stating that the judgment debtor was insolvent. Subsequently, the judgment creditor filed a motion for examination of the properties of the judgment debtor in the same court under the provisions of Sec. 34 of Rule 39 of the Rules of Court. Motion was granted and the examination of the defendant was set in the City of Manila. The judgment debtor failed to appear on the appointed date. Whereupon, the court issued an order declaring the judgment debtor guilty of contempt. Thus, this petition for certiorari. Held, a judgment debtor can only be required to appear and answer concerning his property and income before the CFI of the province in which he resides or is found so that an order issued by any other CFI declaring the judgment debtor in contempt and ordering his arrest for failure to appear for such examination is null and void as issued in excess of jurisdiction. Chion Bu Hong v. Tan, (CA) 57 O.G. 3143 April 24, 1961.

BOOK NOTE

Civil Code of the Philippines Annotated Vol. II; By Edgardo L. Paras: Rex Book Store, 1729 Azcarraga, Manila, 1961. Pp. 590. P-----

Good commentaries are needed in the study of law. As an eminent jurist once said: "the vast body of complicated statutes cannot be fully understood and effectively enforced without the notes and comments of experts and scholars who have made researches on the background, scope and significance of said statutes". Recently, there came out of the press a book which is an answer to this need. We are referring to "Civil Code of the Philippines Annotated, Volume II (Property) by Edgardo L. Paras".

The second in a set of five volumes, this book does not follow the topical approach but is made in outline form. The method of presentation proceeds by first citing the law, then the author's comments which include definitions, classifications or requisites, then examples, and finally some questions or problems brought about by the law and the author's answers or solutions to them. In explaining the law, the author also defines and gives the meaning of each term used. The cases cited are the applications of the law as well as the principles derived from the same, and factual examples are best understood. The book makes use of enumerations and likewise contains tables of distinctions to differentiate a mode, concept, term or provision from a similar one - a method that is more convenient and practical than when made or stated in paragraph form. The author compares certain provisions in the New Civil Code with those found in the Old Code to show the timely changes in the law as caused by the necessities of justice and human rights and personality. To remind the law students of important matters for purposes of the bar examination, the book occasionally mentions previous bar questions on certain topics with the corresponding answers.

The author's adherence to a comprehensive discussion of the law is well illustrated in his commentary as to the reasons for the insertion of the phrase "ipso facto" in Article 461 of the New Civil Code concerning change of river beds. Although a member of the Code Commission is of the opinion that the words "ipso facto" were inserted in order to make it clear that the rule applies by the mere fact of the occurence of a na-

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tural change in the course of the waters, the validity of this observation is however doubted by the author because of this reason: "Since the article contemplates abandoned river beds, and since 'abandonment' implies an intent not to return, if steps are therefore undertaken to restore the river to its original course then there is no abandonment. What 'ipso facto' should mean as used in Art. 461, is that the prejudiced landowner automatically becomes the owner of the abandoned river bed once the conditions stated in the article are fulfilled or manifest, without the necessity of any action or exercise of possession on their part. In other words, their mode of acquisition would be by virtue of the law. The acquisition would thus be ipso facto — provided there is really an abandonment."

Clarity and simplicity pervade the whole work and it is shorn of elegant language and high-flown diction. The author has written simply with particular emphasis on substance rather than on form. Indeed, we can say that this opus, the product of an authoritative ingenuity based on legal and scholarly experience, is recommendable.

ANSWERS TO 1961 BAR EXAMINATION

CRIMINAL LAW

Answered by Judge Luis B. Reyes

1

(a) Define "crime" and give an example of an "Impossible crime", as defined in the Revised Penal Code.

Crime is defined as an act committed or omitted in violation of a public law forbidding or commanding it. (Reyes, Revised Penal Code, Vol. I, p. 1, 1960 Ed.)

An example of impossible crime is, as follows: A, believing that B was only sleeping, with intent to kill, shot at the latter's body then lying on bed. It turned out that B had been dead an hour before A fired at his body.

(b) A is charged with the forcible abduction with lewd designs of X, a girl, 16 years old and Y, a 20-year old female friend of X. The evidence shows that the abduction was with their consent. Decide the case with reasons.

A should be sentenced to suffer the penalty for consented abduction in which X is the offended party, she being 16 years old and presumed to be a virgin, it not appearing that she is married. She is presumed to be a womar of good reputation.

A should be acquited of the charge of forcible abduction insofar as Y is the offended party, because the element of "that the abduction is against her will" is absent; and he could not be convicted of consented abduction, because Y is over 18 years of ago. (Reyes, Revised Penal Code, Vol. II, pp. 637; 648; 653; 1961 Ed.)

Π

(a) If an insane person commits a crime, who should first be civilly liable, his legal guardian, or the insane person with his property? Why?

The civil liability for acts committed by an insane shall devolve upon his legal guardian, unless it appears that there was no fault or negligence on the part of the latter. If the legal guardian be insolvent, the insane person who committed the crime shall respond with his own property exempt from execution, in accordance with the civil law. (Art. 101, Revised Penal Code).

