

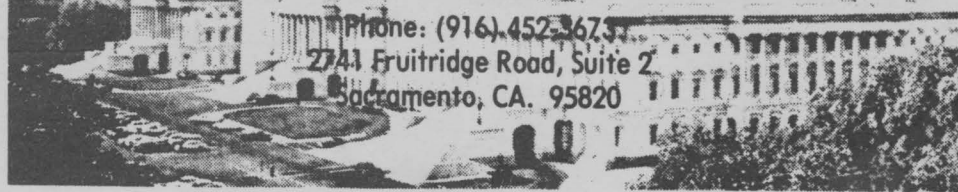
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**FUNDING PROPOSAL
FOR THE
CREATION OF AN OFFICE
OF THE**

**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION
OF
FILIPINO AMERICANS**



Prepared By

M. H. Jacaban
Editor & Publisher, Bataan News
Chairman
National Association of Filipino Americans

and

Rev. Romeo J. Pimentel, Ph.B; MA
Executive Director
State Filipino American Coordination Conference

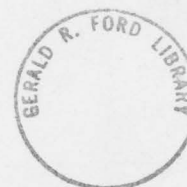
2741 Fruitridge Road
Sacramento, CA 95820
Phone: (916) 452-3673

EQUALITY FOR FILIPINO AMERICANS EVERYWHERE



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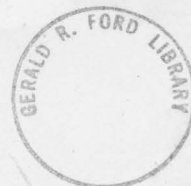
INTRODUCTION

The lack of public visibility and the absence of an organization to give voice of the needs and priorities on the national level have put the Filipino Americans in a tragic and precarious political social and economic disadvantage.

When the Civil Rights Act of 1964 was enacted, the Filipino Americans, maliciously or not, were categorized under the Spanish-surname group. That happened because there was no organization which should have spoken for the Filipino Americans in Washington, D.C. at that time.

Under that categorization of a minority within a minority, the poverty problems of the Filipino Americans were totally neglected because the funding grants allotted to the Spanish-surnamed groups are dominated by the Mexican Americans. By the time the Chicanos are through fighting about how the funds are to be used to solve their own problems, there was nothing left for the Filipino Americans. Consequently, the poverty problems of the Filipino Americans are still untouched.

There are hard realities that the Filipino Americans have learned as they tried to solved their poverty problems, and that is that the sources of funding needed to help them has to come from the Federal Government. Because of the tremendous amount of time and effort to solve their problems, they have no choice but to seek the assistance of the Government.



If those assemblies and seminars fail to accomplish their objectives, they will have to resort to form peaceful and orderly street demonstrations to dramatize their intense desire for equality. The Filipino Americans are very confident that, if they would present their case properly to the American people, they would get the needed assistance to solve their problems without resorting to violence.

The Filipino Americans have poverty problems. But those problems are not their choosing or their own making. They are not lazy or indolent. Those problems are results of the racial bias that was extended to them in the early years of their emigration to this country.

Paradoxically, a large number of those Filipino Americans who have become victims of poverty are those who have served in the re-conquest of the Philippines from the Japanese and had participated in the battles of Leyte and Lingayen. Some are sons and daughters and widows of the men who, inspite of the overwhelming odds against them, stood to the last and finally died in the heroic defense of Corregidor and Bataan. Some are the survivors of the infamous "Death March" between Bataan and Manila.

Could America have the heart to deny equality to those Filipino American heroes who have laid their lives on the line in defense of America in her greatest hour of need?

Equality must not be denied to the Filipino Americans. They must be made a part of the mainstream of American life. They must be allowed to take part on equal terms in the realization of the American dream.



SUMMARY

There are, according to the best estimate, approximately three quarters of a million Filipino Americans today. Their enormous contributions to the country's growth and progress are of magnitude far greater than their numbers would warrant. This is true in many fields of endeavor, such as education, medicine, arts and the sciences. Most notably, Filipino Americans have played a major role in the development of the eight billion dollar California agriculture and helped build it the number one economy of the nation. Indeed, Filipino Americans are loyal citizens who have contributed much to the greatness of America.

But today, the Filipinos are still disadvantaged Americans. They are still suffering from the stigma of economic, social and political inequity. Their being disadvantaged is caused by the racial bias extended them during the early years of their emigration to this country. It is true that times things have changed since the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, however, the problems and the disadvantaged position they are going through now are the results of those attitudes and values that had held them down in the years past. But in order to achieve equality for themselves with the rest of the American population, the myriads of problems facing them would have to be solved first.

The National Association of Filipino American's role is not to stir racial unrest or ethnic division. We had

too much of that already, however, NAFA will not hesitate to call peaceful demonstrations, should the need arise. Rather, our organization's role, besides its main objective of ushering in equality for its own group through law and order, is to ease the human sufferings and soothe the human irritations caused by man's inhumanity to man.

