

Table of Contents

PLENARY SESSIONS

Session No.		Page
1	Monday, July 24, 1995	1
2	Tuesday, July 25, 1995	23
3	Wednesday, July 26, 1995	57
	Thursday, July 27, 1995	85
4	Monday, July 31, 1995	115
	Tuesday, August 1, 1995	149
	Wednesday, August 2, 1995	187
	Thursday, August 3, 1995	261
5	Monday, August 7, 1995	345
Necro.	Tuesday, August 8, 1995	353
6	Wednesday, August 9, 1995	361
	Thursday, August 10, 1995	409
7	Monday, August 14, 1995	425
8	Tuesday, August 15, 1995	453
9	Wednesday, August 16, 1995	487
	Thursday, August 17, 1995	511
10	Monday, August 21, 1995	525
11	Tuesday, August 22, 1995	553
12	Wednesday, August 23, 1995	581
	Thursday, August 24, 1995	611
13	Monday, August 28, 1995	633
	Tuesday, August 29, 1995	635
14	Thursday, August 31, 1995	647
15	Monday, September 4, 1995	673
16	Tuesday, September 5, 1995	679
Necro.	Wednesday, September 6, 1995	701
17	Thursday, September 7, 1995	709
	Monday, September 18, 1995	751
18	Tuesday, September 19, 1995	773

RECORD OF THE SENATE

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 23, 1995

ROLL CALL

OPENING OF THE SESSION

At 5:11 p.m., the Honorable Marcelo B. Fernan, Presiding Officer, called the session to order.

The Presiding Officer [Senator Fernan]: The twelfth session of the Senate in the First Regular Session of the Tenth Congress is hereby called to order.

We shall be led in prayer by Senator Ramon B. Magsaysay, Jr.

Everybody rose for the opening prayer.

PRAYER

Senator Magsaysay: *Let us all bow our heads and place ourselves in the loving presence of God.*

O God, our perfect Father, master lawmaker and judge of all times, before Your presence we recognize our nothingness and thirst for wisdom. We acknowledge that Your spirit is our fullness and Your love is our sustaining power. In the midst of our moral obligations as leaders of our country, and our longing thirst for answers to our country's problems, all of us are nearly drained and exhausted. But the moment we look up to Your magnanimous grace, a new energy is unleashed into our beings. The Good Book says "We can do all things through Him who furnishes us with strength."

Grant us, O God, as humble lawmakers and ordinary men with the gift to be the salt that adds flavor to the earth, and to be the light that shines even in darkness so that we may become living testimonies of Your unconditional love. Furthermore, so that we, Your people, may find our true direction in life as a nation and as Your people worthy of Your blessings.

Pour out Your Spirit upon all Filipinos to equip us with righteousness, love, compassion, and most of all, forgiveness for all our human frailties and misgivings. Then and only then, dear Lord, shall we live and find new meaning for our beings. We know in our hearts that You have earnestly listened to our petition and thus we put our faith in You and in what You are about to accomplish in our midst today and for all the days to come.

We thank You, Lord, and may each of us truly live as faithful servants of our people so that only goodness shall follow us all the days of our lives.

Amen.

The Presiding Officer [Senator Fernan]: The Secretary will now call the roll.

The Acting Secretary [Atty. Raval]:

Senator Heherson T. Alvarez Present*
Senator Anna Dominique M. Coseteng Present
Senator Franklin M. Drilon Present
Senator Juan Ponce Enrile Present
Senator Marcelo B. Fernan Present
Senator Juan M. Flavier Present
Senator Neptali A. Gonzales Present
Senator Ernesto F. Herrera Present*
Senator Gregorio B. Honasan Present
Senator Gloria Macapagal Present
Senator Ernesto M. Maceda Present
Senator Ramon B. Magsaysay, Jr. Present
Senator Orlando S. Mercado Present
Senator Blas F. Ople Present
Senator Sergio R. Osmeña III Present
Senator Ramon B. Revilla Present
Senator Raul S. Roco Present
Senator Alberto G. Romulo Present
Senator Miriam D. Santiago Present
Senator Leticia R. Shahani Present*
Senator Vicente C. Sotto III Present
Senator Francisco S. Tatad Present
Senator Freddie N. Webb Present
The President Present

The Presiding Officer [Senator Fernan]: With 21 Senators present, the Chair declares the presence of a quorum.

THE JOURNAL

Senator Romulo: Mr. President, I move that we dispense with the reading of the *Journal* of the previous session and consider the same as approved.

The Presiding Officer [Senator Fernan]: Is there any objection? [*Silence*] There being none, the motion is approved.

The Secretary will please read the Order of Business.

REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

BILLS ON FIRST READING

The Acting Secretary [Atty. Raval]: Senate Bill No. 1106, entitled

* Arrived after the roll call

The Presiding Officer [Senator Fernan]: Consideration of Senate Bill No. 1122 is now in order.

With the permission of the Body, the Secretary will read only the title of the bill, without prejudice to inserting in the *Record* the whole text thereof.

The Acting Secretary [Atty. Raval]: Senate Bill No. 1122, entitled

AN ACT PROMOTING NATIONAL SALT IODIZATION AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

The following is the full text of Senate Bill No. 1122:

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

SECTION 1. Title. - This act shall be known as "An Act For Salt Iodization Nationwide (ASIN)."

SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy. - It is the policy of the State to protect and promote the health of the people, to maintain an effective food regulatory system, and to provide women and children with proper nutrition. For this purpose, it shall promote the nutritional fortification of food, particularly salt iodization, as a priority for the nation.

SEC. 3. Purposes. -

- a) To combat micronutrient malnutrition, particularly iodine deficiency, through the cost-effective preventive measure of salt iodization;
- b) To mandate all commercial producers, manufacturers, importers, traders, and distributors of salt to iodize the salt that they produce, manufacture, import, trade or distribute;
- c) To mandate the Department of Health to lead the implementation of the salt iodization program; and its Bureau of Food and Drugs (BFAD) to set and enforce standards for the iodization of salt and to monitor compliance of the salt producers, manufacturers, importers, traders, and distributors;
- d) To mandate the local government units through its sanitary inspectors to monitor the quality of iodized salt being sold in the market;
- e) To mandate the Department of Trade and Industry

(DTI) to monitor the trade of iodized salt in the market;

- f) To mandate the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) and the Technology and Livelihood Resource Center (TLRC) to initiate and maintain the transfer of technology for salt iodization;
- g) To provide mechanisms and incentives for the local salt industry in the production, marketing and distribution of iodized salt; and
- h) To ensure the sustainability of salt iodization program.

SEC. 4. Definition of Terms. -

- a) *Micronutrient malnutrition* - A disorder resulting from deficiencies in vitamin A, iron, iodine and other micronutrients which the body needs in minute quantities everyday.
- b) *Iodine deficiency disorders* - A broad spectrum of deficiencies resulting from the lack of iodine in the diet which may manifest as goiter, mental retardation, physical and mental defects, and cretinism. It may also result from the intake of goitrogenic substances.
- c) *Food fortification* - The addition of nutrients to processed food at levels above the natural state.
- d) *Salt iodization* - The addition of iodine to salt intended for human or animal consumption in accordance with government specifications as to form, *fortificant*, method, manner and composition as may be prescribed by the BFAD.
- e) *Food-grade salt* - Salt intended for human and animal consumption, excluding those used for industrial purposes.
- f) *Subsistence producer* - a producer/farmer whose total salt production does not exceed ten (10) metric tons of salt per year.
- g) *Small producer* - a producer/farmer whose total salt production ranges from eleven (11) to three hundred (300) metric tons per year.
- h) *Medium producer* - a producer/farmer whose total

and a representative of NGOs, reinforced by a representative of the salt industry, shall serve as the Salt Iodization Advisory Board and function as the overall coordinating body on salt iodization programs and activities. It shall coordinate the monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the program and shall periodically submit a report to the implementing agency.

SEC. 9. Sanctions. - Any person, whether natural or juridical, who violates any of the provisions of this Act or any of the rules and regulations promulgated for its effective implementation shall be punished by a fine of not less than one thousand pesos (P1,000) nor more than fifty thousand pesos (P50,000); *Provided*, that if the violation is committed by a business entity, its managing officer shall be liable for the fine; *Provided, further*, that such offender shall suffer a revocation of its business permit or a ban of its product from the market.

The procedures for imposing sanctions under this Act and for inspecting and investigating the premises where any salt is received, held, manufactured, labelled, stored, displayed, delivered, distributed, sold or located, shall be in accordance with the RA 3720, otherwise known as the Food, Drugs and Cosmetics Act.

SEC. 10. Appropriations. - The amount necessary for the implementation of this Act shall be charged to the appropriations of the DOH, DTI, DOST, DA and DECS, as may be appropriate, under the current General Appropriations Act. Thereafter, such amount as may be necessary for its implementation shall be included in the Annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 11. Implementing Rules and Regulations. - The Department of Health, in coordination with the agencies concerned, shall formulate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act within sixty (60) days from its approval.

SEC. 12. Separability Clause. - If any portion of this Act is declared invalid, the remainder of this Act shall not be affected by such declaration.

SEC. 13. Effectivity. - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in two newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,

Senator Romulo: Mr. President, I ask that the distinguished Chairman of the Committee on Health and Demography, Senator Webb, be recognized to sponsor the bill.

The Presiding Officer [Senator Fernan]: Senator Webb is recognized.

SPONSORSHIP SPEECH OF SENATOR WEBB

Senator Webb: Thank you, Mr. President.

Mr. President, just recently, our Colleagues in the Senate delivered a number of privilege speeches. These are on basic issues on education, children's welfare, immunization and, recently, the peace process. The issues being raised are basic, valid, and urgent. They are issues which the Tenth Congress will decisively resolve through effective and timely legislation.

In nation-building, Mr. President, we also begin with fundamentals. We focus on livelihood, health, education, and peace and order in our society. We cannot afford to neglect these fundamentals; otherwise, we will betray our reason for being and may not justify this institution's existence.

Senate Bill Nos. 45 and 328 under Committee Report No. 2 are very basic, affordable, and practical public health measures. They seek to remedy the iodine deficiency disorders through salt iodization.

Iodine deficiency, Mr. President, causes goiter, irreversible brain damage in the fetus and infant and retarded psychomotor development in the child. It also affects reproductive functions and impedes a child's learning ability. The overall effect of an iodine deficiency population means a diminished economic productivity and poor health status for our human resources.

Although universal salt iodization has been endorsed in numerous international and national forums, the same cannot be mandated in this jurisdiction for practical economic considerations.

What may be deemed as an acceptable compromise is mandatory salt iodization for medium and large-scale producers and exempting subsistence salt producers or those producing 10 metric tons or below.

Gradually, we may be able to convince our subsistence salt producers to voluntarily iodize their salt produce through an intensive health education campaign on the nutritive value of iodized salt. We will also require in this bill, Mr. President, that food manufacturers who use ordinary salt in their food products should use only iodized salt.

Another proposal in this substitute bill which seeks to perk up the demand for iodized salt is to mandate food outlets and restaurants to make available to customers only iodized salt in their retail establishments.

The retail and distribution of iodized salt is likewise made mandatory for all retailers and distributors. Supermarkets and *sari-sari* store owners can only sell on retail or wholesale iodized salt.

Hopefully, these intervention measures would stimulate the demand for iodized salt, leaving our subsistence producers no other practical choice but to shift to iodized salt production to fill or satisfy the increased demand for iodized salt.

Mr. President, in this age of "fastfoods" and "instants," proper nutrition demands a discriminating attention. Food fortification plays a very important and indispensable role as a public health measure.

I call on my Colleagues to kindly support this very basic health measure and ensure the future of our children.

Mr. President, we still need a multitude of men and women

who will become salts on this earth.

Maraming salamat po.

SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION OF S. NO. 1122

Senator Romulo: Mr. President, I move that we suspend consideration of Senate Bill No. 1122 until tomorrow's session.

The Presiding Officer [Senator Fernan]: Is there any objection? [*Silence*] There being none, the motion is approved.

SUSPENSION OF THE SESSION

Senator Romulo: Mr. President, I move that we now suspend the session until Thursday, at ten o'clock in the morning.

The Presiding Officer [Senator Fernan]: The session is suspended until ten o'clock tomorrow morning, if there is no objection. [*There was none.*]

It was 7:51 p.m.

RECORD OF THE SENATE

THURSDAY, AUGUST 24, 1995

RESUMPTION OF THE SESSION

At 10:34 a.m., the session was resumed with the Honorable Edgardo J. Angara, Senate President, presiding.

The President: The session is resumed.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

BILL ON SECOND READING S. No. 1122 — Salt Iodization Bill (Continuation)

Senator Romulo: Mr. President, I move that we resume consideration of Senate Bill No. 1122 as reported out under Committee Report No. 2.

The President: Resumption of consideration of Senate Bill No. 1122 is now in order.

Senator Romulo: Mr. President, yesterday, the Chairman and principal Sponsor of the bill, Senator Webb, delivered his sponsorship speech. May I ask that the other Sponsor of the bill, the Gentleman from Quezon City and Leyte, Senator Mercado, be recognized for the other sponsorship speech.

The President: Senator Mercado is recognized.

SPONSORSHIP SPEECH OF SENATOR MERCADO

Senator Mercado: Thank you very much, Mr. President.

Iodine Deficiency Disorders

The unabated degradation of our environment has resulted to the continued depletion of vital nutrients in our soil and water. We now not only find ourselves without bountiful harvest but the little produce that we content ourselves with is incapable of providing our bodies with needed nourishment.

Today, I call on the Members of this august Body to focus on the dangers of iodine deficiency in our food sources. About 140,000 infants are born annually with some form of mental impairment because their mothers were deficient in iodine during pregnancy. The problem has spread from the far-flung mountainous areas down to urban areas like Metro Manila.

The Dangers of IDD

We are aware that disabilities resulting from iodine defi-

ciency may come in the form of goiter and other wide range of mental and physical disabilities such as deaf-mutism, squint, and mental retardation. What we should further take notice of is the silent affliction that creeps to the developing human brain of a fetus, newborn, infant and young child. The iodine deficient child suffers from an IQ 13 points lower than the average one. For a country gearing towards industrialization, every unit of human resource capital is important. At this point, we need to have a healthy and educated pool of future leaders. We can only attain that if we invest now.

The Salt Iodization Bill

One of the time-tested, cost-effective strategy to prevent iodine deficiency disorders is to iodize salt. Through salt iodization, iodine deficiency has been eliminated in many developed countries like USA, Canada, El Salvador, Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador and Panama. The bill aims to replicate the experience of the said countries by mandating salt iodization in our country. In this measure, I am proposing a mechanism by which iodine can be made an essential additive in all food grade salt of human and livestock consumption.

The able Chair of the Senate Committee on Health has already expounded on the main features of the bill. Much has already been said about the measure during the Ninth Congress. It is high time for us to recognize the urgency of the measure and work for the immediate passage of this vital legislation.

Thank you very much.

The President: Senator Maceda is recognized.

Senator Maceda: Mr. President, will the distinguished Sponsor of the measure answer a few questions?

