

# LIBERATION

PUBLISHED BY THE PREPARATORY COMMISSION OF THE NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC FRONT

VOL. II NO. 8

NOVEMBER 30, 1973

## Tondo poor defy Marcos!



### Sit-down strike by 1,000 workers

A thousand workers in a garment factory in Canlubang, Laguna, staged a sit-down strike last Nov. 16 and 17 to back up their demand to be paid the minimum wage according to law.

The mass action, held in defiance of the Marcos dictatorship's ban on strikes, was reported in Anak-Pawis (Toiler), a workers' underground newspaper.

The sit-down strike started on the evening of Nov. 16 when 500 night-shift workers refused to man the factory's machines. They protested against the inhuman conditions under which they were being made to work.

The next day, another 500 workers making up the day shift similarly refused to work.

According to Anak-Pawis, the wage for "regular" workers at the factory is only ₱6.50 a day, with only a "highest-paid" few receiving the minimum wage of ₱8. Workers newly taken in are classified as "trainees" and are required to work without pay for six months to complete their "training".

The garment factory, owned by two big capitalists, produces gloves which are exported to the United States.

Long before the strike, the workers had unsuccessfully demanded that they be paid the minimum wage according to existing law. They warned the factory owners that their next mass action would be more drastic unless their just demand was met. ●

Defying the Marcos dictatorship's ban on rallies, demonstrations and other public gatherings, a thousand poor residents of Tondo marched to Malacañang Nov. 17 demanding a stop to the demolition of their dwellings.

On that same day, some 300 wives of jeepney drivers went to Malacañang to protest the sharp increase in gasoline prices and the plan to phase out jeepneys from Manila's streets.

The marchers from Tondo were made up of foreshoreland dwellers whose homes were about to be demolished in line with Mrs. Imelda Marcos' "Pacig river beautification project".

Although they were blocked from continuing to Malacañang by a contingent of Manila police and Metrocom soldiers, they obtained a promise that none of their homes

(Continued on page 2)

### Charito Planas given 'bartolina'

PORT BONIFACIO, Makati, Rizal -- Charito Planas, prominent civic leader and civil libertarian, was placed in the "bartolina" (solitary confinement) for over a month at the Maximilian Security Unit (MSU), this fort, according to reports from her friends.

Miss Planas was arrested anew by agents of the Marcos dictatorship last Oct. 3. She was held at the Ipal Reception Center in Camp Grace before being placed in solitary at Port Bonifacio.

Latent reports from her friends state

(Continued on page 2)

#### Inside

◆ PASS ON AFTER READING

■ MARCOS ECONOMIC POLICY: SELL COUNTRY TO FOREIGNERS ■  
CLERGYMEN FOR CIVIL LIBERTIES ■ BONIFACIO THE SUBVERSIVE



## TONDO POOR (From page 1)

would be demolished without prior consultation with them.

The promise was made by Brig. Gen. Prospero Olivas, Metrocom chief, in a meeting hastily arranged to head off the demonstrators' determination to confront the dictator Marcos.

In the first months of martial law, the Tondo residents, organized under the Zone-One Tondo Organization (ZOTO) had marched to the gates of Malacañang to protest their ejection. The dictator gave assurances to them then that his regime would recognize their right to the land they occupy.

### Demolition of Houses

Last Nov. 17, however, a demolition team from Manila's City Hall and from the Presidential Assistant on Housing and Resettlement Agency (PAHRA) arrived at Tondo's Bonifacio Village and proceeded to tear down the houses. The team was escorted by 50 uniformed soldiers of the Coast Guard under a Commander Brageis.

ZOTO leaders rushed to the area and showed the demolition team prior agreements that the houses about to be razed would be allowed to stay. The agreements were with a Col. Venago of PAHRA and Brig. Gen. Gaudencio Tobias of the National Housing Corporation.

When the wrecking team disregarded the agreements, community leaders called a meeting of the barrio association and a march to Malacañang was decided upon. The residents meant to confront the dictator.

