

[EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 23, November 02, 1944]

CREATING A BOARD OF INQUIRY TO INVESTIGATE CHARGES OF DISLOYALTY TO THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE PHILIPPINES AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA IN THE PROVINCE OF LEYTE, AND CONSIDER THE LEGAL PROBLEMS AND MATTERS OF PUBLIC POLICY INVOLVED THEREIN

WHEREAS, it has come to my attention that some persons are now being detained in the Provincial Jail of the Province of Leyte on suspicion of having committed acts of disloyalty to the Commonwealth of the Philippines and the United State of America which constitute a violation of the laws of the Commonwealth of the Philippines;

WHEREAS, the interest of justice requires that those persons under detention for alleged violations of the law of the Commonwealth of the Philippines be promptly brought before the proper court of justice for trials;

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WHEREAS, the unification of our people, the overwhelming majority of whom have been steadfastly loyal, for the purposes of restoring the normal processes of our political and economic life and promptly establishing the Republic of the Philippines upon indestructible foundations is a paramount national need in this hour of our liberation;

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 cases in accordance with law and with an understanding of the conditions which existed during the prolonged period of 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 Board of Inquiry composed of a chairman and four members to be appointed by the President, to investigate charges of disloyalty in the Province of Leyte and consider the legal problems and matters of public policy involved therein.

1. The duties and functions of this Board will be:

a. To ascertain upon what authority and what specific charges certain persons are now being detained in the Provincial Jail of the Province of Leyte on suspicion of having committed acts of disloyalty to the Commonwealth of the Philippines and