

A Summarized Account of the late Dr. John B. Tsu by Mr. Basilio Chen; the interview was conducted at the home of Mrs. Susan Tsu on June 16 ,2010

Firstly, the writer asked Mr. Basilio Chen to provide me with his brief yet substantiated account of the late Dr. John B. Tsu as he has assessed. The following are the remarks and comments that Mr. Basilio Chen made;

At the beginning of his remarks on the late Dr. John B. Tsu, Mr. Basilio Chen stated that the late Dr. John B. Tsu was a man on a mission to “increase participation of Asian Americans in mainstream of American Public Affairs”.

- The style of the late Dr. John B. Tsu is very unique in the sense that he had a talent to draw the groups of peoples together from different level, ethnic background, the older and younger, male and female and those whose political affiliations may not have been the same as he was and he was able to put them together as a visible force to advance his desire of the enhancement and empowerment of Asian Americans.
- He was more of a prime mover and a diplomat rather than a politician in the role he played for the betterment and wellbeing of Asian Americans. His vision and activities for the cause of Asian Americans to enable them to be in “the main stream of American politics “ may have been derived from his “less-selfish” motivation , which earned the respect of peoples at large regardless of their ethnic roots and political affiliations. He was not provincial but internationalist in his view of promoting and enhancing the vision and action need to advance the status of Asian Americans. However, he valued the importance of “grass-roots movements” which could reflect the voices of peoples at all level in the communities as a crusade of the betterment of Asian Americans

- The late Dr. John B. Tsu emphasized the importance of education which will help Asian Americans to find the better opportunity of not only gaining the higher education but could use the fruits of it to pass on to their younger generations to become more knowledgeable and sensible to see how they should act in relation to others in this era of grovelization.
- He also stressed that the younger generation of Asian Americans should motivate themselves to be in public services, so that they can perform more positive and constructive leadership ,which will, in turn, strengthen the forces of Asian American communities.
- The late Dr. John B. Tsu was not only a scholar but also a community organizer which was performed by his unique style. He is merited with quality, compassion and patience which was regarded as his strong points as a leader. He was a practical scholar. In his effort to achieve what he aimed for, he did his home work and prepared to do the best he could to make a good presentation and used forcible persuasions which earned the respects of people at large including high level of dignitaries. He worked very hard at the 2000 election.

Having said that, I raised a number of questions for Mr. Basilio Chen . The following is the essence of the questions raised and the answers given;

+ (Write); When was the first time you met Dr. John B. Tsu and how?

- (Mr. Basilio Chen); the late Dr. Tsu was serving as Chairman of one of the Department at International Technological University (ITU) where I met him.

+ When you met him first time, what was the subject you and he centered on? Did he discuss the subject of comparative analysis of American colleges and universities with that of foreign countries? What were the issues that the late Dr. John B. Tsu spoke of?

- There was the issue of “quarter system “which was implemented and applied at most of colleges and universities in

California . Prof. Shu Park Chang (a tenured professor at Santa Clara Univ) was involved with the discussions of the pros and cons of this system then implemented. It was widely discussed as to the merits and demerits of this system in relation to foreign students are of some minority groups in American society. The late Dr. Tsu had his own idea about the Quota System in question.

+ If you were to assess the quality of the late Dr. John B. Tsu in terms of him being , 1) politically oriented person, 2) scholarly oriented person ,and 3) business oriented person, how would assess each of these factors either inherited in him or gained such factors in the process of the tenure of his life as a leader of Asian Americans? Which one do you think that he got most out of 3) factors ? How do you assess his quality as a leader for Asian Americans?

- In my view, the late Dr. Tsu was not a scholar per se. He had another kind of quality which by academic background or experience, strengthened the quality of being a leader. It was the quality he possessed that made him to have strong insight into the situation surrounding on political affairs both in the United States and the world. He was a very patient man but action oriented man. He accepted the reality of political world and when his party was out of the power(White House), he was spending his days and time preparing for the day when his party could be again in the power at which time it was necessary that many able and qualified persons were made available for the deployment of political appointees making the transition of the power smoother once his party were in power.

He was coaching many of the truthful supporters of his party just to be prepared for whatever opportunities that may be available for them to be in political arena. One of them was the former Secretary of Labor, Chao.

+In your view, what is the foremost strength of the late Dr. Tsu as a leader for Asian Americans?

- He performed his task very diplomatically. He always try to see strong side of persons rather than the side of weakness. In dealing with others, he had demonstrated his compassion toward them but he was determined to carry out whatever means and measures appropriate in order achieve what he wanted to accomplish. And, he did deployed it if it necessitated him to do so.

He could be described as the man possessing the quality of, 1) not abusing the position nor authorities that he possessed, to advance his own gains, particularly; he was as clean as anyone could be about “money”, 2) getting votes necessary to make it as an effective political forces, 3) seeing that some strong measures may be deployed to meet the ends. In the world of politics, it requires to demonstrate both hard and soft approaches in order to achieve what is aimed for. And, the late Dr. John B. Tsu performed it well.

+ If you were to meet him again (in the eternal world), what would you say to him what you have learned most out of him?

- I would say that he was a dynamic public servant and was “a political person without being a politician”. He was much more happier to be a strategist rather than the one to be very visible politician. He was the man who did devote his tireless energy for the wellbeing of others first before placing himself for his own benefit. These are the things I have learned from him.

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The foregoing remarks and comments are the summarized essence of what Mr. Basilio Chen stated in the interview conducted. His remarks and comments were enumerated more in detail but the essence of which is described for the purpose of incorporating it or may be quoted in the proposed story of the late Dr. John B. Tsu the writer will be undertaking in Japanese version.