### Others Join March

The Bonifacio Village residents were soon joined by the foreshoreland dwellers of Insulininda Village, Dula Pating Bato, Slip Zero, Magitangan Extension, San Antonio, Barrio Pugoso and North Harbor.

Marching five abreast, they took Tondo's main streets and crossed Del Pan bridge where they ignored a Manila police patrol car which tried to stop them. They proceeded to Plaza Bonifacio (formerly Plaza Lawton) and then crossed Queson bridge.

At the intersection of Queson boulevard and Arlegui, within several blocks of Malacañang, they were blocked by a big formation of Manila policemen led by NMP Chief Gerardo Tamayo and his deputy, Col. James Barbero.

### Arrest Threatened

The police threatened to arrest them for alleged violation of Marcos' General Order No. 5 prohibiting rallies, demonstrations

and other public gatherings.

Whatever the consequences, they would have marched on were it not for Gen. Olivas' intervention and his promise that no houses would be demolished without consultation with them.

When ZOTO leaders informed the marchers of the new agreement with the Metrocom chief, the Tondo residents rejoiced, realizing once more the strength of their unity in mass struggle. (NMP)•

## PLANAS...

(From page 1)

that Miss Planas has since been transferred again, this time to the Silahis Rehabilitation Center for drug addicts. She is still being detained there under maximum security.

The same reports said that while Miss Planas was detained at the Ipil center, she provided a great boost to the morale of her co-detainees and encouraged them to remain steadfast in their opposition to the dictatorship.

Roused from her bed in the middle of the night, and handcuffed and blindfolded, Miss Planas was subsequently transported to Fort Bonifacio.

Her fellow political prisoners at Ipil immediately staged a hunger strike to protest the transfer and the cruel manner in which this was done by the military.

Miss Planas' relatives and friends were not allowed to visit or communicate with her the whole time she was held in solitary confinement.

Their visiting rights were restored only after Miss Planas was transferred to Silahis center.

They confirm that despite detention and the harsh treatment meted out to her by the dictatorship, Miss Planas has remained undaunted.

Even her prison guards and some leader officials of the regime have been impressed by her courage and persistence in "opening the eyes of others to the true nature of the dictatorship".

One of the most active civic leaders in the country, Miss Planas was first picked up by the military soon after the declaration of martial law and was interrogated.

Among the organizations with which she is connected are the Integrated Bar of the Philippines, of which she is secretary general, and the Movement of Concerned Citizens for Civil Liberties, the Association for Philippine-Chinese Understanding, and the Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines•



# ACTIVIST PRIEST PUT ON TRIAL

A progressive American Catholic priest who fought on the side of small Filipino peasants in Mindanao against US imperialist landgrabbers is facing deportation by the US-Marcos dictatorship.

He is Fr. Edward M. Gerlock, 37, of the Maryknoll Mission. He chose to confront his accusers by pleading innocent Tuesday, Nov. 27, in proceedings before the dictatorship's Immigration Commission.

A native of Binghamton, New York, the priest stands accused of having links with the New People's Army and of having prepared an anti-dictatorship paper for the Maryknoll Mission, among other allegedly subversive activities.

## Life's Commitment

On his arraignment Tuesday, he said he had decided to face trial because the charges brought against him "involve my whole life and all that I have committed that life to".

But more than that, he said, the resolution of his case would affect "the lives of thousands of priests, brothers, sisters and laymen, both foreign and Filipino, who are also asking themselves what is it that constitutes their commitment to the gospel in these critical times".

Fr. Gerlock, who is being assisted in the trial by his legal counsel, former Senator Lorenzo Tañada, had earlier explained through the Associated Press his commitment to the poor Filipino peasants against the big US landgrabbers.

## "People Bulldozed off Land"

"It was the way they took the land," he told an AP correspondent. "They bulldozed people right off the land. Now they're using aerial sprays, harming farm animals and giving people terrible rashes."