Senator Mercado: Gladly, Mr. President.

Senator Maceda: Mr. President, to put it in simple terms, the intent of the measure is to improve the quality of salt. Since the Gentleman is an adopted son of Benguet, he knows that in the Mountain areas, the Cordilleras from Quirino, Vizcaya, to the Mountain Provinces, there is a large incidence of goiter because of the lack of salt. Is there anything in this bill that will increase the quantity of salt that is going to reach our 18 million highlanders? Or is this purely concerned only with improving the quality of the limited amount of salt that is available in the market these days?

Senator Mercado: Mr. President, Senator Maceda is correct when he says that there is a high incidence of goiter problems due to iodine deficiency in the Mountain Province.

RECORD OF THE SENATE

THURSDAY, AUGUST 24, 1995

RESUMPTION OF THE SESSION

At 10:34 a.m., the session was resumed with the Honorable Edgardo J. Angara, Senate President, presiding.

The President: The session is resumed.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

BILL ON SECOND READING S. No. 1122 — Salt Iodization Bill (Continuation)

Senator Romulo: Mr. President, I move that we resume consideration of Senate Bill No. 1122 as reported out under Committee Report No. 2.

The President: Resumption of consideration of Senate Bill No. 1122 is now in order.

Senator Romulo: Mr. President, yesterday, the Chairman and principal Sponsor of the bill, Senator Webb, delivered his sponsorship speech. May I ask that the other Sponsor of the bill, the Gentleman from Quezon City and Leyte, Senator Mercado, be recognized for the other sponsorship speech.

The President: Senator Mercado is recognized.

SPONSORSHIP SPEECH OF SENATOR MERCADO

Senator Mercado: Thank you very much, Mr. President.

Iodine Deficiency Disorders

The unabated degradation of our environment has resulted to the continued depletion of vital nutrients in our soil and water. We now not only find ourselves without bountiful harvest but the little produce that we content ourselves with is incapable of providing our bodies with needed nourishment.

Today, I call on the Members of this august Body to focus on the dangers of iodine deficiency in our food sources. About 140,000 infants are born annually with some form of mental impairment because their mothers were deficient in iodine during pregnancy. The problem has spread from the far-flung mountainous areas down to urban areas like Metro Manila.

The Dangers of IDD

We are aware that disabilities resulting from iodine defi-

ciency may come in the form of goiter and other wide range of mental and physical disabilities such as deaf-mutism, squint, and mental retardation. What we should further take notice of is the silent affliction that creeps to the developing human brain of a fetus, newborn, infant and young child. The iodine deficient child suffers from an IQ 13 points lower than the average one. For a country gearing towards industrialization, every unit of human resource capital is important. At this point, we need to have a healthy and educated pool of future leaders. We can only attain that if we invest now.

The Salt Iodization Bill

One of the time-tested, cost-effective strategy to prevent iodine deficiency disorders is to iodize salt. Through salt iodization, iodine deficiency has been eliminated in many developed countries like USA, Canada, El Salvador, Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador and Panama. The bill aims to replicate the experience of the said countries by mandating salt iodization in our country. In this measure, I am proposing a mechanism by which iodine can be made an essential additive in all food grade salt of human and livestock consumption.

The able Chair of the Senate Committee on Health has already expounded on the main features of the bill. Much has already been said about the measure during the Ninth Congress. It is high time for us to recognize the urgency of the measure and work for the immediate passage of this vital legislation.

Thank you very much.

The President: Senator Maceda is recognized.

Senator Maceda: Mr. President, will the distinguished Sponsor of the measure answer a few questions?

Senator Mercado: Gladly, Mr. President.

Senator Maceda: Mr. President, to put it in simple terms, the intent of the measure is to improve the quality of salt. Since the Gentleman is an adopted son of Benguet, he knows that in the Mountain areas, the Cordilleras from Quirino, Vizcaya, to the Mountain Provinces, there is a large incidence of goiter because of the lack of salt. Is there anything in this bill that will increase the quantity of salt that is going to reach our 18 million highlanders? Or is this purely concerned only with improving the quality of the limited amount of salt that is available in the market these days?

Senator Mercado: Mr. President, Senator Maceda is correct when he says that there is a high incidence of goiter problems due to iodine deficiency in the Mountain Province.

Former Secretary of Health, Senator Flavier tells me it is about 93 percent in the Mountain Province. The problem in the Cordillera Region is really so serious that it has caught the attention of the World Health Organization and the UNICEF.

This measure seeks to resolve that problem, but the measure is not really on increasing the production of salt as improving the quality of salt. The problem, Mr. President, I believe is not so much the lack of salt in the Cordilleras but the lack of iodine.

Salt is being utilized as the vehicle because it is the most common additive that we put in our food, and it has been proven to be an effective means of solving this micronutrient malnutrition problem in other countries.

Mr. President, it may not be aimed specifically at the Cordilleras in terms of the volume of salt. But the information that we have is, one does not need a large intake of salt; it is the quality of salt and the iodine that is in the salt that could help solve the malnutrition of our countrymen.

Senator Maceda: Mr. President, in the lowland areas, I guess, by implication it is clear that there is not that much incidence of lack of iodine. Are we not trying to solve a problem of a limited sector by a general law to cover the salt even for areas where we do not need to improve the quality of salt because there are no iodine problems, let us say, in the greater Manila area or in areas where people eat a lot of *pusit*? They are near coastal barrios.

Are we not adopting a shotgun approach? And the related question is: it is conceded that with this requirement, no matter how minimal, there will be a corresponding increase in the price of salt. So that those in the lowland areas will be hit by the price increase of salt. They are going to pay more for something which they do not really need because there is no big problem of iodine deficiency in the lowland areas.

Senator Mercado: Mr. President, the figures that are available to us are quite depressing. The 1993 nationwide nutrition survey showed that the prevalence of goiter for 7-year-old age group and over had significantly increased twice as of 1987.

The problem, Mr. President, is not only prevalent in landlocked or mountainous regions, but it is becoming serious in the entire country. And Senator Flavier tells me that the incidence is high even in Metro Manila.

I will give first the general description in terms of the data.

The region with the highest prevalence of goiter is Bicol,

8.6%; Eastern Visayas, 7.8%; Metro Manila, 7%; and CAR, 6.9%. I am told that in Metro Manila, 30 percent of all the babies born suffer from iodine deficiency disorders.

Mr. President, considering also the movement of our population, this problem cannot be seen as being purely in landlocked areas. We are seeing it even in coastal areas.

I would like to say, Mr. President, that, normally, this iodine deficiency should be solved by just eating a balanced diet with vegetables. But because of the denudation of our forests, we are having more retarded people and with goiter. Now, people will ask us, "What is the relationship between logging and having goiter?"

And I always tell my friends, "The moment you see somebody with goiter, with a large throat, you should blame the loggers."

Iodine is normally present in the soil, but because of the denudation of the forests, what has happened is that our top soil has been eroded, so much so that the quality of the soil, according to our scientists, is bad; that we do not have iodine anymore that should be absorbed by the vegetables and, if eaten by our countrymen, should provide them with sufficient supply of iodine so that they do not develop IDD.

But, Mr. President, such is not the case so that now we have to supplement, and the best way to supplement this is through salt iodization.

Senator Maceda: I understand that, Mr. President, pero pununta tayo sa bread-and-butter question.

• Siguro ay hindi maitatangi na with this law and with this requirement, kahit papaano ay tataas ang presyo ng asin. Totoo po ba iyon?

Senator Mercado: Iodized salt costs only P2.65 per kilo. Our computation is that it takes only P0.13 to iodize one kilo of salt. But considering the effect on the health of our people, what the government will be saving is in terms of attending to those who are afflicted, aside from the fact that if we have a retarded population — the brain cells are not developed properly — we will have a nonproductive population that cannot face the 21st century with confidence.

Senator Maceda: Magbibigay po ba ang gobyerno ng libreng iodized na asin sa mga mahihirap?

Senator Mercado: That is a program that we can undertake. In the budget it is a possibility. But the way I look at it,

Mr. President, considering that the benefits are so much that we can reverse, for example, the loss of IQ points—according to Senator Flavier about 13 IQ points are lost permanently by a child who is deficient in iodine—the P0.13 per kilo cost to iodize salt is just 1 point for each centavo. Is that asking too much?

Mr. President, if we are thinking of supporting this program, it can be provided as an incentive.

Senator Maceda: Dapat lamang siguro dahil sa kung tatanungin ninyo ang marami sa mga sasama sa demonstrasyon sa araw na ito, ang kanilang sinasabi ay ang kanilang kayang kainin na lamang ay kanin at asin. Tumaas nang husto ang halaga ng bigas; wala na silang pambili ng manok na ang halaga ay P90 isang kilo; wala na silang pambili ng gulay, at ngayon ay itataas pa natin ang presyo ng asin na magbibigay ng lasa sa mabahong NFA rice. Iyon lamang, baka ang “timing” ay hindi tama.

Para bang sinasabi natin, “Mas nutritious iyong organic vegetable so we should mandate that every vegetable sold in the market—even if it costs P0.13 more per piece of talong—should be organically grown vegetable because it is good for the health of the eater or the consumer.”

Ang sinasabi ko lamang ay maliwanag na marami ang nagsasabi ngayon na: “Ang kaya na lamang namin ngayong kainin ay kanin at asin, at siguro kalahati na lamang na kanin sapagkat ang dating binibili naming P7, P8, at P10 na bigas, ngayon ay mataas na.”

At this time, the other component of their meal—salt, ay itataas pa natin ang presyo.

Senator Mercado: Hindi naman po tataas ang presyo, sapagkat cognizant of the needs and concerns of the subsistence salt producers articulated by Senator Enrile during our last hearing, we have exempted subsistence salt producers who produce only small quantities. We believe that there should be a transition.

Be that as it may, Mr. President, I believe that the incremental cost will be minimal compared to the cost of curing or caring for those who have these problems.

Mr. President, I have seen a number of patients coming to us whose goiter have been taken care of for 10 or 15 years because they cannot afford surgery which will cost them thousands of pesos.

Mr. President, I think it will be false economy on our part

if we try to scrimp on iodizing the salt while spending money for curative efforts when they already have the disease.

The bill, Mr. President, will also support the salt industry through soft loans for the machines, the equipment, and for the fortificant, the iodine.

Section 5(c) also provides for a staggered period of enforcement for the small, medium and large-scale producers. The periods are one, three, and five years, respectively, so we are cognizant also of the concerns.

Alam natin na sa presyo ng bigas ngayon at wala pang pambili ng ulam, talagang maraming magdildil ng asin. At kung iyong asin na ginagamit ay hindi pa iodized, napakahirap naman. Magdildil man ng asin pero iodized, baka sakaling kahit na hindi nagbabago ang lasa, mayroon namang siguradong sustansiya na hindi siya magkakaroon ng bosyo.

Senator Maceda: Kahit na po sa inyong computation, kaunti lamang ang increase ng iodization.

Sa enforcement, unang-una, mayroong mga unscrupulous producers diyan and they will add on to their prices because this costs them much more to iodize. Pangalawa, may inspection iyan, may inspector, at may lagayan. Magkakaroon pa tayo ng salt price control board kung hindi pa dahil sa kung anu-ano na naman ang mangyayari.

Iyong Department of Health Inspectors, puwede rin siyang mag-planting ng salt na hindi iodized. Pagkatapos, kunwari ay huhulihin iyong poor salt dealer sa Sampaloc.

How do we prevent all of those?

Senator Mercado: Mr. President, the good thing about iodine in salt is that, it is not only widely used but it is also accessible for those who have problems of malnutrition.

It is easy to test iodized salt. With the use of starch one can tell with the changing of the color if the salt is iodized. In other words, it does not require complicated test to be able to determine whether there has been iodization of the salt.

Now, there will always be problems of implementation.

Talagang hindi natin maiaalis sa gobyerno na magkaroon ng mga problema sa implementasyon. Halos lahat naman ng batas nagkakaroon ng problema sa implementasyon. Ang magiging trabaho na lamang natin ay gawin iyong policy in such a way that there will be less chances of it being mismanaged but at the same time our oversight functions should also be

strengthened so that we can monitor how these programs are being implemented.

Senator Maceda: Mr. President, first of all, I signed the bill. So I am not really opposing it. But I am just raising some observations for the record, especially for the benefit of all the Members of the Chamber, because sometimes, any bill including an innocent-looking bill like this, would have serious policy considerations.

Now I will go to my last point. Are we going to legislate the lifestyles of people, their eating habits? Are we going to legislate that they should not use anymore GI sheets because those are unhealthy for them, and that all houses, whether it is government housing or not, should have this kind? Are we going to legislate the kind of clothing that they will use because it would be more healthy for them to use a certain type of clothing or shall we allow them to use whatever material? Are we going to legislate that, for purposes of their health, they should follow the Senator and use collarless shirts?

I feel a little bit uncomfortable that we are going into an area where, just because we feel it is good for the population, we are legislating that that is the only kind of salt that they can eat. That is really the policy question that is involved in this particular bill.

Senator Mercado: Mr. President, the good Senator has asked a very good question: Are we to legislate the lifestyles or what people consume, or what materials they use in their everyday life?

This is a public health issue, Mr. President. For example, today, it has been established that asbestos fibers cause cancer. The causal relationship is no longer debated. I think it is incumbent upon the government, based on the medical evidence available, to legislate against the use of asbestos in their houses, because the government will have to spend more caring for a cancer patient, not only for chemotherapy, painkillers, the hospital bed occupation, et cetera. This saps the nation's health and resources.

I think it is incumbent upon policymakers to look at the public health problems from the macro point of view intervening at a level where it is less costly, and that is in the stage of prevention. Mr. President, curative efforts are, not only sometimes, but more often than not, costly; they are also futile.

We need a law mandating the iodization for human consumption, because there will be better performance in school. There will be fewer school repeaters in contrast to the estimated 360,000 lost students every year, according to the World Bank's

estimates. There will be an increased work productivity. The World Bank estimates that about 1.3 million workyears are lost due to deficiencies in vitamins and minerals.

It is also estimated that just the cretinism and the severely impaired infants born in 1994 will suffer a discounted productivity loss totaling P1.6 billion. This does not include the effects of the reduced IQ of much larger portion of our populace — the less severely affected infants born with iodine deficiency disorders or born to iodine-deficient mothers.

Meeting the country's commitment to eliminate iodine-deficiency disorders, Mr. President, is our concern, because in the end it will mean good economics; it will mean productivity; it will mean a better-prepared population to meet the challenges of the next century.

Senator Maceda: Mr. President, I will not argue that point because I could always see a very easy distinction. We could prohibit asbestos because it will cause certain diseases. That is clear to me. But we cannot say that in effect we will prohibit eating noniodized salt because noniodized salt by itself does not cause diseases like asbestos does.

But the point I want to raise now is this. Only the other day in a hearing — I think it is clear at this point in time that diabetes and the diseases related to diabetes are probably more serious problems than goiter.

