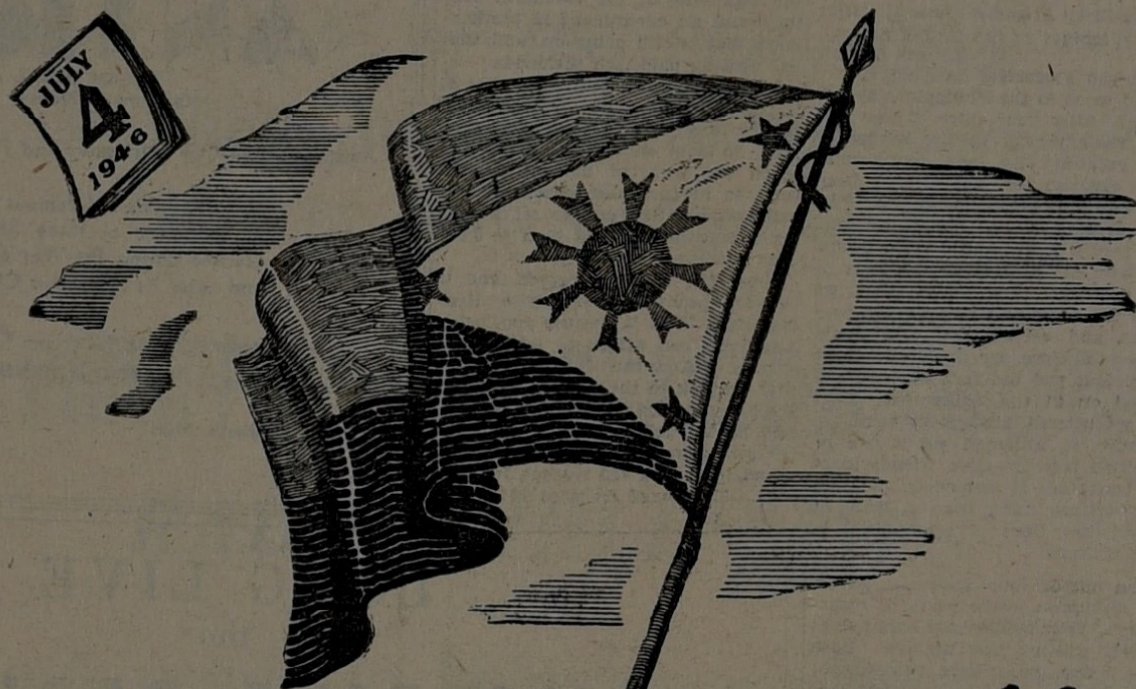


The Evening News
Independence Day Supplement



....Labor and enterprise to produce — President Roxas

D6022/7/10



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The Philippine flag, symbol of Filipino valor and love of country, has earned its own place in the family of nations. Rallying point of patriots since 1898, stout-hearted Filipinos carried it fighting side by side with the Americans in the battlefields of Bataan and Corregidor, in the underground movement during the occupation, and for the Liberation of the Philippines.

The tasks confronting an independent Philippines are tremendous and will require the wisdom, unity, courage, faith and determination of free men. With God's help, we Filipinos will not falter or fail. As President Manuel A. Roxas said, "let us build in this our land a monument to freedom and to justice, a beacon to all mankind." All officials, employes and laborers of Elizalde pledge to uphold the fine tradition and all that the Philippine flag stands for.



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Tomorrow PI Republic Will Take Its Place Among World Sovereign Nations

By Harry W. Frantz
United Press Staff Correspondent

WASHINGTON, July 3—(UP)—The Philippine Republic will take its place tomorrow among the sovereign nations of the world after an arduous training in self-government under the flag of the United States.

For nearly a half century the Filipino people have striven to prove their capacity for self-government and to confirm their claim to independence. Now, after five decades of intermittent debate in Washington, the Philippine goal is to be attained.

Against the destructive back-

ground of World War II, the newborn Republic will meet early trials of economy and internal unity, but in the fact of independence the American people will see the fulfillment of their national pledge and the 18,000,000 Filipinos will find realization of an ancient aspiration for freedom.

The Philippine Republic starts on its destiny without political fetters, but with an economic dependence on the United States as aftermath of the physical havoc wrought by war. The international security of the

new republic will gain strength from Philippine participation in the United Nations, but the armed strength of the United States would still be the chief reliance in event of future aggression against the islands.

The pledge fulfilled by the United States is that made by Congress in the Jones Act of 1916, which promised independence as soon as a stable government should be established in the Philippine islands. This pledge was implemented in the Tydings-McDuffie Act of 1934, which established an interim Common-

wealth government in the Philippines, preparatory to recognition of republican status on July 4, 1946.