Fr. Gerlock, who has been doing missionary work in the Philippines for the last 11 years, identified the landgrabbers as the Tagum Development Company, a subsidiary of the Chiquita United Fruit Company, and the Del Monte Packing Corporation, both of them US multinational firms. They had set up huge banana plantations in Davao del Norte and had been bulldozing small peasants from the land with the aid of the Marcos regime.

## Aided NPA Cadre's Kin

Fr. Gerlock, head of the Maryknoll fathers' Social Action Center in Tagum, Davao del Norte, and chaplain of the Federation of Free Farmers in that province and in Da-

(Turn to next page)



## PROTEST LETTER FROM CHURCHMEN

At last report, 137 Catholic, Protestant and Aglipayan leaders, bound in unprecedented solidarity, had signed a letter addressed to Malacañang demanding the restoration of press freedom and other democratic rights.

The signers include Rev. Cirilo Rigor of the Cosmopolitan Church of Manila; Rev. Benigno Mayo, chairman of the Major Religious Superiors of Men; Magr. Alfredo P. Reyes, archbishop of Nueva Caceres (Naga City); Most Rev. Felix Paron, bishop of Linao, Cavite; Dr. David Sobrepasa, United Church of Christ in the Philippines; Rev. Manuel Lumbius, Philippine Episcopal Church; Rev. Dayani D. Rico, Philippine Independent (Aglipayan) Church; Rev. Santiago D. Purugganan, moderator of the UCCP North Central Luzon Conference; and Rev. Pacifico Ortis, SJ, former delegate to the constitutional convention.

In their letter to Malacañang, dated Oct. 25, 1973, the clergymen pointed out that "news is managed, the truth is either suppressed or tortured, public opinion is being manipulated everyday, and the whole nation suffers in the process".

It added: "The common people are wiser than many of us think since they sense that there is no truth when many things they read and hear are plainly contrary to the reality of their misery and poverty. They can see high-class extravagance, they can smell the stench of corruption, they can feel the sting of terrible injustice, whatever the official propaganda may say. It is this contradiction between propaganda and actual fact that disturbs us deeply." ●



# Fr. de la Torre backs alliance under NDF

Fr. Edicio de la Torre, SVD, a young priest who joined the underground upon the imposition of martial law, issued a statement clarifying his views as conveyed in a New York Times article dated Oct. 18.

The statement was issued through the Christians for National Liberation (CNL).

The New York Times article, entitled, "Church in the Philippines Becoming a Focus of Opposition to Marcos", was bylined by Joseph Lelyveld.

Fr. de la Torre said in his statement that he "recognizes the need for cooperative efforts among the different organizations, groups and individuals working for liberation" and that as such, his role is "to help bring about and strengthen an alliance" of these forces.

## National Democratic Front

Identifying the alliance as the National Democratic Front (NDF), he pointed out that among the goals contained in its 10-point program are "the restoration of democratic rights, genuine land reform, development of a self-reliant economy, local autonomy and self-government for the national minorities and eventual coalition government".

On the question of whether the communists would dominate the alliance, Fr. de la Torre said:

"We should realize that no one group can

---

## PRIEST... (From page 3)

was Oriental, also admitted having helped the family of an NPA Red fighter being hunted by the dictatorship.

"I would help such people anytime," he told the AP correspondent. "That is our mission."

Arrested last month in the wave of the dictatorship's intensified campaign of repression against progressive priests, nuns, seminarians and laymen, Fr. Gerlock has been detained at Camp Crane. He was incommunicado for a week.

The American priest first felt the heavy hand of the martial law regime soon after the imposition of martial law last year when he was picked up and interrogated, along with other progressive members of the clergy. •

expect to mobilize the different organizations and persons needed to replace the present dictatorship with a democratic government...The different forces will have to learn to work together for common goals. This is not just a question of power (meaning we need as much strength as possible to overthrow the US-supported dictatorship), but it is also a question of principle (that is, to be really democratic, the revolution must involve as many people as possible to be truly representative of the Filipino people)."

