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OPENING OF THE SESSION

At 10:27 a.m., the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, Honorable Jose J. Roy, declared the session open.

The PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE. The Senate will please come to order and the Secretary will please call the roll.

ROLL CALL DISPENSED WITH

Senator AYTONA. Mr. President, I move that we dispense with the roll call.

The PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE. Is there any objection? (*Silence.*) There being none, the motion is carried.

The Secretary will now please read the Minutes of the preceding session.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Senator AYTONA. Mr. President, I move that we dispense with the reading of the Minutes of the preceding session and consider the same as approved.

The PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE. Is there any objection? (*Silence.*) There being none, the motion is carried.

The Secretary will now proceed with the Order of Business.

REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

The SECRETARY:

MESSAGES OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

Manila, July 12, 1971

Mr. President:

I have been directed to inform your honorable Body that the House of Representatives on July 12, 1971, has accepted the conference asked by the Senate on House Bill No. 3758, entitled:

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE FIXING OF THE MAXIMUM SELLING PRICE OF ESSENTIAL ARTICLES OR COMMODITIES, CREATING THE PRICE CONTROL COUNCIL, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES,

and Senate Bill No. 709, entitled:

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE FIXING OF THE MAXIMUM SELLING PRICE OF ESSENTIAL ARTICLES OR COMMODITIES, CREATING THE PRICE CONTROL COUNCIL, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES,

having designated Congressmen Dupaya, Zosa and

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Section 5, which has to do with the use of savings. Now, as appearing in the House version today, there are 111 items listed in said Section 5.

Senator AYTONA. Yes, Mr. President.

Senator ROXAS. I understand that the Committee has reduced this to some 20 items.

Senator AYTONA. About 25.

Senator ROXAS. Twenty-four.

Senator AYTONA. Twenty-five, Mr. President.

Senator ROXAS. *(There was a pause.)* There are only 24, Your Honor.

Senator AYTONA. Well, that is a matter of . . .

Senator ROXAS. Yes. Now, I have been kindly furnished . . .

SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION OF HOUSE BILL NO. 3443

Senator AYTONA. Mr. President, I move that we suspend consideration of House Bill No. 3443.

The PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE. Is there any objection? *(Silence.)* The Chair hears none. Consideration of House Bill No. 3443 is suspended.

CONSIDERATION OF HOUSE NO. 3004

Senator TOLENTINO. Mr. President, I move that we now consider House Bill No. 3044, to be sponsored by the distinguished gentleman from Tarlac, Senator Aquino.

The PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE. Consideration of House Bill No. 3044 is now in order. The Secretary will please read the bill.

The SECRETARY:

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL POLICY ON POPULATION, CREATING THE COMMISSION ON POPULATION AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Repre-

sentatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

SECTION 1. This Act shall be known as the Population Act of the Philippines.

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* — The Congress of the Philippines hereby declares that for the purpose of furthering the national development, programs of family planning which respects the religious beliefs of the individuals involved, so as to increase the share of each Filipino in the fruits of economic development, shall meet the grave social and economic challenge of a high rate of population growth. The Congress of the Philippines further declares that the national population policy and program will include the following elements: quantitative goals will be established and adopted; a broad understanding of the effects of alternative rates of population growth on family and national welfare be promoted; family planning will be made part of a broad educational program; safe and effective means will be provided to couples desiring to space or limit family size; mortality or morbidity rates will be further reduced; policies and programs guiding and regulating labor force participation, internal migration, and spatial distribution of population will be adopted; and contact with international agencies and private organizations concerned with population problems will be established and maintained on a regular basis.

SEC. 3. *Commission on Population: Creation and Composition.*

(a) To carry out the purposes and objectives of the Act, there is hereby created in the Office of the President a Commission on Population, hereinafter referred to as Commission, composed of the Secretary of Education, the Secretary of Health, the Secretary of Social Welfare, the Director of the University of the Philippines Population Institute, and in addition, the President shall appoint, with the consent of the Commission on Appointments, a representative from each of the Philippine Press Institute, National League of Puericulture Centers, Inc., Philippine Medical Association, and Family Planning Organization of the Philippines and one from the Junior Chamber of the Philippines, Rotary or Lions Clubs, for a term of five years.

(b) The President of the Philippines shall have the power to increase the membership com-

W mission upon the recommendation of the Commission.

H SEC. 4. *Functions and Duties.* — The Commission shall have the following functions and duties:

(a) To formulate and adopt coherent, integrated long-term plans, programs and recommendations on population as it relates to economic and social development consistent with and implementing the population policy;

(b) To receive and approve project proposals and to coordinate and evaluate their implementation in accordance with approved plans and programs;

(c) To put up family planning clinics in cooperation with the Department of Health;

(d) To undertake such action projects as are necessary;

(e) To undertake, promote, and publish studies and investigations on Philippine Population in all its aspects;

(f) To assemble and disseminate technical and scientific information relating to medical, social, economic and cultural phenomena as these affect or are affected by population;

(g) To submit an annual report to the President and to Congress on plans, programs, and progress of population activities. For this purpose, the Commission may require all agencies concerned to provide information necessary in the preparation of said report;

(h) To adopt Rules of Procedures for its government;

(i) To receive and accept from sources within and without the Philippines for its own use and not for sale, grants or donations of equipment, materials or services. Such grants or donations shall be exempt from gift taxes and deductible from the net taxable income of the grantor to donor and the donee, upon certification of the Commission: *Provided, however,* That any grant or donation received in accordance with this paragraph shall be disclosed to Congress through the annual report; and

(j) To perform such duties as proper authorities

may from time to time direct the Commission to undertake.

The Commission may call any department, bureau, office or agency or instrumentality for such assistance as it may require in the performance of its functions.

SEC. 5. *Chairman.* — The Commission shall elect its Chairman from among its members.

The Chairman of the Commission shall be responsible for calling and presiding over its meetings and shall for or in behalf of the Commission, receive gifts or donations, in whatever form and whatever source, and shall administer, obligate, and disburse the same, upon approval by a majority of the members of the Commission, and hire and maintain a staff to carry out the purposes and objectives of the Commission, in accordance with the terms of the donation, and in the absence thereof, in such manner as the Commission may in its discretion determine in conjunction with Section four, paragraph (i): *Provided,* That not more than twenty per cent of the funds of the Commission shall be utilized for salaries, allowances and *per diems.*

SEC. 6. *Meetings.* — The Commission shall meet at least every month and at other times at the call of the Chairman.

The Chairman of the Commission may constitute members of the Commission or such other experts as are deemed necessary to conduct studies for the Commission, or to assist it in the discharge of its functions.

SEC. 7. *Executive Committee.* — The Commission shall have an Executive Committee which shall act for the Commission when the latter is not in session. The Executive Committee shall be composed of: the Chairman of the Commission as Chairman and as members, the Secretary of Education, the Secretary of Social Welfare, the Director of the University of the Philippines Population Institute, the representative of the Family Planning Organization of the Philippines, and a representative from the National League of Puericulture Centers, Inc.

The Executive Committee shall meet at least once a month or at the call of the Chairman.

SEC. 8. *Staff.* — The Commission shall have an

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Executive Director who shall act as its action officer and shall serve as secretary of the Commission and the Executive Committee. The Executive Director shall be appointed by the Chairman with the consent of the Commission.

Subject to the direction and supervision of the Chairman, the Executive Director shall be responsible for the operation of the national population program, and for making decisions on a day-to-day basis. The Executive Director shall be responsible for preparing periodic reviews of program progress, for annual budget estimates, and for recommending policy of the Commission, and shall perform other duties as are prescribed by the Commission.

The Commission shall have such other personnel as may be necessary and may be assisted by such personnel as may be assigned or detailed to it from departments, bureaus, offices, or instrumentalities of the Government and shall arrange for such services as the Chairman may deem necessary for the performance of the Commission's work.

SEC. 9. *Annual Report to Congress.* — Not later than thirty (30) days after the opening of the regular session of Congress each year, the Commission shall submit to both Houses of Congress an annual report on the achievement of the Commission, stating its plans and projects and defining therein the problems encountered in the preceding year and the recommended solutions and actions or measures expected of Congress on account thereof, if any.

SEC. 10. *Appropriations.* — The sum of three million pesos is hereby authorized to be appropriated, out of any funds in the National Treasury not otherwise appropriated, as operating funds for the Commission during the fiscal year nineteen hundred seventy-two: *Provided*, That out of this sum shall be disbursed the equivalent of the amount of three hundred fifty thousand dollars as the contribution of the Republic of the Philippines to the United Nations Fund for Population Activities for the calendar years nineteen hundred seventy and nineteen hundred seventy-one: *Provided, further*, That at least seventy-five per cent of the said amount of three hundred fifty thousand dollars shall be used to finance population projects in the Philippines pursuant to this Act which are approved by the United Nations Fund for Population Activities: *And provided, finally*, That said amount may be in-

creased or decreased in the succeeding years by the Commission in accordance with its financial position. This appropriation shall hereinafter be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 11. *Repeal.* — Any and all Acts, statutes, rules, regulations or parts thereof inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed.