Now, are we going to legislate that the sugar that we must produce is Nutrasweet because using Nutrasweet sugar will reduce diabetes and hypertension? I am just illustrating to the Senator the direction in which we are going. If we can legislate that we will impose iodized salt as the only salt we can eat in this country, we can legislate that Nutrasweet is the only sugar we can eat in this country.

Senator Mercado: No, Mr. President. That is not the approach. As far as diabetes is concerned, the use of Nutrasweet after a person is diagnosed to have diabetes will have just the effect of lowering one's blood sugar. But a person, once a diabetic is always a diabetic.

I think, Mr. President, in that example of diabetes, if we are going to legislate something, let us legislate programs for exercise, for a balanced diet, for food available so that we do not develop diabetes.

Mr. President, the thrust is preventive. In this case, as regards salt iodization, the thrust is preventive. In a situation where one is already a cretin, he can eat one ton of salt with iodine, but it will not improve his IQ.

Here, we are thinking of the next generation, Mr. President. One of the time-tested and cost-effective strategies to prevent iodine-deficiency disorders has always been the iodization of salt. This has been proven in other countries. And we are proposing this mechanism because it is the most effective vehicle that we can use, considering its presence in our table for prevention of several disorders that are linked to iodine deficiency.

Senator Maceda: Let us go to another example, Mr. President, and I could think of so many examples but this is the last one.

Our old people tell us, our people in the barrios—the constituents of Senator Flavier in the PRRM, tell him that the best rice is the mountain rice. *Iyong pula o iyong regular-milled rice na mayroon pang natitirang part of the husk.* And that is good for the health of the Filipino.

Are we going in a direction—we will now legislate that the only rice we can plant is the 14-10 regular-milled rice so that it is healthier than the fancy rice?

It is the same principle. It is good to eat that kind of rice; it is healthier.

This is the point that I am just raising. I am not objecting to this right now. I am just bringing it to the attention of a famous libertarian like the distinguished Gentleman, activist, Kabataang Makabayan, TV patrol committed to the principles of democracy, antidictatorship, freedom and the like, that we have to be a little more careful in the kind of legislation that we will push as long as there is any gray area where the legislation might be interfering with the freedom of the Filipino to eat what he wants to eat.

As a last point, are we going to legislate that anybody who attempts suicide, he is going to be punished? If he wants to kill himself, then that is the most basic right of any individual. Whether he wants to live or not, that is his decision. Whether he wants to kill himself with the kind of food that he eats, if he goes to the extreme, that is his decision. But I do not see the Congress, in due time, legislating everything we eat, everything we wear and everything what we have over our heads.

Iyon lamang po, Mr. Sponsor. I think that has got to be placed in the record.

Senator Mercado: Mr. President, I am not going to be brought into a debate on euthanasia or the right to die. It is a raging debate in many countries today.

The point I would like to stress, Mr. President, is that we are

not giving up our libertarian principles when we sponsored this measure asking for iodization of salt because the balance is clear. With a simple act of iodization, we are actually helping an entire generation of children, who, unfortunately, are disadvantaged even before they are born.

Mr. President, the way I look at this particular measure, this is a proactive step wherein our care for the unborn child, the development of his brain, problems of metabolism as a consequence of goiter problems, will be solved at the very start. If we wait to intervene the curative efforts, it will be more costly on our part.

Mr. President, what could be worse than government intervention is the lack of information. The very root of this particular measure is the issue of what we know that is causing us our diseases; what we know in terms of what food we should be taking; knowledge about our own practices that are going to compromise our health. It is the democratic right of each and every individual to have that information and it is still the responsibility of a good government to provide this information to the patient or the citizen.

This is in line with what we have staunchly fought for in the Generics Act—information—the right to know what are the choices.

In this particular stage, Mr. President, the people have the right to know that if they do not eat iodized salt, their children will be cretins; the IQ of their children will be lower; they themselves will suffer from iodine deficiency, and as a consequence, may have goiter problems. I think that is the basic issue here.

Senator Maceda: I am glad that the Gentleman mentioned the phrase “the right to know what are their choices.” And really when we are talking about the libertarian principles, what we are talking about is the fact that this is a penal statute that they must produce or they must sell this kind of salt; otherwise they go to jail.

There is no quarrel with the Department of Health giving the information. There is no quarrel with the government even giving away the iodized salt for people, by practice, by culture and acceptance, to move away from noniodized salt.

Having said that, I am just curious—and this, I sincerely want to know, especially since we come from the North—does the manufacture of iodized salt mean to say that we will also now be producing iodized *bagoong*?

Senator Mercado: Mr. President, if iodized salt is used in

bagoong, then we will have more nutritious *bagoong*. At kahit na magdildil ng *bagoong*, iyong anak natin ay hindi magiging bobo. Ang pinakamasaklap ay iyong nagdidildil na tayo ng asin at *bagoong*, ang anak natin ay magiging bobo pa at tayo ay magkakaroon pa ng goiter.

Kung hindi natin malutas ang problema ng presyo ng bigas at ang inuulam na lamang ay *bagoong*, let us give them a better quality of *bagoong*. I think this administration will be happy having improved the quality of *bagoong* not only in Pangasinan but in the entire country.

Senator Maceda: Since masyado po kayong intelihente, ang ibig bang sabihin ay sa pamilya ba ninyo noong bata pa kayo iodized salt na ang inyong ginagamit?

Senator Mercado: Noong kami ay maliliit pa, may mga gubat pa, kaya ang mga gulay na kinakain namin ay mayroon pang yodo. Ngayon ay hindi pa ipinapasa ng House of Representatives ang log ban kaya walang pag-asa na ang gulay na makukuha natin ay may yodo. Kaya inilalagay na natin sa asin.

Senator Maceda: May we be educated on what is the process of iodizing the salt? What is added to it? Are there any chemicals that are used in the iodization process?

Senator Mercado: I am informed, Mr. President, it is just plain iodine. Actually, as it was explained to us, after the salt is produced, the best time to put it is before it is retailed. It is just mixed and sprayed into the salt. That is the simple way.

Senator Maceda: I will accept that, Mr. President, but really it is a premise to this question. At my age, I have already taken a lot of medicines that are good for me, or a lot of substances but I am also reminded usually either by the doctor or by the dietician that there may be side effects.

Could the distinguished Gentleman or his consultant, Senator Flavier, tell me whether medical science has determined with absolute certainty that there is no disease that is caused by an excess of iodine? On the other side of the coin, if one takes in a lot of iodine, what are the implications and repercussions of that?

Senator Mercado: Dr. Flavier tells me, Mr. President, that there is no danger of ill effects on one's self with an overdose unless one drinks the entire iodine. But the iodine we are proposing, which is going to be sprayed on salt, will not cause any adverse effects. This thing is not retained in the body in that manner.

In the matter of salt, it is true, Mr. President, that for people

with hypertension normally the doctors advise them not to use so much salt. But iodine is not available only through iodized salt. We have mentioned that seaweeds are very good sources of iodine. If we can control the pollution of our seas in this country, maybe we will be able to continually produce seaweeds which are good sources of iodine. If we can eat a balanced diet and take care of our soil which could retain the iodine, then maybe we would not have a problem. Seafood is also a good source of iodine.

Unfortunately, Mr. President, things have changed so much in terms of our food sources that we have taken the unusual step of putting it as an additive in our food. Because from its normal sources in the past, we do not find the iodine that we used to find.

Senator Maceda: Mr. President, while I accept the representation of the distinguished Gentleman on this matter at its face value, I would be more assured if before we approve this matter on Third Reading, we get a little more scientific certification of the effect of overdose of iodized salt or too much iodine. Because then, that is the other thing to consider. We are imposing a kind of food to be eaten, which will be eaten, whereas our people are used to eating salt or salty foods — the entire 69 million population — and I certainly would like to know whether there might be side effects. Or what is the other side of the coin, when people take too much iodine into their bodies.

Medical science is such that we are now finding out that what we thought was good before is not really good now and vice versa.

For example, the question whether eggs are bad for cholesterol levels or not is a continuing debate. And I just want to be sure that the premise on which the distinguished Senator is basing this bill is an absolute, scientific and medical certainty; that one, when we eat iodized salt, we solve this problem; and two, when we eat iodized salt, it does not cause another problem.

I think in fairness to our people, when we are imposing mandatory sanctions on a matter such as this, the scientific picture must be clarified.

Senator Mercado: Mr. President, the evidence submitted to us indicates that it takes about 10 gallons of iodized salt for a person to have an overdose of iodine.

Experts say that there can be no overdose of iodine through iodized salt for pregnant women if taken in the normal way.

If iodine is already present in the body, it will simply reject any additional quantities and excrete it through the urine.

On the other hand, if one is iodine-deficient, the thyroid gland will use as much iodine as it needs and will reject the rest. This makes iodized salt safe, according to the information we have been provided from the DOH.

Senator Maceda: I am satisfied with the answers. I thank the distinguished Gentleman for his patience.

I would like to suggest that, maybe, the first people who should be made to use iodized salt are the officers of the Executive Department of the Ramos administration.

Senator Mercado: Mr. President, that will be a little too late already. Iodized salt will be good for those mothers especially who are going to bear children.

Anyway, I am ready for the next interpellator.

SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION OF S. NO. 1122

Senator Romulo: Mr. President, we will continue the interpellation on Monday.

So, with the permission of our Colleagues, I move that we suspend consideration of Senate Bill No. 1122, until Monday.

The President: Is there any objection? [*Silence*] There being none, the motion is approved.

SUSPENSION OF THE SESSION

Senator Romulo: Mr. President, before we proceed, one of our distinguished Colleagues is celebrating his natal day today. May I ask that—in order to greet the Assistant Majority Leader, Senator Sotto, a happy birthday—we suspend the session for one-and-a-half minutes.

The President: The session is suspended, if there is no objection. [*There was none.*]

It was 11:17 a.m.

RESUMPTION OF THE SESSION

At 11:20 a.m., the session was resumed.

The President: The session is resumed.

Senator Romulo: Mr. President, there is an Additional Reference of Business. May I ask the Secretary to read it.

The President: The Secretary will please read the Addi-

tional Reference of Business.

SECOND ADDITIONAL REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

BILLS ON FIRST READING

The Acting Secretary [Atty. Cordoba]: Senate Bill No. 1123, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING ARTICLE 282 OF P.D. NO. 442, THE LABOR CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES, TO PROMOTE WORKERS' SECURITY OF TENURE IN EMPLOYMENT.

Introduced by Senator Romulo.

The President: Referred to the Committee on Labor, Employment and Human Resources Development.

The Acting Secretary [Atty. Cordoba]: Senate Bill No. 1124, entitled

AN ACT CONVERTING THE MINI GOLF LINKS IN INTRAMUROS, MANILA INTO BOTANICAL GARDEN, ENVIRONMENTAL PARK AND MINI-FOREST, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Introduced by Senators Maceda, Mercado and Romulo.

Senator Maceda: Mr. President.

The President: Senator Maceda is recognized.

Senator Maceda: Mr. President, if it is possible—and I think it is within the *Rules*—I request that the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources be the lead Committee in this referral.

The President: Referred to the Committees on Environment and Natural Resources; Public Works; and Finance.

The Acting Secretary [Atty. Cordoba]: Senate Bill No. 1125, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING SPECIAL PENALTIES FOR MISLABELING THE WEIGHT CONTENTS OF RICE AND SUGAR IN SACKS OR IN OTHER SIMILAR CONTAINERS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Introduced by Senator Maceda.

RECORD OF THE SENATE

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 1995

OPENING OF THE SESSION

At 4:26 p.m., the Honorable Neptali A. Gonzales, President of the Senate, called the session to order.

The President: The 16th session of the Senate in the First Regular Session of the Tenth Congress is hereby called to order.

Let us rise, and we shall be led in prayer by Senator Ramon B. Revilla.

Everybody rose for the opening prayer.

PRAYER

Senator Revilla:

Lord, we thank Thee for giving us the opportunity again to be together in this hallowed Hall of the Senate in the service of our nation. Bless each one of us so that in our effort to serve our people, we may be guided not with the motive for personal convenience or glorification but only with the best interest and welfare of the people to whom we are committed to serve.

Lord, help us put a stop to political bickerings so that we may be able to start immediately with our task of nation-building. In these days of rice crisis and when the people of Central Luzon are suffering from the seemingly unending onslaught of lahar from Mt. Pinatubo, the least that we are expected to do, and which we must do, is to sincerely and seriously dedicate ourselves to find solutions that will solve these problems that our people face today.

Lord, give guidance to all the officials of this Republic that they may concentrate on plans that would immediately give relief to our long-suffering people and set aside for the meanwhile any plans to change or amend the Constitution or change our form of government because this is a divisive issue and the debate on this issue will certainly divide our people and we may not have time for some more meaningful, substantive and concrete solution to our problems.

Finally, Lord, we beg You that notwithstanding the recent developments in this august Body, we, the Members, be given sufficient moral courage to forget any temporary political gains or setbacks and accept the reality that we are all mandated by our people to serve them, and serve them we must, in the best way we can, irrespective of what other people's perception are of our respective performances.

Thank You, Lord.

Amen.

ROLL CALL

The President: The Secretary will now call the roll.

The Secretary:

Senator Heherson T. Alvarez	Present*
Senator Edgardo J. Angara	Present
Senator Anna Dominique M.L. Coseteng ..	Present
Senator Franklin M. Drilon	Present
Senator Juan Ponce Enrile	Present*
Senator Marcelo B. Fernan	Present
Senator Juan M. Flavier	Present
Señator Ernesto F. Herrera	Present
Senator Gregorio B. Honasan	Present
Senator Gloria M. Macapagal	Present
Senator Ernesto M. Maceda	Present
Senator Ramon B. Magsaysay Jr.	Present
Senator Orlando S. Mercado	Present
Senator Blas F. Ople	Present*
Senator Sergio R. Osmeña III	Present
Senator Ramon B. Revilla	Present
Senator Raul S. Roco	Present
Senator Alberto G. Romulo	Present
Senator Miriam D. Santiago	**
Senator Leticia R. Shahani	**
Senator Vicente C. Sotto III	Present*
Senator Francisco S. Tatad	Present
Senator Freddie N. Webb	Present*
The President	Present

The President: With 17 Senators present, the Chair declares the presence of a quorum.

THE JOURNAL

Senator Romulo: Mr. President, I move that we dispense with the reading of the *Journal* of the previous session and consider the same as approved.

The President: Is there any objection? [*Silence*] There being none, the reading of the *Journal* of the previous session is dispensed with and the same is considered as approved.

The Secretary will now read the Order of Business.

*Arrived after the roll call

**On official mission

The President: Senator Roco is recognized.

**MANIFESTATION OF SENATOR ROCO
(Senator Shahani as Coauthor of Proposed Senate
Resolution No. 129)**

Senator Roco: Just in reference to Proposed Senate Resolution No. 129 as regards the unequivocal assertion by the Senate that it is opposed to any shift in the form of government or the lifting of term limits of the President, the Vice President, the Senators and the Congressmen, we just received a long distance call from Senator Shahani requesting that she be manifested as being a coauthor of the resolution.

The President: Let that be entered in the *Record*.

Senator Romulo: Mr. President.

The President: The Majority Leader is recognized.