## Question of leadership

He said that "the question of leadership or 'domination' is not just a question of organizational strength. More importantly and accurately, it is a question of correct policies and commitment to common goals... leadership must be accorded by the most able".

He added that the different groups already working together in the NDF "are encouraged to continue developing" and expanding their ranks. "Independence and initiative are encouraged within the basic program", he said, "but individual and group action which would contradict or violate the basic program" is not accepted.

Fr. de la Torre also clarified the CNL's relation with the NDF: "It is to the NDF that the CNL directly relates, not the NPA. Of course, insofar as the NPA is one of the groups included in the NDF, CNL would have relations with it."

In his statement, Fr. de la Torre also expressed that "we don't demand nor expect absolute unity, especially at the ideological level". All the groups do not always agree, he said, "especially on questions of ideology and theology...These differences need not and cannot be resolved now, so we subordinate our ideological differences to the more immediate and pressing task of making a common program..."

## Question of Theology

On the question of theology, he believes that "theological reflections and readings do not, by themselves, lead people to commit to the struggle. Rather, it is concrete experience of oppression and participation in the struggle which 'moves' people to committed action".

In conclusion, Fr. de la Torre reiterated a conviction which he has often shared with colleagues: "The revolution is not a 'last chance' founded on despair. It is a first choice founded on hope...hope not in Marcos and the few who are presuming to make revolution in their own name, but hope in the people -- in whose decisions and actions history is shaped." •



## Dictator selling country down the river

The economic policy adopted by the Marcos martial law regime, which emphasizes the growth of exports and the entry of massive foreign investments and aid, is damaging to the nation over the long run.

This policy is dictated by Euro-American economists who are blindly followed by Western-trained Filipino technocrats. By equating "growth" with "development", these economists seek to perpetuate the dominance of the big industrialized nations over the underdeveloped ones.

The damaging effect of such policy is clearly pointed out by a leading African economist in an article published in Development Forum. The article is excerpted under the title, "Economic Growth is not Development", in the Oct. 16 issue of The Bulletin, a publication of the West German government's Press and Information Office.

Jamir Amin, director of the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning in Dakar, Senegal, points out that "growth" is a measure of production while "development" is a historical process involving much more than production. The two terms, he stresses, cannot be interchanged.

And yet, he notes, Euro-American economists have been substituting one term for the other. The misleading substitution, he says, is intended to perpetuate economic imbalance in the world.

This imbalance "concerns the international division of labor under which the industrialized nations of the center concentrate on high technology and a high return on manufactured products, while the developing countries of the periphery concentrate on raw materials production and some light manufacturing".

To maintain the international division of labor, Amin says, the West (industrialized nations led by the United States) implements an aid policy towards smaller countries with the following goals:

1. Stabilization of raw material prices, with buffer stocks to narrow price fluctuations;
2. Promotion of a few "import substitution" industries;
3. Setting up a minimum amount of foreign aid that a country must receive year after year; and
4. Encouragement of foreign investments, particularly those of the multinational corporations.

Attainment of these goals, if these economists are to be believed, may be considered growth or development of the poor na-

tion's economy.

The Marcos regime, pressured by the US-dominated World Bank, has adopted this Western policy. It gives specific emphasis to the inducement of foreign investments, crowing over the inflow as a great boost to the country's economic growth.

In his article, Amin points out that the Euro-American concept of a growing economy emphasizes exports. The export model encour-



aged, however, "prescribes that the people of the developing countries shall not work for themselves, but for others".

Amin describes the model further:

"It begins with the creation of an export sector... (which) helps to shape the entire economy, supporting a system of unequal exchange under which the prime task of the economy is to provide cheap labor for export purposes. Wages are as low as local conditions permit, and stand in no relationship to the productivity of the enterprise. As a result, the domestic mass market created by such export activity is narrow and distorted."