SEC. 12. *Separability.* — If for any reason, any part of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, no other section or provision of this Act shall be affected thereby.

SEC. 13. *Effectivity.* — This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

The PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE. The sponsor of the measure, the Honorable Benigno Aquino, Jr., has the floor.

SPONSORSHIP OF SENATOR AQUINO

Senator AQUINO. Mr. President, we would like to announce that we filed a similar bill, Senate Bill No. 130, which we amended by substitution. But since the President has already certified House Bill No. 3044, we feel it will be more expedient if we discuss this bill. There is no major difference between Senate Bill No. 130 and House Bill No. 3044.

Of late, Mr. President, one focus has been on the rate of our population growth in the Philippines. According to the latest population statistics, we are growing at 3.3 per cent per annum. We are now ranked 57th in territorial size, but our population ranks 15th in the world. In terms of population density, we have a ratio of 120 persons per square kilometer, about 50 persons above the Asian average.

If there is no change in our rate of mortality decline and fertility increase, by 1980, demographically, we will be 53.4 million Filipinos. And to merely maintain our present living standard, we must annually generate the following additional resources: (1) 2,212,876 additional sacks of rice;

(2) 470,000 new dwelling units, aside from maintaining the existing units; (3) 335,000 new jobs; (4) 50 rural health units, aside from increasing expenditures on health by P2.8 million; (5) some 10,000 classrooms, aside from maintaining and improving existing facilities.

In economic terms, "to maintain existing levels of living, national savings must grow 3 times as fast as population." This is because it takes P3 of investment to increase income by P1. Since our population grows at 3.5 per cent annually, national savings must reach 10.5 per cent yearly — to maintain present income per head in the measly amount of \$150 to \$170 in 1968.

Prospects of raising our living standards, therefore, seems beset with even greater difficulties. With our annual GNP growth at five per cent, the country is left with only 1.7 per cent for raising standards of living, 3.3 per cent being devoted to the annual average population increase.

Under the circumstances, the legislature, as the highest policy-making body of the nation, is faced with great problems in enunciating far-reaching developmental plans. This problem is aggravated by lack of sufficient awareness about demographic data and trends. To help solve this difficulty, and to keep Members of the legislature abreast with demographic trends, this bill is filed.

This bill, Mr. President, seeks to establish a national policy on population and create a Commission on Population under the Office of the President. The Congress of the Philippines is called upon to declare that for the purpose of furthering national development, we are launching a program of family planning which respects the religious beliefs of the individuals involved—to meet the grave social economic challenge of a high rate of population growth, increase the share of each Filipino in the fruits of economic development.

The Congress of the Philippines declares — in this bill — that the national population policy and program will include: (1) quantitative goals,

which will have to be established and adopted; (2) a broad understanding of the effects of alternative rates of population growth on family and national welfare which will have to be promoted; (3) family planning which will have to be made part of a broad educational program; (4) safe and effective means which will be provided to couples desiring to space or limit their family size; (5) mortality and morbidity rates which will be further reduced; (6) policies and programs to guide and regulate labor force participation, internal migration, and spatial distribution of population, which will have to be adopted; (7) contact with internal agencies and private organizations concerned with population problems, which will have to be established and maintained on a regular basis.

May we add, Mr. President, that the United States Assistance for International Development has earmarked \$5.4 million for fiscal year 1971 to assist this program. And this ongoing program today has already attracted a number of acceptors in our country which fact is considered to be one of the most dramatic acceptor programs in Asia. There are about 35,000 mothers monthly taking various kinds of educational programs and taking various methodologies on family planning.

Finally, Mr. President, in the Teheran Declaration of 1966, all the signatory countries held that it is a primary right of a mother to be informed of the different methodologies on family planning. We are a signatory to the Teheran Declaration — and this declaration states very clearly that it is the duty and obligation of the governments concerned, the signatory governments, to inform the mothers in their respective territories of the different methodologies available today.

The Philippine approach to family planning has been described as the so-called cafeteria method. The Philippine Government will merely inform all the mothers in this country of the different methodologies, leaving to themselves, according to their religious belief, to follow whatever methodologies they may want.

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Now, the Commission on Population that will be created under the Office of the President will be composed of the Secretary of Education, the Secretary of Health, the Secretary of Social Welfare, and the Director of the University of the Philippines Population Institute. In addition, the President shall appoint, with the consent of the Commission on Appointments, a representative each from the Philippine Press Institute, National League of Puericulture Centers, Inc., Philippine Medical Association, Family Planning Organization of the Philippines, and Institute of Maternal and Child Care.

In the period of amendment, Mr. President, we will propose to delete the representative from the Junior Chamber of the Philippines, the Rotary and the Lions Club. The members of this Commission will be appointed for a term of five years.

The PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE. Is there any interpellation?

Senator AQUINO. Mr. President, without prejudice to further interpellation, may we submit the Committee amendments for consideration, which are purely for style?

The PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE. Just a minute. Are there any interpellations?

Senator ROXAS. Yes, Mr. President.

The PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE. The gentleman may proceed.

Senator ROXAS. Mr. President, I would like to address a few questions to the distinguished gentleman from Tarlac. I am very much interested in this plan and I would very much want to be further informed on the mechanics and the methodology of population control. For example, Mr. President, I would like to know from the distinguished gentleman from Tarlac what is meant by the words appearing on line 3 of page 2 of the bill which reads as follows: "quantitative goals

will be established and adopted."

Senator AQUINO. Mr. President, the quantitative goals being talked about here are really the national development plans. We are going to set a target of population growth — that is, the overall quantitative goal.

The Philippines today is growing at the rate of 3.3. Very briefly, Mr. President, this means the birth rate in the Philippines today is estimated at 41,000 per thousand. Our death rate is 8 per thousand. Therefore, if there are 41 Filipinos born per thousand and only three are dying per thousand, the net birth rate in this country is 33 per thousand or 3.3.

The quantitative goals that will be established will be determined by our demographers. For example, we say that we should not grow beyond 2.5 per annum, which means a net birth rate of 2.5.

Senator ROXAS. Now, Your Honor, on that point. How can the government tell our people that we should not grow more than 2.5 a year? I am just interested on how that will be done.

Senator AQUINO. The approach, Mr. President, is this. The birth rate in the Philippines is 41 per thousand. Now, at 41 per thousand, it is estimated that the Filipino woman is productive from 15 years old to 45 or 50 years old. In this period of time, the Filipina will deliver 6.3 babies on an average — 6.3 in 30 years.

If, for example, we will enact anti-natalist, legislation wherein we will increase taxation after the third baby, we can, more or less, discourage big families. Or we can increase the age of marriage from 18 to 21. We can, therefore, delay the productivity of these women if we can delay their marriage, let us say, from the age of 15 to 25.

Senator ROXAS. Your Honor, we cannot do that. We cannot possibly delay the legal age for marriage. In the first place, even if they don't get married, they produce babies, Your Honor.

Senator AQUINO. Well, that is true, Mr. President. But there is the so-called anti-natalist legislation.

Senator LAGUMBAY. Mr. President.

The PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE. The gentleman from Laguna.

Senator LAGUMBAY. Will the distinguished gentleman yield to a few questions.

The PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE. The gentleman may yield if he so desires.

Senator AQUINO. Gladly, Mr. President.

Senator LAGUMBAY. Mr. President, I just want to clarify the point raised by the gentleman from Capiz about this taxation.

Senator AQUINO. Well, Your Honor will recall that today a couple has an exemption of ₱3,000. Now, for every child that is born we give an exemption of ₱1,000. So, therefore, our legislation is considered in international parlance as pro-natalist, because we give a premium to the bigger families. The bigger the family, the greater the exemption.

Now, if Your Honor wants to adopt an anti-natalist legislation, we will give an exemption on the first child, let us say, ₱1,000 exemption; on the second child, another thousand. But we start withdrawing the exemption on the third child—so that on the fourth child there is no more exemption. This will discourage big families. While we are not telling them that they should not have more than four children, this will discourage them from having too many children.

Senator LAGUMBAY. May I go to another point. In the span of 30 years, Filipino women can deliver 6.3 babies. Why is there a fraction? (*Laughter.*)

Senator AQUINO. Mr. President, this is a quantitative fraction. When we take the number of

babies, we go only on what we call numerical fractions. The average is 6.3. In other words, for every thousand Filipinas, 63 babies are born. For every 1,000 families, 63 Filipinos are born.

Senator LAGUMBAY. In this bill, is it envisioned that in places where there is no electricity it would be a further deterrent or further incentive . . .

