

7:00 PM

339
Aug. 29, 1970
Saturday

MALACAÑAN PALACE
MANILA

The Daily Horror (most of the wise coffee-shop habitues call it the Daily Error) headlines that Sen. Magunbay is being punished by me for refusing to sponsor tax measures - which is completely false as the truth is this is a Senate matter triggered by the newspapers and taken over by the Perez committee. I could not in conscience do anything but authorize the BIR to reveal his name. Juan Aytona is caught in a bind for conflict of interest.

The INB Union and PAGE (Phil Assoc. of Govt Employees) are also threatening a strike or demonstration. They could not come at 6:30 PM and so I went there at 12:00 noon tomorrow.

Played golf early in the Tournament of Bonifacio to raise funds for the watering system. Came back to the Palisadia a hurry to catch the Hocus Varte mayors and delegation being briefed by Puello on their program for me on Monday, the eve of my birthday celebration. Retreated when Puello showed us some. Inaugurated at 5:00 PM the CAA-PAT management operations and information center. Saw a plaque of appreciation to Gen. In the middle of the 13th Air Force (USAF) for the help like the radar we are using at JMA now. Celebrate generators' after the earthquake etc -

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Aug 29th (Cont)

110 A In

MALACAÑAN PALACE
MANILA

Have just arrived from see Romulo's house at Forbes Park where the cabinet tendered me a dinner for my birthday celebration on the 1st of September.

No had been able to collect an impressive collection of calligrams from heads of state and heads of government. Although this message-sending is a yearly occurrence.

Dinner was up to 10:00 PM - then a reception and dance up to 12:15 AM.

This is a tradition I hope will be followed throughout the years as a President must depend for success upon his cabinet.

We also had the first picture taken of the cabinet with me (only the Vice-President was absent)

I am getting all the cabinet men to work. As I said in my response to see Romulo, there is one basic difference ^{between} ~~with~~ the cabinet of Pres. Quezon and my cabinet and that is that Quezon's cabinet was composed mostly of political fixings while my cabinet is composed of technocrats mostly without political backing.

I also announced the policy of more autonomy for bureau directors and department heads as well as the objective of establishing a civil service that can operate efficiently without the intervention except on basic policy of an elective legislature or even the President or department head.