The Filipino Americans, the old and the young, must not be neglected. The old and poor people have to be helped. The youths, who would be inheriting the disadvantaged positions of their elders if nothing is to be done to alleviate their ancestor's sufferings, must be given the chance to know that this country and its people really care.

It is this background that the National Association of Filipino Americans is submitting this proposal. This office could help in solving some of the myriads of problems that must be solved before this ethnic group of fellow-Americans could be brought decency and dignity any human person should enjoy.

The National Association of Filipino Americans is constrained to submit this proposal in response to the critical need for support of the Filipino Americans in the United States.

This proposal calls for the creation of a national office of the National Association of Filipino Americans to be located in Washington, D.C., the nation's capital. If funded, this office will act as the vehicle and/or means of communication between the Filipino Americans and the various Agencies,



Bureaus, Commissions and Cabinet Departments of the Federal Government. It will also be the rallying point of all national activities of the Filipino Americans in its program of achieving equality for this important segment of the American population.

This account will deal directly with the problem in the lack of communication and organization, non-representation in the governmental agencies, as well as non-participation of Filipino Americans in the existing federal programs. It will promote the means by which information and specialized services can reach the low and moderate income Filipino population.

There will be top Filipino American staff consisting of: a National Chairman, Assistant to the Chairman, Executive Secretary, Executive Director, Eastern Region Representative; Central Region Representative, Western Region Representative, Pacific Region Representative, Public Relations Officer, Accountant and five secretaries.

In order to get to the grassroot level, there shall be other offices in the strategic areas where there are dense population of Filipino Americans.

Note the following:

Eastern Region...there should be three offices in this region. There should be a regional office in New York, which will be manned by a regional coordinator and a secretary. Branch offices of this regional office shall be located in Newark, New Jersey and in New Haven, Connecticut, each to be manned by state representative and secretary.

Central Region...there should be three offices in this

region. There should be a regional office in Chicago, manned by a regional coordinator and a secretary. Branch offices of this regional office shall be located in St. Louis, Missouri and New Orleans, Louisiana, each to be manned by state representative and a secretary.

Western Region...because of the dense population of Filipino Americans in this area, there should be a regional office, manned by a regional coordinator and a secretary; branch offices in Seattle, Washington, Sacramento, and Los Angeles, California, manned by state representative and a secretary each.

Pacific Region...There should be a regional office in Honolulu, Hawaii, manned by a regional coordinator and a secretary; branch offices in Hilo, Hawaii, and Juneau, Alaska, manned by state representative and a secretary each.

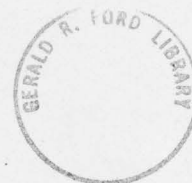
Emphasis will be made on coordinating and tapping existing expertise from the federal, state and local agencies, private sector resources, universities, etc. in supplying training and technical assistance and related services.

The intended outcomes from the program are to develop self-help organizations which will focus around the basic issues of unemployment, housing, health services, education, manpower training, legal and immigration problems, and youth and elderly problems. Those projects developed from these interests and activities will be developed and controlled

