

## **OPENING REMARKS, 6th DECENNIAL SYMPOSIUM SERIES \***

It is a pleasure to welcome you to this symposium which opens the day commemoration of the 6th Decennial of the founding of this College. Through the passing years it becomes important to determine whether an institution like the College of Law continues to be responsive to the needs of the society it was created to serve.

These are days of challenge not only for the law school, and the legal profession but for law itself. It was a concern for the growing criticism that law has become not as a means for serving social ends but an obstacle to their realization that the theme of this celebration, "Law as an Agent of Social Change," was adopted.

Law is an ancient and venerable institution but precisely because of this, it needs to be reconsidered every so often lest it grow stale and irrelevant to changing conditions and new demands of society.

The planners of this celebration decided that the appropriate forum for reexamining the role of law in a changing society would be this series of symposia which we are opening today. Reappraisal is a delicate task. There is danger that through bias, impetuosity or sloth a reappraisal may distort facts and conceal the true dimensions of problems. Reappraisal and revaluation must be carried on with integrity, with intellectual zeal and above all, with faith.

It is our good fortune to have as our first symposium speaker to set the tone for the delicate task of this reappraisal, a man, a scholar, a Filipino, so eminently qualified to speak on law. A long introduction would be a superfluity. His name is one of the most distinguished in the legal profession.

Dr. Vicente G. Sinco obtained his LL.B. degree from this College in 1921 (This year is the 50th anniversary of his graduation). He is best remembered by alumni of this College as professor of public law. So effective was his teaching that to this day his students who have made their mark in the profession and other endeavors state that what they know of constitutional law they owe to him.

As you all know he was dean of this College from 1953 to 1958 and subsequently served as President of the University until 1962. A fact not so well known is that the law center concept in this country can be traced

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\* Delivered by Dean Irene R. Cortés, College of Law, University of the Philippines.

to him. His career is as versatile as his talents, and his service to the nation in the fields of foreign affairs, education, local government, and legal scholarship among many others, has never been less than distinguished.

It is particularly significant to state that as the Republic sets about to institute political, economic, and social reforms through a constitutional convention, he will be involved in the tremendous task as a delegate. The topic he has chosen to speak on is: "The Law of the Constitution in Social Change." Nothing could be more relevant to the theme of the Sixth Decennial.

Ladies and gentlemen, it is with distinct pleasure that I present to you  
**DR. VICENTE G. SINCO.**