

Abstracts of Articles

CONTEMPORARY MODELS OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION: AN ASSESSMENT OF THEIR UTILITY AND EXPOSITION OF INHERENT FALLACIES

By Kishan Khanna

The development of public administration in underdeveloped countries varies. To explain the nature of public administration, typologies or models which provide the frame of reference in the study of administration are constructed and applied to underdeveloped countries, particularly the Indian bureaucracy.

Producers of contemporary models visualize the Indian bureaucracy as prismatic, dominant-party semi-competitive or some other type. A closer examination of these contemporary models reveals that they are not applicable to underdeveloped countries, particularly India. The models merely present taxonomies. The models, it would appear, attempt to generate typologies as an end in itself, rather than to give a better understanding, explanation, or prediction of political phenomenon. Besides, the typologies of the bureaucracy generated in these models are not based on the characteristics of the bureaucracy itself but on the characteristics of the political system, society or such other institutions.

An incisive probe into the basis of the construction of the models reveals that the model makers seem to have ignored some fallacies such as invalid information, value interfusion, gross generalization, etc.

THE INSTITUTIONALIZING OF SOCIAL CONDUCT AND THE NEW SOCIETY IN THE PHILIPPINES (Part II)

By Roman Dubsky

Social conduct, as a means towards national unity under the New Society, necessarily involves the question of individual freedom, as certain restraints absent in the "old society" are imposed. Personal freedom under the New Society remains subject to public interest, and individual conduct is to be judged by standards of "publicly desirable conduct," if not conformity.

In formulating social conduct as an instrument of state policy, the planners of the New Society should be guided by the following principles: (1) there is no universal principle on the issue of social conduct due to social, cultural and political backgrounds of different states; (2) the determination of the

“right” kind of social conduct to institute should be a result of empirical studies of the various factors relevant to social life; (3) there should be recognized a close connection between the ends and the means in formulating such ends; and (4) tendencies to “easy” institutionalizing of social conduct should be resisted. For the state should develop the virtue of social conduct in men; it should not be a mere manipulator of men or watchdog over human conduct.

AN APPRAISAL OF PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 27'S PURPOSES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS WITH CONCENTRATION ON THE PROVINCE OF NUEVA ECIJA

By James Byrne

Since pre-Spanish times, Filipino farmers have been tilling land that belonged to someone else. To solve this problem, land reform measures were introduced as far back as the American regime and carried on after 1946. All these, however, did not bring the desired results. A significant step was the promulgation of Presidential Decree (PD) No. 27, “emancipating the farmers from the bondage of the soil,” which paved the way to subsequent land reform measures. This was followed by Operation Land Transfer, transferring the ownership of the land to the tillers based on certain conditions.

Operation Land Transfer was prosecuted successfully in Nueva Ecija, a pilot province. Even before PD 27, the foundations of land reform program were already laid in the province through Republic Act Nos. 3844 and 6389 and the Nueva Ecija Land Reform Integrated Development Program. Intent on making Nueva Ecija a “showcase” of land reform implementation, the government provided it with all the needed resources. Whether the success in Nueva Ecija can be replicated throughout the country remains to be seen.

VARIATIONS ON THE METRO MANILA REFORM THEME

By Arturo Pacho

Integration or consolidation underlies the various proposals to restructure Metropolitan Manila. Its emergence as a central city for development demands the need for reform to make Metro Manila responsive to rapid urban growth. Over a dozen proponents have called for reforms following political, administrative or planning approaches. Four of the present recommendations include the establishment of a Metropolitan Authority, a Metro Council, a National Capital District, or a metro government. Related issues concerning such proposals hinge on the idea that metro reform will further attract rural migrants and negate rural development efforts, funding the metro, relationship with provincial governments and existing national departments, and relationship with the two regional development councils having jurisdiction over the metro area.