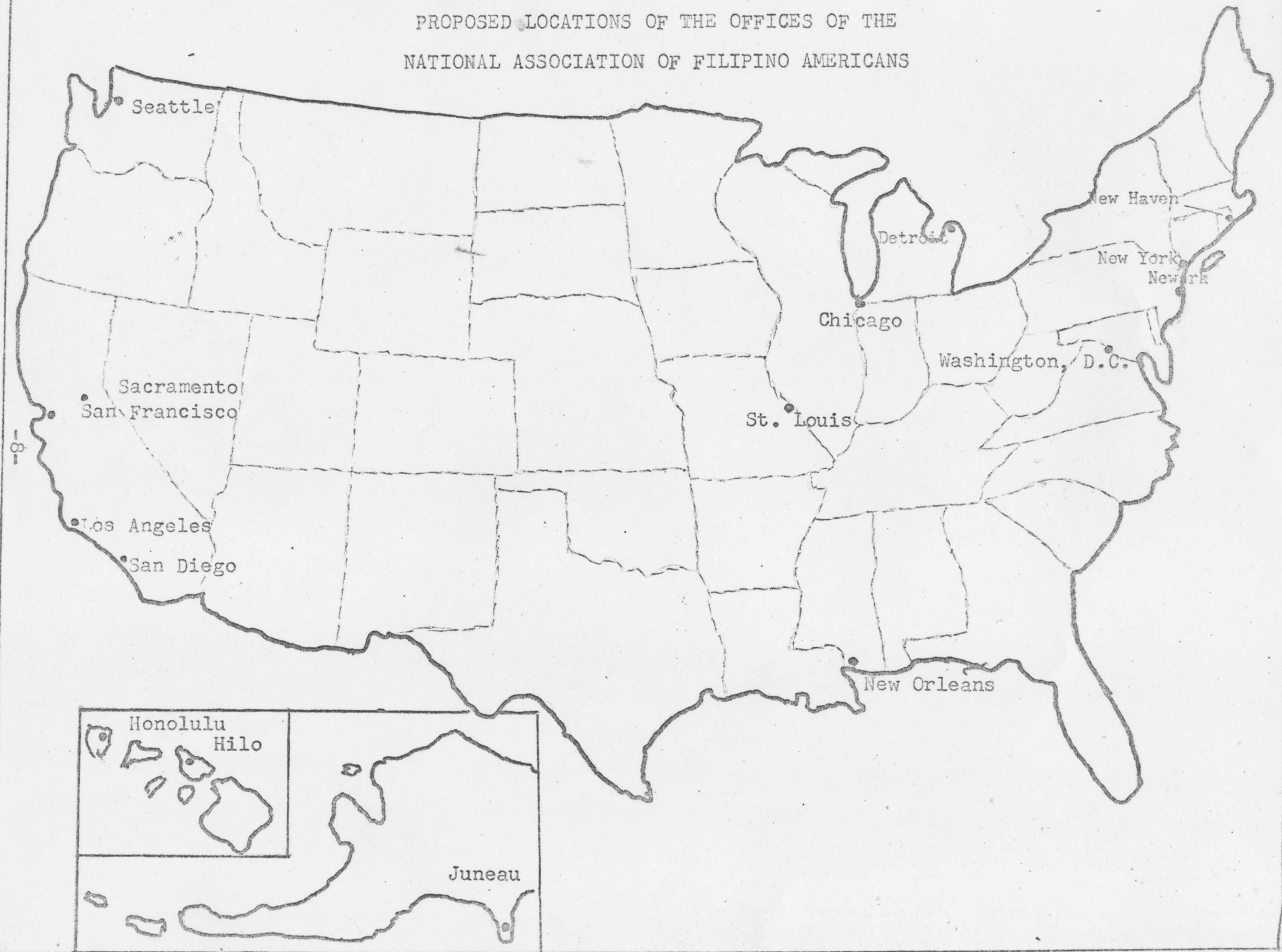
by Filipino Americans themselves.

This proposal provides cost estimates for performing work to accomplish the objectives in the economic, social, educational and health programs for Filipino Americans in the country.

The total funding will be:	\$827,050.00
Personnel cost	\$514,600.00
Non-personnel cost	<u>312,450.00</u>
TOTAL COST	\$827,050.00



PROPOSED LOCATIONS OF THE OFFICES OF THE
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FILIPINO AMERICANS



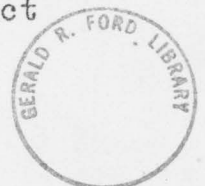
THE FILIPINO-AMERICANS AND THEIR PROBLEMS

Background

The Filipino who have come to the United States lacked skills of great value to an industrial society--they came as laborers and farmers. As results, their history in this country has generally been one of struggle. They have suffered from racial discrimination; they have encountered major linguistic and cultural barriers to assimilation; and they have occupied low occupational status. As a result of these factors, their personal and occupational histories have been controlled by a culture that they did not understand and that they felt unable to influence.

Many Filipinos have general needs which are obvious and critical; they need the means to purchase goods and services; they need the opportunity and setting to be with others with whom they share values and traditions; they need access to supportive services provided by knowledgeable persons who speak their language and figuratively, they need the support of persons who understand the mores and customs of their reference groups; and they need whatever little they receive from their society to be given with a sense of respect and dignity. The common assumption that Filipino-Americans "take care of their own", or "respect their elderly", or "rarely become social problems" are gross oversimplifications with very limited applicability in view of the problems they face.

Of the three Asian groups (Chinese, Japanese, and Filipino), least known about the Filipino-Americans. Prior to 1920, there were probably not more than 5,000 Filipinos in the continental United States. After that, there was free migration between the Philippines and the United States, and it is now difficult to reconstruct



the immigration picture. By 1930 there were some 75,000 Filipinos in the United States, and about the same time immigration virtually ceased due to the Depression. During the years 1935 to 1945, an immigration quota of 50 a year was imposed. Some 40% of the country's 350,000 Filipinos in 1960 had appeared on the scene since 1950. The immigration rate has continued to rise in the 1960's so that there may be 750,000 today. So far, this immigration has been overwhelmingly young. Prior to the war, it was also overwhelmingly male. Although the Filipino-American population was about half rural and half urban in 1950, by 1960 it was about two-thirds urban, and this trend appears to be continuing. Informed sources estimate a stable increase in the Filipino-American population of San Francisco alone of about 10,000 per year since 1964.