Amin is saying that -- as the Marcos regime has been promising foreign investors in the Mariveles export processing zone -- wages of Filipino labor will be kept as low as possible to enable the foreign investors to make as high a profit as possible.

The low wages, in effect, will never give the workers enough to buy what they need. Because purchasing power is so restricted, industries making consumer goods for the domestic market will not prosper. On the other hand, the privileged class which derives the full benefits of the export trade provide a luxury (import) market.

This system will merely worsen the basic inequality between the mass of workers and the privileged class, particularly the capitalists.

The Marcos regime argues that the export industries it seeks to develop will achieve remarkable records of economic growth. But Amin counters: "Growth, yes, but growth for whom? For those who benefit from the ex-

(Turn to next page)



# **Marcos taxes: soak the poor, pamper the rich**

Soak the poor and pamper the rich.

This is the tax policy under the "new society". A worse version of previous tax policies, it exposes as a sham the dictatorship's loudly-trumpeted goal of "democratizing wealth".

While granting huge tax exemptions to giant foreign corporations and to local big businessmen and wealthy individuals, the dictatorship has been increasing the tax burden on the poor people who are already saddled with heavy taxes, low wages and high prices.

The latest of these tax decrees is Presidential Decree No. 314 which increased the specific tax on gasoline, lubricating oil and automotive diesel. This increase has been conveniently passed on by the oil companies to consumers who are now made to pay increased oil prices. Another immediate result of hiked oil prices is the subsequent shooting up of prime commodity prices which directly affect the masses.

Another oppressive tax decree is PD No. 213 which ostensibly offers amnesty to delinquent taxpayers but actually imposes more taxes on the poor. It requires market vendors, jeepney drivers, small fishermen, peasants, casual government employees and even scavengers to pay P10 for every year in which they failed to file income tax returns.

In Manila, many market vendors are compelled to pay for as many as five years -- or P50 each vendor -- fearing the cancellation of their licenses. To force tax col-

---

## **DICTATOR SELLING...** (From page 5)

port-luxury economy, of course."

Multinational corporations play an important role in the system, being the biggest investors in the export-processing industries.

By such investments, the multinationals avoid paying higher wages and a higher cost of production in their home countries. At the same time, they preserve the market for their finished products in the host country or region -- as in the case of the Marcos "progressive car manufacturing program" which has counterparts in other US client states in Asia.

Amin blasts the myth that multinationals help developing economies by transferring technology. e

lectors to go after the market vendors and other small earners, they have been told by the Bureau of Internal Revenue that their promotion or retention in the service depends on their performance in this "amnesty" campaign.

In the provinces, poor peasants have complained to their barrio councilmen or municipal mayors that they could not afford to pay the imposition of PD 213. Many of them were threatened with imprisonment if they did not comply with the decree.

Another tax burden placed on the poor is contained in the recently enacted Local Tax Code. This measure requires provincial and city governments -- now deprived of their share of income taxes that all go to the national government -- to enact ordinances imposing taxes on business, occupation, amusement, real estate transfers, printing and publication, franchises, and even on peddlers.

Against these decrees oppressive of the poor, Marcos has issued decrees favoring the rich taxpayers.

PD No. 16, as amended by PD 16-A and PD 67, for instance, enables rich taxpayers to keep their ill-gotten wealth by merely reporting previously untaxed incomes and assets, and paying 10 per cent of the total as tax.

Many tax evaders reported only a minimum amount and paid the nominal tax. Through these means, wealthy tax evaders are able to avoid any tax investigations.

Other tax edicts favoring the wealthy, particularly foreign companies and foreign investors, are:

-- PD No. 58, condoning delinquent tax accounts and granting tax amnesty to contested assessments.

-- PD No. 16, suspending the tax on capital gains realized from the sale, disposition and transfer of capital assets for a period of one year from Oct. 5, 1972. This enables foreign-owned corporations to dispose of their capital assets and remit their proceeds abroad without paying taxes.