Senator AQUINO. Mr. President, before the advent of the Bomba movies, electricity is a source

Senator LAGUMBAY. May we know the meaning of "bomba movies."

Senator AQUINO. Mr. President, when there was no electricity, it was said that after sundown there was no other thing to do. And, this contributed to our population explosion.

Senator LAGUMBAY. So, that is *bomba*.

Senator AQUINO. No, there was no electricity. But it is contended that when there is electricity, people enjoy television or radio and, therefore, there is less temptation to procreate.

Senator LAGUMBAY. I beg to differ. I know of several Filipino women whose children met at eleven months space. Now, they are living in Manila. There are televisions in their residence.

Senator AQUINO. Those are the women, Mr. President, that we have to educate and inform on how to control and space their children. We will only tell them what is available.

We have here, for example, a manual, that is translated into the various dialects, "Sexology in Filipino." We call this Dalubarian. And I think as a distinguished purist, Your Honor will find this dictionary very important. Sex, in Tagalog, for example, is called "sari." And Your Honor will note there that the Institute of National Language has already attempted to come up with commensurate words.

Senator LAGUMBAY. This came from where

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Your Honor?

Senator AQUINO. The Institute, Mr. President.

Senator LAGUMBAY. The Institute of National Language?

Senator AQUINO. Yes.

Senator LAGUMBAY. So these are coined words.

Senator AQUINO. Well, some of them are coined words. For example, the semen is called "punlay," meaning *punla ng buhay*. (Laughter.)

Senator LAGUMBAY. Well, here is "sexually hot." The translation is, "pasaring-mainit." but I do not understand "pasaring." "Pasaring," yes.

Senator AQUINO. You will find, Mr. President, some very interesting and some very descriptive Filipino words in that dictionary. But this is one of the things that the Commission will do. It will create interest and enthusiasm.

As you very well know, there are many methodologies of family planning. For the record, may I state that the Catholic Church only allows the so-called rhythm method. This is the only method that the Catholic Church will agree to, for which reason there are already four provinces now under this ongoing project.

This is considered to be one of the biggest projects in the world where family planning through the rhythm method is being experimented on.

Senator LAGUMBAY. May I know what is the meaning of "rhythm method"? Is it the wave length or what, Your Honor?

Senator AQUINO. The Catholic dogma, Mr. President, believes that any attempt of using artificial contraceptive is a sin and only by abstinence can one avoid sin. The fertility cycle of a woman, Mr. President, between her menstrual cycle is arrived at at its peak at the middle of that

cycle.

Senator LAGUMBAY. Did Your Honor study that angle of fertility cycle?

Senator AQUINO. Yes, Yes, Mr. President. Your humble colleague went to India, Pakistan, Nepal, Sikkim, Bhutan, Malaysia Thailand, Taiwan, and Korea in his population tour.

Senator LAGUMBAY. May we also have the benefit of your experience, Your Honor? (Loud laughter.)

The PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE. (Rapping the gavel.) Order in the gallery, please.

Senator LAGUMBAY. Incidentally, have there been hearings held in areas where the population is very thick? I will give an example. In the barrios of Nagcarlang at the slope of Mount Banahaw, the children there are fast multiplying. Now, has there been a hearing held in that area on this subject? Are they receptive to this matter?

Senator AQUINO. Mr. President, I would like to inform the distinguished gentleman from Laguna that his province is the No. 1 pace-setter in the country. In fact, Laguna today has a family planning clinic in almost every barrio and every sitio. Laguna has already been mentioned in international publications as a pace-setter in Philippine population control.

Senator LAGUMBAY. Now, do we have the study as a result of that family planning?

Senator AQUINO. Yes, Mr. President. Not only studies were made but international demographers have already come to the Philippines to study these phenomena.

For example, as I said, we are approaching this on the so-called "cafeteria method." The meaning is that we are not indicating a definite methodology. For example, in India, the methodology that is being adopted are two! Vasectomy on the part of the man or what they call the rubber.

Senator LAGUMBAY. May we be clarified on the meaning of vasectomy?

Senator AQUINO. Vasectomy, Mr. President, is an operation performed on a male wherein the duct that leads from the source of semen to the outlet is cut.

Senator LAGUMBAY. Is that equivalent to castration?

Senator AQUINO. No, no, Mr. President. Vasectomy, Mr. President, prevents only the spermatozoa from going out, but not the other body fluids. In other words, what goes out from a male is 100 per cent. Ten per cent of that is the spermatozoa; 90 per cent is the fluid. In other words, with vasectomy the male can still bark, but he cannot bite. *(Laughter.)*

Senator LAGUMBAY. It does not affect the orgasm.

Senator AQUINO. No, it does not affect the man. In fact, in Indian literature we will note that the conservation of body fluid is considered as one of the greatest physical exercises. The father of India, Mahatma Gandhi, when he was fighting for Indian independence, practiced celibacy. This practice in ancient time led to what they call the *eunuchs*. *Eunuchs* are the guardians of their temples and they do not cohabit with any woman. The conservation of body fluid in India is held so sacred in their writings that they believe that a man becomes more intelligent, more vigorous, and is stronger if he does not indulge in sexual intercourse.

Senator LAGUMBAY. I wonder if Your Honor has knowledge that one such round is equivalent to eight hours of hard labor.

Senator AQUINO. I do not know, Mr. President. But Drs. Johnson and Masters have more than adequately described this in their book. And I will be very glad to furnish the distinguished gentleman from Laguna with the works of Drs. Masters

and Johnson.

Senator LAGUMBAY. This bill, on page 3, Your Honor, provides that mortality and morbidity rates will be further reduced. "Mortality" does not seem nice to hear, because if family planning will include killing, that would be illegal.

Senator AQUINO. No, Mr. President. We envision that the mortality rate of the Philippines will still go down.

In 1900, there was no problem of family planning because the birth rate of the Philippines was in the magnitude of 40 to 41 per thousand, but the death rate was about 38 per thousand. So the net birth rate was only three per thousand. As many Filipinos born were dying.

However, as we improved our medicine — we removed malaria as the cause of death in this country, tuberculosis has almost been reduced to the minimum — the death rate went down from 38 per thousand to eight per thousand. Mr. President, we believe that this death rate will even go down to about six or five per thousand.

Furthermore, the life expectancy of the Filipino — 32 years at the turn of the century — is now in the neighborhood of 55 years and this is even going higher. This is your morbidity or what we call the length of life span. As a result, there is a tremendous pressure on population. So, now we are also going to anticipate that demographically.

Senator LAGUMBAY. My final question. According to Your Honor a Filipino woman has 30 years fertility.

Senator AQUINO. Yes.

Senator LAGUMBAY. How about the studies on Filipino male — total years of fertility?

Senator AQUINO. We never study the male, Mr. President, because the Filipino male will be fertile depending on his health. There are Filipinos

who are 80 years old and are still healthy and are still fertile.

But be that as it may, may I inform the distinguished gentleman that in the Philippines today, of the total number of women practicing family control or birth control, 53 per cent are on the so-called pill; 17 per cent are in the so-called IUD or the intra-uterine contraceptive device; 18 per cent are on the so-called rhythm method; and the balance, Mr. President, are on the so-called traditional method, which is either the rubber, the jelly, the suppositories and the withdrawal method.

Senator LAGUMBAY. May I know if this is a result of interviews? How was this gathered?

Senator AQUINO. Mr. President, the Presidential Commission on Population has done a very intensive study on this matter. Right now I understand we already have more than 150 family planning units all over the country and the Department of Health has already inaugurated a very extensive program on family health. We only do not have movies.

Materials are now being used. Thermometers are being given out for free. Pills are being given out for free. Mr. President, about P30 million is going into this program, which is one of the crash programs.

Senator LAGUMBAY. How was Your Honorable to arrive at certain definite percentages?

Senator AQUINO. Well, Mr. President, this is the random sampling result of the latest study as of May 30, 1971, as released by the Presidential Commission on Population.

Senator LAGUMBAY. In other words, there were samplings taken in certain areas. If there were 100 samplings, compared those with the 38 million population, then we get the percentage.

Senator AQUINO. That is one method, Mr. President. The other method is that all of those mo-

thers that go to clinics are interviewed. There is an extensive interview made.

Not anybody, for example, can be given the pill. They have to undergo a physical checkup. If they pass this physical checkup, they are given the pill. Otherwise, the use IUD, or they take the other methods that are open.

Senator LAGUMBAY. Now, in that study, Your Honor, what is the safe margin of growth? Can we now say with determination that the birth rate of 3.3 will be reduced to one?

Senator AQUINO. No, Mr. President. Precisely, we are setting up this Commission so that they will be able to determine those quantitative goals. The economists of our country, the demographers of our country, the manpower people in our country will have to work out what would be the ideal target of population growth.