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Hence, the legal guardian should first be civilly liable. (Reyes, Revised Penal Code, Vol. I, p. 629, 1960 Ed.)

Guardians are liable for damages caused by the incapacitated persons who are under their authority and live in their company. The responsibility of the guardians shall cease when they prove that they observed all the diligence of a good father of a family to prevent damage. (Art. 2180, N.C.C.)

(b) Specify two (2) offenses which prescribe in one (1) year.

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Offenses punished only by a fine or by imprisonment for not more than one month, or both, prescribe after one year. (Reyes, Revised Penal Code, Vol. I, p. 595, 1960 Ed.)

Specifically, the following offenses prescribe after one year:

- (1) Failure to brand or register cattle. Any person who shall fail, neglect, or refuse to brand or register his large cattle shall be punished for each animal not branded or registered by a fine of not less than two nor more than five pesos, or by imprisonment for not less than five days nor more than thirty days, or by both such fine and imprisonment, in the discretion of the court. (Sec. 2667, Revised Adm. Code)
- (2) Unlicensed signs, signboards, or billboards. Any person who shall erect, construct, maintain, display, or expose a sign, signboard, or billboard without first paying the lawful tax therefor shall be fined not exceeding one hundred pesos or be imprisoned not exceeding one month. (Sec. 2729, Revised Adm. Code)

Ш

A issues a P100 check by signing the name of a bank depositor, imitating the signature of the latter. If he succeeds in cashing said check, what crime or crimes, if any, have been comitted? Why?

A committed a complex crime of estafa through falsification of a commercial document. When he imitated the signature of the bank depositor on the check for P100 and issued the same, A committed the crime of falsification of a commercial document. By cashing the check, A committed estafa by means of deceit. And since the crime of falsification was a necessary means for committing the crime of estafa, A committed the complex crime of estafa through falsification of commercial document. (Reyes, Revised Penal Code, Vol. I, p. 449, 1960 Ed; Vol. II, p. 565, 1961 Ed.)

Specify two (2) modifying circumstances in the imposition of the penalty which can be considered aggravating at times, and mitigating at other times. Give illustrative examples.

They are: (1) relationship and (2) intoxication (Art. 15, R.P.C.)

A and B were convicted of slight physical injuries inflicted on C. A was the son of C and B was the father of C. In this case, relationship is a mitigating circumstance in the imposition of the penalty on B and an aggravating circumstance in the imposition of the penalty on A. Relationship is a mitigating circumstance in crimes against persons, when the offender is a relative of a higher degree than the offended party. It is an aggravating circumstance when the offender is a relative of a lower degree than the offended party.

A killed B when the former was in the state of intoxication. If the intoxication of A was accidental, it is a mitigating circumstance. If it is habitual or subsequent to the plan to commit the crime, his intoxication is an aggravating circumstance. (Reves, Revised Penal Code, Vol. I, pp. 309; 312; 315; 487-488, 1960 Ed.)

(a) Specify two (2) criminal acts constituting a violation of the Election Law.

The following are criminal acts constituting violations of the Election Law:

- (1) It is unlawful to carry deadly weapons in the polling place and within a radius of thirty meters thereof during the days for registration, voting and canvass. (Sec. 53)
- (2) It is unlawful for any candidate, political committee, voter or any other person to give or accept, free of charge, directly or indirectly, transportation, food, or drinks during a public meeting in favor of any or several candidates and during the three hours before and after such meeting, or on registration days, on the day preceding the voting and on the day of the voting; or to give or contribute, directly or indirectly, money or things of value for such purposes. (Sec. 51)
- (b) Specify two (2) criminal acts constituting a violation of the Corporation Law.

The following are criminal acts constituting violations of the Corporation Law:

- (1) It shall be unlawful for any corporation organized for the purpose of engaging in agriculture or in mining to be in anywise interested in any other corporation organized for the purpose of engaging in agriculture or in mining.
- (2) It shall be unlawful for any person owning stock in more than one corporation organized for the purpose of engaging in agriculture or in mining to own more than fifteen per centum of the capital stock then outstanding and entitled to vote of each of such corporations. (Act No. 1459, as amended, Sec. 13 (5))

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(c) When may the death penalty not be imposed although the accused is really guilty of a capital offense, with aggravating circumstance and no mitigating circumstances?

In the following cases:

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- (1) When the guilty person is over 70 year of age; and
- (2) When on appeal or revision of the case by the Supreme Court eight Justices are not unanimous in their voting as to the propriety of the imposition of the death penalty. (Reyes, Revised Penal Code, Vol. I, p. 439, 1960 Ed.)

VI

If a Chief of Police deliberately hides his son who has been accused of murder, does said Chief of Police incur any criminal liability?

No, because the Chief of Police is only an accessory and under the Revised Penal Code the penalties prescribed for accessories shall not be imposed upon those who are such with respect to their spouses, ascendants, descendants, legitimate, natural, and adopted brothers and sisters, or relatives by affinity within the same degrees, with the single exception of accessories falling within the provisions of paragraph 1 of Art. 19 (Art. 20. Revised Penal Code)

The Chief of Police does not fall within the provisions of paragraph 1 of Art. 19, because he neither profited nor assisted the principal offender to profit by the effects of the crime.