-- PD No. 299-A, reducing to 15 per cent the tax on dividends received by a domestic or resident foreign corporation from a domestic Filipino corporation. Previously, the tax ranged from 25 to 35 per cent.

-- PD No. 148, reducing the tax on interest on foreign loans from 35 to 15 per cent.

-- Various decrees, like PD No. 237, exempting importations of airlines and mining companies from compensating tax. Airline and mining companies are mostly owned and controlled by foreigners. (EBC) e



## IF BONIFACIO WERE ALIVE TODAY

Today being the birth anniversary of Andres Bonifacio, it is reasonable to expect the usual lip service and other hypocritical gestures from the dictator Marcos about the worker from Tondo who founded the Katipunan.

More than once since declaring martial law, the tyrant has insulted the memory of our country's heroes by likening his so-called "revolution from the center" to the Revolution of 1896.

Bonifacio and his comrades set up the Katipunan as a people's underground movement dedicated to the armed overthrow of a cruel colonial regime which suppressed the masses' basic rights and made life for them a miserable and agonizing experience.

Against great odds, the "Great Plebeian" and the other patriotic Filipinos of his time staked their very lives as they travelled the long and tortuous road towards national liberation and freedom.

The Katipuneros were on the eve of complete victory when the forces of US imperialism intervened and took their turn at colonizing and subjugating the Filipino people.

### IMPRISONMENT AND THE STRUGGLE FOR FREEDOM

The recent arrests of a number of anti-fascist militants and the continued detention of thousands more underline for us the question of imprisonment and its relation to the people's struggle for freedom.

The struggle to overthrow the US-Marcos dictatorship will be long and arduous. As the struggle advances, everyone must be prepared to shoulder difficulties and sacrifices. Like martyrdom, imprisonment is one of the heaviest sacrifices some of us must bear in the course of the struggle.

Imprisonment -- and the torture and inhuman impositions that go with it -- is certainly a heavy burden to bear. If it befalls anyone, it will drastically constrict his freedom, but it can also serve as a rare opportunity for him to show his utmost devotion to the people's cause. It is in many cases the acid test for true revolutionaries.

The history of revolutionary struggles in many countries, and our own recent history in the fight against the Marcos tyranny, clearly show that imprisonment cannot break the spirit of revolutionaries. It can never make them "politically dead". An overwhelming majority of our political prisoners, despite unspeakable torture and cruel prison conditions, have remained firm in their convictions and continue to defy, inside their detention cells, the dictatorship.

Their hunger strikes, protest leaflets, petitions, group discussions and many other

Bonifacio's and the Katipunan's sworn enemies were the tyrannical Spanish colonizers, their despised "Guardia Civil", and all their puppets.

The Filipino people have gotten rid of Spanish colonialism. But we remain an oppressed and exploited people under the yoke of US imperialism and its puppet dictator.

The evils against which Bonifacio and the Katipuneros fought so valiantly -- tyrannical government, foreign domination and feudal backwardness -- are still with us today, albeit in more sinister and oppressive guises.

If the Katipunan's founder were alive today, he most certainly would not be in the employ of the US-Marcos dictatorship which intensifies from day to day its oppression and exploitation of the people. And neither would he be sitting idly by.

Like other patriotic and freedom-loving Filipinos, Bonifacio would be in the urban underground or in the hills with today's "subversives", waging unflinching struggle against a tyrant who is of the same stripe as the Filipino people's enemies of 1896. ●

forms of mass protest speak eloquently of their high spirits and their firm unity with the revolutionaries and the people beyond the prison walls.

The refusal to bow down and surrender to the dictatorship, the militant speech and the disciplined manner of the political prisoners never fail to inspire and give added strength to fellow prisoners and to the people outside.

This unbreakable spirit of the true revolutionary demoralizes the enemy, and wins grudging admiration from the prison guards and petty administrators of the detention camp.