Japan, for example, went into a massive population control in 1950. As a result, Mr. President, their population dropped from a growth rate of 2 per cent to .8 of a per cent. As a result, the Sato Government feels they should now encourage more babies because they do not have replacement for their aging manpower. This is one aspect where quantitative goals were not properly handled.

In the United States, the growth rate now is 1.1 and this is worrying the Americans because they are approaching what they call the ZPG, "zero population growth." This Commission will set up, Mr. President, the quantitative goals.

Senator LAGUMBAY. In that case, if we are 38 million, it will be a slower pace, which is the purpose of this bill.

Senator AQUINO. Right now, Mr. President, we are growing at the rate of 3.3. We are hoping, maybe, that by 1980 our growth will be at 2.5 or 2.2.

May I just say this? In Taiwan, when they had a growth rate of 3.1, in less than 15 years they

were able to bring it down to 2.2. And this is considered ideal for Asia.

India is now on the level of 2.7. And they are hoping to go down to 2.2.

We have here, Mr. President, the world population data; the Philippines' rate is really one of the highest. This has been released by the Information Service of the Population Reference Bureau of the United Nations.

Senator LAGUMBAY. May I inform Your Honor that long before you were born, sometime in 1932, Senator Harris of America had a study that the Philippines can support 99 million people. That was his projection. And, therefore, if we are only 38 million now, we are way behind the target by which time the Philippines will really be hard up.

Senator AQUINO. Mr. President, by the year 1995 the Philippines will have 99 million.

Senator LAGUMBAY. Ninety-nine million.

Senator AQUINO. Nineteen ninety-five, about 23 years from now. By the year 1980, the Philippines is estimated to reach, at the present trend, 50 million. By the year 2000, the Philippines is estimated to arrive at a population of 105 million.

Senator LAGUMBAY. So, the intention of the bill, Your Honor, is to enable the people of the Philippines to enjoy to the fullest their marital lives without prejudicing the future generation and the economic well-being of our people.

Senator AQUINO. That is one of the goals, Mr. President.

Senator LAGUMBAY. I have no objection to the bill. Thank you, Mr. President.

Senator TAMANO. Mr. President.

The PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE. The gentle-

man from Lanao del Sur.

Senator TAMANO. Will the distinguished gentleman from Tarlac yield to a few questions?

The PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE. The gentleman may yield if he so desires.

Senator AQUINO. Willingly, Mr. President, to my distinguished colleague from Lanao.

Senator TAMANO. Mr. President, I would like to sound a dissenting note to this effort to institute population control in the Philippines.

Senator AQUINO. No, Mr. President. We are not going to impose population control. The Commission will only inform the mothers in this country of the different methodologies.

We are not attempting to control anyone. We are only going to give them all the necessary information, if they want. If they do not want, we cannot force them.

Senator TAMANO. The point that I would like to drive at, Your Honor, is, what is the objective of this program, to limit the growth of the population in the Philippines?

Senator AQUINO. Mr. President, this program's first aim is to enlighten our people on the dangers of a massive, run-away population explosion. We will enlighten the mothers — if they want to space their families. We will inform them of the different methodologies.

In other words, this Commission is not empowered to control population. No. We will only set up in several parts of this country information bureaus and clinics — if they want to come in. If they do not want to come in, nobody can force them.

Senator TAMANO. In other words, Your Honor, the idea is to retard the growth of the population?

Senator AQUINO. At the moment, Mr. Pres-

ident, we are growing at the rate of 3.3. World demographers and our own economists feel that unless we can accelerate our GNP to at least 10 per cent growth— from 4.5 at present — we will never arrive at our economic take-off. And, as things are, we can do this only if we check our population explosion.

But we are not attempting to control our population, growth Mr. President. What this Commission seeks to do is: to inform the mothers in the barrios, for example. If they want to space their children — instead of having them every 12 months, as the gentleman from Laguna said —we can inform them on how to do it.

Now, what they do is their business. But if in the process they get enlightened, this will be a step towards retarding our population growth. And, as our economists say, this will be a plus.

Senator TAMANO. Your Honor, I said that I sound a dissenting vote. I used to sit with former chairman Juan Salcedo of the National Science Development Board. He believes that this is not the time for us to think of arresting the growth of our population, because, as far as population density is concerned in this country, we are still underpopulated.

Senator AQUINO. Mr. President, may I answer the gentleman? The bill also answers that.

If one can not deliver any baby, she can ask how she can have babies. In other words, these clinics have two sides. It will inform the mothers on how to space their children. But if a mother does not have any children, she can have a fertility test and be advised on how she can have babies.

In short, this Commission takes both sides — negative and positive. For example if there are mothers in an area who have not had any baby in five years, maybe, something is wrong. They will do tests on these people — the male and the female — and they will teach them how it is possible to procreate.

Senator LAGUMBAY. With the permission of the distinguished gentlemen on the floor.

Senator AQUINO. Yes, Your Honor.

Senator LAGUMBAY. May I know if this will include artificial insemination?

Senator AQUINO. Mr. President, not yet. But it is being done in America, I might say.

Senator TAMANO. Your Honor, according to former chairman Salcedo of the National Science Development Board, it is imperative for us, for our national progress that we should accelerate the pace of our population growth. When we have reached that optimum stage where we have enough human resources for the utilization of the natural resources of the country, that is the time to think of limiting the growth of our population.

Now, Your Honor speaks about the fact that this is also a positive program. But I would like to inquire, Your Honor, what is the real intent of this program. Is it to increase our population, to speed up or to retard our population growth?

Senator AQUINO. Mr. President, that will have to be decided by the commission. In other words, we are setting up a commission to set up the program

Now, I would like to answer Dr. Salcedo on that point. Dr. Salcedo is not alone in his thinking. In fact, in Thailand, it was only two years ago that the King finally gave his imprimatur to family planning.

Most militarist countries are given to the view that the more the population, they have the more soldiers there are for battle. In other words, almost all military governments encourage bigger population.

But the world trend now is to limit the population explosion. When we arrive at that so-called optimum, we cannot stop it. We want to arrive, say, at 100 When we arrive at 100 without re-

straining, we cannot keep it at 100. The following year, it will go on to 105, 120, 130.

So, the idea is to control it now — so that when we arrive at that optimum, we can, more or less, level at a zero population growth.

Senator TAMANO. Your Honor, I am not as pessimistic as Your Honor. That by that time when we have reached that optimum stage, we shall have discovered new pills that perhaps should be taken in by the man, and there would be no possibility of fertilization.

Senator AQUINO. Well, Mr. President, there is an ongoing program trying to find out whether it is possible to control the fertility of the male. Unfortunately, none of the studies has yet proved successful.

However, there is a new contraceptive. There is a new injection. It is called "dipo provera." "Dipo provera," Mr. President, is an injection given to a woman and it makes the woman infertile for three months. Instead of taking the pill every day, by one single injection, the woman stays infertile for three months. And this is now being tested in Northern Thailand. And I understand from the initial empirical data that this is very successful.

But may I just add another thing? There is also a fertility pill, Mr. President, that brought about nine babies from one mother in Australia. This mother delivered nine babies because she took too much of the fertility pills.

She is a mother who never delivered any baby. She kept on taking fertility pills. Well, I think she got an overdose, so, she had nine babies. I think Your Honor read this very recently.

This is part of the program also for those mothers who have no children.

Senator TAMANO. What does Your Honor consider as the optimal population for the Philippines?

Senator AQUINO. Mr. President, it will all depend on our GNP. If our GNP can grow at a level of 10 per cent, then we can afford a bigger population.

For example, our per capita income today is \$182. China's is \$200 and Korea's is \$201. Japan is \$1,800; America is \$4,000. Now, if we can bring our per capita income to \$250, maybe we can afford a bigger population.

At the moment, however, our demographers feel that a 2.5 population growth, per annum should be our optimum.

Senator TAMANO. Your Honor, we are complaining of a "brain drain" in this country where a lot of Filipinos are going abroad. We need replacement for them, so, we should encourage population growth.

Senator AQUINO. Mr. President, we do not need to replace our "brains" that go out. What we need is: to train the "brains" we have.

In other words, the "brain drain" has no relation here. If 100 engineers leave, then we train 100 engineers from our available boys.

Senator TAMANO. Precisely, that is why we need more population to bring about the same program.

Senator AQUINO. No, Mr. President. If we have more population, we cannot train them adequately.

For example, a father is earning P400. If he has two children, he can send them to college, but if he has nine children, he may not even send them all to elementary school. He cannot even give them enough food.

Therefore, it is better to have only two children and make them very good citizen—rather than have nine children. That is the main idea of population control, Mr. President.

Senator TAMANO. Your Honor, the point I am

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trying to establish is, in any national effort, there is a system of priorities. Now, if we think that increasing the gross national product (GNP) should be our primordial concern, we should devote our attention to increasing the gross national product and forget population in the meantime.