**BILL ON SECOND READING
S. No. 1122—Promoting National Salt Iodization
(Continuation)**

Senator Romulo: Mr. President, I move that we resume consideration of Senate Bill No. 1122 as reported out under Committee Report No. 2.

The President: Resumption of consideration of Senate Bill No. 1122 is now in order.

Senator Romulo: Mr. President, the sponsorship remarks were delivered last week on this bill. We are now in the period of interpellations.

May I ask that one of the Sponsors, the principal author of the bill, the distinguished Gentleman from Quezon City and Leyte, Senator Mercado, be recognized for the interpellations.

The President: Senator Mercado, the main Sponsor of this bill is recognized. Are there any further interpellations?

Senator Coseteng: Mr. President.

The President: Senator Coseteng is recognized.

Senator Coseteng: Thank you, Mr. President.

Just a few questions to clarify some issues concerning the Salt Iodization Bill.

Mr. President, I notice that the title of the bill is "AN ACT

PROMOTING NATIONAL SALT IODIZATION AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES," but it seems that it actually mandates the iodization process to be undertaken by all concerned, which means the producers, manufacturers, importers, traders, distributors and dealers have to comply with the provision of the bill, otherwise they will have to face penalties.

Is this really just to promote the use of iodized salt or to promote the manufacturing of iodized salt or to make it mandatory for all concerned, as mentioned earlier, to manufacture and sell iodized salt only?

Senator Mercado: Mr. President, this particular measure seeks to make it mandatory because the experience of other nations where the policy was merely to exhort people to iodize their salt, the same was not followed and the levels of incidence of iodine deficiency diseases were still high.

In our condition, Mr. President, it is believed that as the problem is serious, we would really need a measure with teeth to see to it that the people who are in charge of manufacturing salt participate in the prevention of this serious health hazard.

We are seeking to promote public welfare in this measure. In the interest of the public, it is felt that by way of mandating this as a requirement, the State, in the exercise of its police power, could and should require that the salt be iodized so that we do not compromise the health of our children who could lose as much as 13 I.Q. points because of iodine deficiency.

Mr. President, we have already enunciated the threat of diseases that are due to this deficiency. It is felt that this is the best way to ensure the future of generations of Filipinos.

Senator Coseteng: Mr. President, do we take it to mean then that if we comply with this requirement and compel people to use iodized salt because it is the only kind of salt available, maybe the problem of low I.Q. or incidence of goiter would immediately be solved? Because based on the statistics, where a study conducted in 1982 showed that children from ages 7 to 14 have a 1.9% incidence of goiter and in 1987, it went down to 1.8% in spite of the increase of population which averages about 2.3% to 2.6% per year; that in the same five-year period, without the mandatory iodization of salt, we, in fact, saw that the incidence of goiter decreased.

My problem, Mr. President, with this particular bill is that when we order the producers, manufacturers and traders to iodize their salt, and the government does not have the adequate manpower to enforce this law, then it will be selectively enforced. This may also open the floodgates to graft and corruption because, in the first place, it is rather difficult to tell

the difference between salt that is iodized and salt that is not iodized. How are we going to prosecute those who violate this law?

Senator Mercado: Mr. President, contrary to the opinion, it is easy to determine whether salt is iodized. A simple test would do it, and the process of iodization is very simple. It can even be done by hand. Just spraying the salt before it is sold can fulfill the requirements.

But to give a perspective of the problem, Mr. President. The reason we are legislating this measure is that one out of three Filipinos live in iodine deficient areas—places where iodine has been depleted from the soil and the water because of the degradation of the environment. And people and animals who eat iodine deficient plants grown in iodine deficient areas become deficient in iodine.

Each year, about 140,000 infants are born with some form of mental impairment because the mothers have iodine deficiency. Mr. President, 140,000 infants are born with mental deficiency. If it is necessary for the State to mandate this by way of law, then let it be. It is a serious public health problem.

The 1993 nationwide survey showed that the prevalence of goiter for the age group, seven years and over, significantly increased in 1993 to twice of that in 1987. The problem may not only be prevalent in landlocked or mountainous areas, but it is a serious problem in the whole country, Mr. President.

The regions with the highest prevalence of goiter are Bicol, 8.6 percent; Eastern Visayas, Metro Manila, and even here in the National Capital Region, Mr. President.

This is not going to be a harsh measure, Mr. President. At the instance of Senator Enrile, we have made amendments, so that we do not penalize small salt producers—those who are producing salt for their own use—although we would like to provide the incentives so that they may be encouraged to iodize their salt and possibly increase their income.

Small subsistence producers can iodize their salt by manual spraying. The cost has been estimated to be about P1,500. We took note of this particular aspect and that is the reason we are saying that while we need to require it by way of law, this is not a harsh measure. In the experience of other countries, the IOD did not significantly go down if it was voluntary. *Kung gagawin na rin lamang natin, gawin na natin ng tama at lagyan ng ngipin ang batas na ito.*

Senator Coseteng: Mr. President, I am not arguing about the effects of iodine deficiency. I am not saying that it is not a

problem. It may be a problem. But what we are also looking at is, after the bill has been passed into law and this law is now in effect, what is going to stop, for example, an agent or a policeman from going to somebody's store and telling him, "*O bakit hindi iodized iyong asin?*"

With a penalty of about P1,000 to P50,000, siyempre, kung kayo po ang may-ari ng tindahan at binigyan ninyo ng P5,000 iyong nagtatanong, iodized na rin iyong salt ninyo kahit na hindi iodized. Ang ikinatatakot ko po, Ginoong Pangulo, ay baka gagamitin ang batas na ito upang gipitin ang mga nasa level ng sari-sari store o ng grocery. Kung hindi iodized ang kanilang salt, lalagyan na lamang nila iyong agent dahil sa laki ng penalty na ipapataw sa kanila. At kahit naman iodized na ang asin, maaari pa rin itong gamitin upang kunan ng pera o takutin ang sinuman.

Ang isa pa pong problema, Ginoong Pangulo, ay ini-exempt natin ang maliliit na mga producers sa pag-iodize ng kanilang asin. Papaano naman, kung halimbawa, ang isang tindahan ay bibili ng asin na hindi iodized sa maliliit na producers.

What happens here is that the sellers or the small store owners will stop buying from the small producers dahil sa ipinapataw na obligasyon na kailangang i-iodize ang kanilang asin.

I am raising these issues because we had a similar problem in the House of Representatives, when I was still a Member of the House. It concerned the prohibition on the usage of second-hand bottles. Mayroon ding exemption na ginawa noon—na kung ang isa ay isang small manufacturer of bagoong or patis, exempted siya sa paggamit ng secondhand bottles. But the exemption was based on one's capitalization.

What happened was, if one is capitalized at P500 or P2000 over and above the limit, he is no longer exempted. Dito nagsisimula ang harassment at nagsisimula sa ibaba ang panggagatas sa maliliit na producers.

Senator Mercado: Mr. President, the first issue raised by Senator Coseteng is not an issue of policy. It is an issue of implementation. The issue of giving policemen another excuse to harass store owners and another opportunity for petty graft is an issue that can be raised against all laws that contain a penal provision. This can be raised against the entire Revised Penal Code for that matter. But we are not diluting our policy because we know that there can be flaws in the implementation.

The solution is to correct the Executive in implementing the measures. By our oversight functions, by way of exposing these practices, and by educating our people, I think we will be able

to help in that particular direction.

Mr. President, I do not think we should soft-pedal in our intent, especially as regards the penal provision only because petty graft might happen. As I said, this may be true with all other laws that have penal provisions.

Originally, as the bill was filed, it did not include an exemption for small producers. Legislation is an art of compromise, and we have to listen to all sectors.

I do agree that in due time, with the people being informed of the benefits of using iodized salt, they will avoid using salt that is not iodized. But in the meantime, considering the seriousness of the problem it is appropriate that we have a strong measure that requires the iodization of all salt that is going to be sold.

There are small producers who produce salt only for themselves, for their own use or to be sold to their neighbors. I am sure if they begin to realize in a campaign by the Department of Health that their children will become more intelligent and they will not be prone to diseases—they will use iodized salt as well.

Senator Coseteng: Mr. President, what are the other means of getting iodine apart from intake of salt? In some countries, they add certain amounts of iodine to their drinking water so that the same goals are attained. Iodizing water that is distributed at least in major cities does not have to be mandatory.

My apprehension, Mr. President, about mandating this, is that, as I said earlier, people are going to think that this is the only way they can get iodine. For example, if one is a *patis* or a *bagoong* manufacturer, *kung tutuusin mas marami sigurong* iodine content *iyong alamang o iyong* seafoods. I mean, there are other ways by which people can add iodine into their diet.

Senator Mercado: Mr. President, the experience worldwide—and this is attested to by data from the World Health Organization—is that, the iodization of salt is the most practical way of addressing this public health problem. The experience the world over is that, it is through salt where we are able to add iodine and the people benefit directly because of its constant use in our daily lives.

Now, on the matter of adding iodine into water, I am told by the former Secretary of Health, Senator Flavier, that this is not practical because it will evaporate.

Mr. President, there are options indeed in fighting iodine deficiency. The other options include steps that may be expensive. For example, we can administer iodized oil supplements once a year. The effort would cost about P183.6 million

assuming that all women ages 15 to 40, of childbearing age, or children of 0 to 14 years of age are reached. The government has been administering iodized oil capsules since 1994 and it will continue to do so up to 1998. However, due to budgetary constraints, only 80 percent of the women in the age bracket of 15 to 40 are reached.

As I have mentioned, Mr. President, the government can embark on a massive information and education campaign to encourage the population to eat food that is rich in iodine—fish, squid, shrimps, crabs, seaweeds.

Mr. President, the problem has now become so serious that it requires government intervention. In fact, I have repeatedly said that had it not been for the degradation of our forests, we would have iodine in our vegetables and we may not have to require this law.

But, if I may repeat, as long as the House of Representatives does not pass our log ban bill, we will have to put iodine in our salt.

Senator Coseteng: Mr. President, it is not only iodine that is lacking in the diet of some of our people. For example, in the latest nutrition survey in 1987, 45 percent of pregnant women and 50.6 percent of lactating mothers suffer from iron deficiency or anemia.

Because of this, does the good Senator think that we should also legislate some kind of a mandatory iron intake for our women since it is the women who suffer the most—since after childbirth, they lose a lot of blood and these lactating mothers, in our country suffer from iron deficiency.

Senator Mercado: Mr. President, there are indeed other problems being faced by pregnant mothers and our children in what is called micronutrient deficiency. Aside from deficiency in iodine, deficiency in Vitamin A is also a problem, as well as deficiency in iron. We have seen the phenomenon of night blindness in Vitamin A deficient children. Children cannot see at night because of insufficiency of Vitamin A in their bodies, a problem compounded not only by the cost of vegetables but by their ignorance. Although Vitamin A can be obtained from vegetables, such as squash, carrots and other foods that are rich in Vitamin A, we still have a serious deficiency problem in our country.

We are told, Mr. President, that in our population, 16 become permanently blind everyday because of deficiency in Vitamin A. Well, iron deficiency is a little bit easier to cope with. Eating *talbos ng kamote* and *malunggay* has been a good practice of our people and it has been heightened by the

campaign during the term of Senator Flavier when he was Secretary of the Department of Health. I remember people were planting *malunggay* as their fence.

Studies indicate, Mr. President, that with the correction of iodine deficiency, iron deficiency anemia automatically corrects itself as well. So, we are shooting two birds with one stone by iodizing salt. We are able to solve the iron deficiency as well as a consequence of the simple act of spraying iodine on salt that is going to be used by our people.

Senator Coseteng: Finally, Mr. President, I would like to find out what the price difference would be between iodized and noniodized salt as it has to undergo a certain process. Perhaps, in most cases, it is not as simple as it seems to be. If we would have to do this on a larger scale, it is not going to be as simple as just spraying iodine on salt. Apart from the price difference, I would also like to know what is the shelf life of iodized salt. Because as our honorable Colleague from Quezon City and Leyte has said earlier, iodine in water would evaporate. What happens then to the iodine that is sprayed on salt?

Senator Mercado: Mr. President, the additional cost would be P2 to P3 per kilo. The additional cost will be about P2.65 per kilo. This may cost a little more than the ordinary noniodized salt, but the benefit that we can derive from the regular use of iodized salt certainly outweighs the price. What is P2 or P3 today, anyway? It would just amount to less than P5 per family of six, about P2 to P3. And yet with such a cost, which is practically equivalent to the cost maybe of one bottle cap of softdrink, or a *tansan*, we are providing the benefit of avoiding diseases caused by deficiency in iodine. With P2.65, we prevent mental retardation; we prevent a loss of as much as 13 I.Q. points, we prevent physical retardation and stunting.

Kaya ang mga anak natin ay maliliit, dahil kulang sa iodine. Hindi ko alam kung ang ina ni Senator Flavier ay nagkulang sa iodine noong siya ay nasa sinapupunan.

For P2.65, we can prevent the neurologic defects of inability to walk and stand, infertility, the cause of abortions, stillbirths, hypothyroidism or the decreased function of the thyroid gland which results in decreased mental function and decreased mental capacity or goiter.

Mr. President, for an additional P2.65 on our salt, we are getting so much. I think it will be false economy for our people not to use iodized salt. There is going to be very little change in the price, but there will be a large change in the benefits that will be provided when one uses iodized salt.

Senator Coseteng: Mr. President, I appreciate the effort

of the distinguished Sponsor of the bill in ensuring that our people avail themselves of iodine in their diet through iodized salt. However, I hope that these concepts are not oversimplified because we also know that taking in too much salt would also affect our kidneys severely. Apart from this, we know that it is not enough for us to have iodine in our body, but there are many other nutrients that are presently lacking in our daily diet because of poverty. I hope that this is only the first step and that the other nutrients or vitamins that our people lack should also be made available, not necessarily mandatory but, rather, in the improvement of our agriculture policies and the distribution of food.

When our people are able to buy more nutritious food, it would not be necessary for them to use too much salt. As a matter of fact, we do not use salt at all at home so there is no way by which we are going to get iodine through salt. So that it has occurred to this Representation that that may be a false notion. People might overdo it and put more salt in their food because they think this is going to be a sure way of solving problems of lower IQ and all the other related problems mentioned by Senator Mercado. It is not simply using salt or using more salt or getting iodine through more salt that we can solve these problems.

Thank you, Mr. President. I just wanted to be enlightened on these few matters.

Senator Mercado: Mr. President, I just would like to add for the record that iodine can be provided through other seafoods. We can obtain it from squid. Seaweeds would be a good source. But among our countrymen, these foods are beyond their reach, even for those who are already living near the sea. We see goiter problems even in coastal areas and that is a serious health problem.

Mr. President, we would like to think that we owe it to the next generation of Filipinos to provide them all the opportunities to develop their individual faculties. Napakahirap naman na ang isang ipinapanganak pa lamang ay dehado na kaagad. Kapapanganak pa lamang ay labintatlong puntos ng kaniyang I.Q. ang bawas na dahil kulang lamang ng yodo sa asin.