Since the son has been accused of murder and, therefore, is already being prosecuted therefor when the Chief of Police hides him, the latter cannot be held liable for dereliction of duty in the prosecution of offenses under another provision of the Revised Penal Code. (Art. 208, R.P.C.)

VII

A, a married man, cohabits with B, the wife of C. D, the wife of A, cohabits with E, a male friend. Cohabitation has been going on for five (5) years with the knowledge of A and D of each other's infidelity. A and B know of each other's marital status. E also knows of D's married state.

- (a) What crime or crimes have been committed? Reasons.
- (b) What defenses, if any, may be set up if A, C and D should file criminal complaints in Court? Reasons.

The crime committed by each of the offenders is adultery. A and B also committed concubinage, the former being a married man who cohabited with B, a woman not his wife, and B knowing him to be married.

If A should file a criminal complaint against D and E for adultery, or if D should file a complaint for concubinage against A and B, the accused could set up the defense that the offended parties cannot institute criminal prosecution for adultery and concubinage if they shall have consented or pardoned the offenders. (Art. 344, R.P.C.) In this case, there was consent on the part of A and D.

This defense is also available to E (People vs. Avelino, C.A., 40 O.G., Sup. 11, 194, cited Reves, Revised Penal Code, Vol. II. p. 620, 1961 Ed.)

If C is the complainant, such defense is not available to the accused. because C did not consent to the adulterous act of the accused or pardon them.

VIII

A drunk chaufffeur recklesly drove at night his master's car which he had taken from the garage (while the master was sleeping). He hit another automobile whose driver was not a fault. The collision caused the death of a passenger in the latter car, slight injury on a child passenger that was cured in 5 days, the expelling out of a foetus from the body of a pregnant woman passenger, and damage to the "innocent" car. What criminal acts were committed? Why?

The chauffeur committed three separate and distinct crimes, namely: (1) qualified theft, (2) homicide with abortion (if the foetus died) or at least less serious physical injuries (if the foetus survived) and damage to property through reckless imprudence, and (3) slight physical injury through reckless imprudence.

He committed qualified theft, because the essential elements of theft are present, namely: (1) there was a taking of the car, (2) which is a personal property; (3) that the personal property belongs to another, his master; (4) that the taking was without the consent of the owner of the car; and (5) that there was intent to gain. It is qualified theft, because the property taken is a motor vehicles.

The element of intent to gain is present, because the use or enjoyment of another's property is sufficient to establish that element.

As to the element of "taking", the Supreme Court held that there is taking of an automobile when the offender drove it without the consent of its owner. (People vs. Fernandez, 38 O.G. 985)

In some cases, the Court of Appeals held that if at the time of the taking the accused did not have the intention of withholding the thing with the character of permanency, the element of "taking" in the crime of theft is lacking and, hence, the crime is not committed.

He also committed the complex crime of homicide with abortion or at least less serious physical injuries, and damage to property, as the damage could not be less than \$\mathbb{P}\$100, through reckless imprudence, because the three offenses are all less grave felonies and they were the results of one single act of reckless driving. (Art. 48, R.P.C.)

There is such crime as abortion through reckless imprudence when, as in this case, the violence was not intentionally exerted and the foetus died as a consequence.

If the foetus survives inspite of the violence, the offender is liable for at least less serious physical injuries, because the mother must necessarily suffer internal injuries due to the expulsion of the foetus.

The offense of slight physical injury, being a light felony, cannot form a complex crime. Hence, it shall be treated and punished as a separate offense. (Reyes, Revised Penal Code, Vol. I, pp. 443-444, 1960 Ed.)

IX

Distinguish slander by deed from libel.

In slander by deed, the offender performs any act not included in the crime of libel or slander; in libel, the offender avails himself of written or printed words, or words published by means of radio, phonograph, painting or theatrical or cinematographic exhibition in besmirching the reputation of another person.

The two offenses are similar in the sense that in both offenses (1) there must be publicity and (2) that the acts performed or the words published cast dishonor, discredit or contempt upon the offended party. (Reyes, Revised Penal Code, Vol. II, pp. 682; 707, 1961 Ed.)

X

Distinguish "trespass to dwelling" from "trespass to property" (other forms of trespass).

In "trespass to dwelling", the offender is a private person; in "trespass to property" (other forms of trespass), the offender is any person. In the first, the offender enters a dwelling house of another; in the second, the offender enters the closed premises or the fenced estate of another. In the first, the place entered by the offender is inhabited; in the second, the place entered is uninhabited. In the first, the act constituting the crime is by entering the dwelling against the will of the owner; in the second, it is by entering the closed premises or the fenced estate without securing the permission of the owner or caretaker thereof. In the first, the prohibition to enter the dwelling of another is express or implied; in the second the prohibition to enter the closed premises or the fenced estate of another must be manifest. (Reyes, Revised Penal Code, Vol. II, pp. 415; 422, 1961 Ed.)

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