Senator AQUINO. May I answer that, Mr. President? Your Honor will recall that our population is increasing by 1.3 million every year. As a result of this increase annually, Mr. President, we have to provide 2,212,000 cavans of rice; we have to provide 50 rural health units; we have to provide 10,000 classrooms every year.

If we can curb this growth, instead of providing for classrooms, rural health units, dwelling units, we can use this money we are now spending for social overhead and divert it to economic development. We can create more dams, more airports, more roads, and, therefore, we will accelerate our economic growth.

If we cannot accelerate our economic growth today, it is because our social overhead cost is very high as a result of our tremendous population explosion. Our social overhead now is 35.6 per cent of the budget, whereas our economic portion of the budget is only 25 per cent. However, if we can curb our population growth, then from the 35 per cent for social development we can remove five per cent and add it to economic development and accelerate our economic development.

Senator TAMANO. Your Honor has a point there, but the point also is that it is not really so much the overhead for maintaining this additional population as our people having a propensity for luxury. We spend so much on other things that are not absolutely essential. So, we must think of a program to curb the propensity for spending.

Senator AQUINO. Mr. President, I am very glad that our distinguished colleague from Lanao finally articulated our main protest against Mr. Mar-

cos. Mr. Marcos has such a propensity for luxury that he has not been able to accelerate the economic development of our country. He has built all those grandiose monuments, like the Cultural Center, that are unproductive. I am very glad the gentleman shares my view on this propensity of this Administration to luxury. I hope that Mr. Marcos hears your voice, Mr. President, and heads your particular warning.

Senator TAMANO. Mr. President, I would like to correct the record, because Your Honor seems to distort my intent and provoke a quarrel between me and the President.

Senator AQUINO. No, no, Mr. President. On the contrary, I think Your Honor, as the distinguished gentleman from Davao says, is a real friend of Mr. Marcos, because you are telling him where he is failing. By telling him that he should not indulge in luxury and instead concentrate on economic development, he can correct himself.

Senator TAMANO. No, Your Honor, I am speaking of the entire Filipino people, all of us, not of the President alone.

Senator AQUINO. I see. Yes?

Senator TAMANO. So, with those remarks I hope that the Senate will have time to consider our bill which I believe is of historic importance to the province of Lanao del Sur. I will suspend my remarks. Thank you, Mr. President.

Senator AQUINO. Thank you, Mr. President. If there are no further interpellations, may we propose some Committee amendments?

The PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE The Chamber will now go to the period of amendments. Committee amendments.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS

Senator AQUINO. Mr. President, on page 3, line 1, between the words "the" and "Philippines" insert the word "FOLLOWING:" So that it will read: "representative from each of the FOLLOW-

ING: Philippine Press Institute," etc.

The PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE. Is there any objection? (*Silence.*) There being none, the amendment is approved.

Senator AQUINO. On line 4, delete all the words after "one" up to line 5 "Clubs," and in lieu thereof insert "AND ONE FROM THE INSTITUTE OF MATERNAL AND CHILD CARE."

The PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE. Is there any objection? (*Silence.*) There being none, the amendment is approved.

Senator AQUINO. On line 7, page 3, delete the entire subsection (b).

The PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE. Is there any objection? (*Silence.*) There being none, the amendment is approved.

Senator AQUINO. As a consequence of this amendment, Mr. President, on page 6, line 10, after the word "Inc." add: "THE INSTITUTE OF MATERNAL AND CHILD CARE."

The PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE. Is there any objection? (*Silence.*) There being none, the amendment is approved.

Are there individual amendments?

Senator ROXAS. Mr. President.

The PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE. Gentleman from Capiz.

At this juncture, 7:52 p.m., the President Pro Tempore, Hon. Jose J. Roy, relinquished the Chair to Honorable Leonardo B. Perez.

Senator ROXAS. Will the gentleman yield to a few questions?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The gentleman may yield if he so desires.

Senator AQUINO. Gladly, Mr. President.

Senator ROXAS. Your Honor, I was reading

Section 10, which appears on pages 7 and 8; and I notice that we are called upon to contribute \$350,000 to the United Nations Fund, provided that 75 per cent of said amount shall be used to finance projects in the Philippines. May I know why we are appropriating money for a Population Commission and yet, at least, \$350,000 is supposed to be contributed to the UN Fund?

Senator AQUINO. Mr. President, may I answer that point? That is a very good point raised by the distinguished gentleman.

I would like to inform this Chamber that the former Executive Secretary of the Philippines, Mr. Rafael Salas, is now the United Nations Administrator for Special Funds for Population. And Mr. Salas told us that if the Philippines will contribute \$375,000 to the United Nations Fund, we can receive up to \$4 million from the UN Fund. In other words, if we contribute \$375,000 we can properly share in this Fund.

Mr. Salas has been given almost \$150 million for population planning. This year, Mr. Salas, who is the head of this UN organization, hopes to contribute a minimum of \$5 million to the Philippines. So, he was explaining to us that if the Philippines will only contribute \$375,000, we will get more than ten times this amount, Mr. President.

Senator ROXAS. Yes, but it is rather strange, I mean, if that is the fact that we should still be called upon to contribute when in effect we are supposed to be the recipient of larger amounts.

Senator AQUINO. May I add, Mr. President, that the Philippines has already received almost \$1.5 million from the United Nations and we are receiving \$5.4 million from the US-AID? Mr. Salas believes that by next year we will get a minimum of \$4 to \$5 million from the UN alone.

Senator ROXAS. May I know whether we are supposed to contribute this amount yearly or this is just for one time?

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Senator AQUINO. Mr. President, as far as I know, the bill is very explicit that out of this sum shall be disbursed the equivalent of the amount of \$350,000 as contribution of the Republic of the Philippines to the U.N. Fund for Population Activities for calendar years 1970 and 1971. Now, we have proposed that the "1970" should be removed because this bill was passed last year. So, I guess, it will only be for 1971.

Senator ROXAS. Yes, but the appropriation of P3 million is also for one fiscal year.

Senator AQUINO. Well, the appropriation shall hereafter be included in the annual General Appropriation Act.

Senator ROXAS. Yes, the appropriation of P3 million.

Senator AQUINO. The \$350,000 is only for 1971.

Senator ROXAS. That is quite clear. While the appropriation of P3 million will continue from year to year, the contribution of \$350,000 will be made only once.

Senator AQUINO. Only in the year 1971. Would the gentleman want to propose the deletion of the words "nineteen hundred seventy" on line 4, page 8?

ROXAS AMENDMENT

Senator ROXAS. Yes, Mr. President. On page 8, line 4, I move to delete the words "nineteen hundred seventy."

Senator AQUINO. Accepted, Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any objections? (*Silence.*) There being none, the amendment is approved.

Senator ROXAS. Well, with that clarification that the contribution will be made only once I have no further questions, Mr. President.

Senator AQUINO. I understand that the gen-

tieman from Albay has some amendments.

Senator ROY. Mr. President, will the distinguished sponsor yield to some questions?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. He may yield if he so desires.

Senator AQUINO. Delightedly, Mr. President.

Senator ROY. According to Your Honor, this bill was passed in 1970, that is, before the floating rate took effect. There is here an appropriation of P3 million from which \$350,000 will be taken as the contribution. Under the present rate of P7 to \$1, this will mean P2,500,000. Is that right, Your Honor?

Senator AQUINO. Yes, Mr. President.

Senator ROY. And what will remain is the amount of P500,000 only. Will that be enough for the implementation or operation of this bill?

Senator AQUINO. I understand the distinguished lady from Laguna is proposing to increase this appropriation. I did not want to amend this until the Lady from Laguna submits her amendment.

Senator ROY. I would like to yield the floor to the distinguished lady from Laguna whom I am sure is an expert on this matter of population control, to answer this question about appropriation.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The lady from Laguna is recognized.

SUSPENSION OF THE SESSION

Senator AQUINO. (*After a pause*) Mr. President, may I ask for a suspension of the session for one minute?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there any objection? (*Silence.*) There being none, the session is suspended for one minute.

It was 7:59 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF THE SESSION

At 8:00 p.m., the session was resumed with the Honorable Leonardo Perez still presiding.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The session is resumed. The lady from Cavite is recognized.

Senator BENITEZ. Mr. President, I have some amendments which have been presented by the womens' group here.

Senator AQUINO. Yes, Mr. President.

BENITEZ AMENDMENTS

Senator BENITEZ. I don't know if anybody has presented this anteriorly. On page 5, line 14, which reads:

Provided, That not more than [twenty] TEN per cent of the funds of the Commission shall be utilized for."

And this is the amendment: "ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES OF THE COMMISSION."

Senator AQUINO. May I have the complete line again?