The political prisoners have a revolutionary duty to work for their freedom, while the movement and the people outside seek the freedom of all political prisoners. With this in mind, however, the political prisoner must not forget the primary concern of all revolutionaries -- service to the revolution and the people. The walls and bars of prison should not be allowed to hinder them from contributing their share to advance the people's liberation struggle.

The people's victory is certain, for no tyranny or dictatorship of whatever type can defeat the people. For all political prisoners, by whatever means, liberation is certain. The day will surely come when the people will topple this hateful dictatorship and smash the walls of its prisons. ●



It is just possible he was merely kidding. Or it could be that with the knowledge and approval of the dictator, he has started to prepare everybody's mind for what his master intends to do.

In any case, Tourism Secretary Jose Aspiras has been telling audiences in the United States that martial law in the Philippines may last 21 years or more, thereby giving us an idea how long Marcos means to tyrannize the Filipino people.

• • •

The dictatorship deliberately distorted the truth when it reported on the student-led demonstrations in Thailand which overthrew the corrupt and oppressive regime of Thanom Kittikachorn.

What happened, pure and simple, was that the various democratic sectors of Thai society toppled the Thanom regime when it turned a deaf ear to popular demands that martial law be lifted and that there be a return to constitutional rule.

Let that be a lesson to Marcos and all other fascist dictators.

• • •

Journalist-turned-movie producer Douglas Quijano has a likely explanation for the proliferation of locally-produced fairy-tale movies.

In times of crisis such as now, he told television audiences recently, people turn to fantasy as an escape from the harsh realities of life.

Quijano might have added that under martial law, the only "safe" movies to produce are those which have no relation whatsoever to the reality of our oppression and poverty under the Marcos dictatorship.

• • •

With the dictator scrapping the so-called Media Advisory Council due to the larcenous ways of its chairman, Primitivo Mijares, the mongrel is frantically trying to get back to his master's good graces.

The latest report is that Mijares has been compiling his own "Notes on the New Society" in which he would seek to call attention to his role as the dictator's "eyes and ears" in the mass media.

What would make more interesting reading, at least as far as members of the National Press Club are concerned, is an unexpurgated account of how Mijares and his

cohorts have been making money on the NPC's "Celebrity Night" shows and how they dipped their slimy fingers into the proceeds from the premiere showing of "The Godfather".

• • •

The dictator has not overcome his propensity to covet the properties of others, amply illustrated in the "landgrab" he perpetrated on small settlers in Northern Luzon many years ago and in his virtual confiscation of firms owned by the Lopez family, such as Meralco and ABS-CBN Broadcast Center.

Recently, he grabbed a large chunk of real estate in Novaliches, Caloocan City, and is awarding it to employees of the Office of the President and to soldiers in the Presidential Guards Battalion, no doubt in an effort to buy their loyalty.

Principal owner of the land is J. Antonio Araneta, prominent businessman, civil libertarian and long-time critic of Marcos in the Nacionalista Party.

Not content with just grabbing the Novaliches property, the dictator also imprisoned Araneta's two sons, Antonio Jr. (Tonypet) and Enrique.

• • •

The newspapers tell us that the dictator's mother, Josefa Evarlin Marcos, has been named "Most Outstanding Mother for the Year 1973". If we know her right, Mrs. Marcos would have preferred the title of most outstanding mahjongg player in the country.

Meanwhile, the other Mrs. Marcos -- Imelda -- was not far behind in the Awards Department. The University of the Philippines' board of regents is reported to have voted her an honorary doctorate degree in humanities.

Sources close to the jewellers Oledan and Velayo think a more appropriate distinction would be for Madama to be known as the hoarder of one of the biggest and fanciest jewelry collections in the world.

• • •

The latest report is that civic leader Charito Planas has been released from the "bartolina" and has been transferred to Fort Bonifacio's Silahis rehabilitation center for drug addicts.

As far as her friends are concerned, she is addicted to only one thing -- the immediate restoration of the civil liberties which the dictatorship has abolished. ●