

**[ ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 248, December  
23, 1953 ]**

**REPRIMANDING CONSUL JUAN C. DIONISIO**

This is an administrative case against Mr. Juan C. Dionisio, Consul in the Philippine Consulate General at San Francisco, California, who is charged with (1) having been arrested with three hundred Filipinos in December, 1952, in Watsonville, California, for violating the law against cockfighting; (2) having invoked, when arraigned, his consular immunity which was disregarded by the judge; and (3) frequenting Watsonville where his brother owns a cockpit and his wife serves as gatekeeper.

On November 29, 1952, a picnic was held at Palm Beach in Watsonville, California, for the purpose of raising funds for the construction of the headquarters of the Aglipay Lodge, a reputable fraternal organization of which Mr. Jesus Tabasa, respondent's brother-in-law, was the "Worshipful Master." On that occasion the lodge organized and allowed cockfighting, which is illegal in Watsonville, to be played at one corner of the picnic grounds, from which it derived some income. Around three hundred persons, including the respondent and his wife, were present at the picnic and at the cockfighting. Respondent knew when he went to the picnic that there would be cockfighting and that this game is illegal in Watsonville. The place was raided by some twenty deputy sheriffs accompanied by the municipal judge of Watsonville, who would not release anybody unless the lodge or Mr. Tabasa put up a bail bond of \$4,000 to secure the appearance in court of all the persons apprehended. As said bail bond could not be posted, all the adults were made to deposit \$10 with the judge, in accordance with the practice followed by police magistrates in the United States, amounted to a fine and become automatically forfeited to the city.

The respondent vainly tried to intervene with the judge in behalf of all those present in order to relieve them from responsibility, even going to the extent of identifying himself as a Consul of the Philippines and invoking for the purpose of avoiding undue adverse publicity, his consular immunity. However, while the rest of the crowd deposited \$10 each as bail bond or fine before being allowed to leave the premises, the respondent and his wife were released without such bail or fine and, although their names were taken down by a deputy sheriff, the official records of the incident and of the arrests do not show their names.

It has also been established that the respondent frequented Watsonville because he used to visit his father, a paralytic, and because his mother and sister (Mr. Tabasa's wife) live there too; that neither his brother-in-law nor anyone in respondent's family owns or runs a cockpit; and that respondent does not gamble and enjoys an excellent reputation in the area. There is absolutely no evidence that on the day in question respondent's wife acted as gatekeeper.

Respondent explains that he went to the picnic in his official capacity upon, the