

Seattle Murder Trial Begins:

CONSPIRACY EYED IN UNION KILLINGS

Special to the AK

SEATTLE—The state prosecutor, in the criminal trial of the accused murderers of two prominent Local 37 union leaders, unveiled a complex conspiracy, involving gambling interests and gangsters, as the backdrop to the June 1 slayings.

The much-awaited trial started August 17 before King County Superior Court Judge Lloyd Bever.

In her opening statement, Deputy Prosecutor Joanne Maida claimed the slain union officials—Silme Domingo and Gene Viernes, both 29—were “executed,” and that defendants Jaime Bulosan Ramil, 29, and Pompeyo Benito Guloy, Jr., 22, “acted on the orders of other people.”

At the trial, she implicated Constantine “Tony” Baruso, 53, President of ILWU Local 37;

BARUSO FACES UNION TRIAL . . . SEE PAGE 6

and Tony Dictado, leader of the notorious “Tulisan” (Tagalog for bandit) gang, as possible conspirators in the murder case.

Maida charged that Ramil and Guloy—facing two counts of aggravated murder—are Tulisan gang members, who carried out a professional “hit” on union reform leaders Domingo and Viernes, inside the Local 37 union hall in broad daylight.

GAMBLING INTERESTS, GANGSTERS LINKED

“Gene Viernes and Silme Domingo were eliminated in execution fashion . . .,” Maida stressed, “because they were attempting to

enforce a policy that rejected bribery, extortion and threats.”

Domingo and Viernes, secretary-treasurer and dispatcher respectively, of the Alaska Cannery Workers Union Local 37 (ILWU), had just begun to implement a major reform of the union’s dispatch system before the double-slayings occurred. They established a seniority system for job dispatching, which was previously the source of bribes to corrupt union officials.

The old dispatch system was also used “to facilitate the smooth running of illegal gambling at the Alaska canneries.”

“Under the new rules, members of Tulisan had no seniority,” Maida stated. “Most of them were at the third preference level, so they were unable to get up to Alaska to enforce the operation.”

“The Tulisan was getting increasingly angry at the dispatcher because its members were being left behind,” Maida revealed.

In her statement, Maida said Dictado’s gang of “young toughs” provided strong-arm protection for covert gambling run by Filipinos in Seattle’s Chinatown.

In addition, the illegal gambling was carried on during the fish canning season in Alaska, where Tulisan “guards” collected commissions of up to \$1,500 from cannery foremen, who often ran the high stakes games.

PROSECUTOR’S THEORY BACKED

The Committee for Justice for Domingo and Viernes recently provided a similar backdrop to

Continued on page 5



Ramil (right)



Guloy (left)



Deputy Prosecutor Joanne Maida

Mayors at Berkeley Seminar:

Debate Exposes UC Aid to Marcos

By V. VILLAPANDO
Staff Writer



UC's Peter Hall



PSN's Joel Rocamora

BERKELEY, CA—The 22 mayors from the Philippines who are on a month-long U.S. AID- (Agency for International Development) sponsored seminar, sparked more heat within the university campus where the training is being held.

A debate August 12 at UC Berkeley’s Dwinelle Hall pitted Marcos regime opponents against a University of California spokesperson. The two sides debated the political impact of the controversial Philippine Mayors Training

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Firming Up R.P.-U.S.-China Ties:

China’s Premier Echoes Reagan Policy

By NANCY ROCAMORA
Staff Writer

“China Promises Not to Aid Local Maoists!” screamed headlines of major Philippine newspapers last August 10.

The *Daily Express*, *Times Journal* and *Bulletin Today* were all reporting with enthusiasm the just-completed visit of Premier Zhao Zi-Yang to Manila. Zhao, arriving on August 6, spent

three intense days in meeting with President Ferdinand Marcos on political and trade relations.

The Chinese premier was on a journey to three key ASEAN nations. He left Manila August 9 for Kuala Lumpur with plans to proceed to Singapore.

A FAMILIAR MESSAGE

Zhao’s key message in Manila to both the heads of ASEAN states and the Filipino people

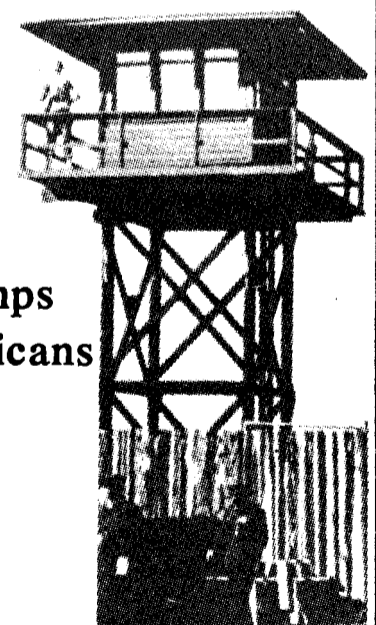
sounded surprisingly familiar. “The tension and turbulence in Southeast Asia is caused by Soviet hegemonism,” the Chinese premier told a Malacanang press conference. “If Vietnam should be allowed to continue its expansion, the next target will be other countries in Southeast Asia,” he added.

The premier’s description of the world balance of forces and

Continued on page 4



Zhao bids farewell to President and Mrs. Marcos after three-day Manila visit. (Daily Express)



U.S. World War II Concentration Camps for Japanese-Americans . . . See page 7

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EDITORIALS/OPINIONS

SPOILING FOR A FIGHT WITH LIBYA

The recent U.S. downing of two Libyan planes in the Gulf of Sidra underscored the Reagan administration's aggressive attempt to regain America's "lost glory" and to bully the rest of the world into submitting to its domination.

The Reagan administration was clearly spoiling for a fight, highly aware of the provocative nature of conducting war games just off the Libyan coast. Libya, a radical Arab state hostile to U.S. foreign policy, could not possibly have been overjoyed at the presence of two carrier battle groups totalling 16 ships and 100 aircraft perilously close to home. In addition, the maneuver came just weeks after recent revelations of a CIA plan to assassinate Libya's head of state, Moammar Khadafy.

The incident itself also highlights the trigger-happy posture of the U.S. military. According to press reports—often buried in the back pages of U.S. newspapers—the Libyan "attack" on the U.S. planes was highly overplayed. These reports indicate that one U.S. plane was above the Libyan plane that fired the rocket and that the other U.S. plane was well to the side of the Libyan—that "there was no possibility to hit" either of the U.S. planes. This leads to speculation that the firing was probably accidental or was meant only as a warning shot. Yet the U.S. jets pounced on the Libyans.

The incident was followed by an outpouring of chauvinism and sabre-rattling, typified by Senator J. Bennet Johnston (D-LA). "Frankly," remarked the senator, "I think we sent a fleet in there to provoke an incident and provoke an incident we did. And we, in effect, won. I think that's very proper." President Reagan issued similar remarks, saying that the incident showed that "America has the muscle to back up its word."

And what is that word? That the "Free World" must remain under America's hegemony. That America will not tolerate countries seeking or asserting their independence from the U.S. orbit.

Like the Gulf of Tonkin incident which "justified" the U.S. war in Vietnam, the recent Libyan incident presages the Reagan administration's "John Wayne" foreign policy—a policy of national supremacy, jingoism and intervention against peoples and countries trying to break free from U.S. domination. □

American Held in Colombia:

The U.S. Paid for His Torture

They hit him in places where it would not show—the chest, the belly, the back, and the kidneys. For three days he was not given any food. He was always blindfolded. They burned parts of his body with cigarette butts. They tortured his friend in his presence, applying electric shocks to the genitals to force him to give information.

This torture scene might as well have taken place somewhere near Manila, in a safehouse run by Marcos' intelligence agents. Actually, it took place in Colombia and the victim was Larry Johnson, a San Francisco freelance writer. The KDP worked closely with Larry two years ago when he was covering the Philippine resistance movement for *Mother Jones* magazine. He was on a similar assignment in Colombia when arrested by the political police. Larry was released only after hundreds of telegrams were sent to the Colombian government by his friends here.

If the methods and behavior of the Colombian and Philippine intelligence apparatuses seem uncannily similar, there is a good explanation for it. The intelligence arms of the "Free World's" military and police forces have been trained by a common mentor: the U.S. intelligence network.

The notorious International Police Academy of the 60s and the present corps of U.S. military and "public order" technical advisers have systematically passed on to pro-U.S. regimes advanced intelligence-gathering techniques. These include of course, the methodical application of physical and psychological terror on suspected dissidents. Such assistance is part of the U.S. aid these regimes get. Thus, it makes it even more painful to realize that Larry, in effect, partially financed his own torture through the taxes he has paid as an American.

In relating his gruesome experience, Larry inevitably focuses on one particularly revolting aspect. He says, "The one thing my torturers bragged about is that as long as President Reagan continues his policy of supporting dictatorships—next year we will give Colombia \$125 million—the longer the tortures will continue."

