

**[ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 255, December
13, 1970]**

**CONSIDERING MR. ALFREDO CHUATICO RESIGNED FROM
OFFICE AS CITY TREASURER OF BAGO CITY**

This is an administrative case against Mr. Alfredo Chuatico, City Treasurer of Bago City, for grave misconduct in office and dishonesty involving shortage in his cash, accountability filed motu proprio by the Department of Finance. The case was formally investigated by City Treasurer Tirso T. Santillan of San Carlos City.

Respondent was preventively suspended from office on September 16, 1969, upon recommendation of the Department of Finance.

The records show that on September 3, 1968, when the Bago City Auditor examined the cash account of the respondent, the latter presented as part thereof BPI check bearing Serial No. C-297525 dated July 13, 1965, in the amount of P129,906.62 purportedly issued by the Ma-ao Sugar Central in payment of internal revenue taxes. The City Auditor disallowed the check and declared respondent short in the amount of P129,906.62 after verification conducted revealed that the check in question was not issued by the Ma-ao Sugar Central.

It further appears that respondent's shortage in his cash account existed since 1962 in the original amount of P132,000 during his incumbency as municipal treasurer of the former municipality of Bago, Negros Occidental. The aforesaid amount was ostensibly lost while he was on his way to deposit the same with the Philippine National Bank (PNB) branch in Bacolod City. He did not, however, report the loss to the proper authorities and instead kept his silence until after the shortage was discovered by the City Auditor on September 3, 1968. On September 27, 1968, respondent restored the whole amount of P129,906.62 under Official Receipt No. 3769251.

In the preliminary fact-finding investigation of the instant case, respondent readily admitted the shortage in his cash account. Recounting how the shortage was incurred, he alleged that on July 22, 1962, he wrapped the amount of P132,000 all in bills of fifty, twenty, ten and five-peso denominations, in a piece of manila paper with the intention of depositing it with the PNB branch in Bacolod City. The following day (July 23) the money was placed with several other packages at the back of the driver's seat of the government jeep which he drove personally. On his way to Bacolod City and somewhere in the vicinity of Barrio Taloc he had a flat tire. He left the jeep along the road and went to the house of Councilor Florencio Rosquillo, some 200 meters away, to borrow a jack. After replacing the flat tire, he proceeded to Bacolod City and parked the jeep in front of the PNB branch office. He then discovered that the package containing the money was no longer in the jeep. Councilor Rosquillo corroborated respondent's oral testimony relative to the borrowed jack.