

EDITOR'S FOREWORD

Our initiation into this editorial venture has all but convinced us that it takes forever and a day to put out just the maiden issue of an academic journal. Quite apart from the agony of having to scrounge around for publication funds — and the campaign is still on — we thought we would never see the end to the seemingly perpetual revisions that had to be made on the manuscripts in an honest effort on the part of the editorial board as well as of the contributors themselves to upgrade the quality of the articles to be published. Somehow, the end did come, and we hope the final product is well worth the time and the effort and, of course, of the financial support which we did finally receive.

The decision by the chairman of the editorial board to come out with a special issue for its first number was really brought about by happenstance, albeit a salutary one. It so happened that many of the articles submitted touched on evaluations of the discipline of political science in the Philippines from several points of view. What better way was there, indeed, with which to launch a professional journal than with a critical look at the "state of the arts"? Hence these pieces were sorted out from the rest which dealt on other topics. The latter will comprise the next number of the present volume.

The scrutinizing lens spans a decade in point of time and covers vantage points that represent both the "close-up view" of indigenous practitioners as well as the ones presented figuratively "at a distance" by foreign colleagues. The first two articles were, in fact, speeches delivered during the inaugural meeting of the Philippine Political Science Association in 1963, a datum which we hope the reader will bear in mind in case some aspects of the papers appear dated to him. (The background notes on the PPSA and the Journal on the back cover of this issue will help explain why we are seeing print only now.) Still, it was an occasion which offered itself quite easily and

fittingly to the laudable endeavor of the kind of self-criticism which we hope will be constructive, for many of the observations made then remain valid to this day. At the very least, those observations will give the interested reader an idea of how things were about ten years ago and afford him a chance to compare the situation to that of the present, about which we hope to get some insight on the basis of the other articles in this issue.

We are tempted to say, tongue-in-cheek, that, if only to ensure that there will at least be a "Vol. I, No. 2," and a "Vol. II, and Vol. III . . .," we have decided not to espouse or advocate any single, dogmatic school of thought. Levity aside, however, we have thought it best to err on the side of liberal-mindedness by giving equal chances — if this is at all possible — to varying shades of academic persuasions and interests, provided, of course, that they are adequately buttressed by commonly accepted scientific principles. Hence, it can be readily seen that the evaluations given here range all the way from the Aristotelian view expressed in Dr. Arcellana's paper of the supreme importance of politics in social life and the consequent affirmation of the increasing respectability and influence of the discipline of political science in Philippine society to the strongly critical appraisal of Dr. Villacorta's article. Although we would be the first to disclaim any responsibility for the opinions expressed by the writers represented in this *Journal*, by inviting original contributions as well as comments and reactions to the articles published here, and thus encouraging a healthy diversity of opinion among our colleagues and readers wherever necessary, we hope to give a true and full expression to that which makes this academic discipline — in the unashamedly biased view of this writer — the "many-splendored thing" that is political science.

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