

MEETING OF CEVIM PROVINCIAL TREASURERS REPORT OF OPINIONS BY LINGUISTIC GROUPS

1.- Relations of the provincial treasurer with the general treasurer and the General Curia. .

All the groups express their satisfaction for the easiness of communication with the general treasurer. It has been always easy for the provincial treasurers to communicate, a fact that has been quite useful for making consultations. They have always received timely answers.

Some treasurers suggest the convenience that the general treasurer write a short commentary on the annual economic report that each province sends to the Superior General.

2.- The Provincial Economic Commission.

The functioning of the Economic Commission is quite various in the different provinces. There are some in which the functioning of the Commission is regular and efficacious, while in others it has not yet started to function. Still, in other provinces the Commission has been appointed, but it does not meet periodically.

All those present point out at the need for the existence and adequate functioning of the Economic Commission in every province. All feel the need to have expert confreres and lay people to give technical advice to the visitor and the provincial treasurer. The existence of the Commission diminishes the risk of taking erroneous decisions. Some persons belonging to the Vincentian Family, knowledgeable in economics and legislation and close to the Congregation, could be valuable collaborators in this field.

Some of the treasurers pose the question of the need for making clearer the role of this Commission. The experience of the provinces in which it is working well could be of great help to those provinces which do not have as yet a working Economic Commission.

It is convenient that in the Economic Commission there be also confreres of the province. It is also convenient that some younger confreres receive an adequate preparation in economic questions so as to be ready on due time to take the place of the present provincial treasurers.

3.- The Provincial Patrimony.

There are also great differences among the provinces in the question of near and long range planning so as to face the present and future needs of the work of evangelization and of the missionaries.

Due to the political situation, in some countries the Congregation is receiving back at this moment some of the properties of which it was deprived by previous governments. In such provinces a great care is being taken to constitute cushion funds in order to assure for the future the needs of the mission and of the confreres.

In some provinces, so as in the missionary regions depending on other provinces, funds are similarly being constituted, with the help of the General Curia and the solidarity of the provinces of the Congregation, with a view to their future activities.

For some provinces, the first step is redacting an inventory and the verification of the property titles in order to know which properties belong to the province. A group of provinces has a patrimony with roots in the old times of the province and which now has to be administered so that, on the one hand, the fruit of the work and the sacrifices of the older members can be safely kept and, on the other, there be a suitable providence for the future of the Mission and of the Vincentian charism

The groups suggest that, when constituting the patrimonial funds, they be invested in different places so as to avoid the risks inherent in investing the whole in only one place.

All the treasurers insist that the reasons for the legitimacy of the patrimonial provincial funds are: serving the mission and taking care of the needs of the missionaries (formation, old age confreres, the sick...).

Collaboration among the provinces in order to constitute patrimonial funds is one of the expressions of the universality of the Congregation.

4.- Insurance of persons and provincial properties.

All the provinces have their members insured, although there is a variety in types of insurance depending on the legislation of the different countries.

In the viceprovince of Saints Cyril and Methodius, in whose territory there is not as yet an insurance system, the confreres are insured in their provinces of origin. The situation is the same in some of the missions depending on our provinces.

As regards the insurance of goods, the provinces follow in each country the corresponding legislation.

Only some provinces have civil responsibility insurance.

5.- Care of health and of the old age confreres and the sick in the provinces

All the treasurers put emphasis on the responsibility of the provinces as regards the careful attention due to the aged and the sick. Emphasis is also placed in regard to the need of a preparation in order to learn to become old and to discover the spiritual challenges of that life period.

Attention to the aged and the sick is variously taken care of in the different provinces. As a general principle, care is taken that the aged go on residing in the houses where they have been working for years. But when their health demands an attention which cannot be provided for in the local communities, the provinces have specific places for them, which can be a community house which functions as residence or infirmary endowed with the required technical means, or a zone inside an institution belonging to the Daughters of Charity or to some other institution where they can still live some type of a community life.

Integral attention to the aged and the sick demands not only a comfortable place where they can live, but also a program, a project which will help them and stimulate in their vocation at that stage of their lives.

6.- The **employees and persons under contract** in our communities and our works

All the groups coincide on the need for clearly redacted contracts with each one of the workers, in which, in accordance with the pertinent laws of each country, the obligations, type of work, etc., be clearly defined.

Similarly all coincide that the salaries paid must be just, according to law and adjusted to the work category. It is important that over-salaries be avoided, so as payment in “black” money (undeclared), or contracts which do not include the compulsory social security. As a guarantee, it will be good to get the technical advice of experts in the given country.

Wherever it is possible, contracts for a limited period of time are to be preferred.

The treasurers have held a dialogue about the pros and cons that all the workers of the house and of the works of the communities of the province depend directly on the provincial treasurer or else on the different local treasurers. Experiences are widely divergent in the different provinces

Finally emphasis has been put on the human dimension of our relations with our workers. We could not possibly carry out our mission without them. Each worker is, above all, a human person with whom we keep relations and to whom we have to announce the Good News.