

Editor's Notes

This issue features articles on the Philippine legislature and bureaucracy. In addition, a review article on parallel developments in the discipline of public and business administration is presented.

One of the more significant effects of the martial law administration of President Ferdinand Marcos was the diminished role of the legislature in policy making, and the consequent concentration of powers of the executive. The first article of this issue, "The Philippine Congress and the Political Order" by Manuel A. Caoili, provides a historical perspective to this development. It describes the role that the pre-martial law Philippine Congress played in the overall political system and attributes the latter's pre-occupation with traditional clientelist politics as a factor in said congress' eventual decline.

The second article, "The Batasang Pambansa: Continuity in the Philippine Legislature" by Olivia C. Caoili illustrates the failure of the Batasang Pambansa to function as a bona fide legislative body. It further proposes the incorporation of certain basic changes in the electoral process to make the Batasan a more participatory entity.

The next two articles delve on the Philippine bureaucracy as it actually functions and performs under an authoritarian regime. The article by Luzviminda G. Tancangco entitled "Political Neutrality in the Philippine Civil Service" describes the partisan character of the civil service using the May 1984 parliamentary elections as an illustrative case. The other article, "Assessment of the PAG-IBIG Housing Program" by a group of students under the PA 248 (Workshop in Policy Analysis) class of Prof. Romeo Ocampo, evaluates the viability of a government program, the PAG-IBIG, to provide housing to its members.

The last article, "The External Focus in Public And Business Administration," by Jacinto C. Gavino, uncovers a fresh dimension in the role played by business in society. Gavino's unique approach makes this article singularly interesting.

This issue also includes a News and Notes portion to update our readers on current developments, both international and local, in the field.