Colombia's torture parlors are not the only places that glow with such optimism. It should be noted that soon after Reagan announced his unqualified support for the



MARCOS' POST-ELECTION STRATEGY

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

fellow nurses be driven out of the profession because "those foreigners" couldn't pass an exam that's meant to drive them out in the first place.

H. S., RN
Chicago, IL

GIVE US A PIECE OF YOUR MIND

We welcome our readers' opinions, encouragement and criticisms—so write to us. As much as possible keep it to two or three short paragraphs. We edit letters mainly for brevity but we try very hard to maintain their essence. Our network of readers surely appreciate the views aired out in this space—so speak out.

The Great Escape

More and more Filipinos are escaping poverty by working abroad. There are probably several thousands, maybe hundreds of thousands, earning a living in the Middle East, Australia, Africa, and God-knows-where. Can you report on their living and working conditions? What is the long-term effect of this exodus on our economy?

Consuelo Heine
Ann Arbor, MI

Backgrounder

I enjoyed Vince Reyes' article on the riots in Britain (*AK, Aug. 1-15*). It is a compact backgrounder, just like the other articles that have appeared in your paper. It is one way I can learn about the current events in other parts of the world and here. Keep it up.

Bart Grajo II
Daly City, CA

How Incredible

Now that a private firm has confirmed that the nurses State Board exam is discriminatory what has the California Nurses Association said about it? These upper-level nurses are so blinded by color prejudice it's incredible. Imagine asking that your

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Marcos dictatorship (with Vice-President Bush saying he "loves" Marcos' "adherence to democratic principles"), the incidence of torture and liquidation especially in Philippine rural areas rose sharply. It is still rising.

Larry's words are instructive. The Reagan administration's aggressive campaign to "strengthen the Free

World under America's leadership" is warming many a tyrant's heart from Manila to Seoul to El Salvador. Thus, we can only expect this "Free World's" repressive regimes to become more merciless in their adherence to the horrifying "democratic principles" Vice-President Bush loves so much. □

PHILIPPINE NEWS

Harsher Strike Ban Expected



Philippine hotel workers on strike: Almost a strike per day since the January 17 "lifting" of martial law. (AK File Photo)

A bill which contains harsher anti-strike provisions is expected to pass the National Assembly soon.

Cabinet Bill No. 45 (CB 45) has been formally adopted as a "party bill" by the Kilusang Bagong Lipunan (KBL), Labor and Employment Minister Blas Ople announced recently. This virtually assures its passage as the KBL dominates the assembly.

CB 45, also known as the Industrial Relations Act has been hotly opposed by militant trade unions since its introduction early April. The main target of opposition has been the bill's anti-strike clauses. Militant unions want the complete restoration of the right to strike.

WILL REPLACE PD 823

CB 45, when passed, will replace Presidential Decree No. 823 (PD 823) which bans strikes in "vital industries." Approximately 95% of all companies fall under PD 823's definition of "vital industries."

Like all decrees and letters of instructions issued by Ferdinand Marcos under martial law, PD 823 has remained law despite the "lifting" of martial law last January.

CB 45 purportedly reduces the list of vital industries. The new bill bans strikes only in industries

"affecting the national interest."

The new definition, however, still embraces a large percentage of the nation's industries including utility and energy-related companies, banks, hospitals, and manufacturing companies in export processing zones.

Furthermore, the President can certify any strike as "affecting the national interest" and thus subject it to compulsory arbitration by the Minister of Labor.

LOCK-OUTS SANCTIONED

While continuing to prohibit strikes in many industries and allowing the President to term any industry "vital," the bill further reduces the few worker protection provisions left under PD 823.

Under CB 45, employee termination need not be cleared with the Ministry of Labor. This gives management the broad power to resort to lock-outs—closing parts of or entire factories. This power includes the dismissal of "illegal" strikers.

Thus, already facing stiff competition for jobs, workers will soon face the risk of losing their posts when they strike.

In addition, union registration of striking workers will automatically be revoked. Strikers will be prosecuted under criminal laws and will also be subject to im-

prisonment or fines.

BUSINESS
'DISAPPOINTED'

Despite CB 45's already strict anti-strike provisions, business sectors still express unhappiness over the bill.

The Employers Confederation of the Philippines (ECP), through its vice-president Benildo Hernandez, opposes the termination clause requiring severance pay to workers who are laid off. Such provision was not in the old law, he said.

Hernandez also said that while the ECP "can live with basic provisions of the bill . . . matters concerning the conditions and discipline of employees should be left to employers."

PRO-FM UNION PAYS
LIP SERVICE

The government-backed Trade Union Council of the Philippines (TUCP), backs the proposed bill while voicing mild apprehensions over the bill's clause giving the Labor Minister the power to call for compulsory arbitration in labor-management disputes.

"Ople," a TUCP executive was quoted, "has been sympathetic to us, but what if we get an unscrupulous minister?"

WORKERS PROTEST

Workers, hit hard by PD 823 and soon by CB 45, have continually protested the bill's passage.

Some 200 workers joined a Kilusang Mayo Uno (KMU) led picket May 29 in front of the Army/Navy Club as deliberations on the bill went on inside.

Recorded strikes have also averaged one per day since the lifting of martial law in January. Most of these strikes were in "vital industries" and were partly aimed to assert the right to strike regardless of legal prohibitions.

"Workers' right to strike can only be asserted by the actual act of striking and not by any form of legislation," declared one underground publication. □

ENRILE ORDERS MILITARY
OFFENSIVE IN AKLAN

Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile has ordered a full military operation in Aklan, a province in the Visayan region.

The command was issued after the New People's Army (NPA) raided the municipal hall of Nabas, Aklan. The raid resulted in the destruction of the hall. All 16 NPA fighters escaped taking two government firearms after a 30-minute gun battle with the town police. □

FM BAILS OUT
ANOTHER TOP FIRM

In another major rescue effort, the Marcos government has pumped millions of dollars into a top investment house hard hit by the Dewey Dee scandal.

The government's Land Bank of the Philippines has injected \$17.6 million into a new commercial bank being formed by Bancom Development Corp., and three subsidiaries. Land Bank will control 70% of the capital invested and have a majority vote on the new bank's board of directors.

As an investment house, Bancom made its profits by relending government and foreign money to investors in the money market for short-term and high-interest yielding loans. But last February, with the disappearance of Dewey Dee, a Filipino-Chinese textile magnate, Bancom suffered devastating losses. Dee left over \$80 million in unpaid debts with Bancom as the principal underwriter and is now reported to be in hiding in Haiti. The scandal caused a temporary panic throughout the whole investment system forcing a near collapse.

To prevent this, the Central Bank of the Philippines stepped in with \$270 million to keep affected banks and finance houses afloat. Bancom was bailed out with \$106 million. The loans were called "gravy train" because of the low 11% interest rates compared to the standard commercial 20%.

But in the aftermath of the Dee incident, investors grew leery of investment houses and began to shift their funds into conventional commercial banks as a safeguard. Bancom, once the country's biggest investment house, was never able to get back on its feet. With a new, commercial bank, however, Bancom will have access to more diversified operations with access to savings deposit funds to make it more stable. □

FM LOYALIST APPOINTED
AFP CHIEF-OF-STAFF

Major Gen. Fabian C. Ver has been appointed Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines by President Marcos. Ver, head of the Presidential Security Command and the National Intelligence and Security Agency (NISA) replaced retiring Gen. Romeo Espino August 15.

Marcos also appointed Maj. Gen. Fidel V. Ramos, currently chief of the Philippine Constabulary and the Integrated National Police, Vice Chief of Staff.

Ver, a close cousin of Marcos, is considered Marcos' man in the military. Since 1966, he has risen from relative obscurity to high military posts by-passing many senior officers. Unlike most high-ranking officers who started at the Philippine Military Academy, Ver has always been considered an "outsider" because of his start in college ROTC training. He has never held any field command experience other than his initial World War II battle experience.

Ver's rise in the military has taken place solely in Malacañang through the presidential guard. In 1973, with the formation of NISA, Marcos appointed him to head it up, a position he held simultaneously with his command of the presidential guard. Ver also has earned the reputation of being fanatically loyal to Marcos. The units he commands have also figured in numerous complaints of tortures of political dissenters.

MAJOR POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS

Ver's appointment indicates Marcos' intention to exercise continued tight control of the military. Under the new arrangement, Ver will continue to act as NISA chief and Presidential Guard Commander while serving as Chief-of-Staff. This means that he will simultaneously exercise direct control over several thousand troops stationed in and around Manila, control the secret police and maintain overall command of the military. He has already announced plans for a major shake-up of military commands.

The move cuts directly into the power of Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile, known to have a powerful faction of his own within the military.

