harassment of so called "illegal aliens" that relate to Filipinos. Its aim is to educate and mobilize support for the defense of Filipino immigrants.

1980—Immigrant rights continues to be a special focus for this year's convention. The San Francisco Bay Area has the largest concentration of Filipino immigrants in the U.S. The FWC this year addresses the problems of the recent immigrant, who has come at a time when the socio-economic conditions are worsening. Such problems encountered include restrictive licensing procedures, fierce competition over jobs, inflation, and declining conditions in the areas of housing, health care, social services, and education. With the 10th anniversary of the FPFWC and a new decade dedicated towards ACTION, we hope to provide an open forum for the exchange of ideas as a means of educating and raising the social awareness of our people. With this hope, we will try to unite ourselves to work on the main issue of immigrant rights which is so pertinent to our community. □



Sining Bayan company members rehearse.

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SAN FRANCISCO—As its special contribution to the 10th Annual Filipino People's Far West Convention (FPFWC) the Sining Bayan Theatre Company will premier the one-act play entitled "Huwad na Pangarap" (False Dreams), August 30, 1980 at the Civic Auditorium.

The play will be featured at the FPFWC "Cultural Night '80," which also slate other well-known Filipino artists: Robert Kikuchi, a Filipino/Japanese-American songwriter; Valorie Ditton, a Los Angeles poet; Sal Morano, a Los Angeles poet; Solome Sarmiento and Arnita Fermin, Bay Area dance artists.

ABOUT THE PLAY

Especially written by Sining Bayan for this year's FWC, "Huwad na Pangarap" depicts the experiences of third wave immigrants, those who arrived in the U.S. from 1965 until the present.

Combining drama and music, the play portrays the immigrant's hopes, dreams and expectations of America, a common experience shared by newly-arrived immigrants. Confronted by the hardships of reality in this country, the immigrant grapples with the need to resolve the gap between his aspirations and the conditions he face as a worker in America.

The hour-long play will be performed by the following: Andy Rocco as Marianing; Gil Lazaro portraying two characters, Ruben and Romy; Kathy Grey as Carmen and Lola; Tessie Guillermo as Tessie; and Venny Villapando as the Narrator. Other members of Sining Bayan involved in the production include Raymond Camacho, Director; Roland Anolin, Technical producer; Bernard Ordona, Musical Director; and various

other members assisting in certain aspects of the production.

SINING BAYAN, PROGRESSIVE THEATRE GROUP

For the past three years, Sining Bayan has been establishing its reputation as a progressive Filipino theater company, drawing its materials from the political-social conditions in the Philippines and Filipino immigrant experiences and struggles in the U.S.-based Filipino community.

Its past production include: *Isuda Ti Immuna* ("They Who Came First"), a play depicting the experiences of first-wave immigrants; "The Frame-Up of Narciso-Perez," a short musical act about two Filipino nurses charged of murdering patients at an Ann Arbor VA hospital; "People's Trial of Pres. Marcos," an anti-martial law play indicting the Philippine dictator of crimes against the Filipino people; "Sakada," a play performed at the 1978 FWC in Los Angeles; "Visions of a War Bride," a musical play about second-wave immigrants premiered at last year's Convention in Sacramento; and "Mindanao," a play depicting the struggles of the Philippine Moro people. Sining Bayan brought "Mindanao" on a national tour last year, and performed before Filipino audiences in 11 different cities and in three Canadian cities.

"Huwad na Pangarap" will be the main highlight of "Cultural Night '80," which starts 7:30 p.m. at the Civic Auditorium, Grove Street (between Polk and Larkin). For more information, call Bobbie Camacho at 835-1476 or 465-9876. □

