

*Philippine Family Structure and Fertility*

ALICE CABILI-LIM  
Population Institute  
University of the Philippines

- 12:00 Lunch/Meeting of the Board and  
Election of Officers
- 2:00 General Meeting of the  
Philippine Sociological Society
- 3:00 Break
- 3:20 Sixth Session: Social Science and Policy

*Moderator*

LEANDRO VILORIA  
Dean  
Institute of Planning  
University of the Philippines

*Problem-Focused Research*

JOSE C. BENITEZ  
Executive Director  
Institute of Development Studies

*Strategies for Development:*

*The Philippine Social Science Council  
As a Case in Point*

FRANK LYNCH  
Vice Chairman of the Executive Board  
Philippine Social Science Council

*Research and Public Policy  
in the Philippines*

JOSE V. ABUEVA  
Secretary  
1971 Constitutional Convention

*Action Research and Family Planning*

JOHN E. LAING  
Family Planning Evaluation Officer  
Population Institute  
University of the Philippines

*Discussants*

MANUEL DIA  
Director  
Asian Labor Education Center  
University of the Philippines

GELIA T. CASTILLO  
Professor of Rural Sociology  
Department of Agricultural Education  
College of Agriculture  
University of the Philippines

ABRAHAM I. FELIPE  
Vice President for Operations  
Fund for Assistance to Private  
Education

*Closing Remarks*

RODOLFO A. BULATAO  
Assistant Professor  
Department of Sociology  
University of the Philippines  
(President, Philippine Sociological  
Society)

**THE RENOVATION OF PHILIPPINE SOCIETY**

SALVADOR P. LOPEZ

January 20, 1973

Your presiding officer has just remarked that "some changes" have taken place in our country since your last national convention. I just wanted to say that this observation bids fair to become the classic understatement of this year.

I am happy to welcome you, officers and members of the Philippine Sociological Society, to the University of the Philippines. Your coming here for your Convention is especially appropriate. Social studies have long been a central

concern of our academic community, and sociology and anthropology have been two of the liveliest disciplines on this campus. Because of the urgency of many of our social problems and the insistent demands of national development, they will continue to increase in importance.

While this University was not the first to introduce sociology as an academic discipline in the Philippines, sociology did become part of our curriculum in 1911, only three years after

the founding of the University. In those early years sociology was taught as a species of social philosophy consisting of abstract and often prescriptive reflections on the nature of society. In the 1930's a more applied "social problems" approach was brought to the University by Professor Serafin Macaraig, probably the first Filipino Ph.D. in sociology. This social problems orientation did not last long, however, for, by the 1940's sociology had been combined with anthropology into a single department under Professor H. Otley Beyer. The merger lasted until 1950, when divorce was followed by a new marriage between sociology and social welfare in a combined department under Professor John de Young.

Today, sociology, anthropology and social work are separate units or departments of the University, as well as a large number of related disciplines or proto-disciplines, from Asian studies to urban planning, that have borrowed some of their theories, methods, or inspirations from classical sociology. This tendency towards specialization is inevitable and perhaps even necessary in an increasingly urban and technological society. Yet, there are times when one must overleap the limits of one's narrow specialization in order to achieve a broader synthesis more adequate to the magnitude of the problems before us. May I suggest to you that this is such a time, and that your association as well as this University should undertake a commitment to play a vital role in resolving the serious problems that confront the nation.

The University of the Philippines has never been a cloister for spinning fine theories about man and society divorced from reality. Rather, it has always stood at the heart and center of the national life, serving as the training ground for many of our national leaders — bureaucrats, technocrats, intellectuals, professionals, artists, scientists, businessmen, politicians galore, and with luck, an occasional statesman. The infinite possibilities of this University make it, as I have said more than once, "an active, perhaps the most active, agent of change in our society, engaged in creating the conditions necessary for national development and survival." If the University is to play a useful role in national

development, one crucial contribution it must make is to encourage dialogue within professional associations like your own. Without such dialogue, without the challenge of new ideas and interpretations of our society and its culture, an academic community stands to lose its dynamism and therefore also its capacity to initiate significant social and cultural change.

Social change and national development, the need to accelerate development while at the same time maintaining the society in equilibrium — these are the central problems of our time and will be for a long time to come. I have always insisted that development should not be conceived or measured in purely economic terms, since social, cultural, and political elements are equally essential to balanced national development. To control this process requires an understanding not only of the techniques and technology of behavior modification and social engineering but perhaps more urgently a comprehension of who we are and whither we are bound, of the Filipino identity and the structure of Philippine society, of Filipino aspirations and the institutional forces that encourage or thwart them.

The issues of national development are all familiar to you, and coming as I do from a different field I would not presume to advise you about how to study them. I might presume, nevertheless, to insist that they should be studied, that national crisis and the disruption of traditional security should not deter you from continuing your diverse investigations into the fundamental concerns and problems of our society. It sometimes happens that under pressure of external social influences an academic community or an academic discipline turns inward upon itself, becomes totally immersed in its narrow, parochial interests, and loses the thrust toward relevance and change that may have marked it in other times. This should not happen. Your investigations of social phenomena should never lose their bite or insight. Untrammelled investigation is essential to our democratic way of life and indispensable for national progress. A slowdown in social investigation or any muting of scientific discourse may seem like a minor aberration in times like the present,

but it could have an adverse long-range effect in retarding the development of regenerative viewpoints on the social order as well as of critical social technology.

Learning always involves some risk — for societies as well as for individuals. New ideas have a way of insinuating themselves into the social order and transforming individual lives. Social and personal transformation means giving up old superstitions that were once held as verities, though it may sometimes bring about uncertainty, confusion and danger.

May I quote some wise words on this subject from the teachings of Don Juan, a Yaqui medicine man from Sonora who like many of us sought to become a man of knowledge and to lead others along the same way.

When a man starts to learn he is never clear about his objectives. His purpose is faulty; his intent is vague. He hopes for rewards which will never materialize, for he knows nothing of the hardships of learning.

He slowly begins to learn — bit by bit at first, then in big chunks. And his thoughts soon clash. What he learns is never what he pictured, or imagined, and so he begins to be afraid. Learning is never what one expects . . .

And thus he has stumbled upon the first of his natural enemies: Fear! A terrible enemy — treacherous, and difficult to overcome. It remains concealed at every turn of the way, prowling, waiting. And if the

man, terrified in its presence, runs away, his enemy will have put an end to his quest.

May I suggest that the problems of national development are so urgent that you cannot let fear prevent you from investigating them. To be overcome by fear would be to betray not only your academic mission but also the trust our society has placed in you as the intellectual leaders of the nation.

As university men and women you have accepted the solemn duty to pursue the truth wherever it may lead. Of course this mission involves certain risks, but whoever thought that truth, which is the noblest prize that life can bestow, can be had absolutely free for the asking, without pain or sacrifice of any kind?

With these sentiments I welcome you once again to the University. I trust that in the course of your Convention, you will discover new sources of courage and vision to pursue with undiminished resolve the renovation of Philippine society.

#### *Note*

This is the welcome address given by Dr. Salvador P. Lopez at the Philippine Sociological Society National Convention, January 20, 1973. Dr. Lopez is president of the University of the Philippines.

# special Kinship issue

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