The choice of Ver over Ramos sends a clear signal to Philippine watchers that, while Marcos is willing to appoint technocrats to cabinet posts, he will continue to exercise direct and personal control over the government.

Ramos, although a Marcos supporter, is seen primarily as a professional soldier who rose through the ranks. He is a PMA graduate and is highly favored by U.S. government and military figures. □



Gen. Fabian Ver

Assaulting 'What is Left of Press Freedom':

Editor Forced to Resign

By E. DeGUZMAN
Staff Writer

Justice Ministry and election officials last month forced the editor of a leading English-language magazine in Manila to resign.

Letty Jimenez-Magsanoc, editor of *Panorama*, the largest weekly in the country, was pressured to give up her post as a result of an article she wrote which was mildly critical of Marcos.

Her controversial story was entitled "There Goes the New Society, Welcome the New Republic," in reference to Marcos' proclamation of a "New Republic" following his inauguration. It appeared on the July 12 issue of *Panorama*. The article criticized the Presidential election and the plebiscites before and after the so-called "lifting" of martial law.

Both the June 16 election and

the plebiscite she said, "were marked by suspicions of connivance, corruption and dishonest counting of votes." She added, "The problem is a Marcos who with all his powers is powerless before corruption and corruptors."

Reacting to the mild and often veiled criticisms in her article, Justice Ministry and COMELEC officials threatened to take action against Magsanoc if she did not make a public apology.

STUDENT PROTEST

In protest against her forced resignation, 30 student journalists and editors of various university newspapers organized a picket outside the Justice Ministry.

Their organization, the College Editors Guild of the Philippines, called the ouster a "blatant assault against what is left of press freedom in the country." Twenty uniformed and undercover policemen in four squad cars monitored the peaceful demonstration.

In a letter of resignation she sent to her publisher, *Bulletin Today*, Magsanoc said she could not understand, "why in the performance of their duty, men who have emerged from the war with 28 medals should fear free expression of ideas," a reference of Marcos who claims to have been a guerilla hero in World War II.

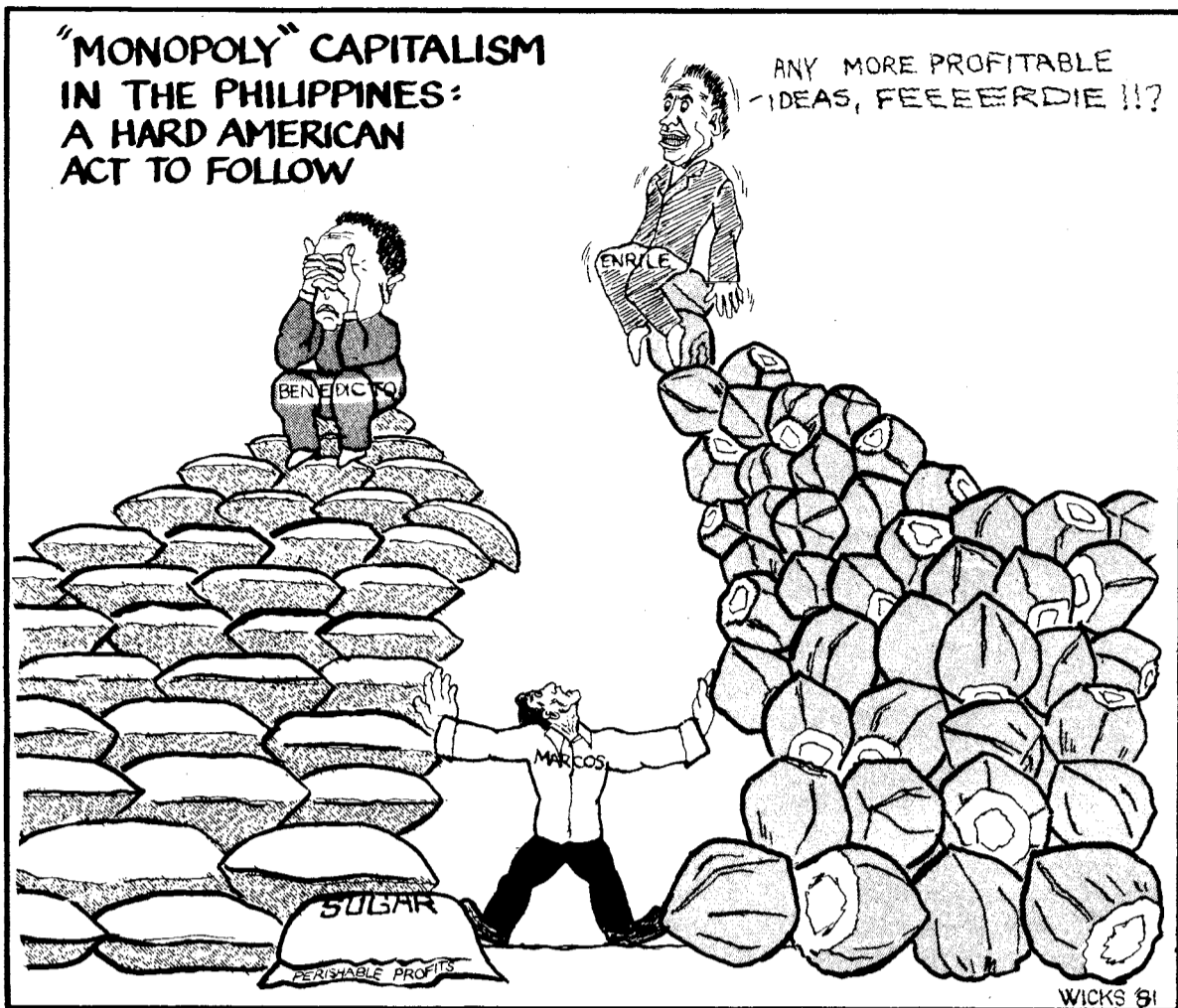
MEDIA CRACKDOWN?

Magsanoc's ouster is the second open assault on the media since Marcos' "re-election." In one showdown last June, a radio newsman was beaten up by a mayor and his bodyguards right in the middle of a televised interview (see *AK, Vol. VIII, No. 14*).

Both these instances occurred since the so-called "lifting" of martial law. The trend suggest a possible new crackdown on human rights in the wake of the Reagan administration's support for the regime. □

'COCOPEC' Fails:

FM's Coconut Bosses Face Anti-Trust Suits



By NANCY ROCAMORA
Staff Writer

Once again, big-time Philippine businessmen have gotten caught with their hands in the cookie jar.

This time it is none other than Philippine coconut king Eduardo Cojuangco, President of the United Coconut Oil Mills or UNICOM.

Indirectly involved is the powerful Philippine Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile, board chairman of both UNICOM and the United Coconut Planters Bank (UCPB) which owns the giant coconut milling monopoly.

UNICOM, UCPB, a closely affiliated Philippine oil milling company and three U.S. marketing arms face lawsuits in U.S. courts on charges of conspiring to create a worldwide artificial shortage of oil between October 1979 and March 1980.

COCOPEC

The U.S. Justice Department filed suit early this year, under California anti-trust laws, against Pan-Pacific Commodities, Granex Corp., and Crown Oil Corp., the three U.S. marketing arms. The Justice Department simply hopes to prevent them from repeating their alleged violations.

But one private corporation

has sued the Philippine principals for damages to the tune of \$100 million. Three other U.S. companies have brought substantial lawsuits as well.

Beneath the tangled reports of price propping, lies a scheme which coconut industry executives have dubbed "COCOPEC"—after the international oil cartel. Details of the plan were revealed to the U.S. government and the press by former Pan Pacific executive Rafael G. Fernando.

THE UNICOM MONOPOLY

COCOPEC came into being in October 1979, shortly after the creation of UNICOM.

UNICOM, a private company, was created by presidential decree in September of that year. To the surprise of many, Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos swiftly ordered all coconut milling companies to sell out to or affiliate with UNICOM.

Under the control of Enrile and Cojuangco, UNICOM was able to control, almost overnight, 90 percent of Philippine coconut oil milling capacity. With these top cronies at the helm UNICOM was the final step in achieving complete monopoly over the Philippine coconut in-

dustry for Marcos and company (see AK, Vol. VI, No. 20).

PRICE SLIDE

At the time of the COCOPEC venture, the Philippines held a unique position as a producer of more than 80 percent of the coconut oil traded on the international market.

By September 1979, however, the price was on its way down from a high of 53¢ a pound in July. By October, it had sunk to 40¢.

Fernando reports that in October, he received orders to buy thousands of tons of coconut oil and hold it until the price reached 42¢. By January 1980, Fernando's company alone was holding more than what the entire U.S. consumes in one month.

Fernando claims that the hoarding orders came from Douglas Lu Ym, UNICOM Executive Vice-President for Marketing, with Cojuangco participating in the decisions. The two were convinced that by hanging on to the bulk of the world's coconut oil, they could drive up the price of their product.