The Filipino aspiration for independence was already aflame in the nineteenth century days of Spanish Colonial status, and continued into the period of the American occupation. The campaign took an evolutionary, rather than violent form, however, as the United States government made progressive concession toward political autonomy while sheltering the economy of the islands within the United States tariff wall.

In every decade since Commodore George Dewey defeated the Spanish Fleet at Manila Bay in 1898, the question of Philippine political status has been debated in Washington. It remained for the test of war finally to convince the United States Government that the Filipino people had both the right and the capacity for independent nationhood.

The Filipino stand at Bataan and the relentless underground warfare waged against Japan removed the question from political controversy here, notwithstanding the difficult new problems of economy and defense pressaged by the world struggle. These problems have been partly met by a new trade relations Act, a war damages law, and other pending measures of fiscal aid and military cooperation.

The Filipinos were in revolt against Spain when the Americans occupied the Philippine Islands in 1898. William Jennings Bryan, campaigning for the Presidency in 1900, made "anti-imperialism" the paramount issue for the Democratic Party. With his defeat the permanent insular status remained undefined for a time, except for executive promises. The Filipino insurrection continued until after the capture of Aguinaldo in 1901.

President William McKinley promised to "educate the Filipinos, and uplift and civilize and Christianize them," and after his death President Theodore Roosevelt carried on with his pledge. A Philippine Commission, presided over by William Howard Taft established a civil administration in the islands, launched an educational program, and developed an economic policy which culminated in 1909 with a free trade relationship with the United States. In 1907 a Philippine Assembly was elected, and the Philippine Commission served as upper house in bicameral legislation.

Thus far Philippine-American relations had developed along lines that might have led to permanent association, but with the election of Woodrow Wilson as President of the United States in 1912 the policy at Washington reverted to the independence theme that had been supported by the Democrats in the campaign of 1900. Wilson sent to Manila as governor-general Francis Burton Harrison, who speedily

reduced the United States participation in local government, education and other civil affairs. Control of both houses in the legislature passed to the Filipinos.

World War I made the principle of national self-determination an axiom in United States international policy, and created political background favorable to Congressional enactment of the Jones Act in 1916. This increased the political autonomy of the Philippines, and pledged independence of the islands "as soon as a stable government can be established therein."

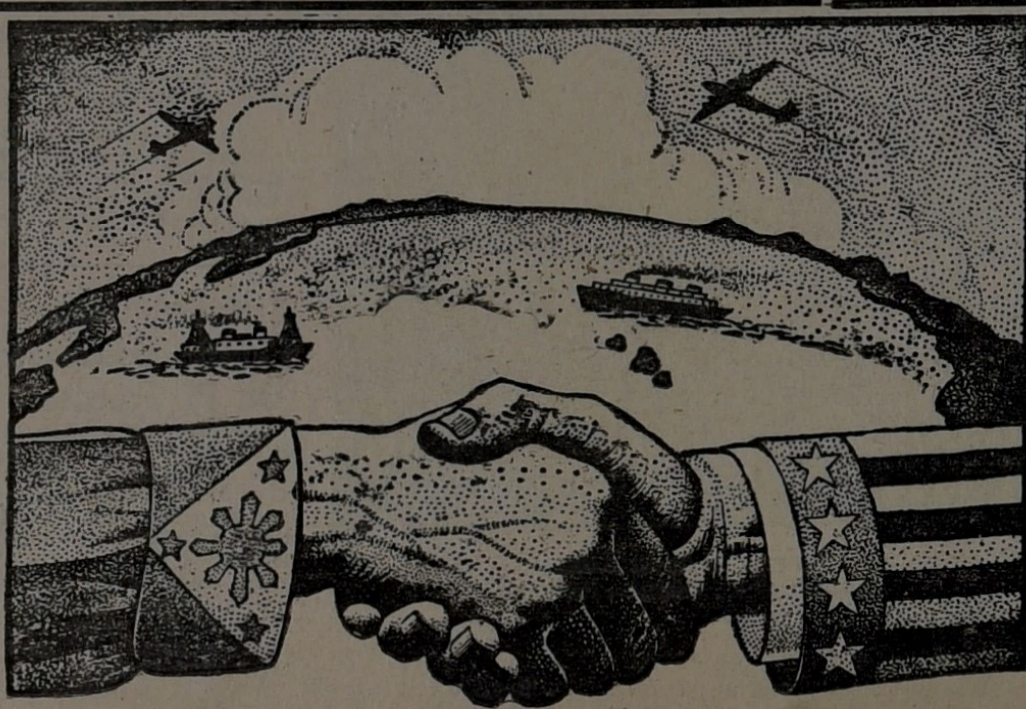
In 1921, after the inauguration of Warren Harding as President, the early independence policy at Washington seemed about to undergo reversal. He sent an investigating commission to the islands, which recommended against immediate independence and insisted upon greater authority for the United States administration there. Major-General Leonard Wood was governor-general of the Philippines. His partial reversal of Harrison's policies and stiffening of American administration precipitated a Filipino campaign for immediate independence, and the issue was debated in Congress at intervals through a decade.

