

MR. QUEZON WHACKS UP THE LOOT

By Lancaster M. Greene

The drive for social justice undertaken last Fall by President Manuel Quezon of the Philippine Commonwealth was recalled the other day, when, as The Associated Press reported, it "came home to roost." Tenant farmers on the Nueve Ecija estate of the President's wife sent Mrs. Quezon a resolution asking what they termed their share of sugar benefit payments she received.

The tenant farmers are hopelessly naive. Hoping for a "divvy" of the products of their labor from landlords who "crusade" for social justice! Stalin, Mussolini, Hitler, John L. Lewis are all for "social justice" but when have they stood against land owners, State or individual, taking a husky slice of the product of labor for the mere privilege of permitting workers to engage in production?

Sugar benefit payments, like cotton, wheat and silver benefits, are obtained mainly from burdens laid upon consumers and go to landowners, not land users. Unnatural? True, but our lawyers and landowners have been perfecting laws to this end for several hundred years. It took time to turn the world against chattel slavery, but how much longer

will it take to impel labor and capital to shake off the bonds of economic slavery in which absolute private ownership of land and other natural resources has shackled them, to demand freedom to produce and retain the full labor product?