According to the 1970 Census, there were more than 343,000 Filipino-American in the United States. However, according to reliable source, there are nearly 750,000 Filipinos in the country today. The reason for this is that most Filipinos have Spanish surnames, and thus they were included in the Census under Spanish Speaking People, and also because they were classified as Orientals or others. Filipinos, since the new immigration law of 1965, have jumped second rank in the total number of entries into the United States, slightly behind the Mexican people. In 1965, Filipino immigration was 2,545 whereas in 1970, there were 25,417 Filipinos and in 1971, 28,053 Filipinos entered this country.

Filipino-Americans have less visibility and less power in obtaining services than members of larger and more politically aggressive groups. Elderly Filipino-Americans are frequently displaced by new construction, and relocation efforts are frequently ineffective in obtaining housing that permits continuation of social relationships, community involvement, and so forth.

In the midst of rapid social change, when ethnic minorities are asserting their rights and raising their position, the Filipino-Americans are unsure of their place in America society. They are not a part of the minority, of course, but are they included in the minorities? Hardly so.

When government agencies talk about ethnic minorities, they think primary of the blacks and browns. When industry opens up job opportunities for minority groups, they do not have in mind the Filipino. Some universities that plan ethnic studies provide American-Indian and Asian studies, but the focus is on black and brown studies.

The Filipino-Americans are confronted with a dilemma. Many of them are prone to continue their life-long habits of hard work and quiet acceptance of second-rate citizenship. Those who have raised their economic and social position have done so by dogged individual effort, forging ahead in the face of handicaps and various forms of discrimination. They have refrained from joint action.

But individual effort seems insufficient in these days of strife and struggle. Should they take group action to press their case as a minority group entitled to its share of the better life that seems to be now within reach of other minority groups?

The Filipino population in America has been admired for the tradition of family solidarity and close ties. But those traditions are now stained by a growing generation gap arising from different attitudes toward American society. The young tend to be activists to whom change makes a greater appeal than the maintenance of the established order. More and more of them are beginning to feel

that their parents are more interested in personal success than in social progress.

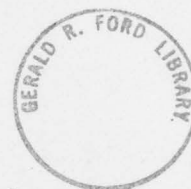
Filipino youth is beginning to question whether the hard-work, long suffering philosophy of the older generation is adequate today. They are critical of the seeming indifference of their parents to the civil rights movement. They feel disturbed that in the current discussions of the role of ethnic minorities the voice of the Filipino community has not been heard, and that in the gigantic struggle for a better life for minorities the adult Filipino population has, in the main, stood aside as spectators.

The adults of the Filipino community would shudder at the thought of militant action. But by their inaction they are driving the young to extremism. The challenge to them is to explore ways and means of expressing their social concern short of riots and violence. Between inaction and extreme militancy there must be room for many forms of peaceful protests, positive affirmation of rights, and jointly conceived proposals, even aggressive demands, for improving the lot of Filipino-Americans.

Hard Facts**

In comparison to whites, Blacks and Mexican-Americans, the median annual income for Filipinos is the lowest. Filipino-Americans earn only seventy (70%) of the average White income.

<u>Group</u>	<u>Median Annual Income, 1959</u>
White	\$5,109.
Mexican-American	3,849
Black	3,553
Filipino-American	2,925



Employment-- Filipino-Americans have the highest percentage of

their groups unemployed as compared to other minority groups. Unemployment rates in 1960 show that 7.8% men and 13.6% women or 3.6% of professional and technical people employed. 53.7% of Filipino-Americans in California are service or farm workers. In spite of the increasing number of available Filipino-American professionals-- doctors, dentist, engineers, accountants, nurses, teachers, laboratory technicians, social workers, etc., since 1950, the number of unemployed and/or underemployed Filipino American has increased six (6%) per cent for a ten year period.

Housing-- Nationality, 1.01 persons per room constitutes overcrowded living conditions. California average exceed the national norm by nine (9%) per cent per room. The California Filipino-Americans exceed national average by seventeen (17%) per cent. There are three times as many Filipino-American families Doubling up in houses as White families.

Degree of Poverty** The percentage of California Filipino-Americans living in poverty and depression is the highest of any minority: 24.8% have poverty index incomes for a total of 50.4%. About one-half of the total Filipino-Americans living in California live in poverty conditions.

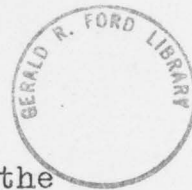
The Problems

The following three problem areas describes the general condition of low-income Filipino-Americans:

1. Organizational Problems

- A. Dispersal of the Filipino population throughout the State;

**Racial Profile of California, Economics Dept., San Jose State College; 1960 Census; California Statistical Abstract, 1967.