Hindi naman madaragdagan ang kunsumo ng asin. What will happen is that the quality of the salt will improve. It will become iodized. I do not think our people will use more salt, but the salt that will be used will actually be a lot better.

The Department of Health promotional activities are focused now on the use of iodized salt instead of ordinary salt. But we have to provide the people and the market with the available iodized salt. This measure may look like a small step, but it will

do a lot in producing quality Filipinos—men and women—who will be able to face the 21st century with the intellectual faculties that are needed to meet the challenges of a changing world.

The President: The Majority Leader is recognized.

Senator Romulo: Mr. President, may I ask that we recognize for the next interpellation the distinguished Gentleman from Cavite, Senator Revilla.

The President: Senator Revilla is recognized.

Senator Revilla: Maraming salamat po. Ginoong Pangulo, maaari po bang magbigay daan ang magiting na Senador na galing sa Leyte at Quezon City sa ilang katanungang paglinaw?

Senator Mercado: Ako po ay nagagalak na tumugon sa mga katanungan ng magiting na Senador na galing sa Cavite.

Senator Revilla: Salamat naman. Ginoong Pangulo, akin pong napag-alaman na batay sa mga babasahin o briefing notes na nagmula sa Nutrition Service ng Department of Health ay nakasaad doon na ang iodized salt ay isa sa mga produkto na nilikha ng isang proseso sa pamamagitan ng salt iodization machine. Ang tanong ko ay ganito: Magkano ba ang halaga ng nasabing salt iodization machine?

Senator Mercado: Ginoong Pangulo, maraming paraan para malagyan ng yodo ang asin. Nabanggit ko kangina na maaaring manual spraying—maaaring wisikan lamang ng asin.

Ngunit ang binabanggit ni Senador Revilla ay iyong salt iodization machine na maaari sigurong may kapasidad na isa hanggang tatlong tonelada sa isang oras na malagyan ng yodo. Itong mga ganito siguro ay ginagamit ng malalaking producer ng iodized salt.

May katalogong naibigay sa akin na nagsasaad na ang isang makina ay kayang gumawa mula 2,000 hanggang 6,000 tonelada ng asin na lalagyan ng yodo sa isang taon.

Ang magiging investment cost nito ay P100,000—packaging, quality control, scale sealers at kakailanganin ang 12 katao. The estimated cost of iodization will be P0.13 per kilo, with packaging, about P63.00 per kilo. Kaya aabot ng mga P3.00 per kilo, o siguro mga P6 million hanggang P18 million for 2,000-6,000 tons of salt produced per year.

Ang salt iodization machine which would cost P100,000, I think, would be a very good investment because the product would be much improved.

I think a number of salt makers or salt producers would want to use this kind of technique.

Nasabi ko nga, maaaring manual spraying. Mayroon din namang mas murang makina na magagamit for iodization. Isang tipo ay tinatawag na batch-type spraying and mixing machine. Ang production capacity nito ay 25 kilos per batch of 300 kilos of salt per hour. Ang investment cost nito ay mas mababa at ang makina ay P35,000 to P50,000 lamang.

There is a wide-range technique, magmula roon sa ini-spray na katulad ng ginagamit natin na pang-spray ng lamok na murang-mura para sa mga maliliit na producer. Puwedeng bumili ng box-type na makina sa halagang P35,000 to P50,000 o kaya iyong P100,000 para sa malalaking producers.

Senator Revilla: Marami na ba tayong salt iodization machines dito sa Pilipinas?

Senator Mercado: Mayroon na pong anim na lalawigan ngayon na mayroon nang iodized salt machines na pino-produce at ito po ay kumikita, kagaya ng UP Los Baños. There are about 24 machines in Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao today. Hopefully after this bill becomes a law, we will have more of these machines all over the country.

Senator Revilla: Ginoong Pangulo, paano ba ang proseso para ang pangkaraniwang asin ay maging iodized?

Senator Mercado: Napakadali po, Ginoong Pangulo, dahil ang paglalagay ng yodo ay pagkatapos na ng produksiyon. Katulad nang nabanggit ni Senator Enrile doon sa kanilang lugar, pinakukuluan ito kaya mas pino ang lumalabas. Hindi pa ipinapasok ang iodine dito. Ang yodo ay ipinapasok pagkatapos na ito ay mai-produce na, kaya puwedeng i-spray on lamang, haluin ng kamay o kaya doon sa dalawang makinang binanggit natin.

Ang iodine ay lalabas na additive, dagdag sa asin na ginagamit natin.

Senator Revilla: Sa pangkaraniwang asin ito idinadagdag.

Senator Mercado: Sa pangkaraniwang asin lamang po.

Senator Revilla: Ayon dito sa sponsorship speech, Ginoong Pangulo, sa page 2, third paragraph, which states:

The retail and distribution of iodized salt is likewise made mandatory for all retailers and distributors. Supermarkets and *sari-sari* stores can only sell on retail or wholesale iodized salt.

Ang ibig po bang sabihin nito ay hindi natin puwedeng ipagbili ang pangkaraniwang asin na hindi iodized?

Senator Mercado: Iyon po ang layunin or intent of this measure.

Senator Revilla: Iyong iodized salt po ba ay puwedeng gamitin sa pagpapatuyo ng isda o lamang-dagat na ginagawang tuyo o paggawa ng bagoong o patis? Hindi po ba mas mahal ito?

Senator Mercado: Wala pong pagkakaiba sa paggamit ng asin sa lasa, ang kalidad ng asin ay hindi magbabago kaya puwedeng gamitin ito sa tuyo, daing, o sa pagluluto. Puwede ring ilagay sa salt shakers para sa mesa. Wala hong pagbabago sa kalidad ng asin. Ang nangyari may additive na nagbibigay ng yodo sa mga gumagamit at nagiging paraan para maiwasan ang sakit na dala ng kakulangan ng yodo o iyong tinatawag na iodine deficiency diseases.

Senator Revilla: Nangangamba lamang po ako, Ginoong Pangulo, na ang pangkaraniwang gawaan ng asin katulad ng irasan ay dito lamang sa Cavite at napakaraming taong dumede depende dito.

For the information of the Gentleman, mayroon po tayong 8,391 salt beds with an appropriate production of 335,640 to 419,550 cavans or 50 kilos for three months' operation. Mayroon itong registered owner excluding ang mga dependent nila. Mayroon 174 registered owners, at ang mga taong nagtatrabaho dito lamang sa salt beds ay mahigit na sa isang libo. At ang bilang ng ektarya na ginagamit sa salt making ay humigit-kumulang sa 131,000 ektarya.

Ngayon, kung hindi magagamit ang pangkaraniwang asin na ginagawa sa irasan, maraming madi-displace na mga tao. Pero ako ay nasisiyahan at ito palang asin na ito ay magagawang iodized sa pamamagitan ng paghahalo lamang ng kung anumang solusyon iyon na sinasabi ninyo.

Senator Mercado: Sa katotohanan po, Ginoong Pangulo, sa kasalukuyan ay mayroon na tayong mga kababayan sa Cavite na ang ginagawang asin ay iodized na. Mayroon ng makina at ilang mga producers sa Kawit, Cavite ang gumagamit nito.

Kaya ang mangyayari lamang dito ay dadami ang mga asinan na gagamit ng yodo; ang asin naman ay hindi magbabago ang lasa, at ang asin sa Cavite ay magiging ganoon pa ring kasarap bagamat mayroon ng polusyon sa Manila Bay. Pati na ang balang kinakain ni Senador Revilla sa pelikula ay sararap ang lasa kapag iyan ay kinain nang mayroong iodized salt.

Senator Revilla: Maraming salamat, Ginoong Pangulo.

Iyon na lamang po at wala na akong maitatanong sa Kgg. na Senador.

Senator Mercado: Maraming salamat din po.

SUSPENSION OF THE SESSION

Senator Romulo: May I ask for a brief suspension of the session, Mr. President.

The President: The session is suspended, if there is no objection. [*There was none.*]

It was 5:16 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF THE SESSION

At 5:28 p.m., the session was resumed.

The President: The session is resumed.

Senator Romulo: Mr. President, may I ask that the Sponsor of Senate Bill No. 1122 and the Chairman of the Committee on Health and Demography, Sen. Freddie Webb, be recognized.

The President: Senator Webb is hereby recognized.

Senator Webb: Thank you very much, Mr. President.

First of all, let me thank the author, Senator Mercado, for answering some of the questions that were raised earlier. Indeed, his answers have made the bill very understandable to most of our Colleagues.

Mr. President, with this, let me just put on record that some of the provisions of the bill, particularly on Section 5—the Applicability and Exemptions—were raised during the Committee level, especially those coming from Senator Enrile, and this has made the applicability better than it was before. Hopefully, with this gradual phase-in of the bill, this would come out to be a bill that will be very easy to apply and at the same time understandable to those small producers.

With this, Mr. President, I now stand pat on our position that this bill be now considered by the Chamber as approved. As such, I am ready for some Committee amendments.

Senator Enrile: Mr. President.

The President: Senator Enrile is recognized.

Senator Enrile: Are we now in the period of individual

amendments, Mr. President?

Senator Romulo: We will soon be, Mr. President. Mr. President, will the distinguished Sponsor yield for just a few questions to clarify?

Senator Webb: Certainly from the Majority Leader, Mr. President.

Senator Romulo: Mr. President, where does the process of salt iodization begin? Should it be done in the distribution center or just right from the main source itself?

I ask this because it seems Section 5(b) is not too clear. It only provides that producers of food grade salt shall make available only iodized salt that conforms with the standards set by the BFAD. May I be enlightened on this, Mr. President.

Senator Webb: Mr. President, from the time the salt is manufactured from the salt bed itself prior to its distribution, it is best done at the traders' point. "Traders' point" simply means the time that it is passed on to the recipient who are the people who will utilize the salt. Then the salt has to have been iodized already.

Senator Romulo: That means that it is done from the time it is taken out of the salt bed or farms. Is that correct, Mr. President?

Senator Webb: That is right, Mr. President.

Senator Romulo: Mr. President, it has also been said that the success of this salt iodization rests on the quality of iodine produced in the country and depends also on the efficient iodine technology.

May we know from the Sponsor if we do have enough supply of good quality iodine. How much percentage of iodine do we import, if any, or where do we extract most of our iodine?

Senator Webb: That is a very good question, Mr. President. Right now, iodine is imported from Chile and Japan. These are the two countries where we have been getting our iodine. But sooner or later, in a couple of years or even before a year's time, I am sure the Department of Science and Technology will be able to produce iodine that is Philippine-made.

Senator Romulo: Thereby cutting the importation, and perhaps reduce the cost of iodine, Mr. President.

Senator Webb: That is right, Mr. President. Our target really is to make sure that that will be achieved. Because when

we go on a full blast of salt iodization, certainly we will need more ingredients, more iodine coming from Chile and Japan, as we have said earlier. That is a very good point. That is why the Department of Science and Technology, knowing very well that this is going to become a law, has started studying and are actually doing tests to produce iodine in their department.

Senator Romulo: Mr. President, under Section 5(c), those exempted from the mandatory coverage of the bill are the subsistence salt producers. Is it correct to say that these marginalized producers may still sell coarse salt in the market, in other words, salt without iodine?

Senator Webb: That is right, Mr. President. It is a heartbreaker, it is a pity but we have to consider reality here. We can already say that it is a must for them to produce iodized salt, but they cannot primarily because, first, there is a problem of accessibility and second, they will not be able to buy this equipment. Even though they come in as mentioned in the bill itself as support to the salt industry, where they will be able to get soft loans, but the reality, particularly on Section 6, says:

The DTI is mandated to assist local producers of salt in the countryside to upgrade their salt production technology to include salt iodization by helping them obtain soft loans and financial assistance in the procurement of salt iodization machines, et cetera.

Senator Romulo: Mr. President, may we know just what percentage of salt producers or source would be exempted because of this specific exemption to subsistence salt producers? Of the total market of salt that is available, what is the percentage coming from this subsistence salt producers?

Senator Webb: Mr. President, a ballpark estimate of the number of salt producers in our country right now is 1,165. The subsistence, itong tinatawag nating kailangang matulungan at talagang hindi makakayanan ay 260 producing approximately 537 metric tons covering 0.2 percent of the total.

Senator Romulo: Mr. President, a study has been made that there are identified so-called "IDD endemic areas" where iodization efforts would be urgently needed. In short, iodization could be made in those endemic areas to dispense with the two-year grace period of implementing the program provided under Section 5(b).

Is the Sponsor open to an amendment at the proper time to make the applicability of the bill urgent and mandatory in the so-called "endemic areas"?

Senator Webb: We have to, Mr. President. I am ready for

Senator Webb: We have to, Mr. President. I am ready for that in the period of amendments.

But for the record, since the distinguished Gentleman has already opened the floodgates for this Representation to answer which provinces are most affected by iodine deficiency, these are the following provinces: Abra, Benguet, Mt. Province, Ifugao, Kalinga-Apayao, Baguio City, Pangasinan, Ilocos Sur, La Union, Quirino, Isabela, Zambales, Nueva Ecija, Tarlac, Cavite, Batangas, Quezon, Romblon, Oriental Mindoro, Marinduque, Palawan, Rizal, Camarines Norte, Camarines Sur, Sorsogon, Masbate, Antique, Guimaras, Capiz, Iloilo, Bohol, Negros Occidental, Mandaue City, Northern Samar, Samar, Biliran, Zamboanga del Norte, Zamboanga del Sur, Bukidnon, Agusan del Sur, Davao City, Davao del Norte, Davao Oriental, Surigao del Sur, Davao del Sur, North Cotabato, Sultan Kudarat, Lanao del Norte, Iligan City, Sulu, and NCR District IV.

Senator Romulo: That sounds or appears like the entire Philippines, Mr. President.

Senator Webb: That is right, Mr. President, particularly in the highlands sapagkat doon po katulad ng Mt. Province at Benguet ay wala silang mapagkukunan ng tinatawag nating mga pagkaing nasa tubig kung saan tayo nakakakuha ng matinding iodine subalit wala silang nakukuhang iodine. Kaya kung iyong kinukuha nilang asin ay wala pang iodine, sila ay talagang apektado.

Senator Romulo: Mr. President, at the proper time, we would propose the amendment as we have indicated to the Sponsor.

Senator Webb: Thank you, Mr. President.

Senator Romulo: Mr. President, one last question. Under Section 4 on Definition of Terms, the words "Food-grade salt" has been defined as "salt intended for human and animal consumption." Does this mean that we include in the process of iodization salt given to animals, and if so, is this in order to improve their productivity, or what is the reason?

Senator Webb: That is right, Mr. President. Kahit na iyong asin na kailangan ng mga hayop ay kailangang i-iodize natin sapagkat sa panahong ito iyong lupang pinagkukunan at pinagkakainan ng ilang hayop ay natanggal na ang iodine because of soil erosion kaya kailangang ito ay mabigyan ng tulong sa pamamagitan ng pagkain nila ng mayroong iodized salt.

Senator Romulo: Mr. President, I move that we close the period of interpellations.

Senator Roco: Mr. President.

The President: Senator Roco is recognized.