DEATHBLOW TO COCOPEC

But coconut oil is not petro-

leum. It does not keep the engines turning and, as one of many vegetable oils, it is highly exchangeable.

While COCOPEC began to look shaky as early as December, on January 7, 1980, it received a deathblow. On that date, the U.S. imposed a grain embargo against the Soviet Union in response to the Afghanistan situation.

The grain market was suddenly flooded with embargoed soybeans—an ideal substitute for coconut oil in many of its uses. By April, the U.S. price of coconut oil had plunged to 25¢ a pound, from which it has barely recovered today.

After having paid soaring bills for months, Pan Pacific finally sold its holdings at a huge loss. Fernando estimates his company lost \$10 million or more.

LONG-TERM DAMAGE

Fernando and others claim that COCOPEC has done long-term damage to the Philippine coconut industry. U.S. buyers have found new markets in Sri Lanka, Indonesia and Micronesia. The Philippine percentage of the U.S. market fell to 84 percent in 1979 from 96 percent in 1978.

Finally, hoarding helped to cut the per kilo cost of copra paid by millers to coconut farmers by more than half. One-third of the Philippine population—15 million people—depends either wholly

or partially on the coconut industry for its livelihood.

FOLLOWING BENEDICTO'S FOOTSTEP

Market manipulation by Marcos and company is nothing new. Philippine sugar baron and Marcos crony Roberto Benedicto tried to do the same with sugar in 1974. As head of PhilSuCom (Philippine Sugar Commission), he ordered that year's entire Philippine sugar crop held in warehouses, swimming pools and tennis courts waiting for the price to climb (see AK, Vol. VI, No. 21).

When the bottom fell out of the sugar market, it left the Philippine sugar industry in shambles. It has never fully recovered.

WHY NOT SUE OPEC?

Philippine coconut executives are irritated over the legal action against them. While denying the charges, they call the U.S. hypocritical. Why sue them and not sue OPEC, they asked?

Roberto Benedicto, when he chose to hoard sugar, was wise enough to do so in Philippine swimming pools and tennis courts. OPEC manages to control the oil market without stepping on any legal toes.

COCOPEC chose to hoard its product on foreign soil, violating the legal niceties of another country's anti-trust law. But most important COCOPEC and those behind it got caught red-handed. □



One-third of the Filipino people depend wholly or partially on coconut for their survival. (SEAResource Center)

China Echoes U.S. Policy . . .

Continued from page 1

the political situation in the region ran almost word for word, like a replay of the message delivered to the ASEAN summit by U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig.

Haig, visiting Manila last June, essentially told the ASEAN leaders: watch out for the Soviets; the Vietnamese are Soviet agents; the Kampuchean situation is an example of Vietnamese expansionism; and ASEAN nations must unite with the U.S. to fight the Soviet threat.

To underscore the parallels between U.S. and Chinese foreign policy, Zhao called for a "joint struggle waged by China, ASEAN countries, Japan, the United States, Australia, and New Zealand against Soviet aggression and expansion."

DENYING SUPPORT FOR LOCAL REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENTS

The Manila media straight-facedly capitalized on the obvious irony of Zhao's comments. "Chinese Premier Zhao Zi-Yang yesterday warned Southeast Asian

nations against increasing threats of communist subversion and aggression in the region," led the *Daily Express'* front-page article August 10.

The newspapers may not have batted an eyelash as a Communist head of state warned of communist subversion. But regional politics demanded that Zhao elaborate further on China's relationship with the revolutionary movements in the ASEAN nations.

"Communist parties of any country are only the internal affairs of the countries concerned,"

the Chinese premier told the press. Handling the problem is an internal matter as well. "China," he added, "will not interfere."

Zhao further assured Marcos that China's relations with communist groups in the region dated back before China's establishment of diplomatic relations with various states. Such ties, he explained, were "merely political and moral in character."

"PROBLEMS LEFT OVER FROM HISTORY"

Observers of the Philippine scene noted that the timing of the Zhao visit—coming in the wake of the ASEAN summit, Haig's visit, the Marcos inauguration and U.S. Vice-President George Bush's message of U.S. support to the dictatorship—indicated the

playing out of a joint U.S.-China foreign policy or a U.S.-China alliance.

Haig and Zhao both spelled out their aim of developing ASEAN as a bulwark against "Soviet aggression" in the region. Haig, however, like Marcos, referred to the growing resistance as part of the wave of "international terrorism" which the new aggressive foreign policy sees as its chief enemy.

Zhao, on the other hand, directing the message of containment at Vietnam dismissed the Philippine revolution as a mild embarrassment out of China's past. "China has done its utmost," he said, "to try to solve the problems left over from history in our relations with the Communist parties of these countries." □

FILIPINO COMMUNITY NEWS

FWC EXPECTS 400 DELEGATES

Special to the AK

SEATTLE—The 1981 Filipino People's Far West Convention (FPFWC) organizers announced August 21 its featured panel speakers for the three-day confab September 4, 5 and 6 at the Seattle University campus.

Some 400 delegates are expected to attend the convention, coming from Los Angeles, San Diego, Sacramento, San Jose, San Francisco and Oakland. In addition, Filipinos from neighboring Vancouver, Canada are participating in the conference for the first time.

Elaine Ko, Director of the International District Housing Alliance and co-chairperson of the Committee for Justice for Silme Domingo and Gene Viernes, has been designated keynote speaker for this year's FWC.

Ko gained prominence fighting for the housing needs in Seattle's International District, which includes a sizeable number of Filipino elderly.

"We are privileged to have Ms. Ko as our keynote speaker," said Leni Marin, FWC Co-ordinator, "especially since the convention is dedicated to the lives and work of Silme and Gene, whose contributions she is very familiar with."

PANELISTS ON CRUCIAL ISSUES

According to Lillian Galeo, member of the FWC Programs



Walden Bello

Committee, panel speakers were selected "on the basis of their extensive work in minority communities, as well as their actual organizing and education work around pressing issues confronting their communities."

Among the featured panel speakers are:

• **Dr. Edwin Almirol, Ph.D.**, Professor of Asian-American Studies at the University of California, Davis and Berkeley, leading the panel "On the Changing Character of the Filipino community: Today's Political Priority." Joining him on this panel is Rene Cruz, National Executive Board member of the Union of Democratic Filipinos (KDP);

• **Dr. Walden Bello**, Director of the Congress Task Force, a Washington D.C.-based lobby



Elaine Ko

group documenting the U.S. government's support for the Marcos regime in the Philippines, leading the panel on "U.S. Foreign Policy: How it Concerns the Filipino Community." With him in this panel is Martin Gonzalez from the Committee of International Solidarity with the People of El Salvador (CISPES), and Sarah Dreggs, American Friends Service Committee;

• **Dr. Pio de Cano**, a noted bilingual/bicultural specialist with the Commission on Asian-American Affairs of the State of Washington, heading up the panel "Reaganomics: More Cutbacks For Minorities." The panel also includes Gerald Lenoir of the National Anti-Racist Organizing Committee (NAROC), and Bob Santos, Director of Inter-Im (In-

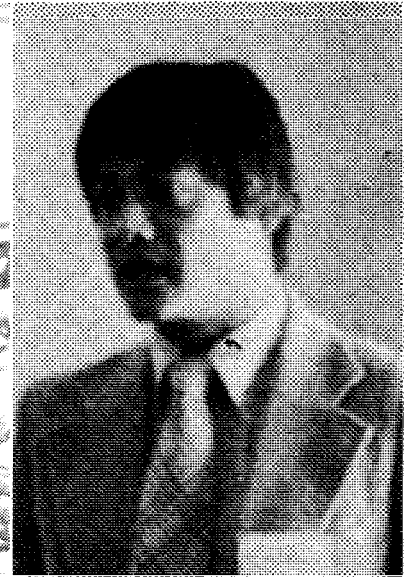


Luisa Blue

ternational District Improvement);

• **Tim Barker, Esq.**, of the Los Angeles and Washington, D.C.-based National Center for Immigrant Rights, will take part in the panel "On Defending Immigrant Rights: An Anti-Racist struggle." Attorney Bill Tamayo, coordinator of the National Filipino Immigrant Rights Organization (NFIRO), and Yvonne Martinez from MUJER, a Chicano housing advocate group, will join Barker in this panel;

• **Luisa Blue, R.N.**, Executive Board Member of the San Francisco-based SEIU Local 400; Lou Truskoff of the Postal Workers Union; and Oscar Herd, President of the Shipscalers Union, Local 541, will lead the panel on "Filipinos and Labor: Expanding Roles as Workers and Organi-



Dr. Pio deCano

zers." Both unions boast a large Filipino membership.