- B. Multiplicity of Filipino organizations;
- C. Regional diversity among Filipinos; and
- D. Isolation of Filipino groups from the mainstream of American society, resulting in a lack of public visibility and lack of services from local and/or state agencies which are needed by poor Filipinos.

2. Statistical and Data Problems

Lack of detailed information of the nature and extent of poverty and related social problems within the Filipino-American community.

3. Sectorial Problems

- A. Inability of local, state and federal agencies to perceive the unique values, language, culture and family problems of Filipinos;
- B. Inadequate and substandard housing for low-income Filipino families;
- C. Extremely impoverished living conditions of Filipino farm workers;
- D. Employment:
Factors contributing to unemployment and underemployment:
 - 1) Lack of skills to compete in an industrialized society
 - 2) Language barrier
 - 3) U. S. and California non-recognition of Filipino credentials and professional licenses

- 4) Discrimination due to race and color

E. Education:

- 1) Lack of bilingual education program for Filipino-American children in the elementary level
- 2) Inadequate family education and counseling
- 3) Current ethnic studies do not meet the needs of Filipino-American students but are almost exclusively directed towards black and brown minorities.
- 4) Lack of public scholarships for needy Filipino-American students.

F. Language:

Communication barriers exist due to various provincial and barrio origins, which result in a dual language problem.

G. Senior Citizens:

- 1) Lack of adequate housing facilities
- 2) Lack of recreational and social facilities
- 3) Lack of health benefits
- 4) Inadequate pensions

H. Filipino Youth:

- 1) Lack of recreational and social facilities
- 2) The widely dispersed Filipino groups indicate lack of unity among the Filipino youth groups and shows inadequacy American children.

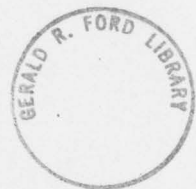
Distribution of Population
of
Filipino-Americans

California-----	365,000
Hawaii-----	175,000
Illinois-----	35,000
Louisiana-----	36,000
New York-----	24,000
Washington(State)-----	75,000
Others-----	40,000

T O T A L -----	<u>750,000</u>
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In the absence of an accurate count of the Filipino-Americans, these figures are compiled as a basis for intelligent planning and calculations. There is no accurate count due to the fact that the latest census, in a great deal of cases, had classified the Filipino-Americans under Spanish surnames, and Orientals, or others. Besides, the Filipino women who are married to other Americans of ethnic classification have not been counted as Filipino-Americans.

These figures are educated guesses from the files of Bataan News, compared with the records of the Philippines Consulates.



GOALS OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FILIPINO AMERICANS

The Administrative Staff of the National Association of Filipino Americans will consist of the following: 1 National Chairman; 1 Assistant to the National Chairman; 1 Executive Secretary; 1 Executive Director, 1 Public Relations Officer; 1 Public Accountant; 1 Eastern Region Representative; 1 Central Region Representative; 1 Western Region Representative; 1 Pacific Region Representative; 1 Regional Coordinator, Eastern Region; 1 Regional Coordinator, Central Region; 1 Regional Coordinator, Western Region; 1 Regional Coordinator, Pacific Region, 2 state representatives, Eastern Region; 2 state representatives, Central Region; 3 state representatives, Western Region; 2 state representatives, Pacific Region; and 18 secretaries.

This office will be responsible for the implementation of the policies and guidelines issued by the grant agency of the Federal Government as well as the goals and objectives as set forth by the Board of Directors of the National Association of Filipino Americans.

This office will:

1. Act as a vehicle and/or means of communication between the Filipino Americans and the various Agencies, Bureaus, Commissions, and Cabinet Departments of the Administration, and also the United States Congress.
2. Provide leadership for organizations and individuals concerned with the well-being of the Filipino Americans.

3. Act as the medium through which all interested parties can work together in clarifying needs, setting standards and making practical solution to their poverty problems.

4. Provide information and advocacy, mobilization of resources, and training and technical assistance.

5. Help elevate and improve the economic, educational and political conditions among Filipino Americans.

6. Promote and coordinate economic development projects, business ventures, self-help and locally managed enterprises for Filipino American individuals and groups by mobilizing and utilizing existing Federal, State and local resources and progrmas.

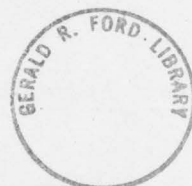
7. Advocate , promote and coordinate the construction of low-cost housing to provide relief to the critical housing conditions of Filipino Americans.

8. Provide and coordinate counseling services for the Filipino Americans in the area of health, employment, recreation, consumer protection, youth and elderly activities.

9. Provide and coordinate informational services to disseminate educational, social, cultural and other pertinent information to the Filipino Americans.