Senator Roco: Just a few questions, Mr. President, if the Gentleman would so yield.

Senator Webb: Willingly, Mr. President.

Senator Roco: I am just catching up with my readings, Mr. President, and I notice that with this bill, we shall therefore trigger an altogether new business in the Philippines. Will this be a correct assessment of the situation? With this bill, we shall create by law a need for the production of iodized salt?

Senator Webb: That is right, Mr. President.

Senator Roco: I guess there are some machineries like mixing machines, box-type spray, et cetera, that will then be on the market and will be available cooperatives and small industries.

Senator Webb: That is right, Mr. President. Actually, the Department of Health has already been distributing these machines even during the time of Senator Flavier.

Senator Roco: Do we have a concept of how much these will cost or is the government totally subsidizing these machines?

Senator Webb: The machines are subsidized by the government but some of them are being sold to big manufacturers. This is the rule which is being stipulated by the UNICEF which is to grant the machines, procure the fortificant and provide money for soft loan.

On the NGO side, what they do is, they set up a trust fund where beneficiaries can deposit their amortizations. This fund can be used only for IEC or advocacy activities to promote salt iodization and for the procurement of the fortificant.

On the side of the Department of Health, training is done on the salt iodization technology. They monitor also the quality and the advocacy of the use of iodized salt.

On the salt producers themselves, they agree to start—as far as the salt producers are concerned—salt amortization of the machine after 25 months. The interest rates vary depending on the size of the machine. It is about 5 percent, Mr. President.

Senator Roco: Mr. President, if the Gentleman will be so nice as to give us the projection on the amount of money needed

for the subsidy that the government will be giving to the iodization of salt. Do we have any concept of how much this will mean in terms of budget requirement if the government will subsidize it?

Senator Webb: The subsidy is for the fortificant but not on the machines.

Senator Roco: I have three pictures of the machines. I understand these were given out to all the Members. There is a spraying and mixing machine. Where do we get this from? Is this locally produced? Do we know, Mr. President, who is producing or putting this together and how much will it cost?

Senator Webb: Mr. President, the picture itself, for instance, says, the continuous type of salt iodization machine. I think we have the same picture here which is No. 3. All of these machines are locally produced. Some are locally produced and some are imported. As I have mentioned, the machine depicted in picture No. 3 is locally produced.

Senator Roco: I take it that the Gentleman is referring to this picture which says, Investment cost of machine is P35,000 to P50,000; packaging, quality control, weighing scaler, P80,000. Is this the one we are referring to?

Senator Webb: I am referring to picture No. 3 which costs about P100,000.

Senator Roco: Do we know, Mr. President, whether this continuous type of salt iodization machine is locally made or imported?

Senator Webb: It is locally made, Mr. President. In fact, some of the big companies—now salt producers—have already acquired this machine. That is why most of the salt they are now producing are already iodized salt. Even before this bill came into existence, they have already been producing iodized salt.

Senator Roco: Could we know where this machine can be acquired? Or is this salt iodization machine given out by the government for free?

Senator Webb: This is locally made and can be acquired from the Department of Science and Technology—DOST. That is why it has all the requirements and, at the same time the things necessary for one to acquire the machine. It talks of investment cost, production capacity, and of personal requirements, *kung ilan ang kailangan*, and the cost of iodizing the salt by using this particular machine.

Senator Roco: Do we have the name of the company that

produces this? Are there several companies or only one?

Senator Webb: Mr. President, there are only two—one coming from UP Diliman and the other is from the Department of Science and Technology.

Senator Roco: Now, let me get this very clear because we are passing a law to create a need, to create a market. We are being informed by the distinguished Senator's technical staff, on his right, that there are no private manufacturers of this machine. It is only UP Diliman and DOST. And it says here that it is the project of local government, DOH, AIDB, UNICEF, blank tons per hour salt iodization, et cetera. This is totally made by government. Is that correct?

Senator Webb: Yes, Mr. President.

But there is a guarantee. Before we even started to talk about this in the last Congress, during one of our Committee hearings, this was one of the questions that was raised and they gave us a guarantee. Certainly, in anticipation of this bill becoming a law, they already started to produce these machines and they are now ready for distribution. Some have already procured them even without the law itself primarily because they know that most of the people will now look for iodized salt in the market and will not buy those that are not iodized.

Senator Roco: I have no problems, Mr. President, with the production. If they may have guarantees, that is well and good.

My own conceptual problem, is whether or not it is a good policy to pass a law that creates a need for a machine, that creates a market for a product. If it is going to be manufactured by the government, then we do have policy conflicts in our mind. Because now, it is the government that will manufacture these machines and one wonders whether the government should pass a law to create a demand for that machine.

If there is truly a need for iodized salt, and this is needed for good health, I would imagine, Mr. President, the private sector will grab this opportunity and this need and therefore, the manufacturers will get into that business. As I understand it, private enterprise, even in the 1987 Constitution, is identified as the engine of growth.

But here, we are reversing statutorily the whole process. We will pass a law. I grant there is a need for iodized salt, but maybe a campaign to make this need known will therefore create a market need.

But to pass a law that will create a need for certain types

of machines no matter how well done, to pass a law that statutorily mandates a need does not seem to conform to the principle or to the theory of encouraging private entrepreneurs to take it upon themselves to fulfill the needs of the market and of society.

So, this is the question of policy I am raising, Mr. President, and I beg the pardon of the Gentleman if this had been raised before. But that is my concern.

Senator Webb: It is a very valid concern, Mr. President. But let me assure the Gentleman that these machines that are now being distributed are made by private entities. The machine is not manufactured by the government, except that it is passed on to the Department of Health which procures it from a private entity and from there, the Department becomes a conduit to sell these machines on soft loans or whatever possible means the particular producer may want to do so.

So, I do not see any reason for fear that may arise if we entice the public. Now that they know the big possibility of the bill becoming a law, they will start producing it and they will start distributing this. I do not see any fear that could arise on interest primarily because the private sector is the one involved and not the government.

Senator Roco: The only reason I was reacting is because the good Chairman said that this is being manufactured by UP Diliman and the Department of Science and Technology. If that is so, then that does not seem to be private to me. But if it were so, that it is the government that must make the technology and the know-how available, will it not be simpler to make this technology known?

Let all the plans for these machines be given out for free to anybody who wants to engage in this. If we must create a market need for iodized salt, let the poor entrepreneurs and the new graduates who are looking for things to do avail themselves of the opportunity. Let us, therefore, not have anything to do with machines, distribution of machines, manufacture of machines or anything like this. Would this not be a better approach, Mr. President?

Senator Webb: I agree with the Gentleman, Mr. President. In fact, this is already being done now. This is what is being done by the Department of Science and Technology. It is now telling the private entrepreneurs, the people who are involved in private business, to get involved already and start selling these machines. The government will not corner—maybe this is not the right word to use—will not “corner” the market. The government is telling the private entrepreneurs: “Here is a sample of the machine. Now you can copy it and do it yourself. If you can

come up with a cheaper machine as long as it does the job, then good and well.”

I agree with the apprehensions of the Gentleman about this particular thing that might happen wherein it is the government itself that will have to sell the machine. No, Mr. President. The technology and its transfer are already being done.

Senator Roco: Mr. President, we all have observed the phenomenon of the hot *pan de sal*.

A long time ago, when Martial Law was new and people were looking for small businesses to get into because they were dislocated, many people went into hot *pan de sal*. Everybody started having a small oven, and every neighborhood eventually had a booming *pan de sal* industry. But precisely because it boomed, soon they engaged in destructive competition. Some made money; some recovered, but investment had an end. So now we have entrepreneurs who had losses and who had capital equipment they cannot use.

In this particular case, since we are legislating a need, we should reexamine very carefully whether we are creating an artificial need that will therefore create a stampede and will only bring about losses because it cannot be sustained by the market. Since I could not find in the bill how this is protected, maybe the Gentleman would want to look at how the private aspect of business and how the private effort to fill this need is being addressed in the bill.

I am not also ready with amendments. I would prefer the Committee to look at it and suggest if the points are considered valid. Otherwise, it is difficult to argue against the need for iodized salt. It seems to be medically accepted that it improves the quality of our life.

Thank you, Mr. President.

Senator Webb: Just for clarity, Mr. President. The DOST has a prototype. The prototype is now being produced by private entities, and that is the end result. If our fear, as mentioned by the Gentleman from Bicol, na baka ito ay magaya doon sa hot *pan de sal* that everybody started to produce and buy the machines and then later on, there was an oversupply of these machines and even the hot *pan de sal* at bumagsak ito. Sa palagay ko po, hindi ito mangyayari sapagkat ang mga bibili nito ay ang mga lugar na gumagawa ng asin. Hindi naman ito puwede sa likuran ng bahay—bibili siya ng makina at tapos ang asin ay ipo-produce niya at gagawing iodized salt.

Ang agam-agam ng Ginoo mula sa Bicol, sa palagay ko, ay

naka-address din po rito sa panukalang-batas na ang prototype ay available at iyong maaaring gumaya nito ay sila mismong nagpo-produce at nagma-manufacture ng asin.

Senator Roco: If it is being made by certain private entities through the franchise or authorization of UP Diliman and DOST, maybe, the good Chairman would want to tell us who these private entities are because they certainly owe Congress a lot if we pass this law, since the business is already built in.

Maybe, it is better to put it into the *Record*. I do not mean to suggest any ill motive. But let it be on record so that the people can see that when this law was enacted, that the following companies had a ready market. Let it be known to the people because they should be persuaded to be extremely good in their public service, because the market that will support their business shall have come from a law. And they should have a sense of public responsibility—those who will benefit in their market from a law that we will create.

Let us therefore put here something akin to the public service requirements, the requirements of high diligence and responsiveness because we have created a market for them.

Mr. President, if the Gentleman wants to find out the identities, there can be time for this.

Senator Webb: I will do that at the proper time, Mr. President. We have to get that list from the Department of Trade and Industry.

Senator Roco: Thank you, Mr. President.

Senator Romulo: Mr. President.

The President: The Majority Leader is recognized.

Senator Romulo: Mr. President, I move that we close the period of interpellations.

The President: Is there any objection? [*Silence*] There being none, the period of interpellations is hereby declared closed.

Senator Romulo: The Senate President has scheduled the signing of the enrolled bill of the Public Works Act, at his office at six o'clock this evening.

SUSPENSION OF THE SESSION

May I, therefore, move for a brief suspension of the session so that that event can take place, after which time, we shall return to the Session Hall.

The President: The session is suspended, if there is no objection. [*There was none.*] This will not take long. I will just sign the enrolled bill regarding the Public Works Act, and everybody, especially the principal authors of this bill are invited in my office to witness said signing.

Senator Drilon: Mr. President.

The President: Yes, Senator Drilon.

Senator Drilon: Mr. President, regarding the Public Works Act, there are questions raised on...

Senator Romulo: Mr. President, we have a privilege motion to suspend the session.

Senator Drilon: I am sorry, Mr. President.

The President: I think we have already put it to a vote and we have approved without objection the suspension of the proceedings.

Senator Drilon: May I move for a reconsideration of the privilege motion to suspend, Mr. President.

I would like to raise some questions on the Public Works Act.

Senator Romulo: I move to lay the appeal, on the table, Mr. President.

The President: What is the motion?

Senator Romulo: I move that the appeal be laid on the table, Mr. President.

The President: There is now an objection. The session is suspended, if there is no objection. [*There was none.*]

It was 5:58 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF THE SESSION

At 6:03 p.m., the session is resumed.

The President: The session is resumed. Senator Drilon is recognized.

Senator Drilon: Point of parliamentary inquiry, Mr. President.

The President: What is the inquiry, Senator Drilon?

RECORD OF THE SENATE

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 1995

RESUMPTION OF THE SESSION

At 10:18 a.m., the session was resumed with the Honorable Neptali A. Gonzales, President of the Senate, presiding.

The President: The 17th session of the Senate in the First Regular Session of the Tenth Congress is resumed.

The Acting Secretary will please read the Order of Business.

REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

BILLS ON FIRST READING

The Acting Secretary [Atty. Raval]: Senate Bill No. 1165, entitled

AN ACT REGULATING THE INSTALLATION AND MAINTENANCE OF CHECKPOINTS.

Introduced by Senator Coseteng.

The President: Referred to the Committee on National Defense and Security.

The Acting Secretary [Atty. Raval]: Senate Bill No. 1166, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE RIGHTS OF WORKING MINORS, AMENDING CHAPTER 2, ARTICLES 139 AND 140 OF THE LABOR CODE (P.D. NO. 442, AS AMENDED), AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Introduced by Senator Coseteng.

The President: Referred to the Committees on Labor, Employment and Human Resources Development; and Youth and Sports Development.

The Acting Secretary [Atty. Raval]: Senate Bill No. 1167, entitled

AN ACT TO PROTECT AND PROMOTE THE RIGHT TO SELF-ORGANIZATION AND COLLECTIVE BARGAINING OF THOSE IN THE CIVIL SERVICE AND CREATING A CIVIL SERVICE LABOR RELATIONS BOARD, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Introduced by Senator Coseteng.

The President: Referred to the Committees on Civil Service and Government Reorganization; and Finance.

The Acting Secretary [Atty. Raval]: Senate Bill No. 1168, entitled

AN ACT REGULATING THE EMPLOYER-HOUSEHELPER RELATIONSHIP BY PRESCRIBING THE STANDARD WORKING CONDITIONS AND BY PROVIDING FOR ADDITIONAL BENEFITS, AMENDING FOR THIS PURPOSE THE PERTINENT PROVISIONS OF BOOK III, TITLE III, CHAPTER III OFF.D. NO. 442, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE LABOR CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES AND BOOK IV, TITLE VIII, CHAPTER III, SECTION 1 OF R.A. NO. 386, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE CIVIL CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Introduced by Senator Tatad.

The President: Referred to the Committees on Labor, Employment and Human Resources Development; and Constitutional Amendments, Revision of Codes and Laws.

The Acting Secretary [Atty. Raval]: Senate Bill No. 1169, entitled

AN ACT MAKING MANDATORY THE MEMBERSHIP OF HOUSEHELPERS IN THE SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM (SSS) CREATED PURSUANT TO R.A. NO. 1161, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE SOCIAL SECURITY LAW, AMENDING FOR THIS PURPOSE PARAGRAPH 5 OF SECTION 1 OF R.A. NO. 7655, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Introduced by Senator Tatad.

The President: Referred to the Committee on Labor, Employment and Human Resources Development.

The Acting Secretary [Atty. Raval]: Senate Bill No. 1170, entitled

AN ACT REORGANIZING THE GOVERNMENT, CREATING FOR THIS PURPOSE, A JOINT LEGISLATIVE-EXECUTIVE REORGANIZATION COMMISSION, DEFINING ITS POWERS AND FUNCTIONS, APPROPRIATING FUNDS

record that as soon as the leadership has decided to assign or elect a Chairman of the Committee on Constitutional Amendments, Revision of Codes and Laws, I shall relinquish the same position to the nominee.