Among the state's political figures endorsing the FWC are Governor John Spellman who issued a proclamation "lauding the Convention for its goals."

In addition, all of Seattle's City Council members, including Dolores Sibonga, the first Filipina member, issued a joint letter stating: "May the principles of justice and equality to which Silme Domingo and Gene Viernes were dedicated, guide a most successful Convention and one that will be recognized for outstanding achievement."

For registration information, write to: FPFWC, P.O. Box 1034, Seattle, WA 98114. □

Murder Trial . . .

Continued from page 1

the murders, in one of their weekly community meetings.

"The murders of Gene and Silme were definitely a political act," remarked Committee spokesperson Elaine Ko. "The question is whether Gene and Silme posed such a major threat to the union opportunists and gangsters, that they were killed now, when they were just beginning to implement the reforms."

"We think we have to continue to look at even bigger interests that may also have wanted the two assassinated," Ko stated.

The community-based group continued to raise speculations that the Alaska cannery industry—or the Marcos dictatorship in the Philippines—also "benefitted" from the murders.

Both Domingo and Viernes were members of the Union of Democratic Filipinos (KDP), and had been active in anti-dictatorship work for many years, Ko stated.

BARUSO'S GAMBLING TIES ALLEGED

Baruso and Dictado's purported links to the murders, stirred considerable interest in the Filipino community and the general public, projecting the famous murder case once again in newspaper front-pages and TV-radio news programs in this city.

Maida implicated Baruso in the execution-style slayings, saying "he was supposed to share in the gambling proceeds."

She told the jury of six men and six women that Baruso, who was not associated with reformists in his union, cooperated with Tulisan gangsters in its gambling operations.

These illegal activities, Maida noted, were hampered by Viernes and Domingo's insistence that hiring at the canneries be based on the seniority system.



Nemesio Domingo, Jr., co-chairperson, Committee for Justice, explains conspiracy angle. (AK Photo)

Baruso was previously arrested and later released, having been tagged earlier as the registered owner of the murder weapon.

While Baruso and Dictado remain free at this time, "there's nothing that says the prosecution

has to charge everybody at the same time," Maida stated. "We're taking it step by step."

'STAR' WITNESS TO TESTIFY

A crucial witness in the state's case is Robert San Pablo, a foreman in a Billingham, Alaska cannery; he has been under protective custody since July because of his "sensitive" testimony.

According to Maida, San Pablo will testify that Dictado was "furious" when Viernes refused to dispatch two gang members to San Pablo's cannery, because they lacked seniority.

In a heated argument with Viernes, Dictado reportedly threatened Viernes, saying (in Ilocano): "Mother _____, I'll get rid of you!"

San Pablo will also link Ramil to the murders who reportedly told him the day before the killings, "Tony [Dictado] is gonna get Viernes tomorrow."

San Pablo will reportedly testify that he received extortion letters from Baruso and Dictado, where the two made "subtle" demands for \$1,500 each as gambling commissions.

San Pablo refused to pay and thereafter sought protection from Seattle police, Maida continued.

'TULISAN' CHIEF TAKES STAND

In a surprise appearance, Dictado took the witness stand and denied any involvement in the slayings.

Arrested August 19th as a material witness, Dictado was later released along with fellow gang member Eddie Lopez, also implicated in the murders.

When asked to name other Tulisan members, Dictado reportedly asked the judge, "Do I have to answer that?" He named three others as members, but he claimed "the Tulisan did nothing and that members were just close friends."

Defense lawyers for Ramil and Guloy—Tony Meyers and James Grubb—are also focusing on Baruso and Dictado as possible conspirators, presumably to turn the spotlight away from their clients.

According to observers, the defense strategy is apparently aimed at "raising reasonable doubt in the minds of jury members that Ramil and Guloy were the hitmen," enough to override evidence supporting Domingo's "death declaration." (Prior to his death, a seriously wounded Domingo gasped out to an attending paramedic the names of Guloy and Ramil as their assailants.)

The defense is planning to call several "alibi" witnesses to testify that Ramil and Guloy were at one of the Chinatown gambling houses at the time of the shooting.

OTHER WITNESSES TESTIFY

Other witnesses at the scene of the crime, also gave their testimony.

A sixteen-year-old student, Patricia Wilson, told jurors in Judge Bever's courtroom she was on her way home from school when she saw the wounded

Domingo crawling out of the union hall.

"This guy was coming out of the building and fell to the ground," Wilson stated. "He was holding his side and yelling: 'Help me! He shot me! He shot me!'"

Wilson then told the jurors she saw a Filipino male wearing a black silky jacket with white cuffs run from the hall and get into a parked car. "He was walking kind of fast," she said, telling the jury he climbed into a black (Pontiac Firebird) Trans-Am and sped away. Both Dictado and Lopez own black Trans-Ams.

While Wilson was unable to positively identify the man she saw she noted the man's physique was similar to Dictado's.

Police also testified that the union hall's back door, always locked except during general meetings, was found open when they arrived to investigate the shooting.

Several Local 37 board members have also been called to testify before the Prosecutor about the reform work in the union, and how the reforms came up against union opportunists and gangster elements.

Baruso, San Pablo and many other witnesses are scheduled to take the stand over the next two weeks.

The much-publicized trial will last several weeks, with the jury's decision expected sometime after Labor Day next month.

Meanwhile, the families of Domingo and Viernes are contemplating a lawsuit which could help "uncover all those responsible in any way for the deaths" of their slain family members. □

Charged With Election Fraud:

Baruso Faces Union Trial

SEATTLE—Members of the International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union (ILWU) Local 37 voted to form a new union trial committee August 19 to try the president and one board member on charges of election fraud.

President Constantine (Tony) Baruso, and union Executive Board member Abe Cruz were charged with conducting a "fake election" last June, to elect regional representatives to the ILWU's International Executive Board.

While the records of the Inter-

national in San Francisco showed Local 37 "officially" submitted all its 420 ballots—with all votes going to Baruso—no one in the union remembers the election ever having taken place.

Lynn Domingo, 24, the union's secretary-treasurer who assumed the post vacated by her slain brother Silme, stated at the August 19 meeting that the original trial committee was selected at the July 15 Executive Board meeting, in line with the union's Constitution.

Baruso charged the committee was a "kangaroo court hand-

picked by the Rank-and-File (Reform) Committee." He claimed the Board "violated his rights," since he was not present at the meeting when the trial committee was formed, thus "denying [him] the right to participate in the process."

Terri Mast, Executive Board member who filed the charges against the two union officers, said Baruso's absence was not the board's fault since at that time he was being held at King County Jail on charges of possible involvement in the slaying of fellow union officers Silme Domingo

and Gene Viernes.

Baruso implied there was no need for a union trial since Abe Cruz already "admitted his guilt in the election fraud." Cruz, who was not at the meeting could not be reached for comments.

"Despite Baruso's attempt to block the investigation of fraud charges," Mast said, "the union can now initiate the trial proceeding."

"He has only tried to obscure the charges, causing confusion among union members," Mast continued. "If Baruso is innocent, as he contends, he has no reason



Tony Baruso

to be afraid... the evidence at the trial will speak for itself."

At their next board meeting, the Executive Board will review the nominees for the new trial committee, and select a new jury.

The trial is expected to begin late this month. □

Debate Sideshow:

A flustered Mayor Richard Gordon of Olongapo City and company, stormed out of the debate hall when the audience jeered at his attempts to speak out of turn.

Close at his heels were Mrs. Gordon, Mayor Mario Tagarao of Lucena City, and Pablo Pañares, Philippine Rural Services Center Project (RSCP) director and coordinator of the mayors' group.

The "walk-out" occurred during what was meant to be a question-and-answer period after Mayor Tagarao, a known KBL man (Marcos' party), incensed the crowd by saying problems in

rural areas in the Philippines "lie with the people themselves."

"The problem comes from the people, so the solution should come from the people," Tagarao remarked.

Later on, a member of the audience prefaced his question with the remark: "if the people are the source of the Philippines' problems, perhaps Marcos should elect a new people."

As Tagarao went on, debate moderator Margaret Talbot, editor of the University of California's *Daily Cal*, requested him to "either ask a question or sit down."

Ignoring the plea, Tagarao kept up a long-winded defense of the

U.S.AID-sponsored seminar. Miffed at the hizzoner's attempt to hog the floor, people in the audience yelled: "There is no martial law here! Sit down!"

To "rescue" his colleague, Mayor Gordon stood up, ignored the moderator altogether and proceeded out of turn. Piqued by shouts of "Walang martial law dito!" (There's no martial law here!), someone caught him muttering "Well, not yet!"

The group left in a huff. Outside, someone yelled: "Marcos, tuta!" (Marcos puppet!)

Visibly irritated, Gordon made an obscene remark and a verbal altercation ensued just outside

the hall.