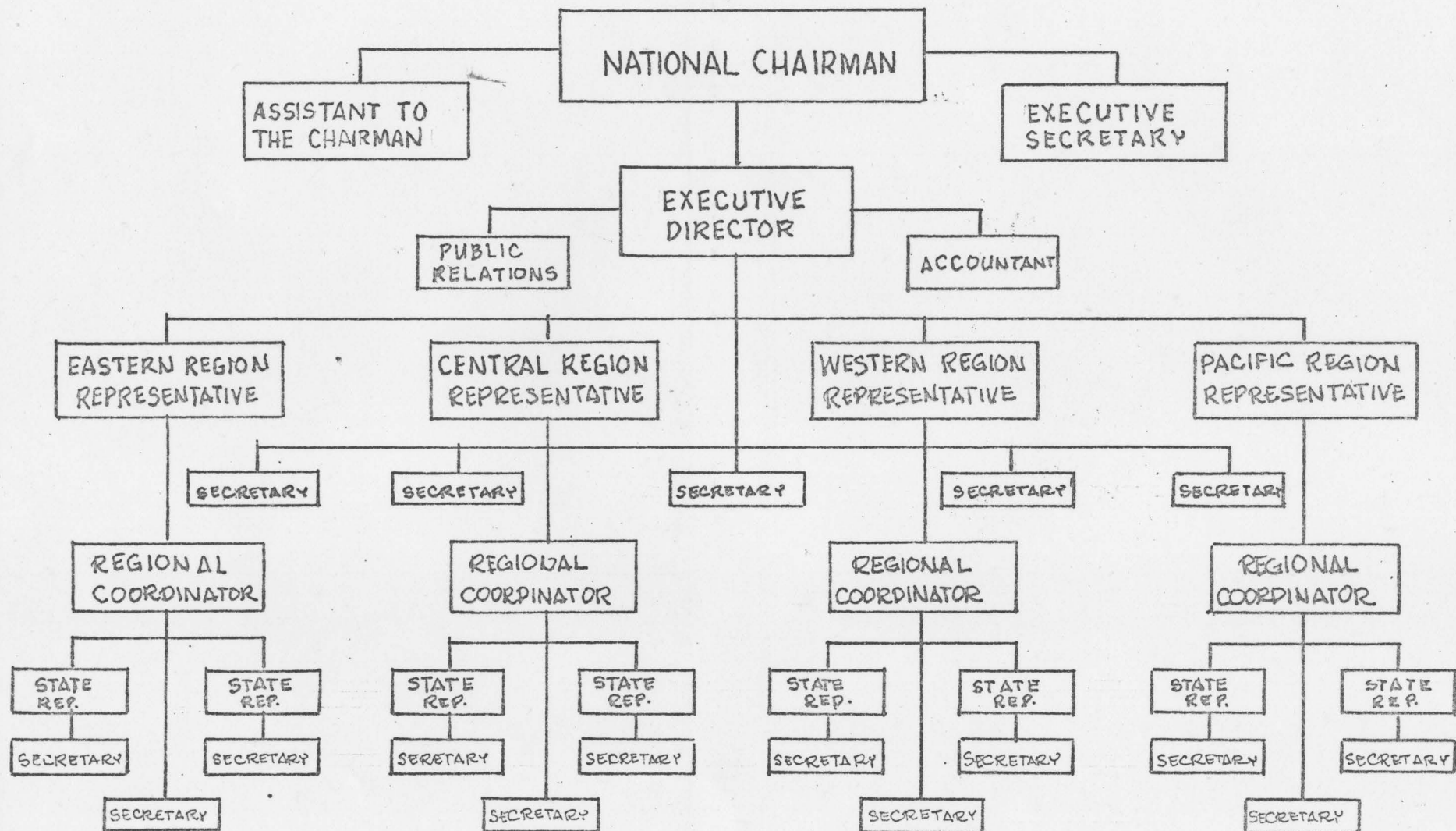
10. Promote and provide educational opportunities for Filipino Americans through scholarship grants, student loans, fellowship and financial aid programs.

11. Promote and provide manpower training and new careers opportunities for Filipino Americans.



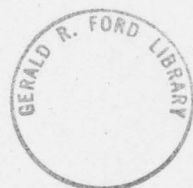
12. Open a line of communication with the Office of the President to urge the appointment of capable Filipino Americans to high policy and key positions in the Federal Government.