A prompt and clear decision was long delayed because of the peculiar combination of altruistic, egoistic, and commercial elements that was necessary to pass a bill. Those supporting independence on grounds of morality and principle found that their cause also attracted immigration restrictionists and commercial elements seeking protection against Philippine sugar, coconut oil, cordage, and other products. It was consequently necessary to work out a reasonable compromise of conflicting interests in order to assure independence to the islands without obvious economic penalties.

The first attempt, the Hare-Hawes-Cutting bill, passed by Congress in 1932, was dis-prestigated by President Hoover's veto message. Congress insisted on its enactment in 1933, but it was later rejected by the Philippine Legislature.

President Franklin D. Roosevelt took up the Philippine problems soon after his inaugural in 1933, and obtained from Philippine leaders assurance concerning the terms of an acceptable measure. Congress thereafter enacted the Tydings-McDuffie Act, in 1934.

By authority of this Act, the Filipino people adopted a constitution, established a Commonwealth government and started preparation for independence on July 4, 1946. The progress of events was interrupted by Japanese invasion of the islands in 1941. With American re-occupation in 1945, the independence pledged was re-validated, but drastic revision of economic features of the law and measures of emergency aid proved essential. These have been approved by Congress.



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America realizes that the Philippines needs all the help possible in rebuilding her cities and in the rehabilitation of her industries. The role of American business in the Philippines is to aid her in doing that as well as in combating inflation by increasing the supply of goods.

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Problems of the Republic

By ASUNCION A. PEREZ

SOME of the most important and pressing problems which the first President of the Philippine Republic will have to tackle are: to normalize food production, the honest and equitable distribution of relief, the solution of the tenancy problems, providing homes for the homeless, the accommodation of thousands of school children out of school, and above all, the maintenance of peace and order, which are directly dependent upon the solution of the above mentioned problems.

1. Food Production.

The Philippines today, according to official reports, has rice only for at least seven months so that from August up to the end of this year, the people will have to look for staple food from some other sources. We are short of our normal production of 25,000,000 cavanes of rice. While the estimated production for 1945-1946 is only around 22,095,000 cavanes, the requirement for the same period is 51,155,000 cavanes, leaving a short of 29,060,000 cavanes. This goes to show that the Philippine Government or any agency in charge of feeding 17 1/2 million people will have to look elsewhere to make up for the shortage, the causes of which can easily be understood even only by the laymen without making any research or investigation. In the first place, Central Luzon which is the granary of the Philippines and the seat of restlessness and discontent will produce 40% below its pre-war production. In many places in the Philippines, practically the production of rice is very much below normal, ranging from 17% to 35%. About 44% of our working animals were killed and agricultural implements destroyed. Irrigation systems were deplorably disrupted and are now 25% to 30% below normal. Due to various war-time factors, the erstwhile beautiful and famous rice terraces of Banaue and its neighboring regions in the mountain provinces have been laid waste and are now bare of vegetation. It is strange, but true, that rats have increased to such a proportion as to outwit men, so that at present as soon as plants begin sprouting their young leaves, armies of rats come down from their hideouts and eat them up to a sweeping finish overnight.

2. Tenancy Problems.

The time-worn tenancy problems that had been a headache to the pre-war administrators are presently aggravated by unfortunate circumstances for which neither tenants nor landlords are entirely to blame. Right from the start, the tenant's just demand for a living wage, which technically means a wage that provides his family with adequate food, shelter, clothing and education for his children, has not been satisfactorily met. What of the additional economic difficulties that they find in the wake of post-war conditions: the high cost of living, the neglected farms that have to be rehabilitated, and the loss of farm implements and working animals to be replaced? On the other hand, the landlords who have mostly suffered just as much are not in a position to assume a share in the much needed rehabilitation expenses. Misrepresentation of facts, in the absence of sufficient forces of law to lend them an intervening hand, usually culminate in mournful bloodsheds and most unfortunately, end only in the retardation of production. In Pampanga, Nueva Ecija, and Tarlac which are the seats of discontent and bloody encounters, 90% of the farmers are threatening not to work on the farms unless the problems between tenants and landlords are settled amicably and satisfactorily. Such condition is now prevailing specially in Nueva Ecija, the supposed promised land of the Huk-balahaps, whose basic principles of agitation had as their root causes,

unrest and discontent arising from problems between tenants and landlords. It has just been reported that instead of Utopian conditions for which the Huks have sighed and dreamed of, there are now unemployment, hunger, and want, and unless something is done pretty soon, a dangerous food crisis is impending.

