

philippine studies

Ateneo de Manila University • Loyola Heights, Quezon City • 1108 Philippines

A Senator's Speeches: Public Addresses

Review Author: Joaquin Bernas

Philippine Studies vol. 8, no. 1 (1960): 219—220

Copyright © Ateneo de Manila University

Philippine Studies is published by the Ateneo de Manila University. Contents may not be copied or sent via email or other means to multiple sites and posted to a listserv without the copyright holder's written permission. Users may download and print articles for individual, noncommercial use only. However, unless prior permission has been obtained, you may not download an entire issue of a journal, or download multiple copies of articles.

Please contact the publisher for any further use of this work at philstudies@admu.edu.ph.

<http://www.philippinestudies.net>
Fri June 30 13:30:20 2008

One other popular misconception needs to be set right. Dr. Guillotin did not perish by the instrument named after him. He died in bed of a carbuncle on the shoulder.

Mr. Kershaw has produced a fine piece of research. The subject is admittedly macabre but—if we consider what the guillotine, or as it was familiarly known among the Paris populace, the Patriotic Shortener, contributed to the French Revolution—not without its importance.

H. DE LA COSTA

A SENATOR'S SPEECHES

PUBLIC ADDRESSES. By Ambrosio Padilla. Vol. I: 1954-57, Vol. II: 1959. Privately printed.

In a speech delivered before the Ilocos Sur Lawyers' Association in June 1957 ("Principles, Not Personalities"), Senator Padilla, the author of the collection of speeches under review, summed up what he believes to be the three fundamental qualifications of a candidate worthy of public choice: "first, honesty and moral integrity; second, competence and intellectual ability; third, sincerity and willingness to serve." Senator Padilla is a public servant of known honesty and moral integrity, competent and intellectually capable, sincere and willing to serve, and elected to public office in November 1957.

The speeches are arranged chronologically: the first volume reproduces speeches delivered by the author during his incumbency as Solicitor General of the Philippines and the second volume contains addresses delivered as a member of the Philippine Senate.

The number of the topics treated, the variety of the audience for whom the speeches are prepared, and the frequency with which the author is called upon to speak would naturally require of the speaker a "storehouse" of ideas upon which he can always fall back. This storehouse, for Senator Padilla, is his legal training, his long years of legal practice and the consequent familiarity with the jurisprudence of both the Philippines and the United States.

Law, whether public or private, is essentially an ordering of the elements and forces that make up society. It is this central idea of order which lends unity to this collection of speeches, a work which of its nature is not the result of a conscious effort at unification. Almost every speech can be boiled down to an appeal for the recognition and application of the rule of law in the private and public lives of citizens and for a balancing of apparent social opposites such as rights and obligations, authority and responsibility, private interest and the common good, individual liberty and political authority, priv-

ate rights and state security, labor and capital, social justice and private property, and public service and politics. The following titles from the first volume speak for themselves: "My Concept of Public Office" (address to the Cebu Rotary in September 1955); "Free Press and Independent Judiciary" (address to the College Editors' Guild in January 1956); "Liberty and Authority" (commencement address at Dagupan Colleges in March 1956); "Less Politics, More Service" (commencement address at San Carlos University in March 1956). In the second volume, the same central idea can be traced, but the speeches, as should perhaps be expected, are now more intense, since the author is now Senator and Minority Floor Leader. Some sample titles are: "The Cabinet Can Do No Wrong!" (address to the Manila Jaycees in February 1958); "Inaction and Inconsistencies" (commencement address at the University of the Visayas in March 1958); "Abuse of Authority" (address at a Law Convocation in Silliman University in October 1958).

At the rate the Senator and former Solicitor General has been turning out speeches, it would be unfair to expect that this collection should be a classic. The speeches are mostly of passing significance, almost all are of local interest, and the oratory never rises to Churchillian heights. The principles enunciated are not novel, but this in itself is not a fault, for the principles of law and order are ageless. Moreover, this is not to say that the speeches do not serve their purpose, namely, to contribute, in the words of the Foreword, "to the strengthening of the foundations of official morality and unselfish spirit of public service."

Some of the speeches which this reviewer finds more noteworthy are the following, products, undoubtedly, of the author's long experience as private legal practitioner and Solicitor General: "An Appraisal of the Proposed Code of Crimes" (address before the second national convention of lawyers, Manila, December 28, 1953); "Judicial Reforms" (speech before the Batangas Lawyers' Association, February 1, 1958); "Constitutional Amendments" (address to the La Union Lawyers Association, February 8, 1958).

JOAQUIN BERNAS

INVIGORATING PARISH LIFE

THE PARISH, from Theology to Practice. Edited by Hugo Rahner, S.J. Trans. by Robert Kress. Westminster, Maryland: The Newman Press, 1958, viii, 142p.

Should the busy parish priest look to this slim volume of essays to find practical answers to his every-day difficulties, he would be sadly disappointed. This is in no sense the harried pastor's *vade*