ADMINISTRATION CHART NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FILIPINO AMERICANS



SALARIES AND WAGES

<u>Number</u>	<u>Title or Position</u>	<u>Annual Salary</u>
1	Chairman	\$40,000
1	Executive Director	30,000
1	Asst. to the Chairman	25,000
1	Executive Secretary	25,000
4	Regional Representatives	70,000
1	Public Relations Officer	15,000
1	Accountant	12,000
4	Regional Coordinators	60,000
9	State Representatives	108,000
18	Secretaries and Clerks	<u>129,600</u>
	TOTAL PERSONNEL COSTS	\$514,600



BUDGET SUPPORT DATA

FRINGE BENEFITS	\$48,580
CONSULTANTS AND CONTRACT SERVICES	15,000
TRAVEL:	
Chairman- 2500 mi/mo x 12 mos. @ 12c/mi	3,600
Executive Director- 2500 mi/mo x 1 mos. @ 12¢/mi	3,600
Asst. to the Chairman- 2500 mi/mo x 12 mos. @ 12¢/mi	3,600
Executive Secretary- 1500 mi/mo x 12 mos. @ 12¢/mi	2,160
Regional Representatives- 2500 mi/mo x 12 mos. @ 12¢/mi x 4 persons	14,400
Public Relations Officer- 2500 mi/mo x 12 mos. @ 12¢/mi	3,600
Accountant- 2000 mi/mo x 12 mos. @ 12¢/mi	2,880
Regional Coordinators- 2500 mi/mo x 12 mos. @ 12¢/mi x 4 persons	14,400
State Representatives- 2500 mi/mo x 12 mos. @ 12¢/mi x 9 persons	32,400
Per Diems:	
Chairman- 40 days/yr @ \$40/day	1,600
Executive Director- 30 days/yr @ \$40/day	1,200
Asst. to the Chairman- 40 days /yr @ \$40/day	1,600
Executive Secretary- 30 days/yr @ \$40/day	1,200
Regional Representatives- 40 days/yr \$40/day x 4 persons	6,400
Public Relations Officer- 50 day/yr @ \$40/day	2,000
Accountant- 30 days/yr @ \$40/day	1,200
CARRIED FORWARD	
	\$159,420

BUDGET SUPPORT DATA

continued

CARRIED FORWARD

\$159,420

TRAVEL:

Per diems:

Regional Coordinators- 40 days/yr

@ \$30/day x 4 persons 4,800

State Representatives- 40 days/yr @ \$30/day

x 9 persons 10,800

OFFICES SPACES:

Administration Office, Washington, D.C.

12,000

\$1000/mo x 12 mos.

Regional Offices- \$300/mo x 12 mos

x 4 offices 14,400

State Offices- \$250/mo x 12 mos.

x 9 offices 27,000

CONSUMABLE SUPPLIES:

Start-up supplies-\$25 x 41 persons

1,025

Desk-top supplies-\$10/mo x 12 mos. x

41 persons 4,920

RENT, LEASE AND PURCHASE EQUIPMENTS:

Desks-\$100 x 41 persons

4,100

CARRIED FORWARD

\$238,465

BUDGET SUPPORT DATA

Continued

CARRIED FORWARD

\$238,465

RENT, LEASE AND PURCHASE EQUIPMENTS:

Executive Chairs- \$35 x 15 persons	525
Office Chairs- \$25 x 60	1,500
Typewriters- \$200 x 41	8,200
Xerox- \$400 x 10 offices	4,000

OTHER COSTS:

Telephone

Washington, D.C. Office- \$300/mo x 12 mos	3,600
Regional Offices- \$200/mo x 12 mos. x 4 offices	9,600
State Offices- \$200/mo x 12 mos x 9 offices	21,600
Postage- \$100/mo x 12 mos x 14 offices	16,800
Utilities- \$20/mo x 12 mos. x 14 offices	3,360
Printing- \$400/mo x 12 mos.	4,800

GRAND TOTAL

\$312,450

SALARIES AND WAGES

\$514,600

BUDGET SUPPORT DATA

312,450

GRAND TOTAL

\$827,050



CONCLUSION

The need for equity for the half-million Filipino-Americans is long overdue. They are still disadvantaged Americans who are still suffering the stigma of economic, social, educational and political inequity. They are loyal Americans who have contributed much by the sweat of their brows to the greatness of America.

The Filipino-Americans, disadvantaged due to the racial bias extended them in times past, must be made equal with the rest of the nation's population. They have problems on education, housing, health, employment, welfare, etc. which must be solved before they could share the good life America has to offer. It is the responsibility of the government to provide the instruments, tools and means to bring for themselves economic, social and political equality with all greatest possible speed so that they would become full partners in the programs of making America great.

On the behalf of the Filipino-Americans, we take the honor of submitting this funding proposal for the creation of an office of the National Filipino-American Coordinating Conference in Washington, D.C. We hope, if funded, the office will:

- a. Provide leadership for organizations and individuals concerned with the well-being of Filipino-Americans.
- b. Provide medium through which all interests can work together in clarifying needs, setting standards and



making practical solutions to the problems.

- c. Provide information and advocacy, mobilization of resources, and training and technical assistance.
- d. Help elevate and improve economic, social, political conditions among Filipino-Americans and help maintain their dignity as befits human beings and citizens of this great country.

We therefore, hope and pray for the favorable consideration of this proposal.

