

[EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 53, June 08, 1945]

**CREATING A NATIONAL BOARD OF INQUIRY TO INVESTIGATE
CHARGES OF DISLOYALTY TO THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE PHILIPPINES AND THE UNITED
STATES OF AMERICA.**

WHEREAS, for the purpose of strengthening the national unity, the legal problems and matters of policy involved in the investigation and disposition of the cases of citizens who may be accused of disloyalty during the Japanese occupation should be thoroughly studied in order that a basic policy may be established for dealing with such cases in accordance with the law and with an understanding of the conditions which existed during the period of enemy occupation;

WHEREAS the public service may require the recall to duty of officials and employees of the Commonwealth Government who continued in the service during the enemy occupation;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, SERGIO OSMEÑA, President of the Philippines, by virtue of the powers vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the Philippines, do hereby create a National Board of Inquiry, composed of a chairman and four members to be appointed by the President, to investigate charges of disloyalty and consider the legal problems and matters of public policy involved therein.

1. The duties and functions of this Board are:

- a. To investigate the validity, with respect to the law and the facts involved, of all charges of disloyalty to the Commonwealth of the Philippines and the United States of America which have been filed or which may hereafter be filed.
- b. To allow such persons the right to be present at such investigations, to be heard by themselves or by counsel, and to present witnesses on their behalf. Hearings of the Board shall be open to the public unless its members unanimously decide that the public interest requires hearings in executive session.
- c. To submit to the President a report of its labors and, in its discretion, to present current reports of its findings and conclusions, and at frequent intervals to recommend to him such action as may be deemed, just and proper in each particular case that has been heard.

2. This Board shall also investigate the conduct of those public officials or employees who served during the enemy occupation and who may be recalled to duty. Upon the request of the respective appointing public official, the Board shall likewise make the same investigation of any official or employee under him already in the service.