"Provided, That not more than TEN per cent of the funds of the Commission shall be utilized for salaries ..."

Senator BENITEZ. No, we are deleting "salaries..."

Senator AQUINO. On line 14, which do we bracket?

Senator BENITEZ. On line 14, bracket "twenty" and instead put "ten."

Senator AQUINO. Accepted, Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there any objection? (*Silence.*) There being none, the amendment is approved.

Senator BENITEZ. Then bracket "salaries, allowances and per diems" on line 15 and instead put "ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES OF THE

COMMISSION."

Senator AQUINO. Accepted, Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there any objection? (*Silence.*) There being none, the amendment is approved.

Senator BENITEZ. On page 7, line 19, after the word "of," delete "three million pesos" and instead, put "FIFTEEN MILLION FOUR HUNDRED THOUSAND PESOS."

Senator AQUINO. Delete "three million pesos" and in lieu thereof put "FIFTEEN MILLION."

Senator BENITEZ. This is the amendment:

"FIFTEEN MILLION FOUR HUNDRED THOUSAND PESOS, TWELVE MILLION FOUR HUNDRED THOUSAND OF THE AMOUNT TO BE EARNMARKED ANNUALLY FOR FAMILY PLANNING IN ONE THOUSAND PUERICULTURE CENTERS."

Senator AQUINO. Excuse me, Mr. President, may I again get the amendment?

Senator BENITEZ. It will read thus: "P15,400,000, P12,400,000 of the amount to be earmarked annually for family planning in 1,000 puericulture centers."

Senator AQUINO. Accepted, Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there any objection? (*Silence.*) There being none, the amendment is approved.

Senator BENITEZ. And then, Mr. President, after bracketing "three million pesos" we add "AND THE THREE MILLION PESOS TO BE EARMARKED AS OPERATING FUNDS OF THE COMMISSION STARTING FISCAL YEAR, 1972."

Senator AQUINO. Accepted, Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there any objection? (*Silence.*) There being none, the amendment is approved.

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Senator BENITEZ. That is all, Mr. President.

Senator TAMANO. Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Gentleman from Lanao del Sur.

TAMANO AMENDMENT

Senator TAMANO. I propose, Mr. President, that we should include the Commissioner of National Integration in the Population Commission.

Senator AQUINO. May I know on what page the amendment would be placed, Mr. President?

Senator TAMANO. If it is acceptable, I propose that we add after the words "the Secretary of Social Welfare" on line 22, page 2, the phrase "THE COMMISSIONER OF NATIONAL INTEGRATION."

Senator AQUINO. Mr. President, the Commissioner of National Integration is the Commissioner of National Minorities. They are the minorities. We have to increase them — I mean, you want them in family control?

Senator TAMANO. Well, precisely, Your Honor, a while ago, Your Honor said that this is not merely a case of population control.

Senator AQUINO. Yes. On line 22, after the word "Welfare," insert "THE COMMISSIONER OF NATIONAL INTEGRATION." Accepted, Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there any objection? (*Silence.*) There being none, the amendment is approved.

Senator TAMANO. Now, Mr. President, I would like to be enlightened on the meaning of the sentence on page 3, line 7, which reads as follows:

"The President of the Philippines shall have the power to increase the membership of the Com-

mission."

Senator AQUINO. That has been deleted, Mr. President.

Senator TAMANO. Deleted?

Senator AQUINO. Yes.

Senator TAMANO. Thank you, Mr. President. Now, on page 6, also as a consequence of the anterior amendment regarding the Commissioner of National Integration, on line 6, add "THE COMMISSIONER OF NATIONAL INTEGRATION."

Senator AQUINO. Accepted, Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there any objection? (*Silence.*) There being none, the amendment is approved.

Senator TAMANO. Thank you, Mr. President.

Senator LAGUMBAY. Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The gentleman from Laguna.

Senator LAGUMBAY. Before I propose my amendment, I would like to seek clarification.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The gentleman may proceed.

Senator LAGUMBAY. I would like to follow through the statement Your Honor gave to the gentleman from Lanao about an injection to make the non-fertile man or woman fertile.

Senator AQUINO. No, Mr. President. I said that instead of the pill, there is now an injection that will prolong non-fertility birth control for three months. It is called *dipo provera*. That injection will keep a woman safe for three months.

Senator LAGUMBAY. The point is whether in case the husband and wife could not have chil-

dren there is a chance in this bill to make them fertile.

Senator AQUINO. There is such a thing as fertility test and cure to improve...

Senator LAGUMBAY. The point is that it is not spelled out here. I asked Your Honor if artificial insemination is permissible under this bill and I gather from Your Honor's answer that it is not possible.

Senator AQUINO. Mr. President, the Civil Code will have to be amended on that point — and this is a sore point. How will one determine the father?

I think we will have to amend the Civil Code, because the paternity of a child will have to be determined, and inheritance and legitimacy will be involved.

Senator LAGUMBAY. But there is such a thing as adoption.

Senator AQUINO. Well, Mr. President, adoption involves legal process.

Senator LAGUMBAY. If the bill will allow artificial insemination and the couple will agree to that, then it would become legal and there would be no need for amendment. But that is neither here nor there.

Senator AQUINO. Mr. President, the Commission will not handle that. But I am sure that if a wife would like to have some artificial insemination, she may do it without the Commission.

In America, Mr. President, according to the records, 16,000 babies were born by artificial insemination last year.

Senator LAGUMBAY. How does the question of paternity resolved?

Senator AQUINO. It is with the consent of the father. And according to the Civil Code, unless

proven otherwise, a child born in wedlock is considered to be the child of the couple.

Senator LAGUMBAY. In that event, if the law spells it out, there would be no need to amend the Civil Code. Is that not right?

Senator AQUINO. We cannot spell that out, Mr. President. I am afraid that point is not included in the scope of the Commission.

Senator LAGUMBAY. Now, on page 2, line 8, after the semicolon (;) following the word "size," is it not all right to add the phrase "safe and effective means to enhance the fertility of both sexes"?

Senator AQUINO. May I have that amendment again, Mr. President?

LAGUMBAY AMENDMENT

Senator LAGUMBAY. The amendment would be: After the semicolon (;) following the word "size" add the phrase "SAFE AND EFFECTIVE MEANS TO ENHANCE FERTILITY TO BOTH SEXES OR TO MAN AND WIFE."

Senator AQUINO. To couples?

Senator LAGUMBAY. Yes, to couples.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. What does the sponsor say?

Senator AQUINO. Accepted, Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there any objection? (*Silence.*) There being none, the amendment is approved.

Senator AQUINO. Mr. President, if there are no further individual amendments, may I move that we approve this bill on second reading?

Senator ESPINA. Mr. President, will the distinguished sponsor yield to a few questions?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The gentleman

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may yield if he so desires.

Senator AQUINO. Gladly, Mr. President.

Senator ESPINA. I have only a few questions, Your Honor. The first is, does Your Honor intend to involve local governments in family planning?

Senator AQUINO. Yes, Mr. President.

Senator ESPINA. The question is posed, Your Honor, because I am thinking of involving the barrios and the PACD. What is the opinion of the sponsor on the composition of the Commission?

Senator AQUINO. The Commission will be meeting here in Manila and it will be most difficult to include them; but the puericulture centers and the municipal health officers are working in the barrios.

Senator ESPINA. May I propose that as an ex-officio member we include the Presidential Assistant on Community Development?

Senator AQUINO. Mr. President, we already have the Secretary of Education, the Secretary of Health, the Secretary of Social Welfare, and the Commissioner of National Integration. Your Honor wants to include the Presidential Assistant on Community Development?

Senator ESPINA. Yes.

Senator AQUINO. We have already the Secretary of Education and the Secretary of Health.

Senator ESPINA. Yes, but the PACD goes to the barrio councils.

Senator AQUINO. I have no objection, Mr. President.

ESPINA AMENDMENT

Senator ESPINA. May I, therefore, propose to include the Presidential Assistant on Community Development.

Senator AQUINO. Mr. President, the amendment, therefore, would be: After the words "COMMISSIONER ON NATIONAL INTEGRATION," add the words "PRESIDENTIAL ASSISTANT ON COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT."

Senator ESPINA. Yes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. What does the sponsor say?

Senator AQUINO. Accepted, Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there any objection? (*Silence.*) There being none, the amendment is approved.

Senator AQUINO. Well, as a consequence of that amendment, I also move to amend page 6, line 6, so that after the words "COMMISSIONER ON NATIONAL INTEGRATION," we insert the words "PRESIDENTIAL ASSISTANT ON COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there any objection? (*Silence.*) There being none, the amendment is approved.

Senator ESPINA. The other point here, Mr. President, is why have we chosen only the Jaycees and the Rotary Club.

Senator AQUINO. Those were deleted, Mr. President.

Senator ESPINA. What is the proviso, if any, that has been inserted instead?