"The nerve of that guy," exclaimed an unidentified Filipina, "when he is probably the number one pimp in his city!" Gordon represents the city where Subic Naval Base is located. Underworld syndicates reportedly sanctioned by political bigwigs command thousands of prostitutes who service U.S. Navy servicemen.

Hristling, Mrs. Gordon jumped to her husband's defense: "Bakit... may puta rin kayo dito sa America, ah!" (Why, you also have prostitutes here in America!) □

MAYORS
DISPLAY
THEIR
'BEST'

Debate Exposes UC Aid...

Continued from page 1

Seminar. Most observers would agree that the University took a beating.

"By holding the seminar for the Philippine mayors, the university is putting itself on the side of the Marcos dictatorship," charged Philippine Solidarity Network's Joel Rocamora. Together with David Kinley of the Institute for Food and Development Policy, Rocamora tore to pieces University defender Peter Hall's chief argument that the seminar is "politically neutral." Hall is the acting director of UC's Institute of Urban and Regional Development, organizers of the U.S. AID-sponsored seminar.

MAYORS—
MARCOS AGENTS

"These mayors," Rocamora stressed, are the main agents of the Marcos regime in one-third of the cities of the Philippines, where gross violations of human rights have been reported."

He exposed the mayors as being "mostly members of Marcos' party, which controls all political positions in the country with only a few token exceptions."

Rocamora further asserted that the mayors were "(s)elected" in last year's elections. Elections under Marcos have been universally denounced as "sham and rigged."

"As such, any assistance provided to them is assistance provided to the Marcos dictatorship," he stressed. "By assisting this dictatorship, by understating its brutal crimes, the University of California has become an accomplice to these crimes," Rocamora concluded.

Kinley, co-author of the book *Aid as an Obstacle*, focused his attack on the U.S. AID and simi-

lar U.S. assistance programs. He charged these agencies "deepen, rather than alleviate the impoverishment of the Filipino people, and other third world peoples."

U.S. AID—BOON OR BUST?

Kinley shared his Institute's findings in evaluating the "ground level impact of U.S. programs, funded through the World Bank,

cisms with official documents, including a recently published U.S. AID evaluation of the \$41 million Philippine Small Scale Irrigation Project, from which he quoted:

"While many of the project's objectives have been met, the project's sustainability in terms of real income benefits to the poor, is still a major problem."

UNIVERSITY'S
DEFENSE 'WEAK'

University representative Hall, who is also a professor, obviously did not win sympathy from the

this seminar believe most vehemently that knowledge can be imparted in a reasonably objective way."

He quickly drew more laughter when he followed this with the admission: "If we did not believe this, we could not hold our jobs at the University of California."

CRITICAL OF SEMINAR

The debate spilled to the floor at an open forum that followed. Mostly, the argumentative questions were directed at Hall.

Hall insisted several times that the seminar is to improve the lot

asked an unidentified man, "then there wouldn't even be as many Filipinos in that country today. My question is: why do you have such a gross criterion for human rights violations?"

Hall could only retort with a response claiming it is his belief "the university is helping poor people."

ANTI-MARCOS
MAYOR SPEAKS

Mayor Aquilino Pimentel of Cagayan de Oro stood up to tell the audience he was "facing a dilemma." Pimentel, who is one of the two opposition mayors invited to the seminar almost did not make it.

"I was arrested in the office by the Commission on Elections of the Marcos government," Pimentel told the audience. "But because my people demonstrated on my behalf, I was allowed to regain my seat in the meantime."

Pimentel explained his dilemma: "Without U.S. aid, I would not have been able to put up running water systems in my city, because I will not get a single centavo from the central government. In my case, at least, U.S. AID has come to my rescue."

Rocamora responded saying, "Your experience may be an exception that proves the point... a mayor who may be well-meaning should not have to look to a foreign source for such a basic necessity as a running water system!" It is a reflection, he said, of an irresponsible and unresponsive central government.

"Mayor Pimentel would have been spared the dilemma of having to take U.S. AID money, which he knows has had an overall negative national impact, as far as AID operations in the Philippines is concerned," Rocamora continued.

As the audience was exiting, a student quipped: "As far as I'm concerned, the scoreboard shows—anti-Marcos people, 1; University, 0!" □



Richard Gordon, mayor of Olongapo curses anti-Marcos activists as he stomps out of Berkeley debate hall.

(AK Photo)

U.S. AID and the Food for Peace Program":

● "Contrary to guidelines set by the U.S. Congress after the Vietnam War, direct U.S. aid are given to those governments which consistently violate human rights;

● "U.S. aid programs are limited to a few regimes which above all else, serve U.S. military, strategic, and multinational corporate interests;

● "Government-to-government programs can never be expected to transform the power structure in a country, in order that they benefit the poor, but can be expected to strengthen that power structure.

Kinley substantiated his criti-

audience composed of 200 students and UC personnel. Among them were activists from the Coalition Against the Marcos Dictatorship, the Union of Democratic Filipinos, and the Philippine Solidarity Network, as well as their supporters in the Filipino community.

"I profess I am not an expert on the Philippines, my knowledge of it is gleaned from the media, I've read what is alleged about the Marcos regime, but I know no more than that," Hall remarked. This drew cynical laughter from the floor.

In defending the university for running "a seminar for a developing country," Hall said, "Those of us who have been concerned with

of the poor in a poor country and that the University did not concern itself with the political situation these people live in. Rocamora sharply criticized this position racist, "because it assumes that to poor people in the undeveloped countries democracy is not important and that only countries in the developed west have the capability for democracy."

Appearing agitated throughout the debate, Hall also drew criticisms from the audience when he implied that Marcos is not as bad as Hitler. He stated that were it the case, the university would definitely not give technical assistance.

"If Marcos killed as many people as Hitler did during his time,"

DOMESTIC/INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Thousands Incarcerated During WWII:

Japanese-Americans Call for Redress

SAN FRANCISCO—After nearly 40 years, the military and executive orders that incarcerated 110,000 Japanese-Americans during WWII are being investigated by the Congressional Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians.

The nine-member commission is holding hearings in cities across the country to review the "facts and circumstances" of Executive Order 9066 issued February 19, 1942.

The Commission held hearings in this city August 11, 12 and 13. After hearing testimonies by camp victims and members of the Japan-

ese-American community the commission will report to Congress with recommendations for "appropriate remedies."

The stories have been as varied as the 150 individuals who gave testimony before the Commission but a common thread ran through all of them—the unjustified confinement left brutal scars.

Testimony after testimony revealed stories of heartbreak and human suffering. Deaths from inadequate medical care, psychological trauma such as suicidal tendencies and fear of rejection were results and symptoms of the three year ordeal.

For many who spoke, it almost seemed like a catharsis to be able to express publicly the anguish which has often been a buried part of Japanese-American history.

The support community members received strongly reinforced the overall demand for redress and reparations.

The campaign for redress and reparations has been in preparation by the Japanese-American community for a number of years and sponsoring groups stress that such an injustice should not happen again and that monetary compensation be given to those who suffered the indignity of being

incarcerated.

