

Kiwanians Hear Prominent Filipino on Independence

Philippine independence, labor, and immigration were vigorously and frankly discussed at today's

weekly luncheon meeting of the Kiwanis Club at the Olympic Hotel by Vicente Villamin, noted Filipino attorney of New York, a former member of the Philippine Legislature and of the New York Kiwanis Club.

"Immediate independence is an impossibility," said Mr. Villamin, who is on a speaking tour of the United States. "But the longer we stay with America under the present trade arrangement and lack of economic policy, the harder it will be for us to separate from this country economically. Our dependence on the American market, which is tax exempt to us at present, would be much greater twenty years hence.



Vicente Villamin

"America cannot just pull out of the Philippines without causing the most severe dislocation. America has established a new political, economic and social structure in the islands during the last thirty years.

"There has not been any oppression or exploitation of the Filipinos; if there were, all Filipinos should insist on immediate and complete independence. On the contrary, ours is the opportunity to build up our country, 'vigorize' our people, and develop our economic resources; it is not intelligent patriotism to pass that up.

"There is an oversupply of Filipino labor already. Further unrestricted emigration should be effectively controlled by the Philippine government; Hawaiian sugar planters should stop recruiting in the islands and recruit on the Pacific Coast instead; and the Philippine government should embark upon a program of development to keep the Filipinos home and beckon back those who are abroad.

"There is a demand on the Coast for Filipino labor in 'stoop work' and other laborious work which white workers have long ago abandoned to Mexicans and Orientals. There should be a sympathetic understanding with the labor federations for a cooperative allocation of labor to designated fields."