The President: The manifestation is hereby made of record.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

BILL ON SECOND READING
(S. No. 1122 - Promoting National Salt Iodization)
(Continuation)

Senator Romulo: Mr. President, as I have stated earlier, I move that we resume consideration of Senate Bill No. 1122, the Salt Iodization Bill, as reported out under Committee Report No. 2.

The President: Resumption of consideration of Senate Bill No. 1122 is now in order.

Senator Romulo: Mr. President, we have closed the period of interpellations. We are now in the period of committee amendments, and then to the individual amendments, if any, Mr. President.

May I ask that the distinguished Chairman of the Committee on Health and Demography and the Sponsor of the Bill, Senator Freddie Webb, be recognized for the committee amendments.

The President: Senator Webb is recognized.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS

Senator Webb: Thank you, Mr. President.

After a thorough study by the Committee on Health and Demography and a series of consultations with concerned groups, this Representation will propose some amendments to Senate Bill No. 1122.

On Section 2, line 4, on page 1, insert the phrase **AS WELL AS THE ENTIRE POPULATION** between the words "children" and "with." Hence, the sentence will be amended as follows:

"It is the policy of the State to protect and promote the health of the people, to maintain an effective food regulatory system, and to provide women and children **AS WELL AS THE ENTIRE POPULATION** with proper nutrition."

The President: Is there any objection to the committee amendment? [*Silence*] The Chair hears none; the same is hereby approved.

Senator Webb: On Section 3, paragraphs b and c, delete the words "producers," "importers," "traders" and "distributors." Hence, paragraph b is amended as follows:

"b) To mandate all commercial manufacturers of salt, to iodize the salt that they produce, manufacture, import, trade or distribute;"

Also, paragraph c will be amended as follows:

"c) To mandate the Department of Health to lead the implementation of the salt iodization program; and its Bureau of Food and Drugs (BFAD) to set and enforce standards for the iodization of salt and to monitor compliance of the salt manufacturers;"

The President: Is there any objection to the Committee amendment?

Senator Mercado: Mr. President

The President: Senator Mercado is recognized.

Senator Mercado: Mr. President, I would like to seek clarification from the Chairman of the Committee on Health and Demography on the import of the amendments just proposed.

Senator Webb: Certainly, Mr. President.

The President: With the permission of the two Gentlemen, may the Chair ask a question. How would we distinguish the difference between a salt producer and a salt manufacturer?

Senator Webb: Mr. President, that is why we took the liberty of taking out these words, primarily because when we say "manufacturer," the term already includes producers, importers, traders and distributors. That was the idea, Mr. President, why we deleted these words. "Manufacturer" is a comprehensive term that includes all of these particular people involved in the production of salt.

The President: Is it then the intention of this bill that the term "manufacturer" is understood to include producers, importers, traders and distributors of salt?

Senator Webb: That is right, Mr. President.

The President: Thank you.

Senator Mercado: Mr. President, that is exactly the import of my question. If there is going to be a new definition of the term "manufacturer," which is to be included also in the next section, Section 4, then I think the proposed amendment is appropriate.

The President: All right. Subject to that reservation, is there any objection to the proposed committee amendment? [Silence] There being none, the same is approved.

Senator Webb: There will be more committee amendments later on, Mr. President, and the word "manufacturer" will be defined.

May I continue, Mr. President.

The President: Please do so.

Senator Webb: On page 2, line 13 of Section 4, paragraph (b), add the phrase LEADS TO THE REDUCTION OF INTELLECTUAL AND PHYSICAL CAPACITY AFFECTING EVERYONE WHO IS IODINE-DEFICIENT AND between the words "which" and "may."

In short, Mr. President, the whole text of paragraph (b) will read as follows:

"(b) Iodine deficiency disorders - A broad spectrum of deficiencies resulting from the lack of iodine in the diet which LEADS TO THE REDUCTION OF INTELLECTUAL AND PHYSICAL CAPACITY AFFECTING EVERYONE WHO IS IODINE-DEFICIENT AND may manifest as goiter, mental retardation, physical and mental defects, and cretinism. It may also result from the intake of goitrogenic substances."

The President: Is there any objection to the proposed Committee amendment? [Silence] There being none, the same is approved.

Senator Webb: As I said earlier, Mr. President, on Section 4, insert a new letter (K), to read as follows:

(K) MANUFACTURER - ONE WHO FORTIFIES SALT WITH IODINE AS PRESCRIBED BY BFAD. THIS MAY INCLUDE PRODUCERS, IMPORTERS, TRADERS AND DISTRIBUTORS.

The President: Is there any objection to the proposed Committee amendment? [Silence] There being none, the same is approved.

Senator Webb: On page 3, line 8 of Section 5, paragraph (a), replace the word "retailers" with TRADERS AND DISTRIBUTORS. Again, this paragraph, as amended, will read as follows:

"(a) This Act shall apply to the entire salt industry, including salt producers, traders, importers, AND DISTRIBUTORS, as well as government and nongovernment agencies involved in salt iodization activities."

The President: So the Gentleman is deleting the word "retailer" on page 3, line 8, and substitute it with the the word DISTRIBUTOR.

Senator Webb: TRADERS AND DISTRIBUTORS, Mr. President.

The President: Is there any objection to the proposed committee amendment? [Silence] There being none, the same is approved.

Senator Webb: On page 3, lines 10 to 12 of Section 5, delete the whole paragraph under letter (b).

May I repeat, Mr. President. On Section 5, lines 10 to 12 of page 3, delete the whole paragraph under letter (b).

The President: Is there any objection?

Senator Mercado: Mr. President.

The President: Senator Mercado is recognized.

Senator Mercado: Mr. President, may I know the intent of the Chairman of the committee in deleting the provision putting a time limit to require all food grade salt to be iodized?

Senator Webb: As the Gentleman would notice, Mr. President, on that particular page, we want to be consistent with the next amendment that we shall set forth, if this Representation may be allowed later on to specify the amendment. That is the reason this particular provision had to be deleted.

Senator Mercado: Mr. President, I do not have a copy of the committee amendments. Being the principal author of the measure, could the Chairman apprise this Representation of the succeeding amendments that are the reasons this particular provision is being deleted, so that I will not object anymore?

Senator Webb: Yes, Mr. President, that is a very good

point. May I be allowed to state the next amendment without prejudice to the first amendment, Mr. President.

The President: That would be well for purposes of continuity.

Senator Webb: In the same section, the old paragraph (c) shall...

Senator Mercado: Mr. President.

The President: Senator Mercado is recognized.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY OF SENATOR MERCADO (Request for a Copy of Committee Amendments)

Senator Mercado: Mr. President, parliamentary inquiry. To allow us to proceed with ease, so that I do not have to stand up every time I have a question, could the good Chairman provide this Representation and all the other Members of the Senate a copy of the Committee amendments, so that we can anticipate and have a smooth flow of the amendments?

Senator Webb: For the information of Senator Mercado, a copy was given to his office yesterday, Mr. President. But I will try to produce one.

Senator Mercado: Mr. President, I have not received a copy of the Committee amendments.

Senator Webb: May I just give it to him now, Mr. President, if we have an extra copy.

The President: Yes. And to enable the Members of the Senate to have a chance to go over the proposed amendments in their totality.

SUSPENSION OF THE SESSION

Senator Romulo: May I ask for a one-minute suspension of the session.

The President: The session is suspended for one minute, if there is no objection. [*There was none.*]

It was 10:51 a.m.

RESUMPTION OF THE SESSION

At 10:52 a.m., the session was resumed.

The President: The session is resumed. Senator Macapagal is recognized.

Senator Macapagal: Mr. President, in the last Congress we used to have the black-bound folder that allowed us to follow each day's debates. We do not have it anymore. I wonder if we will be resuming the practice of having that folder.

The President: The Majority Leader is recognized.

Senator Romulo: Mr. President, we will have that practice resumed. In fact, we will be discussing with the new Secretary of the Senate some of these procedures that we have found very helpful during the last Congress. Of course, since the Secretary has just assumed his position this morning, we will just discuss it with him this afternoon.

The President: Does that satisfy Senator Macapagal?

Senator Macapagal: Yes, Mr. President. Thank you.

The President: Senator Romulo is recognized.

SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION OF S. NO. 1122

Senator Romulo: Mr. President, while we are waiting for the copy of the Committee amendments, may I move that we suspend consideration of Senate Bill No. 1122.

The President: Is there any objection? [*Silence*] There being none, the motion is approved.

Senator Romulo: Mr. President, may I ask that the distinguished Gentleman from Cebu, Senator Osmeña, be recognized.

The President: Senator Osmeña is recognized.

STATEMENT OF SENATOR OSMEÑA (Statement of President Ramos on Senate Reorganization and Related Controversies)

Senator Osmeña: Mr. President, yesterday, His Excellency Pres. Fidel V. Ramos, issued a statement on the Senate reorganization and controversies attendant thereto.

I would like to have the honor, Mr. President, to read into the *Record of the Senate* the statement of President Ramos. It goes as follows:

Too much of our shared momentum, goodwill, resources, energy and time have been wasted as a result of the intrigues arising from the recent Senate reorganization. This is unfair to our people and counterproductive towards our national goals. Truth,

fact and reality are being obscured and even sacrificed in the process. This is most regrettable especially after members belonging to the new Senate majority themselves have already explained the actual reasons, issues and circumstances behind their decision to effect changes in the leadership of the Senate.

I have also stated the position of the presidency regarding the controversies spawned by the Senate revamp. Let me restate this position unequivocally, so that we can once and for all put all these various controversial, largely contrived issues to rest.

First, I reiterate the assertion that the reorganization of the Senate was and continues to be an internal matter of the Senate, which the Executive Branch has no control over nor ever wishes to control. Nonetheless, the Executive continues to seek to establish, as it has, in fact, already started, the basis for a harmonious, effective and productive working relationship with the Senate under its new leadership. I also offer the same cooperative approach to those in the Senate Minority.

Second, neither Malacañang nor the administration party has actively advocated, let alone plotted, any shift in our form of government from the presidential to the parliamentary or to any other form. I have stated, time and again, that any discussions on this issue must take the back burner and must not be allowed to distract any of us, especially the Legislature and the bureaucracy, away from the urgent national agenda to achieve sustained economic growth and social reform which must be jointly pursued by the presidency and the Congress, in close consultation with the private sector.

Certainly, the presidency did not conspire and could not have conspired to make such a shift to the parliamentary form of government the reason for nor the end result of last week's Senate reorganization. I acknowledge the approval of two resolutions in the Senate two days ago manifesting practically a unanimous stand against any move to amend the Constitution. To this, I readily and happily say, "Amen." I suggest the House of Representatives does likewise.

Third, I have no wish nor design to perpetuate myself in office. I have invested too much of my public career, 47 years in total, in the defense of our freedom and democratic ideals to ever allow them to be subverted

by partisan or personal interests — whether mine or anyone else's. As I have said many times in the past, I will step down at the end of my term on June 30, 1998, content with God's blessings, with having done my best during my watch to bring our country on the irreversible path to peace, unity and sustained progress.

Finally, I appeal to all our leaders and the concerned citizenry that we review and take stock of the recent developments in the Senate with sobriety, objectivity and truth. I ask that we leave the Senate alone, so to speak — that we renew our confidence in the Senate's independent capacity to resolve its own internal affairs and strengthen its commitment to put in place, together with the House of Representatives, a common legislative program that will uplift the quality of life of all Filipinos. The "compact for change" entered into by the Administration Party and the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino should remain undiminished and continue to provide the core of an uplifting legislative agenda for national stability, social cohesion and lasting progress.

I am confident in the sustained statesmanship of Laban in this regard; even as I now invite both the "new Majority" and the "new Minority" in the Senate to continue to be an indispensable part of the overall national team to serve the people effectively through enlightened legislative-executive cooperation, as the Senate of the Ninth Congress did.

We must never lose sight of the reality of the new regional and world environment around us — that the name of the modern game out there is economic competitiveness and the desired end result for us is the alleviation of the poverty of the Filipino family and the Filipino nation. Unceasing political intramurals on the part of some — just some — and the irresponsible reporting by a few — just a few — members of the media will not serve to get us there.

In our quest as a national society for stability, economic growth and social justice, we all have our respective roles to play on the Philippine team. Other national teams in competition with us in the Asia-Pacific League are moving more purposely and harmoniously than we are. I say let us not waste any more time and effort. Let us all get back to work, solve our problems together, and move on beyond the intramurals. Our people expect no less.

Thank you, Mr. President.

SUSPENSION OF THE SESSION

Senator Romulo: May I ask for a one-minute suspension of the session, Mr. President.

The President: The session is suspended for one minute, if there is no objection. [*There was none.*]

It was 11:00 a.m.

RESUMPTION OF THE SESSION

At 11:01 a.m., the session was resumed.

The President: The session is resumed.

Senator Romulo: Mr. President, what the distinguished Gentleman from Cebu moved and requested was that the remarks he had read pertaining to the President be introduced into the *Record*.

But the distinguished Senator from Pampanga, Pangasinan, and Negros Occidental, Senator Macapagal, wishes to interpellate on points of clarification. I ask that she be recognized.

The President: Senator Macapagal is recognized.

Senator Macapagal: Will the Gentleman from Cebu please yield for a few questions?

Senator Osmeña: With pleasure, Mr. President.

Senator Macapagal: Mr. President, in the statement of the President as read by the Gentleman from Cebu, there is a portion which says, and I quote: "I acknowledge the approval of two resolutions in the Senate two days ago manifesting practically a unanimous stand against any move to amend the Constitution."

Mr. President, have we approved these resolutions?

Senator Romulo: Mr. President, the two resolutions were filed and were referred to the appropriate committee, in this case, the Committee on Constitutional Amendments and Revision of Codes and Laws. In the sense that this Committee still has to discuss and deliberate on these resolutions, report them out at the proper time, that is the only time when the Senate will consider, and if it so desires, approve or not approve these resolutions.

So, the Senate, as a Body, has not yet taken cognizance of these resolutions in the sense of having approved them. But it has referred the resolutions to the appropriate committee.

Senator Macapagal: Mr. President, it is unfortunate that such an important statement of the President of the Philippines on our constitutional future contains such an important inaccuracy as to assume that we have approved such resolutions.

I would like to suggest to the Lakas Members of the Senate that they apprise the speechmakers, speech writers, or writers of the President on the accuracy of the events transpiring in the Senate. I think that is a better way for us to work as a team, whether one is in the Majority or in the Minority.

Second, Mr. President, in the same sentence, I will read again: "Practically a unanimous stand against any move to amend the Constitution." In the resolution filed by the Majority, I noticed that the Majority has made a stand against the lifting of term limits, as well as a stand against shifting to the parliamentary form of government. But, am I accurate in reading that there is no stand in that Majority resolution against a constituent assembly or against a constitutional convention?

Senator Osmeña: Mr. President, I do not have before me the copies of the two resolutions. My understanding of the resolution of the Majority bloc is that they are against the constituent assembly which would require, anyway, a three-fourths vote of the Senate. The Minority bloc has already eight votes. It is impossible, if the Minority bloc keeps together, for that constituent assembly to pass, or a two-thirds vote, meaning, 16 votes for the calling of a constitutional convention.

