

DISCUSSION 3

DR. EMERENCIANA ARCELLANA: I address this question to Professor Jurado. When was the study made?

PROF. ELSA P. JURADO: In 1973, in Batangas.

DR. ARCELLANA: Was there a comparative study then, or after?

PROF. JURADO: This is a single study.

DR. ARCELLANA: I was wondering if you might be able to deduce any conclusion on the correlation between political awareness and Martial Law. Can there be increase or decrease in political awareness under Martial Law?

PROF. JURADO: Well in the absence of studies made after 1973, we cannot answer.

DR. LORETTA MAKASIAR SICAT: Perhaps, there was no comparable study on the same age level at that time. But, pardon me if I mention the one that I did at the same time: we had another study centered on the young people. In this study, we used almost the same kind of indices, including that of political awareness. We found out that the young people, even those who were supposed to be among the student population, have very little political average knowledge, just like before.

PROF. JURADO: Yes. But regarding the question, I think we can say there was more political awareness when Martial Law was declared only because the people became more interested which rights or privileges did they lose.

DR. MAKASIAR SICAT: We conducted studies almost just as soon as Martial Law was declared and the level of political awareness at that time was, not surprisingly at least, still more or less the same as before Martial Law. But since then I will agree with you that I expect, at least, to find a greater degree of political awareness, as well as political activities, knowledge, even attitude for or against the regime. Even as, in fact, there was an indication already of a higher level of these in the 1973 youth study.

PROF. JURADO: Because deprivation whets the appetite?

DR. MAKASIAR SICAT: Yes, it could be.

DR. ARCELLANA: On the other hand, you could also argue psychologically that it is practice that makes perfect, and lack of practice causes obsolescence.

DR. MAKASIAR SICAT: Just like the analogy of the appendix. If it is not used, it languishes and fades away.

PROF. JURADO: Summing it up, I would like to see more Filipino political scientists use the quantitative approach in their analysis of political power. My study has shown it possible. So, I invite some of you to do similar quantitative studies of political power.