Senator AQUINO. The Institute of Maternal and Child Care.

Senator ESPINA. So here the civic clubs are out.

Senator AQUINO. Yes, Mr. President.

Senator ESPINA. Does not Your Honor think that we should give the President some flexibili-

ty?

Senator AQUINO. No, Mr. President. It has been said that if there are so many people who would want to get into the bandwagon, that situation would put a tremendous pressure on the President. That is why I was requested that, if it is possible, we delete this section — so that the President will be spared this problem.

Your Honor will recall that even religious groups want to get in—and the President has been rather wary about this.

Senator ESPINA. In that case, I will skip that.

Now, regarding the powers, functions and duties of the Commission, although it is not stated here, does not Your Honor believe that it should have the power to set up regional offices? It is not spelled out here.

Senator AQUINO. They will adopt rules of procedure. And we have already said that the Commission itself will be meeting here in Manila from time to time.

Senator ESPINA. For purposes of dissemination, Your Honor, etc.

Senator AQUINO. They will be putting up family clinics in cooperation with the Department of Health. So, the Department of Health, having regional offices, will handle that, Mr. President.

Senator ESPINA. There will be no representatives of the Population Commission, let us say, in the eight regions of the Philippines because they will be all here in Manila?

Senator AQUINO. No more. The Secretary of Health is a member of the Commission and, through him, that will be disseminated in the medical regions.

Senator ESPINA. And this is how it will be implemented?

Senator AQUINO. Furthermore, the Depart-

ment of Education is also represented — so that through the Secretary of Education to the Division Superintendents to the District Supervisors, this will also flow down.

Senator ESPINA. There will be nobody coordinating within the region. Who will coordinate with the Department of Education, the Department of Health, the PACD, the CNI within their respective regions?

Senator AQUINO. Mr. President, that will be taken care of by the rules and regulations. They will formulate and adopt coherent, integrated, comprehensive long-term plans, programs and recommendations as they relate to economic and social development.

Senator ESPINA. Your Honor is suggesting that this will be taken up in the working agreement among the departments involved?

Senator AQUINO. Yes, Mr. President.

Senator ESPINA. Thank you, I am satisfied on that point.

The last one will be on line 11, page 4.

Senator AQUINO. May I just add, Mr. President, that on page 4, you will note on line 22, that the Commission may call upon any department, bureau, office or agency or instrumentality for such assistance as it may require in the performance of its functions?

Senator ESPINA. I know that; but I was thinking of the coordination.

Now, on page 4, line 11, I notice here that the Commission may receive and accept from sources within and without the Philippines for its own use, and not for sale, plans, donations, equipment, etc.

Senator AQUINO. Yes.

Senator ESPINA. I was thinking of a situa-

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tion where a donor will give IUD devices. Is it Your Honor's thinking that the donation be given directly to the government, not to the Commission, for free redistribution to the people?

Senator AQUINO. The Commission may receive this gift. If they want to give them to the Commission, the Commission may accept them and the Commission will just distribute them.

Senator ESPINA. If this would be applied strictly, it would seem that the Commission may only accept them for its own use and not sell them.

Senator AQUINO. Yes, it cannot sell them.

Senator ESPINA. And it is only for its own use. This is where the interpretation will come in. It does not say that the Commission can receive and in turn give them away.

Senator AQUINO. No. It can give them away or its use because if it has a program, then these will be used for its own program; but it may not sell them. That is the point.

You know, Mr. President, we are going to receive P30 million worth of aid — and we cannot sell that.

Senator ESPINA. Yes. I agree.

Senator AQUINO. It must be given out for free.

Senator ESPINA. Therefore, it is very clear. That is why I am interpellation Your Honor. If the Commission should receive, for example, iodine — a donation in kind — from a foreign country, it may in turn give it for free to the rural areas.

Senator AQUINO. It has to. Otherwise, the donation will be useless.

Senator ESPINA. It is not prohibited that it be given out for free. That is the intention. So long as it is not for sale.

Senator AQUINO. On the contrary, it is prohibited for the Commission to sell it.

Senator ESPINA. Yes.

Senator AQUINO. It must be for free.

Senator ESPINA. Thank you very much, Mr. President.

Senator ALMENDRAS. Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The gentleman from Davao.

Senator ALMENDRAS. Will the distinguished sponsor yield?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The gentleman may yield if he so desires.

Senator AQUINO. Gladly, Mr. President.

Senator ALMENDRAS. I am in favor of this bill, Your Honor. As a matter of fact, to my mind, this has been overdue because of the rate at which we have been multiplying.

Now, there is a Commission to be created, composed of the Secretary of Education, the Secretary of Health and other officials.

Senator AQUINO. Yes.

Senator ALMENDRAS. It will have the power to promulgate rules of procedure.

Senator AQUINO. Yes.

Senator ALMENDRAS. Your Honor, if there are families who refuse to comply with such rules of procedure, what will be the penalty?

Senator AQUINO. Mr. President, the Commission is not going to adopt rules of procedures for families. Far from it. The rules of procedures will only be internal for the Commission.

Senator ALMENDRAS. But there are rules of

procedures to be followed.

Senator AQUINO. No, Your Honor. The Commission will only inform the individuals involved how to space a family. That is all.

Senator ALMENDRAS. That is all.

Senator AQUINO. It is educational.

Senator ALMENDRAS. So, it is up to the family whether to follow the suggestions or not.

Senator AQUINO. Definitely, Mr. President. It is unconstitutional to tell the family what to do.

Senator ALMENDRAS. In other words, Your Honor, it is not compulsory.

Senator AQUINO. No, we cannot make it compulsory. It will be unconstitutional. We cannot tell a mother to have only one child. We can inform the mother, "These are the different methods — if you want. If you do not want, sorry."

Senator ALMENDRAS. *Sorry na lang.*

Senator AQUINO. *Sorry na lang.*

Senator ALMENDRAS. Your Honor, in the Bible there is an admonition to men to "go forth into the world and multiply."

Senator AQUINO. Yes, Your Honor.

Senator ALMENDRAS. They can multiply as much as they can.

Senator AQUINO. If they want to multiply, they can.

Senator ALMENDRAS. If they want to.

Senator AQUINO. Yes, Mr. President.

Senator ALMENDRAS. In the Muslim areas, Your Honor, I don't think this will apply.

Senator AQUINO. Well, that is why we have provided for a positive approach — the fertility

approach — for the brethren of the gentleman from Lanao del Sur.

Senator ALMENDRAS. In the rural areas, in the mountains, Your Honor, I doubt if this will apply.

Senator AQUINO. We can always try. We can inform them.

Senator ALMENDRAS. Of course, there is no harm in trying to educate them.

Senator AQUINO. Yes.

Senator ALMENDRAS. In other words, Your Honor, this bill is being enacted to serve as a guide only.

Senator AQUINO. Mr. President, may I just restate our position? We signed a Declaration of Human Rights in Teheran in 1966. According to this Declaration of Human Rights, it is the obligation of the government to inform the mothers in its country on the different methods of family planning. So, we are implementing that. We are informing the mothers.

Senator ALMENDRAS. No, Your Honor. It should not only be the mothers.

Senator AQUINO. And the fathers.

Senator ALMENDRAS. The father also.

Senator AQUINO. Yes.

Senator ALMENDRAS. Because the mother will be useless without the father. *(Laughter.)*

Senator AQUINO. Yes.

Senator ALMENDRAS. So, Your Honor, I am made to understand now that this is only a sort of guide.

Senator AQUINO. Yes.

Senator ALMENDRAS. Thank you, Mr. President.

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Senator AQUINO. Mr. President, if there are no other interpellations.

Senator BENITEZ. Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The lady from Cavite and Laguna.

Senator BENITEZ. Will the gentleman yield to a few questions?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The distinguished sponsor may yield if he so desires.

Senator AQUINO. Gladly, Mr. President.

Senator BENITEZ. This is on Section 3, Your Honor, with respect to the membership, page 2 and then on to page 3 — the continuing portion.

Mr. President, I would like to ask the sponsor if he is aware of the fact that the Responsible Parenthood Association, approved by the Catholic Church, is not included here.

Senator AQUINO. Well, is the lady from Laguna and Cavite moving to include it?

Senator BENITEZ. I would like to. It had separated from the Family Planning Organization of the Philippines, and it is only the Responsible Parenthood Association which is very sizable in number. It separated, Your Honor, precisely because its members want to highlight the fact that when it comes to population control, they only sanction the rhythm method. So, may I suggest that the Responsible Parenthood Association — a very prestigious and hardworking association — be included here.

Senator AQUINO. Mr. President, the last words on line 4, page 3, are "INSTITUTE OF MATERNAL HEALTH AND CHILD CARE." Would the lady like to add the words "Responsible PARENTHOOD ASSOCIATION"?

