

GENERAL WOOD *and* THE LAW

*A Discussion of the Legal Aspect of
the Political Crisis in the
Philippine Islands*

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

I

NATURE OF THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT

	Page
1. CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY. The three Departments of government in the Philippines derive their authority and powers from the same source, that is, the Constitution of the United States through the President and Congress. The Philippine Legislature is a creation of American Congress. The sanction which the Philippine Legislature gives to any of the laws it passes flows directly from the sovereign power. Therefore, the Governor-General is bound by the Organic Act to uphold every act of the Legislature already approved by the Governor-General and reported to Congress.....	9
2. CONGRESS AND GENERAL WOOD. An act of the Philippine Legislature reported to the Congress of the United States which has not revoked it is impliedly sanctioned by the latter. Therefore, when General Wood disregarded the clear provisions of Act No. 2808 and section 2447 of the Administrative Code, he acted contrary to the intention and authority of the United States Congress.....	12
3. THE PREAMBLE. There being ambiguity in the provisions of the Jones Law regarding the powers and functions of the Department Secretaries, we must resort to the Preamble, which is a key to open the understanding of a statute. From the Preamble it is clear that the veto power should not be used to reject bills not affecting the sovereignty of the United States and that the Governor-General's supervision and control should not be destructive of the Legislature's authority to lay down the duties of Department Secretaries.....	15
4. AUTONOMY. The general policy consistently observed by Congress in the organization of government of territories in the Continent of America and in the Philippine Islands is not to interfere with the conduct of affairs of the territory. The Philippine Legislature is given general legislative power subject to specific limitations by the Jones Law (United States vs. Limsiengco, 41 Phil., 94, decided in 1920).....	19

II

SUPERVISION AND CONTROL

1. SUPERVISION AND CONTROL. The Philippine Legislature has power to provide by law for the manner and methods of general supervision and control by the Governor-General, as was done in the Administrative Code.....	27
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	Page
2. POWER OF REMOVAL. The Chief Executive can not directly interfere with cases of officials not appointed by him and whose removal is expressly lodged by the Philippine Legislature in the Department Secretaries.....	29
3. THE EXECUTIVE POWER. The Executive power of the Governor-General does not carry with it the power to remove or reinstate officers not appointed by him. He can not disregard laws passed by the Legislature giving the power of removal or reinstatement of such officers to the Department Secretaries	32
4. CONSTITUTIONAL ADVISERS. Department Secretaries are the only constitutional advisers of the Governor-General, who can not directly or indirectly transfer their functions to the Malacañang advisers	37
5. GOVERNMENT OF LAWS. So long as Act No. 2803 and section 2447 of the Administrative Code have not been revoked by Congress or declared unconstitutional by the courts, the Governor-General must respect and obey them.....	42
6. WOOD-FORBES MISSION. The Wood-Forbes Mission Report recommended that Congress annul acts of the Legislature which have impaired the authority of the Governor-General. This recommendation was not approved by Congress which failed to take action. So General Wood decided to take matters in his own hands and assumed the judicial power to declare laws unconstitutional.....	46

III

THE VETO POWER

1. THE VETO POWER. The unrestrained use of the veto power by General Wood places the Filipino people in a worse position as far as autonomy is concerned than they were before the passage of the Jones Law. Before the Jones Law was passed there was no veto power of the Governor-General and there was a majority of Filipinos in the Commission or Upper House. The title of the Jones Law is: "AN ACT . . . TO PROVIDE A MORE AUTONOMOUS GOVERNMENT FOR THOSE ISLANDS." But an unrestrained use of the veto power would make the present Government less autonomous than before the Jones Law, which was never intended by Congress.....	51
2. SOVEREIGNTY. The phrase in the preamble "without in the meantime impairing the exercise of the rights of sovereignty by the people of the United States," is in the nature of an exception. It is a rule of statutory construction that exceptions should be strictly construed and should not defeat the main provision. In the present case the main provision is the giving of a large control of domestic affairs to the Filipino people. If General Wood can veto any bill even though it concerns domestic affairs only, then it would be tantamount to saying that Congress granted to the Filipino people powers which at the same time it denied.	

Congress wanted to test the capacity of the Filipino people. The Jones Law was passed not for the purpose of giving an opportunity to American officials to work out their own theories of administration.

The Governor-General can veto only the following classes of bills: (1) Those bills which are manifestly unconstitutional; (2) those which are in violation of any treaty of the United States with other nations; (3) those which discriminate against the citizens or subjects of other nations; and (4) those which attempt to challenge or diminish American sovereignty over these Islands. All these bills he may veto....

56

3. CONSTITUTIONAL RESTRAINTS. Section 10 of the Jones Law is examined to show that the veto power is not unlimited. The history of American revolution shows that the unrestrained use of the veto power on colonial legislation finds no sanction in American political thought.....

61