3. Relief Distribution.

Owing to the highly impaired transportation facilities, which are aggravated by destruction of public roads and bridges and the risks of banditry that beset them, as well as other discrepancies arising from unsystematic supervision due to conditions difficult to control, it is a sad fact that the present system of distribution of relief throughout the Islands is far from being satisfactory. The simple tao and his family in the remote barrio are practically neglected. It is true that the PRRA is doing its best to fill the needs of the provincial people but it still remains a fact that appeals have been received from time to time from individual families as well as from groups, who claim that they have not received relief from the existing local relief committees. Impartial observers who casually reach the remote barrios are unanimous in their report that there are still men, women and children who are using rags, jute bags or barks of trees for their clothing. It is safe to say that 3/4 of our population,—men, women, and children, who are living in far away towns and barrios have not yet received relief clothing from the Government.

4. Homes for the Homeless.

About 45% of the total population of the Philippines are still without homes. Owing to the high cost of building materials and the inability of local industries to meet this demand, the problem of financing a housing project that would save this portion of our population from their present predicament is now left for the Government to solve. After the liberation when the Commonwealth Government took over, there were in Manila alone about 80,000 homeless persons. Most of them were men, women and children who were remnants of the mass massacres in Intramuros, Malate and Ermita, and widows and orphans of those who were killed in Bataan, in the mountains, and elsewhere. Generally they are in a hopeless situation because they are not able to earn enough for

a living, much less to buy materials to put up a shack or barong-barong for themselves. They were temporarily housed in 37 refugee homes, most of which were in public school buildings and enemy properties. We succeeded in encouraging many of them, through persuasion and coaxing, to leave the premises and they are now housed in barong barongs or with relatives and friends while some of them have gone to the provinces. Those who are industrious, energetic and resourceful exerted efforts to acquire independent means of livelihood and have been rehabilitated faster than those who are now left in the seven remaining refugee homes.

Bad housing directly affects public sanitation and the general wellbeing of the people. Still there is for our more serious consideration, its evil effects upon their moral and spiritual development and that of their children. With no home that a man can call his own, he is confronted with daily problems of maladjustment which are detrimental to his sense of self-respect and confidence. To lose the spirit of ownership, indeed, undermines the personality of an individual. Our experience in the supervision and maintenance of refugee homes has plainly pointed to us such evils. Numerous families of different states of culture, beliefs, traditions and customs, that are forced by circumstances to crowd together under one roof, indeed, present a very unfortunate situation.

5. Adequate Schools.

Another problem that calls for immediate attention is the need of adequate school buildings to accommodate the children,—not only to enable them to make up for the three years that they have lost, but also to curb the trend of post-war delinquency, specially in cities. It is estimated that about one and one half million children (This is greater than pre-war enrollment) are ready to enroll, if only facilities are available. The most dangerous stage of life is between 10 and 15, the so-called age of "storms and stress," for both boys and girls. It is specially so when they are not allocated in any school and, because of economic difficulties, they are forced to leave their homes to earn something to supplement whatever their parents could earn. Most often they become the problem children who are the serious concern of the police and other welfare agen-

cies. Some of them have caused considerable problems and will undoubtedly be so in the future unless proper measure is taken to put them in public schools. They are largely drawn from poverty-ridden homes, and as such they are the very children who can least of all afford to miss whatever education they are capable of. They more than any others, need the training and development of their minds to fit them for the battle of life. How can they otherwise be expected to earn their daily bread in the competitive labor market, where dullness of brain most inevitably proves a serious handicap? It is not so much their failure to rise from their sad lot that is of supreme social significance: but it is the peril to society which their failures must involve in the crimes which ignorance breeds and fosters. Worst of all would it be if we turn them adrift in the world, unfit for its service and unable to adjust themselves to its needs. Because of ill development of body and mind, they naturally will become industrially inefficient and undesirable, and unproductive citizens. It

is, therefore, of dynamic importance for the Government to provide public schools to prevent this evil. In Manila alone, according to the report from the Superintendent of City Schools, there are 70,000 children who should be in school but are not admitted due to lack of space.

6. Peace and Order.

Lastly but not least, a serious problem that the Commonwealth Government is facing is the maintenance of peace and order, the basic factors of which are economic, as illuminated in the five major problems just presented in the preceding paragraphs. Peace and order are attainable only when men, women, and children know that they are enjoying some degree of social and economic security; they have food, sufficient clothing, decent and comfortable shelter and some moral and spiritual needs satisfied.—recreation, health and leisure.

It is reported that the estimated income of the Commonwealth Government for 1946 is P50,000,000 while the sum needed to run its normal function (Continued on page 14)

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