Senator BENITEZ. Yes. It doesn't matter where Your Honor wants to put it as long as it

is not too far from "Family Planning Organization of the Philippines" because it used to be a part of this organization, only that it has moved out.

Senator AQUINO. Mr. President, if the lady from Laguna and Cavite will so propose that as an amendment, we will accept it.

BENITEZ AMENDMENTS

Senator BENITEZ. Therefore, Mr. President, should be on line 4 of page 3. But first, on line 3, the word "and" should be deleted, just have the comma (,) so that it will read "Family Planning Organization of the Philippines AND RESPONSIBLE PARENTHOOD ASSOCIATION."

Senator AQUINO. After the word "Philippines," put a comma (,) and insert the words "RESPONSIBLE PARENTHOOD ASSOCIATION."

Senator BENITEZ. "OF THE PHILIPPINES," Your Honor.

Senator AQUINO. Accepted, Mr. President.

Senator BENITEZ. And delete the word "and" on line 3.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Just a moment. Is there any objection? (Silence.) The Chair hears none. The amendment is approved.

Senator BENITEZ. Mr. President, we will have to delete the word "and" on line 3 so that it will read "Family Planning Organization of the Philippines AND RESPONSIBLE PARENTHOOD ASSOCIATION OF THE PHILIPPINES."

Senator AQUINO. No, Mr. President. It will read as follows: "and Family Planning Organization of the Philippines, RESPONSIBLE PARENTHOOD ASSOCIATION OF THE PHILIPPINES, AND INSTITUTE OF MATERNAL HEALTH AND CHILD CARE." That is how it will read, Mr. President — and then continue, "for a term of

five years."

Senator BENITEZ. Did Your Honor exclude "the Junior Chamber of the Philippines" and so forth?

Senator AQUINO. Yes, Mr. President.

Senator BENITEZ. In other words, Your Honor is just limiting it then to specific organizations whose primary purposes are family planning.

Senator AQUINO. Yes, Mr. President.

Senator BENITEZ. I had thought of asking the distinguished gentleman, since I saw the words "Rotary or Lions Clubs," whether he would want to consider the National Council of Women, a civic assembly, which has too million members. But I am not insisting on this as an amendment. I am not insisting on this as an amendment. I am just raising the question of how effective the sponsor wishes the program to be. At least, in all such groupings, we suggest that the National Council of Women, a civic assembly, be...

Senator AQUINO. The National Council of Women.

Senator BENITEZ. Yes. It is registered abroad as the National Council of Women of the Philippines.

Senator AQUINO. Is it involved in family planning, madam?

Senator BENITEZ. Many of its organizations are, but they are not members of the Responsible Parenthood Association nor of the Family Planning Organization of the Philippines. This is a council of all women's organizations. It has two million members and 67 national organizations.

Senator AQUINO. We have removed the civic organizations. We have only included institutions involved in family planning. But if the lady will insist on the amendment, we will accept it.

Senator BENITEZ. In order to be very effec-

tive. This is a very, very well organized group. It has annual celebrations. It takes charge of the Republic Day celebration.

Senator AQUINO. So, if Your Honor will propose it, it will be: After the word "CARE" on line 4, insert the words "AND THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN OF THE PHILIPPINES."

Senator BENITEZ. "AND THE CIVIC ASSEMBLY OF WOMEN OF THE PHILIPPINES."

Senator AQUINO. The National Council of Women.

Senator BENITEZ. No, Your Honor. The registered name is Civic Assembly of Women of the Philippines.

Senator AQUINO. "AND THE CIVIC ASSEMBLY OF WOMEN OF THE PHILIPPINES."

Senator BENITEZ. Yes.

Senator AQUINO. Accepted, Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there any objection? (*Silence.*) The Chair hears none. The amendment is approved.

Senator BENITEZ. Thank you Mr. President.

Senator TAMANO. Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The gentleman from Lanao del Sur.

Senator TAMANO. Will the distinguished sponsor yield to a few questions?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The gentleman may yield if he so desires.

Senator AQUINO. Gladly, Mr. President.

Senator TAMANO. This is on Section 2, page 1, for the purpose of an amendment. Your Honor. I am quite unhappy about the phraseology of the declaration of policy, particularly the opening statement.

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Senator AQUINO. May I add, Mr. President, that this declaration of policy was made by Malacañang — and it is the policy now controlling the Commission on Population? It is not your sponsor's wording. And this policy was recommended by the Presidential Commission on Population.

Senator TAMANO. As a preliminary statement, does not Your Honor think that it would be better if we say: "The Congress of the Philippines hereby declares that for the purpose of furthering the national development programs of family planning which respects the religious beliefs of the individuals concerned, so as to increase the share of each Filipino in the fruits of economic development in order to meet the grave social and economic challenge of a high rate of population growth, shall be undertaken by the government?"

Senator AQUINO. "x x x in order to meet the grave social and economic challenge of a high rate of population growth."

Senator TAMANO. "...shall be undertaken by the government." It seems to be hanging without this phrase.

Senator AQUINO. But the government will not be the only one that will undertake this. Even civic organizations.

Senator TAMANO. I think we should reword this to remove the dangling participle.

SUSPENSION OF THE SESSION

Senator AQUINO. Mr. President, I move that we suspend the session for a few minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there any objection? (*Silence.*) There being none, the session is suspended for a few minutes.

It was 8:25 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF THE SESSION

At 8:29 p.m., the session was resumed with Honorable Leonardo B. Perez, presiding.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The session is resumed.

Senator TOLENTINO. Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Majority Floor Leader.

TOLENTINO AMENDMENT

Senator TOLENTINO. On page 1, from line 3 to 10, I propose to amend that line by rephrasing it to read as follows:

"SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* — The Congress of the Philippines hereby declares that for the purpose of furthering the national development, increasing the share of each Filipino in the fruits of economic development, and meeting grave social and economic challenge of a high rate of population growth, a national program of family planning which respects the religious beliefs of individuals involved shall be undertaken."

Senator AQUINO. Accepted, Mr. President.

Senator PELAEZ. One amendment, Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The gentleman from Misamis Oriental.

Senator PELAEZ. I notice that the word "development" is used twice — "national development" and "economic development". I suggest an amendment to the amendment. The second "development" should be changed to "progress."

Senator TOLENTINO. It should be "economic progress", instead of "economic development."

Senator AQUINO. Accepted, Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there any objection? (*Silence.*) The Chair hears none. The amendment is approved.

APPROVAL ON SECOND READING OF HOUSE
BILL NO. 3044

Senator AQUINO. Mr. President, if there are no further interpellations, I move that we approve this bill, House Bill No. 3044, on second reading, as amended.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. We shall now vote on the bill as amended on second reading. As many as are in favor of the bill as amended will please say *Aye*. (*Several senators: Aye.*) As many as are against will please say *Nay*. (*Silence.*) House Bill No. 3044 is approved on second reading, as amended.

CONSIDERATION OF SENATE BILL NO. 500
(Continuation)

Senator TOLENTINO. Mr. President, I move that we resume consideration of Senate Bill No. 500, being sponsored by the distinguished gentleman from Negros Oriental.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Resumption of consideration of Senate Bill No. 500 is now in order. The sponsor has the floor.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS

Senator TEVES. Mr. President, we are now in the period of amendments. Committee amendments, Mr. President. On page 1, line 16, after the word "of", delete the words "NOT LESS THAN TWENTY-FOUR thousand" and in lieu thereof, insert "TWENTY THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED EIGHTY."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there any objection? (*Silence.*) The Chair hears none. The amendment is approved.

Senator TEVES. In line 18, after the word "of", delete the words "NOT LESS THAN TWENTY" and in lieu thereof, insert "EIGHTEEN".

Senator ROXAS. Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Minority Floor Leader.

Senator ROXAS. Mr. President, just for a point of information. Do I understand, therefore, that in the amendments being proposed by the distinguished sponsor the words "NOT LESS" in all instances are being eliminated?

Senator TEVES. They are always deleted, Your Honor.

Senator ROXAS. Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there any objection to the amendment? (*Silence.*) The Chair hears none. The amendment is approved.

Senator TEVES. On the same line 18, change the words "FIVE hundred" to "SIX HUNDRED THIRTY SIX".

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there any objection? (*Silence.*) The Chair hears none. The amendment is approved.

Senator TEVES. On the same page 1, line 19, delete the word "EIGHTY".

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there any objection? (*Silence.*) The Chair hears none. The amendment is approved.

Senator TEVES. On page 2, line 7, delete the words "NOT LESS THAN EIGHTEEN" and in lieu thereof insert the word "FIFTEEN".

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there any objection? (*Silence.*) The Chair hears none. The amendment is approved.

Senator TEVES. On line 8, changed the words "SIX HUNDRED THIRTY-SIX" to "TWO HUNDRED SIXTY-FOUR".

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there any ob-