

October 22, 1964

Notes from the Philippines

To the Administrative Council
From Mr. Albertson

This is tape #4, I'm dictating it on Sunday evening, the 18th of October in Manila. On this tape I'll try to give some notes with respect to the trip that I made on Friday and Saturday morning of this past week, the 16th and 17th of October.

The flight from Manila to Tacloban City on the Island of Leyte took about two hours, it was non-stop and we arrived at approximately 9:30 A.M. Mr. Juan Augstin of the Bureau of Public Schools accompanied me and as on the trip to Laoag, I appreciated the background information that he was able to supply regarding this trip. The Bureau of Public Schools had failed to get Dean Cinco word of our arrival so we caught a "jeepney" for town and for the Normal School. Since they were not anticipating us, we went down and checked in at a rather new hotel. It was the LaLeytena. Then we returned to the school for a chance to get acquainted with some of the personnel and also a tour of the facilities. I was particularly impressed with the level of administration and the type of job that they are doing at the Leyte Normal School. In comparing it with the Northern Luzon Teachers College it seemed to me that they were much more excited about their work, the youngsters seemed bright and alert, and there seemed to be a higher level of creativity taking place on the campus. I was particularly impressed with the laboratory school and the things that they are doing in their museum and I would want us to consider the possibility of establishing an exchange between our campus school and the campus school at Leyte, particularly in the area of exchanging science materials. For instance, they have a wonderful resource of shells and they were excited about the prospect of exchanging a shell collection with our laboratory school children, sending to them rocks and leaves of Wisconsin.

I continue to be amazed at the method by which the people here have adopted the "simples" of our culture and society and democracy, but very little of the substance. It is seen in the programs in the Normal Schools as well as other areas of the culture. More of that later. Friday was the day for the ROTC sponsors' review. This meant that we went out to the field area and watched the ROTC of the Leyte Normal School and the Industrial and Technical Institute pass in review before their co-ed sponsors. This took about an hour and a half and as soon as that was over I was taken on a tour

of the Industrial and Technical Institute by its director and also by the superintendent of the schools in the Leyte district.

Saturday morning Mrs. Cinco got a car and we went down to Palo, which is the site of the McArthur landing on Leyte. It's interesting that this next Tuesday, October 20, is the 20th anniversary of the Leyte and Philippine liberation and they were getting ready for a ceremony that would involve President Macapagal, the Ambassador to the Philippines from the United States, Mr. Blair, and a number of other dignitaries. This meant that there was a great deal of activity in terms of painting, of cutting of grass, and getting things ready for the ceremony on Tuesday. I was quite impressed with the monument that has been established marking the site where the men landed on Red Beach October 20, 1944. I hope the pictures I took come out satisfactorily. On the way to the site of the liberation landing I observed the copra and the hemp industries and it was fascinating to see the hemp drying and being processed out in the field, as well as the copra factory and the drying of the coconut shells in preparation for that material. There is considerable beauty in the Tacloban-Leyte area with the Leytical Pacific Ocean being to the east, with rather sharp hills rising immediately behind the town. Many palm trees, banana trees and other tropical vegetation make this a spot of considerable beauty. Tacloban has done a good job of developing its port facilities and there were four large ocean-going freighters at dock when I visited the port area early Saturday morning. Our plane left at 9:50 so we managed to get a great deal done during the time we got up in the morning and the departure of our plane.

Saturday night the Philippine Normal College put on a special performance of their Barangeay Folk Dance Troop. This was held in one of the most beautiful auditoriums that I have seen - the auditorium of the Philippine-American Insurance building here in Manila. The president of Philippine Normal College, Dr. Emiliano Ramirez, indicated that this program was given in my honor. However, they invited a number of dignitaries from the Embassy, from AID, from the other colleges and universities in the Manila area, as well as a number of Philipinos. The auditorium, seating approximately 1400, was filled and they had to bring in chairs for the performance. I was very impressed with the nature of the dance, the costuming, the lighting, and the high quality of work done by these students of Philippine Normal College. It was an experience that I shall never forget and one that I appreciate very much having during this trip to the Philippines. It would be wonderful if we could bring this dance ^{troop} over to the United States and at some point have them perform on our campus. In fact, there would

be many reasons for establishing some type of affiliation with the Philippine Normal College and if one of the two candidates from there is chosen as our administrative intern it would be a good thing to expand our affiliation in as many areas as possible. They have prepared a very attractive brochure describing the Barangeay Folk Dance Troop and I'll bring this back with me for our people to see.

Following the dance performance a number of us were guests in the home of Dr. Robert Smal for coffee. Bob Smal is with AID and along with another person in the AID Mission goes out three weeks out of four, providing work shop experiences in the small villages of the Philippines in the teaching of reading and in mathematics for elementary school children. Included in the party were the Morey Williams', Dr. Williams being the Head of Education in AID, and Dr. John Rork, who is the Higher Education Specialist assigned to AID. We had a good evening visiting about the Philippines, about some of the problems that we see here in the Philippines and also sharing observations of the people, the culture and the identification with the United States. It was a most enjoyable evening.

Today has been spent in resting up from the last week and also getting ready for tomorrow. My plane leaves at 7:00 A.M. for Cagayan de Oro, which is on the Island of Mindinoro, and after arriving at Cagayan de Oro I change planes and fly into MalayBalay, where I will meet the last of the five candidates. Then I plan to come out Tuesday afternoon, arriving in Manila at 8:00 P.M. On Wednesday I will go to LosBanos with Dr. Williams and Dr. Rork, where I have asked to tour the International Rice Institute and the facilities of the University of the Philippines College of Agriculture. I understand that they are doing some outstanding things at LosBanos and I welcome the opportunity to see these facilities. This is about a two hour drive and is located south and somewhat east of Manila. We will drive an AID car down to LosBanos for this trip.

Thursday I will be in Manila trying to tie together some odds and ends I have delayed doing. First I will have a meeting with the Director of the National Economic Council. This is the group that controls the counterpart funds and this group is the agency that works with AID with respect to

any projects that AID has here in the Philippines. Also, I am scheduled to tour the facilities of the Philippine Historical Society and that will take place on Thursday. I hope to get over to the Embassy and see the Director of the Peace Corps and visit with personnel there regarding what they are doing in their work. I also want to visit the Cultural Attache of the United States Embassy, a Dr. Hamilton.

I hope things go well for the dedication of the Science Building, the Allen Residence Center and the two residence halls, and also that Homecoming goes off as planned. I know that the football team is going to be successful in defeating Eau Claire.