

philippine studies

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

Vital Speeches: The Most Significant Speeches of Prominent Men and Women by Amando B. Isip

Review Author: Henry L. Irwin

Philippine Studies vol. 2, no. 3 (1954): 303–304

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VITAL SPEECHES. The Most Significant Speeches of Prominent Men and Women. Amando B. Isip, Editor and Publisher. Published quarterly by Technical Publications Co., Manila, P. O. Box 2822. 1954. P4.00 per annum, P1.00 per copy. Vol. I—No. 1.

The first issue of a quarterly collection of current speeches, delivered over radio, from the pulpit, at commencement exercises, in oratorical jousts, at dedication ceremonies, political assemblies, on the floors of congress, at debates and public forums, fulfills a long-felt want. Specially valuable is it to teachers and students of speech courses, since it offers an abundance of material for the study of effective thought content and expression in modern English. Here are examples of the living voices of to-day, which are influencing current opinion on matters vital to our individual and social problems. From the wide selection of topics treated in the various speeches, the collection also serves as a treatise on current events, and the editor is to be congratulated on his judicious choice of representative speakers from such a broad field of various walks of life. The impression gathered is that our present-day representatives of public opinion are geared to a high tone of responsibility and common-sense judgment in the exercise of their public trust. There is little evidence of mere flamboyant oratory and insincere politicking in the speeches chosen for our perusal.

As stated in the Foreword, "it is the purpose of the editors of *Vital Speeches* to try and catch as many of the oral gems as possible of our present speakers, to mirror contemporary public opinion as manifested in formal speeches, as well as extemporaneous addresses of Philippine leaders in various walks of life." And with this avowal of purpose goes the promise that selections will be based in this and future publications not only on the importance of the message contained in public pronouncements, but also on style, timeliness, historic value, and representative excellence. If this first selection is to be taken as a criterion of the editors' purpose and promise, we have every reason to be confident that a collection of speeches of truly worth-while and lasting value will be forthcoming.

As is most fitting, the first and last speeches of this issue are those of President Magsaysay. Then there are speeches by three of our leading national characters: "Days of Our Years" by Dr. Jose P. Laurel; "The Future of the Constitution" by Senator Claro M. Recto; "The Liberation of the Philippines" by General Carlos P. Romulo. The voice of Foreign Affairs is represented by Hon. Leon Ma. Guerrero; the clergy is represented by Father Horacio de la Costa, S.J.;

education by Far Eastern University's president, Dr. Teodoro Evangelista. M. Cuaderno, Sr., Andres Soriano, A. de las Alas bring to us the voice of business and economics. We have the late President Quezon in his famous speech on loyalty to party and national duty, and the late President Roxas in praise of MacArthur; also Senator Zulueta on the same subject, and General MacArthur himself on "Philippines—Land of the Free and the Brave." The two ex-presidents, Sergio Osmeña, Sr., and Elpidio Quirino are likewise represented. Francisco Ortigas, Jr., speaks a message to new lawyers, Jake Gonzalez contributes "Jaycee Action in Nation Building"; Federico Calero, "A Generous Consideration for the Government"; Geminiano F. Yabut, "The Present Labor Unrest"; Joseph Tagle, "The Brink of Disaster—Bell Trade Act"; Senator Gil J. Puyat, "The Revision of the Bell Trade Act."

Wide variety and high excellence characterize the publication. Good paper and good printing enhance its worth, while the low price—P1.00 per copy—should assure it popular appeal. Your reviewer would suggest an addition. To make the following issues of greater practical value for teachers and students of speech classes in our schools and colleges, would the editors consider signaling one speech in each issue as specially excellent for speech technique? If students were to see a speech analyzed and outlined according to introduction, statement of the question, proposition, body of the speech with its arguments developed to prove the proposition, and a closing summary of what has been said, there would be something substantial to be gained for embryo speech-makers—a living model for study and imitation in the class-room. The same might also serve as an incentive to public speech-makers to conform their speeches to the old and tried principles of oratory, which are as efficient for success today as they were in the times of the golden-tongued Demosthenes and Cicero.

HENRY L. IRWIN

CHINA IN THE SIXTEENTH CENTURY: The Journals of Matthew Ricci 1583-1610. Translated from the Latin by Louis J. Gallagher, S.J. Random House, New York. 1953. Pp. xii-616. \$7.50.

"Measured by his ability and achievements, Ricci is undoubtedly one of the greatest missionaries whom the Church