



Razor's Edge

By

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He Who Does Not Learn From The Past Is Bound To Repeat The Stupidity

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NEW YORK, N.Y., March 07 (PinoyGlobal) - 2010 is just a breath away and soon all sorts of characters will be clawing each other to be in the electoral derby. We just hope that the authority that vests power to aspirants for public office, the electorate, will be prudent this time not to repeat the horrible error they made in the past of electing nincompoops, clowns and idiots, not discounting scalawags. Opportunities like elections do not come everyday. Consequently, it is incumbent upon the voters to be responsible not to squander this chance on their puerile (childish) fancy of electing glamour over competence. Or suffer another round of misrule from which the nation will irreversibly reel under adversities. That would be masochism at its worst what with the abject poverty and corrupt government we labor under.

Spaniards have a saying, “Para muestra basta un boton,” meaning – for sample, a button is enough. The election of Erap to the presidency should have made our electorate wiser, but evidently it did not. Like docile lambs, they still elected Lito Lapid and Ramon “Bong” Revilla Jr. to the Senate, refusing to learn from their previous mistake of electing Robert Jaworsky and Freddie Webb years ago, whose performances were not only lackluster but totally incoherent to lawmaking in the same manner “Asiong Salonga” superstar Ramong Revila Sr. did magnificently well with

his sepulchral silence and as a bench warmer. Regrettably, Jaworsky and Webb were not to blame for the Senate is not a basketball court where both excelled as players. Thank our lucky stars they are now long gone. But the pattern of non-productivity of superstars-turned-public officials has been affirmed and reaffirmed in every elected clown.

Lito and Bong’s performances are perfect scores! No blemishes! There is not even a footnote in the Senate ledger of any laws or moving speeches attributed to them. Was their election worth the expense of keeping them there for six non-productive years? Juan de la Cruz should pay homage to mea culpa if only to soothe the miserable feelings of the nation that reels under a badgering conscience for wasting tax money on silent movie star idols.

Unfortunately, the number of elected mediocre guys and women to government positions incrementally increases in every election. The coming polls are no exception if what we hear is true, that silver screen actors, actresses, comedians, singers and circus laugh-in acrobats are glued to run in the elections. Could there be a greater calamity? And to think that if they are elected it would be on the basis of our voters’ fancy and not because of their acumen and leadership. Imagine electing

movie idol senators, congressmen, governors, mayors and worst of all presidents instead of making them town criers as they deserve. What a disaster! Que barbaridad, amigo! To say that would be a comedy of errors is an understatement.

Really it pains me to rub this in but should the anomaly of electing half-baked talents out of whim happen again, which is a likelihood, the nation will be literally impaled on the pathetic wall of obscurity. That government is bound to be barren, performance wise. Really, what could clowns do to alleviate the grim situation stalking the country?

The prospect of the coming polls has thrown the silver screen idols into a bedlam. Ambitions are flying high as chaos hits a crescendo that could not be matched even by the col oratura soprano voice of the great Opera diva, the legendary Maria Callas. We got it on good source that legions of movie industry denizens are running for public office. This time athletes, singers and clowns are overly eager to “serve” the country, fine!

But if they truly have the welfare of the nation at heart they should junk the nonsense of running for office where they will only be wallflowers. They should seriously contemplate on the consequences of their failure to deliver the service crucial to the critical times stalking the nation. The ego-inflating whim of being called *Honorable Senator, Congressman, Governor, Mayor*, whatever, when they are inadequate to the task of the office, is unjustified homicide—killing the country’s future. A sense of patriotism should prevail upon them not to tax posterity with their mediocrity and ineffectiveness.

On the other hand, it behooves Juan de la Cruz to prudently weigh the interest of the country and not give vent to the fantasy of being the king-maker of simple minds unfit for public positions. I would like to qualify my stand on this matter less I am misconstrued as being biased against movie superstars and stage performers. Admittedly, there is no Mason-Dixon line where one could say an actor is stupid or intelligent because contemporary history has acquitted a few movie stars

elected to office. A public trust is not the sole domain of the knowledgeable, but also of men with sincerity of purpose, and awash with integrity.

But to believe that among our crop of silver screen idols today, the dominant number are potential Ronald Reagans, is nagging at idiocy. I really have my serious misgivings. For sure I can say that Pres. Ronald Reagan is incomparable and a rare breed not found among Filipino movie superstars. Besides, he did not acquire the wisdom and ability to lead the greatest nation in the world—America—by just dreaming. He went through the furnace of fire—first as president of the *Actors Guild*, then as a syndicated columnist and radio commentator, then as Governor of the most populous state in America, California, and finally as President. His counterparts back home want to shortcut to the presidency, despite being tragically inexperienced, mainly on the merit of their glamour. This is a no-no for the highest office of the land where brains and integrity are indispensably the quintessential elements for successful leadership.

We Filipinos should put things in their right perspective before jumping into ventures where we are virtual babes in the woods. We should first assess our competence and ambition vis a vis our talents. Even the possibility of winning or losing should be seriously weighed. Qualified candidates for the position may be deprived of victory because of the votes that nuisance candidates would leech from them. Simply having the fantasy of being president does not mean you should run for that high office, not unless you have the integrity and intelligence that the position demands. Study if you have the caliber to be a good chief executive who can lead the country to heights of economic stability and peace never attained by previous presidents. It is one thing to aspire to serve our people, and another to be intellectually equipped for the challenge and be truly devoted to the welfare of the nation.

The decision rests with our electorate—with you and me. This is the litmus test for Philippine voters. Let us hope we learned from our past mistakes!!! #