The Peace Corps

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sensed a Macapagal victory, since by 11:35 a.m., Wednesday, OQC had already tabulated 58% of the total vote. Four years earlier, at 11:30 a.m. on Wednesday, the day after election, the fastest unofficial tally had tabulated only 13% of the total vote.

On Wednesday night, 24 hours after the close of the polling places, Bohol Congressman Bartolome Cabangbang aired a radio protest against supposedly unreliable and partisan telegraphed OQC figures. OQC National Directorate official Attorney Francisco Ortigas replied over the radio and through the newspapers that the movement was strictly non-partisan, a project of the citizenry at large.

Of the movement, President-elect Macapagal later said: "It marks another milestone in the Philippine democratic way of life." Max Soliven, publisher of The Evening News, wrote: "In spite of many delays and distractions... the men and women of Operation Quick Count deserve a vote of commendation, not an investigation as threatened yesterday by Congressman Bartolome Cabangbang (Nacionalista, Bohol). They never pretended their tabulations were official, but could not help the fact that they were also psychological."

Rodolfo F. Concepcion

The Peace Corps

The first unit of President Kennedy's Peace Corps, 138 strong, arrived in Manila on October 12, 1961. Busses immediately took them to hastily built barracks at the Boy Scout Jamboree Headquarters in Los Baños, Laguna. Here the group lived and trained for six weeks (a dialect course and acclimatization lectures), after which they were posted on December 3 to the Bikol and the Visayas, where most now act as teacher's aides in barrio public schools.

The main aim of the Peace Corps, be it noted, is to have Americans learn about people in other countries — how they live, what their interests and motivations are. Teaching and other services rendered in any country are incidental. The real hope is that out of this group and other such groups will come well-informed and sympathetic foreign service officers. The idea is, of course, not new, although the scale on which it is being done now is new. It is a good idea and it is succeeding.

The necessary and expected confusion attending the organization and training of the first group was aggravated by several factors. Los Baños is too far (two hours or a little less by car) from Manila for
the skilled training resources, which are located mostly in that city,
to be readily available. Staff officers for the Corps are too few. More
than the usual ill-considered, if not ignorant, public comment about
the Corps affected the morale of the volunteers. Comfortably placed
American government personnel considered the Corps an affront to
themselves, while some American businessmen labelled the whole opera-
tion jejune. Americans in Manila could have done more to lighten
the burden laid on the staff officers, who often had to work around
the clock.

Many Filipinos, noticeably the young, received the volunteers of
the Corps with great hospitality and thus made a very positive contri-
bution to the training program. The University of the Philippines
was host to the group, while Ateneo de Manila supplied orientation
lectures.

As the program develops, more effective training methods will be
instituted and experience will define more clearly the goals of the
Corps locally. These clearer goals, it is hoped, will break the relation-
ship out of the traditional government-to-government mold and make
it instead a true people-to-people thing. Resources outside of govern-
ment circles have yet to be exploited by the Corps.

Meanwhile, the young people of the first group are already in the
barrios, learning as they go, and from all reports making a fair start
towards the ideal of warm personal contact.

JOHN W. MCCARRON

National Science Week

The mañana spirit may be "accepted" in the Philippines, but the
impossible can also be accomplished with speed and efficiency. The
National Science and Technology Week, held from November 20th
to the 26th, can certainly be viewed with the pride of accomplishment.

As late as June it was decided to postpone the annual Science and
Technology Week from July to November so that it would become part
of the Rizal Year Centennial celebration. It was also decided to vastly
expand the activities of the Week. The result had everyone's eyes
popping.

Outstanding scientists from Australia, Israel, the United Kingdom
of Great Britain, West Germany, Thailand, India, and a large group
from the United States were on hand to lend counsel, prestige and
encouragement to the growing science-consciousness of the Philippines.