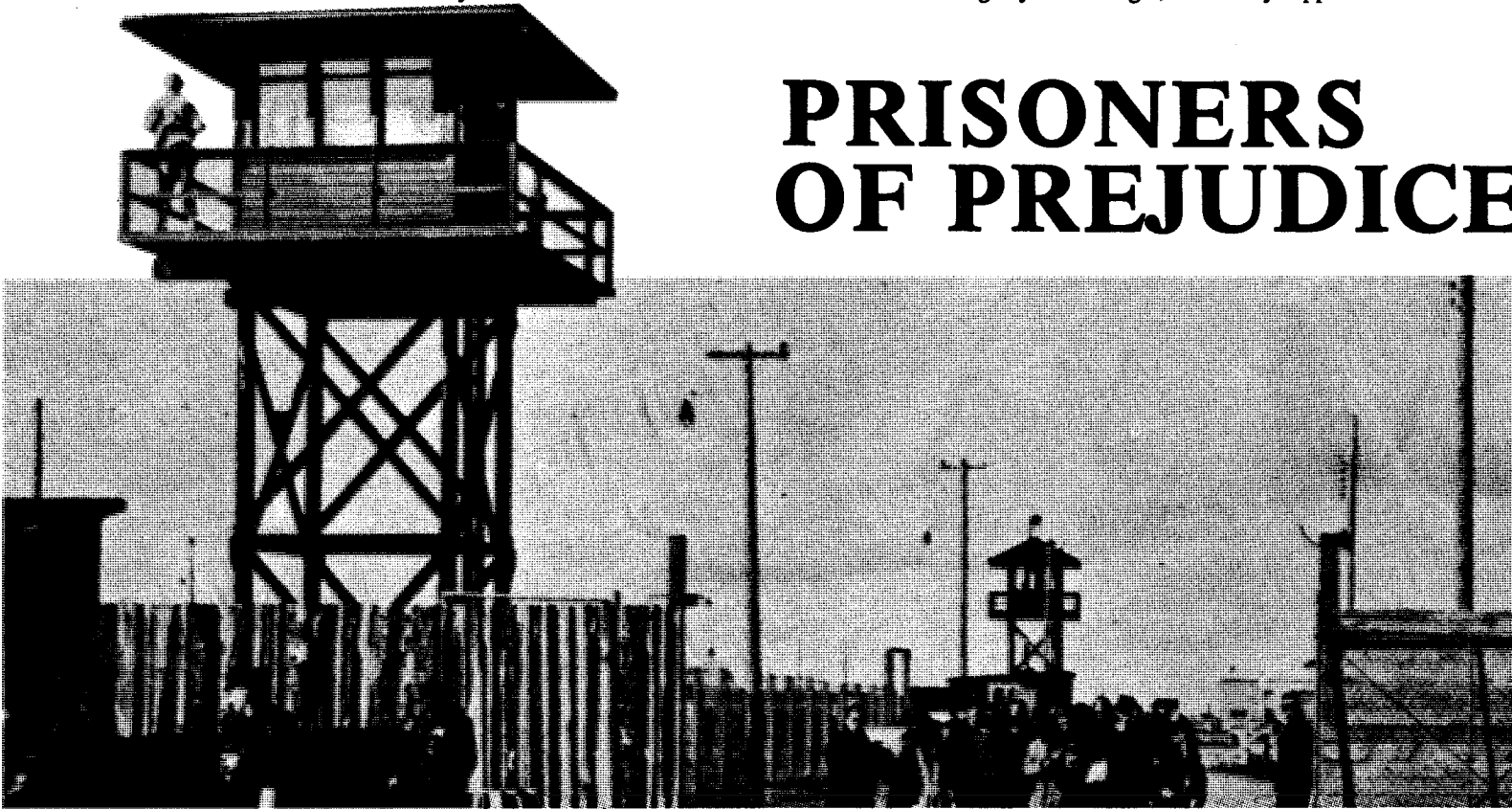
Assembly Speaker Willie Brown was cheered when he blasted U.S. Senator S. I. Hayakawa (R-CA). In an earlier Los Angeles hearing Hayakawa said he was embarrassed by the demand for reparations, and that the incarcerations were more on the order of three-year vacations than detention in a concentration camp. Although Japanese himself, the arch-conservative was a Canadian citizen during WWII and was not sent to a camp.

The call for monetary reparations ranging from \$25,000 to \$75,000 for each victim was unanimously supported. San Francisco

Mayor Diane Feinstein, the Board of Supervisors of Monterey and Santa Clara counties, the Cupertino City Council and the California Democratic Council all wholeheartedly agreed in principle with the proposal for redress and reparations.

"The way in which my nation deals with this particular issue of racism will have a direct and profound bearing on the way the nation deals with many other manifestations of racism," said Commission member Arthur Fleming who is also chairman of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights.

Hearings will resume in Seattle this December. □



Japanese-Americans were prisoners in American-style concentration camps during WWII.

By VINCE REYES
Staff Writer

World War II: In desolate barracks set in dust-ridden flatlands an "enemy race" is imprisoned. The buildings, surrounded by electrified fences and barbed wire, are ringed by guard towers armed with machine guns.

Was this the notorious Nazi Auschwitz or Buchenwald concentration camp in Germany? No. The scene was at Tule Lake, Manzanar, California; Heart Mountain, Wyoming. Or it was one of any seven other concentration camps in the United States.

The prisoners were Japanese-Americans. There were no charges, no trials, no due process, and most importantly—no guilt. The incarceration of 120,000 Japanese-Americans, two-thirds of whom were American citizens, serves as a lasting testimony to the racist hysteria that callously trampled on the constitutional rights of people who had no crime other than wearing the face of the enemy.

THE STAGE IS SET

The bombing of Pearl Harbor by Imperial Japan on December 7, 1941 not only triggered American nationalism and patriotism, it also unleashed a backlash of racism and chauvinism directed at Japanese living in the U.S. who were already experiencing California's legacy of anti-Asian sentiments.

"A Jap is a Jap . . . It makes

no difference whether he is an American citizen or not, he is still Japanese . . ." This was stated by Lt. Gen. J. L. DeWitt, head of the Western Defense Command and responsible for the evacuation and incarceration of Japanese-Americans. His statement captured the popular racist view that the "Japanese race is an enemy race," thus justifying the internment process.

EVACUATION BEGINS

On February 19, 1942, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066 authorizing the removal of anyone from areas which might threaten the war effort. DeWitt issued the evacuation order on March 2, removing Japanese from all of California, the western half of Washington and Oregon, and a portion of Arizona.

Every man, woman and child, including the elderly and disabled with as little as one-sixteenth Japanese blood were rounded up. Ordered to bring only what they could carry, the Japanese-Americans were given only a few days to sell their land and belongings, losing thousands of dollars in the process.

Herded into trains and buses without knowledge of their destination or future they would now experience three years of dehumanizing treatment under the guise of "national security."

First they were sent to "Assembly Centers" while permanent detention camps were being con-

structed. Most of the Assembly Centers were fairgrounds or race-tracks without adequate medical and sanitation facilities.

HARSH CONDITIONS

People were forced to live in makeshift shelters or animal stalls which reeked of the stench of horses and manure.

Eventually, people were transferred to ten "relocation camps." These were located in Topaz, Utah; Poston and Gila in Arizona; Granada, Colorado; Heart Mountain, Wyoming; Manzanar and Tule Lake in California; Minidoka, Idaho; Rohwer and Jerome in Arkansas. There were also seven U.S. Department of Justice "Internment Camps" in various parts of the country.

The crowded and desolate living conditions led to countless problems. The family structure collapsed traditional roles and lifestyles changed. Family authority and regulation changed as relationships were now defined by the military and not the family itself.

The stripping away of their freedom uprooted, challenged and redefined the very existence of Japanese-Americans as a people.

LEGACY OF ANTI-ASIAN HOSTILITY

The racism which placed the Japanese in concentration camps began in the early 1900s when Japanese immigrated into an almost unanimous anti-Asian atmosphere. The Chinese had just been legally excluded and cries of "the Chinaman must go!" were

still echoing throughout the fields and cities where the pioneer Japanese settled.

Working in the railroads, canneries, logging, meatpacking, and salt industries, the majority engaged in farmwork. The back-breaking labor of the Japanese, along with Filipinos and Mexicans irrigated, planted, harvested and ultimately turned California's valleys into the richest crop producing lands in America.

Exploited by growers and employers, many Japanese organized for their right to better working and living conditions.

Japanese began buying land and eventually became economic agri-business competitors. True to California's anti-Asian legacy, many blatant discriminatory bills were introduced into the state legislature preventing their ownership of land. However by 1920, Japanese were producing crops valued at \$67 million, 10 percent of the total crops in California.

The long-standing anti-Asian drive fueled by the likes of the *Los Angeles Times*, *Hearst Press*, prominent politicians and businessmen found a perfect climax to their campaign in the bombing of Pearl Harbor. The exclusionists seized upon the mass hysteria, scapegoating Japanese-Americans as saboteurs and pushed for their removal. In contrast, Germans and Italians as a group suffered no such fate except for individual cases.

In actuality, the relocation had

nothing to do with internal security. There was never a recorded instance of sabotage and in Hawaii, despite being 35 percent of the population, the Japanese were not evacuated.

HIGH PRICE FOR FREEDOM

Damages suffered from internment are incalculable. Monetarily, at least \$400 million (1942 prices) in assets and property were lost. But perhaps more damaging was the psychological stress and dehumanizing conditions prisoners were subjected to. Many died in camp. Who would venture to guess what outrage, humiliation, despair and uncertainty contributed to those deaths.

When the Japanese were finally released in 1945 they had to face re-establishment of their lives while encountering the overwhelming odds of being penniless and often scorned by the mainstream community.

There is no guarantee that detention of American citizens without due process of law could not happen again. Although individuals challenged the evacuation order, the Supreme Court upheld the legality of detention in a number of World War II cases.

HISTORY REMEMBERED

Efforts by a number of groups and individuals to popularize the concentration camp history have succeeded in reaching the ears of millions. This history must never be forgotten.

On a plaque at the Manzanar campsite, the following inscription is engraved:

"In the early part of World War II, 110,000 persons of Japanese ancestry were interned in relocation centers by Executive Order No. 9066, issued on February 19, 1942.

"Manzanar, the first of ten such concentration camps, was bounded by barbed wire and guard towers confining 10,000 persons, the majority being American citizens.

"May the injustices and humiliation suffered here as a result of hysteria, racism and economic exploitation never emerge again." □

FOCUS: The Health Situation in R.P.

