

Filipinos Protesting Legislation Amending Grant of Independence

By H. FORD WILKINS

By Wireless to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

MANILA, April 6—Violent Filipino opposition has developed to proposed American legislation affecting the independent Philippines, especially to the proposed amendment to the independence law permitting the United States Government to purchase and retain property here after July 4, 1946.

Apparently the opposition stems directly from the Commonwealth administration, including President Sergio Osmeña and his Cabinet, but protests from other Filipino sources, some violently bitter against what they call a policy of commercial exploitation, suggest a revival of nationalistic feeling reminiscent of certain pre-war trends.

President Osmeña has sent a message to Resident Commissioner

Carlos P. Romulo in Washington to protest against the Tydings and Bell amendments now before Congress as a "curtailment of Philippine sovereignty and a virtual nullification of Philippine independence."

Mr. Osmeña argues that the amendments violate the United Nations Charter recognizing the equal rights of all nations. He added the assurance, "The Philippine Government is always ready to create opportunities for Americans, now and in the future."

The Philippine Civil Liberties Union went further, asserting that the amendments would emasculate Philippine independence by perpetuating American sovereignty be-

Continued on Page 13, Column 2

FILIPINOS PROTEST LEGISLATION IN U. S.

Continued From Page 1

yond July 4. It attacked High Commissioner Paul V. McNutt, who is now in Washington, for defending the Bell trade relations bill and other relief legislation against attacks on them from other quarters.

The small Filipino-owned pro-Administration newspaper, The Philippine Press, editorially asked if the American eagle had become a vulture. It called the amendments "an unholy scheme of legalized looting to plunder the Philippines and convert it into a happy hunting ground for American business men." The paper said that the United States Government was wittingly or unwittingly looking to Japan for an example and embarking on a new policy of stripping

her colonies in a resistless march toward the commercial supremacy of the world.

Features of Bills Disliked

While the most vociferous protest is directed against the proposed land-purchase amendment to the independence law, the Filipinos don't like certain features of the Bell trade relations bill, either. Their main objection concerns the provision that American business men shall have equal rights with the Filipinos.

Mr. Osmeña's objections to the relief legislation in its present form represents a reversal of his attitude when he was in Washington and all during the negotiations, according to American Government officials here. Some political observers wonder if this reversal is not connected in some way with the forthcoming local Presidential elections on April 23. Perhaps it is a response to strong local feeling that might hurt Mr. Osmeña's chances as a candidate if he were associated with the legislation's supporters.