ADDENDA

EDITORIAL OF PHILIPPINES MAIL

The following is an editorial of the Philippines Mail, Salinas, California, the oldest Filipino-owned newspaper in the United States:

EDITORIAL...

By Roy E. Arcellano, Managing Editor

National Association of Filipino Americans

Before very long, the number of Philippine descents in the country will reach the millionth mark. This great number of Filipinos would obviously require as a matter of necessity an organization to serve as their spokesman in all vital issues affecting their interest. For that matter, they do need one even if they are less in number.

In the past, mood among Filipinos was strictly provencialism among the hundred or so groups in the country. This approach has been ineffective as a vehicle to serve their interest. It polarized rather than united them to be strong force.

We welcome the organization of the National Association of Filipino Americans whose sole purpose is to look after the interest of Filipinos in United States on a national scale. We give credit and our unqualified support to our colleague, Mr. M.H. JACABAN, the first president of the NAFA, and who has been its most ardent and energetic advocate and catalyst. We urge all Filipinos in the country to rally to this organization and make it really that strong force it needs to be to be able to accomplish its objectives respecting, and in behalf of, all Philippine descents in the United States, now and in the future.

Bataan News

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By M. H. Jacaban

AN OPEN LETTER TO PRESIDENT FORD

Dear Sir:

You will please note that by your declared intention of keeping the door of the White House open and listen to the voice of the people, I am constrained to write this letter to you regarding the intense desire of the Filipino Americans to solve their problems of inequity which they are still faced with. It is my most sincere hope and fervent prayer, and I am sure that it is also the hope and prayer of all Filipino Americans, that their demand for equality with the rest of the American population touches a responsive chord in your heart.

We very well realize the enormity of your responsibilities in the exercise of your office as President of the United States of America, and the preciousness of your time that you must devote to keep up with the daily business of the most powerful nation on earth, but the Filipino Americans are also an important part of the American population as a whole, and whose problems must become also the problems of the White House.

It must be mentioned here, sir, that the Filipino Americans have poverty problems, but those problems are not their own making. They are neither lazy or indolent. Their poverty problems are results of racial bias that was extended them in times past. Justice demands that the Filipino Americans be made equal with the rest of the American population.

The desperately critical problems that the Filipino Americans are faced with are:

1. Housing. A large number of them are, especially the elderly and farm workers, living in rat-ridden dwellings. Reports show that quite a number of them who are living in those unsani-

tary conditions, have contracted tuberculosis. Poor housing conditions and improper diet are given as the causes for the prevalence of TB among Filipino American elderly.

It is estimated that 200,000 housing units are needed to meet the needs of the Filipino Americans.

2. Employment discrimination. Equal employment opportunity has not as yet been fully extended to the Filipino Americans. There are Filipino engineers, attorneys, and other professionals who are working as farm workers, porters, busboys and dishwashers because employers have refused to give due recognition to their professional qualifications.

There are among Filipino Americans professors of Colleges and Universities, physicians and surgeons, writers and journalists, priests and ministers of the

gospel, public administrators, etc. Yet there are only two Filipino Americans who were appointed by the previous administrations in Washington. Even then, those two appointments are only honorary. And there are thousands of Blacks and hundreds of Chicanos who are now assuming federal positions of responsibility with salaries ranging from \$40,000 a year and up.

3. Education. Because of the racial bias extended them in the past, the Filipino Americans were relegated to the lowest paying jobs. Hence, the Filipino American families had not saved enough money to be able to send their children to higher institutions of learning.

4. Drug addiction. Due to the lack of proper guidance, the Filipino American youths are the subject of immoral assault regarding drug traffic. The Filipino families were close-knit unit, but because of these illicit drugs gnawing at the morals of our Filipino youths, many Fili-

pino families are being broken.

The Filipino Americans are definitely an important part of the American population... they have been proven during World War II the most loyal group among the ethnic minorities to the principles of democracy. And they are a neglected minority within a minority (because they are categorized as Spanish-surname) whose poverty problems are real and critical.

It must also be mentioned here that a large number of those who are victims of poverty are those who had served in the reconquest of the Philippines from the Japanese and had participated in the battles of Leyte and Lingayen. Some are sons and daughters and widows of the men who, in spite of the overwhelming odds against them, stood to the last and finally died in the heroic defense of Bataan and Corregidor. Some are the survivors of the infamous "Death March" between Bataan

and Manila.

Could America have the heart to deny equality to those Filipino American heroes who have laid their lives on the line in defense of America in her greatest hour of need?

Equality must not be denied to the Filipino Americans. They must be made a part of the mainstream of American life. They must be allowed to take part on equal terms in the realization of the American dream.

Your devoted servant,

Signed:

M. H. Jacaban
Chairman, National Association
of Filipino Americans.