Juan de la Cruz is too Poor to be Healthy

By CRIS TAGAM
Staff Writer

The health of a nation is never a purely medical problem.

It is also a question of government priorities and, most importantly, a question of income distribution. Poverty means ill-health and is, in fact, its most important cause. Nowhere is this more graphically shown than in the Philippines.

The facts speak for themselves.

• Communicable diseases such as pneumonia, tuberculosis, and gastro-enteritis which have long been medically conquered are still the leading causes of death in the Philippines. The country also holds world records for high incidence of whooping cough, diphtheria, rabies, leprosy, schistosomiasis, and polio.

Yet First Lady Imelda Marcos has chosen to spend ₱52 million to build the Philippine Heart Center of Asia for the study of "diseases of the heart." Similar sums have been spent on the showy Lung Center and the Kidney Center. So far, no comparable sums have been spent on common communicable ailments.

• Another of Imelda's pet projects, *Lungsod ng Kabataan* (Children's City) is dedicated to the "future of the nation." Yet five out of 10 Filipino children never reach the age of 14. Seventy-four out of 1,000 infants die before their first year. Pneumonia claims one out of two infants infected. Thousands of children have grown up mentally retarded due to early malnutrition.

• The Philippines graduates 28,000 nurses and 2,000 doctors annually. Yet 62% of Filipinos who die never receive trained medical attention. The country has a shortage of 25,000 doctors and a reserve of 13,000 jobless nurses.

Why this disturbing and ironic picture of health? Why should a government exhibit no interest in the ounce of prevention needed to keep the nation healthy? Why concentrate on several hundred pounds of cure for a few diseases which many Filipinos, in fact, do not live long enough to experience?

POVERTY: THE ROOT CAUSE

Low income, inadequate food and poor housing—poverty, in short—is the source of the nation's chronic physical maladies. It takes little to notice that the Philippines is a highly stratified society. With a tiny stratum of society hogging, and owning almost everything that produces wealth, the rest of the population is bound to be left in deprived conditions.

Filipinos are among the world's most poorly nourished people. They consume even less than the people of Bangladesh and India. Government surveys show that as of 1980, 80% of the population live on or below poverty level. This 80% represents a malnourished population, too poor to buy adequate food.

Operation Timbang, a government survey of some three million pre-schoolers found that in 1975 only 21% received sufficient diets. For the rest of the children, about 45% suffered from second degree, and 9% suffered from third degree malnutrition and were in danger of dying.

With 62% of the Filipinos drinking unsafe water every day, and only 5% benefitting from adequate sewage disposal, there is a high incidence of gastro-enteritis and

colitis. Overcrowded living conditions easily spread communicable diseases to epidemic proportions.

In such dismal health, it is no wonder that, according to the World Health Organization in 1978, Filipinos lived only to an average of only 58 years while their western counterparts lived for an average of 75.

MALDISTRIBUTION OF RESOURCES

Providing for its people's health has hardly been a priority for the Philippine government.

While spending ₱7.1 billion for defense in 1980, the government allocated only ₱1.8 billion for the health of the people it was trying to "defend."

Of this amount, more than 60% went into the building and maintenance of hospitals and clinics, less than 40% for disease prevention. Most of these medical institutions are in urban areas where only 30% of the population live. The 70% living in rural areas are only provided with 21% of the total number of health care units. While recent government reports showed a 640:1 ratio of hospital beds, no mention was made of the fact that 46% of these beds are in Metro-Manila where only 13%

of the population live.

The Philippine government's Rural Health Practice Program, a public service required from all medical and nursing school graduates, has proven a dismal stop-gap failure. Trained in western medicine and technology, the new doctors and nurses are unprepared to provide medical care in poorly equipped rural health care clinics.

This "civic action" program is also undermined by its medical personnel's low morale from long working hours, low pay, insufficient supplies, and lack of support personnel.

OVERSUPPLY OF NURSES

Nursing schools, most of them private, profit-making businesses, cashed in on the increase in demand for nurses in the early 70s. They now find it necessary to accept more and more students to maintain their profits. Yearly, new nurses flood the job market, leaving 25% of registered nurses unemployed.

When these nurses do find employment, they face only hard work and rock-bottom wages. Forced to work in overcrowded hospital conditions, Philippine nurses receive only \$40 a month.

Physicians, especially govern-

ment doctors, earn a slightly higher wage: \$110 a month. Facing the same conditions as the nurses, many of these doctors want to leave the country for more gainful employment abroad. The need to recoup the estimated \$10,000 invested in medical school training is enough incentive to seek greener pastures abroad.

BRAIN DRAIN

The prospect of higher pay abroad has lured away about 40% of all Philippine medical school graduates. Recruited by American and Middle East hospitals, Filipino nurses leave the country in great numbers to fill shortages in these countries. Some 88% of all nursing school graduates now work overseas.

The government, far from restricting this fast migration of needed medical workers, encourages their export. In fact, it welcomes the foreign exchange (money sent back to families) generated by overseas workers.

This foreign exchange is used to help pay the country's enormous loans—among them the World Bank and International Monetary Fund loans used to finance the First Lady's prestigious health centers.

'EXPORT-LED GROWTH'— INCREASED ILL-HEALTH

But while the Marcos regime has chosen to emphasize impressive buildings over preventive medicine, the very logic of its overall development policy condemns the Filipino people to ill-health.

For example, "export-led growth," the catch-phrase of the New Society, relies upon cheap wages to attract foreign investment. Thus real wages have been allowed to fall by roughly 40% since the declaration of martial law in 1972 while inflation has soared.

While the Philippine government boasts of the cheapest labor in Asia in attracting multinational corporate investments, it can hardly boast about the vastly increased poverty.

But as long as a government deliberately perpetuates poverty, ill-health will continue to undermine and destroy its country's most valuable resource—its people. □



Hardest hit by inadequate nutrition are children and pregnant women.

(AK File Photo)

'Suspicion of Subversion':

Teacher Tortured, Sexually Molested by Troops

"They hit strongly at my thighs and clapped my ears. They tore my duster and fondled my breasts. They also lifted my skirt and threatened to give me to some soldiers (sex perverts), who were allegedly waiting for me. They repeatedly threatened to pass me on to other soldiers who seemed to want to do away with me."

—Christina Pargas

On January 17, 1981, Ferdinand Marcos "lifted" martial law and announced the end of military rule. This "normalization" was also supposed to comfort critics of the regime's human rights violations.

But reports of torture and "salvaging" of political prisoners continue to flow out of the country at a pace similar to that prior to the

lifting of martial law.

One young woman recently released on bail told of her arrest and torture in the hands of government troops. Her story is in a document issued by the Task Force Detainees. Her ordeal began May 27, well past the "lifting," and in the midst of the plebiscite-election campaign, Marcos' "normalization" centerpiece.

'NO TELLING WHAT THE ORDINARY SOLDIERS MIGHT DO . . .'

Christina Pargas is a University of the Philippines graduate who chose to live and work with the peasantry. She was arrested by government troops in Muñoz, Nueva Ecija, where she taught barrio folk. (The charge, as revealed later at a hearing was

suspicion of membership in a subversive organization and possession of subversive materials.)

After an entire morning of questioning, Pargas was taken to the local elementary school before Col. Thomas Malongat, a Capt. Espino and other soldiers.

"Capt. Espino informed me that, by 6 p.m., he would have to leave and so I better tell the truth because there's no telling what the ordinary soldier would do to me after he had gone . . ."

"He pointed out that the other officers were drinking to their hearts' content. They'd soon lose control of themselves . . ." she wrote in her account.

"I pleaded with him several times to take me along with him, or wherever, just to be safe. He refused."

SEXUAL ASSAULT

By evening, the young woman's fears were realized. She was blindfolded and taken by jeep to another site. Here she was subjected to the most humiliating form of torture: in physical brutality combined with sexual molestation.

Aware of the experiences of hundreds of female detainees before her, and wise to the usual behavior of military interrogators, Pargas quickly informed her questioners that she had her menstrual period. This did not stop them, however. Slapping, hitting, clapping on the ears were combined with fondling.

The sexual attacks stepped up the next morning when completely nude, she was handcuffed to a chair. As her torturers questioned

her, they took turns fondling her and inserting objects into her vagina.

In her account, Pargas did not specify how long the ordeal lasted. After her torture, she was brought to Camp Olivas and kept in isolation until a hearing on June 24 where she was granted bail.

Christina Pargas is unlikely to agree with regime spokespersons or defenders in the U.S. that with the lifting of martial law, the regime has improved its human rights record. Her experience differs relatively little from that of her sister five years ago.

Etta Pargas Rosales, a progressive university instructor, was arrested in 1976 and subjected to torture which included sexual assault, electric shock, and "water cure." □