

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Western Michigan College
Kalamazoo, Michigan
July 5, 1956

Editor, *Philippine Sociology Review*
Department of Sociology and Social Welfare
University of the Philippines
Diliman, Quezon City
Philippine Islands

Dear Sir:

I think letters to the editor are a feature which have not been found in the *Review* to date, but perhaps it is time for a change in this regard. At any rate I should like to comment on the review of *The Philippine Answer to Communism* by Alvin H. Scaff. Although I felt that the review by Dr. Berreman showed insight, it seemed to me there are valuable features of the book which were neglected and that perhaps some weaknesses were exaggerated. Like Dr. Berreman I have some doubts as to the validity of Scaff's belief that the existence of Communist leadership was the major cause for the rise of the Hukbalahap movement. It is also possible that the general tone of Scaff's book may have been a little optimistic and it is worthwhile to realize how many problems still remain in the field of agrarian reform. On the other hand the strictures against Scaff's sample, it seems to me, were a bit severe. Certainly the EDCOR settlers and the Huks in prison do not constitute a random sample of the movement. On the other hand it is probably impossible to obtain this kind of sample and the data offered by Scaff is certainly the best information we have to date. It is sometimes necessary in social research to settle for something less than perfection, and one should give due credit to those who work with the materials that are available.

It seems to me that Scaff's major contribution is not his treatment of the general problem of Communism but his analysis of the problems of resettlement and particularly his treatment of the effect of class lines in the EDCOR projects. The Philippines has made many attempts at resettlement and usually the results have been less than perfect. The chapters in Scaff's book dealing with these topics form an important contribution to the literature on agrarian reform. Likewise while we may feel that his emphasis on the importance of leadership is exaggerated, we can be grateful for the manner in which he delineates the background and role of the Hukbalahap leaders.

Sincerely,

(Sgd.) CHESTER L. HUNT
Department of Sociology

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Public Works and Communications
BUREAU OF POSTS
Manila

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(Required by Act 2580)

The undersigned GEORGE H. WEIGHTMAN, Editor of the *Philippine Sociological Review*, published QUARTERLY, in English at the DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY AND SOCIAL WELFARE, UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES, after having been duly sworn in accordance with law, hereby submits the following statement of ownership, management, circulation, etc., which is required by Act 2580, as amended by Commonwealth Act No. 201:

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Editor: George H. Weightman	Department of Sociology and Social Welfare, University of the Philippines, Diliman, Quezon City
Assistant Editor: Socorro C. Espiritu ..	University of the East, Azcarraga, Manila
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(Sgd.) GEORGE H. WEIGHTMAN
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Subscribed and sworn to before me this 13 June 1956, at Manila, the affiant exhibiting his Residence Certificate No. A-4574777 issued at Quezon City on February 22, 1956.

(Sgd.) ISIDRO T. ALMEDA
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