

PREFACE

THIS issue of the *Review* hopefully marks the beginning of a fruitful partnership between behavioral scientists and urban specialists, on the one hand, and architects and engineers, on the other. As members of the design professions become increasingly conscious of their social role in a developing society, they look to our professions for assistance and insights into the behavior and values of Filipinos. What social and cultural patterns, they ask us, must be considered in laying out a low-cost housing community or in planning a multistorey apartment for the urban poor? Their search for answers gives us sociologists and anthropologists the welcome opportunity of contributing our own knowledge and outlooks to men and women directly engaged in the modernization process.

The authors of the two articles in this issue address themselves to the problem of housing and community life in rapidly urbanizing societies. While squatters legitimately attract the primary attention of urban planners and social scientists, the importance of understanding the needs, values, and behavior of the low- to moderate-income populace cannot be ignored. For these groups represent the backbone of the city, its stable elements. Accordingly, the two articles focus on their needs, especially in terms of the low-cost housing schemes being developed by the private sector of the economy.

The longer article represents a somewhat unorthodox approach to the study of housing and community design. For "Human Factors in Private, Low-cost Housing" is not a presentation of research data, but rather the result of the collective *speculations* of 15 social scientists as to what *may* happen when 500 homeowners move into their newly acquired Marikina houses. In publishing their seminar comments, we reveal our conviction that educated guesses, when made by specialists, warrant attention, especially where elicited to indicate needed areas of research.

The shorter article represents the first concrete research result of the 1968 "brainstorming" seminar. The research becomes more significant because from data gathering to writing it was undertaken by graduate students in sociology and anthropology. This points to a second conviction of the Philippine Sociological Society, namely, that early professional socialization of neophyte members of the discipline will breed a generation of behavioral scientists strongly committed to fulfilling the most pressing research needs of our society. It is through guided, first-hand experience that they come to understand the excitement of discovery that propels the scientist, despite difficult field conditions and often tedious analytical techniques.

The pride we feel in this special issue on housing and community gives us the courage to beg our readers' indulgence for the unfortunate delay in the publication of the *Review*. The price of professional commitment often appears in one's over-

extending oneself to respond to numerous demands from students, university, and the larger society. This is true of almost all those who qualify for the position of *Review* editor. Hence, we are doubly grateful to the publications staff of the Institute of Philippine Culture, Ateneo de Manila, in particular, Alfonso de Guzman II and Victor M. Taylor, for handling the major editing tasks in the absence of a regular editor.

Our final and deeply felt acknowledgment goes to the Land and Housing Development Corporation (LHDC) under the leadership of the late Jose M. Tuason, Jr., who so generously agreed to underwrite the costs of this issue in the interest of solidifying our newly established partnership. The *Philippine Sociological Review*, January 1969, is one more tribute to the vision which characterized "Boy" Tuason's all too brief life. The nation's social scientists join with the many who will sorely miss him.

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