

TACLOBAN, LEYTE

16 Oct 1964

8:30 P.M.

WISCONSIN STATE UNIVERSITY

STEVENS ● POINT

54481

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

My Dear Family -

It is evening - raining - and I am here in the LA LYTEÑA Hotel in Tacloban City on the island of Leyte. This city of 150,000 people is located just 6 miles north of the spot where twenty years ago next Tuesday (Oct 20, 1944) General Douglas MacArthur and General Romulo marched through the water and the invasion of the Philippines - better called the liberation was under way. Of course I'd not be here next Tuesday although they will have an anniversary celebration and the U.S. Ambassador to the Philippines, Mr. Blain, will be here and, incidentally, stay in the hotel.

Tomorrow morning, before the plane departs at 9:55 AM, the Dean of the Normal School is getting a car and she will take us (Mr. Augustin) and to the spot "on the beach".

I remember twenty years ago and listening to the Armed Forces Radio broadcast during the midnight to 4 AM shift in the transmitter quadrant hut on Sapiro - and the news that "we had returned" to the Philippines.

Bureaucracy is really slowing ~~the~~ here in this country. The centralized controls and all the red tape are really cumbersome and certainly stifle progress. A main example was seen this morning - when we came here, as when we went to Cebu, they didn't know we were coming today - somehow the word just hadn't gotten out of the central office to these people. Because of that we waited for a while at the airport - then finally hired a taxi and drove to the Normal School. Since Dean Circa was not prepared I suggested that we check in at the hotel and visit the school after lunch - 3 hours wasted!

We did have a good afternoon though - a board of the campus  
and "coffee" in the home economics dining room. It is interesting -  
here they say wait you have "a coffee" - meaning a cup of  
coffee. After that I went out to the athletic field with the  
Dean where the ROTC unit put on a sponsor's review - some 250  
ROTC men marched in review for the co-ed cadets (called Sponsors)  
and then commencing affair and official party. It was especially  
interesting when the band led the group playing Anchors Aweigh. Such  
is life in the Philippines. We have given them almost all of our  
symbols - yet not enough of the meaning behind the symbols - perhaps  
because the meaning is only real for us - from our background and history  
and we still have not learned that it cannot be superimposed on another  
people - another culture.

This evening we ate here in the hotel "dining" room with two  
young ~~Philippines~~ Filipinos - one a salesman for a telephone Co. - the  
other a salesman for a rubber products company that sells to the mining  
industry.

Quite an experience this afternoon - walking into a 4 grade class at  
the normal laboratory school - they were singing the Philippine version  
of America the Beautiful - "Oh beautiful for spacious skies for amber fields of  
grain (rice) for purple mountains majestic above the printed plain - Oh  
Philippines My Philippines God shall lead ---"

With the sound of rain on the tin roof outside - I'll stop now  
and go to bed - thinking of all of you.

Love

Jim