Until I can get a copy, Mr. President, I will not be able to clarify further on the contents of the resolution. However, I believe that it is the intent of the Members in the Majority who signed that resolution that they would be against either the calling of a constitutional convention or converting the Senate and the House of Representatives into a constituent assembly.

Senator Macapagal: What is intended is usually written. I believe there is a very, very important gap in that resolution. And I wonder if the Gentleman, speaking for the rest of the Majority, is saying that there is also an intention to oppose any move to call for a constituent assembly or for a constitutional convention.

Senator Osmeña: Mr. President, given time, I think that the Majority Leader will be able to call a caucus of the Majority bloc to clarify that.

Senator Macapagal: Thank you, Mr. President.

Senator Osmeña: Thank you, Mr. President.

Senator Herrera: Mr. President.

The President: Senator Herrera is recognized.

Senator Herrera: May I just ask a few questions, Mr. President.

The President: Senator Herrera may do so if Senator Osmeña is willing to yield.

Senator Osmeña: With pleasure, Mr. President.

Senator Herrera: I am sorry, Mr. President. I was not able to hear the preliminary statement made by the Gentleman from Cebu and why he read this statement of the President here in the Senate. Is it my understanding that the President requested him that this statement be read here in the Senate?

Senator Osmeña: No, Mr. President. As a matter of fact, I only thought about it 10 minutes ago when I was talking to Ching Montinola. I received my copy of the statement in the office yesterday, and Mrs. Montinola gave me another copy about an hour ago before the start of the session.

But having reread it, I thought it would be a good indication of the goodwill of the President towards the Senate and how he is reaching out to all Senators — whether in the Majority or in the Minority — to come together again and help in the task of nation-building, Mr. President.

Senator Herrera: On page 2 of this statement, Mr. President, and I refer to the second paragraph, let me read a portion of this paragraph: "Neither Malacañang nor the administration party has actively advocated, let alone plotted, any shift in our form of government from the presidential to the parliamentary or to any other form."

May I know, Mr. President, if Congressman Romualdo is a member of the Lakas.

Senator Osmeña: I am not too sure, Mr. President. Let me check on that. But let us assume, yes.

Senator Herrera: What about Speaker Joe de Venecia? Is he a member of Lakas?

Senator Osmeña: Yes, Mr. President.

Senator Herrera: Is it not true that they are the authors of a resolution in the House initiating a shift from presidential to parliamentary system?

Senator Osmeña: I do not know if they are the authors, but

I believe that they are part of the move, yes, Mr. President.

Senator Herrera: I just would like to emphasize that because it is not true, as the President is saying, that the administration party is not involved, especially if we have to consider that the Speaker of the House, if I am not mistaken, is also the secretary general of the Lakas party.

Senator Osmeña: Mr. President, there is a difference between being secretary general of a party and being the party itself. The Lakas-NUCD-UMDP has not taken a party stand on that. As a matter of fact, it has also become quite a controversial issue within the party and I myself — belonging to the Lakas-NUCD, a member of the National Directorate, Executive Committee, and chairman of Region VII — am against any such move. And, therefore, I think that when the President said, "Neither Malacañang nor the administration party," he meant the Lakas-NUCD as a party and not individuals within the party, Mr. President.

Senator Herrera: While there is a distinction between the secretary general of the party and the party itself, Mr. President, I think we should not be too naive to say that the secretary general made a move without first getting the assurance from his party that he will get its support. Because the worst thing that can happen to a Secretary General of the party is not to get the support of the party.

Anyway, my last point, Mr. President, is this: Since the President himself is saying that he is not in favor, at least, as of this time, to amend the Constitution, and that majority of the Members of this august Body has filed a resolution objecting to any move to amend the Constitution, would the Gentleman and the Members of the Majority bloc support the resolution that will be filed by the Conscience Bloc to express the sense of the Senate, that in the 1996 budget there should be no fund provided which can be used by the Commission on Elections to finance a referendum, a constitutional convention or a constituent assembly? Would the Gentleman be willing to sign a resolution?

Senator Osmeña: Personally, Mr. President, I will support the Gentleman from Bohol and Cebu on that move. As for the rest of the Majority bloc, we will have to call a caucus to that effect, but the preponderance of sentiments will be in the Senator's favor.

Senator Herrera: When the Gentleman said support, does it mean that he will campaign for the support of this resolution among the Majority bloc? Because if one is convinced that it is important that we should not amend the Constitution now for the purpose of maintaining stability and pursuing the economic programs or give priority to the economic programs of govern-

ment, then we should not just be bystanders. We have to support such a move.

Senator Osmeña: Mr. President, I will assure the Senator from Cebu and Bohol that I will support, I will campaign, and I will do whatever is possible to make sure that there will be no appropriation for a referendum, a constituent assembly or anything else in the 1996, 1997 and 1998 budgets.

Senator Herrera: Since the Gentleman from Cebu is also a high-ranking member of the Lakas, would he also commit that he will campaign in the Lakas itself to support such resolution if this will be introduced in the House of Representatives?

Senator Osmeña: Yes, Mr. President. I will commit that I will campaign within the Lakas itself that there will be no such resolution. Whether I will be successful and whether the Members of the House of Representatives will listen to me might be another thing, but I will definitely campaign for it.

Senator Herrera: Mr. President, on this I do not have to get the reaction from the Gentleman from Cebu, but let me just express the apprehension of some of the people who are so concerned about this move to amend the Constitution—that this statement of the President reassuring that he is not running for reelection is merely a tactical retreat, knowing that the overwhelming sentiments of our people are against the move to amend the Constitution.

Thank you, Mr. President.

Senator Maceda: Mr. President.

The President: Senator Maceda is recognized.

Senator Maceda: Will the distinguished Gentleman from Cebu, the young, able and handsome Senator Sergio Osmeña III, answer just two questions?

Senator Osmeña: With pleasure, Mr. President. I will answer any number of questions from the handsomer Gentleman from Manila.

Senator Maceda: Mr. President, the Gentleman is aware of the fact that there are 32 Members of the LDP in the House of Representatives.

Senator Osmeña: Yes, Mr. President.

Senator Maceda: Is the Gentleman aware of the fact that a ranking member of the LDP, the Congressman from Negros Oriental, is one of the coauthors of the resolution in the House

of Representatives proposing a shift to a parliamentary system?

Senator Osmeña: No, Mr. President. I was not aware of that. I have not followed this issue closely.

Senator Maceda: Would the Gentleman then, in campaigning for this among the Members of the Lakas in the House of Representatives, invite the Gentleman from Cebu and Bohol to jointly campaign with the 32 members of the LDP in the House to join him in his position?

Senator Osmeña: I think that would be a very good idea, Mr. President.

Senator Maceda: Thank you, Mr. President.

Senator Herrera: Mr. President, with the permission of the two Gentlemen.

The President: Now that Senator Maceda is already finished with his questioning, Senator Herrera is recognized.

Senator Herrera: If only to improve the information of the Gentleman from Manila—the president of the NPC—who is now a Member of the Majority bloc and responsible for preparing the budget of the Lakas-NUCD, which is now the party in power. In the meeting last night of the Laban in which the Senate President was present, Congressman Romero categorically said that while it is true that he is one of the authors, he would like that a shift will take effect in the year 2004, not immediately, in order to prevent the extension or giving the opportunity to the one who is now sitting in Malacañang to sit for another term.

Thank you, Mr. President.

Senator Osmeña: Perhaps it might also be said, Mr. President, that if the stakes affecting the year 2004, whoever is elected in 1998 will now be able to seek reelection in 2004, I wonder who that person the LDP had in mind, but I think the public must be made aware of that.

The President: The Majority Leader is recognized.

BILL ON SECOND READING

S. No. 1122- Promoting National Salt Iodization (Continuation)

Senator Romulo: Mr. President, I move that we resume consideration of Senate Bill No. 1122.

The President: Resumption of consideration of Senate Bill No. 1122 is now in order.

Senator Romulo: We are in the period of Committee amendments, Mr. President, and the copies of the Committee amendments have already been distributed to our Colleagues.

May we now proceed with the Chairman of the Committee on Health and Sponsor of the bill, Senator Webb, to continue with his proposed Committee amendments.

SUSPENSION OF THE SESSION

May I ask for a one-minute suspension of the session.

The President: The session is suspended, if there is no objection. [*There was none.*]

It was 11:16 a.m.

RESUMPTION OF THE SESSION

At 11:17 a.m., the session was resumed.

The President: The session is resumed. Senator Webb, the author of this bill, is hereby recognized.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS

Senator Webb: The last amendment, Mr. President, was in Section 5, lines 10 to 12 on page 3 — this was already approved — to delete the whole paragraph which is under B.

The next Committee amendment, on the same section, the old paragraph C shall become the new paragraph B. On line 13, the word “retailer” shall be replaced with the words TRADERS AND DISTRIBUTORS.

The President: Have we not acted upon that before?

Senator Webb: No, Mr. President, We did that in another paragraph. This is a new one.

The President: Is there any objection to the proposed Committee amendment? [*Silence*] There being none, the same is hereby approved.

Senator Webb: On lines 16 to 17, replace the words “three” and “five” with TWO and THREE respectively. Hence, the new paragraph B as amended, will read as follows:

“All producers, importers, TRADERS, and DISTRIBUTORS of good grade salt shall make available only iodized salt that conforms to the standards set by BFAD to meet nutritional needs: *Provided, however,* That the implementation of this Act

shall be enforced over a staggered period for large, medium and small salt producers who must comply with all the provisions of this Act within one year, TWO years, and THREE years, respectively, from the approval of this Act.”

That is the whole paragraph, as amended, Mr. President.

The President: Is there any objection to the proposed committee amendment? [*Silence*] There being none, the same is hereby approved.

Senator Webb: On the same section, the old paragraph (d) becomes a new paragraph C, and on line 19, insert the word “SERVICE” between the words “food” and “outlets.”

Also, if I may include, Mr. President, because this is one provision, on the same paragraph, line 21, add the phrase AND MUST COMPLY WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THIS ACT UPON ITS EFFECTIVITY DATE after the word “inspectors.”

If I may read the amended paragraph which is paragraph D now, Mr. President:

“All food SERVICE outlets, restaurants and stores are hereby mandated to make available to customers only iodized salt in their retail establishments. These establishments shall be monitored with the help of the local government units through its sanitary inspectors AND MUST COMPLY WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THIS ACT UPON ITS EFFECTIVITY DATE.”

The President: Is there any objection to the proposed committee amendment? [*Silence*] There being none, the same is approved.

Senator Webb: In the same section, the old paragraph (e) becomes the new paragraph D; and on line 23, add the phrase AND MUST COMPLY WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THIS ACT NOT LATER THAN ONE YEAR FROM ITS EFFECTIVITY after the word “products.”

The President: Is there any objection to the proposed committee amendment? [*Silence*] There being none, the same is approved.

Senator Webb: On the same section, the old paragraph (f) becomes the new paragraph E.

The President: Is there any objection? [*Silence*] There being none, the amendment is approved.

Senator Webb: On Section 6, Mr. President, paragraph (a), line 5 of page 4, add the phrase "AND SUPPORT" between the words "assist" and "local." On the same line, delete the word "side" in the word "countryside."

Hence, the first sentence of paragraph (a) is amended to read as follows:

"a) The DTI is mandated to assist AND SUPPORT local producers of salt in the country to upgrade their salt production technology to include iodization ...in the market."

The President: Is there any objection to the proposed amendment? [*Silence*] There being none, the same is approved.

Senator Webb: On the same section, paragraph (b), line 15 of page 4, replace the phrase "small local" with the word "SUBSISTENCE" between the words "including" and "salt."

Paragraph (b), as amended, will read as follows:

"b) The DOST, in collaboration with TLRC, shall develop and implement comprehensive programs for the acquisition, design and manufacture of salt iodization machines and transfer of salt iodization technology to the salt industry, including SUBSISTENCE salt producers."

The President: Is there any objection to the proposed Committee amendment? [*Silence*] There being none, the same is approved.

Senator Webb: On Section 7, Mr. President, line 19 of page 4, add the phrase PARTICULARLY THE PHILIPPINE INFORMATION AGENCY AND THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, CULTURE AND SPORTS after the word "concerned."

The President: Is there any objection to the proposed Committee amendment? [*Silence*] There being none, the same is approved.

Senator Webb: This is the last Committee amendment, Mr. President. On Section 9, lines 6 to 8 on page 5, rephrase the last sentence to read as follows:

PROVIDED, THAT SHOULD THE VIOLATION BE COMMITTED BY ANY OFFICER, DIRECTOR, OR MEMBER OF A BUSINESS AND A JURIDICAL ENTITY ACTING BEYOND THE SCOPE OF HIS AUTHORITY, SUCH OFFI-

CER, DIRECTOR OR MEMBER RESPONSIBLE THEREFORE SHALL BE PERSONALLY LIABLE FOR THE FINE: PROVIDED, FURTHER, THAT SUCH VIOLATOR SHALL SUFFER A REVOCATION OF ITS BUSINESS PERMIT AND/OR A BAN OF ITS PRODUCTS FROM THE MARKET: PROVIDED, FINALLY, THAT BFAD, IN COORDINATION WITH THE LGUs CONCERNED SHALL BE AUTHORIZED TO IMPOSE AND COLLECT THE FINES FROM THE VIOLATORS. SUCH COLLECTIONS SHALL BE USED BY BFAD FOR ITS MANDATE UNDER THIS ACT.

The President: Before this proposed amendment is put by the Chair to a vote, may the Chair seek a clarification as to what happens when the violation was committed by an officer, director or member of a business and a juridical entity who act within the scope of his authority?

Senator Webb: I did not get the question, Mr. President. Would the Chair kindly repeat it?

The President: The question of the Chair to the distinguished Author of this bill is: What happens if the violation is committed by any officer, director or member of a business or juridical entity who has acted within the scope of his authority?

Senator Webb: Mr. President, the corporation is a juridical entity and will be liable for the fine.

The President: It is the corporation itself.

Senator Webb: Yes, Mr. President.

The President: Do we read that in the totality of the provision itself? We just want to make sure. We know the intention of this provision now.

Senator Webb: That is why, Mr. President, on the first two sentences, we specified that if it is committed by an officer, director or a member of a business and a juridical entity acting beyond the scope of his authority, such officer, director, or member responsible therefor shall be personally liable for the fine. That is why we placed it there to clarify that if it is a corporation that is violating the said law, then the corporation shall be held liable.

The President: The Chair thanks the Gentleman for the answer. Is there any objection to the proposed Committee amendment? [*Silence*] There being none, the same is approved.

Senator Romulo: Mr. President.

The President: The Majority Leader is recognized.

Senator Romulo: I move that we close the period of Committee amendments, Mr. President.

The President: Is there any objection to the motion? [Silence] There being none, the period of Committee amendments is hereby closed.

Senator Romulo: Mr. President, I ask that we now consider the individual amendments.

Senator Maceda: Mr. President.

The President: Senator Maceda is recognized.

MACEDA AMENDMENT

Senator Maceda: Mr. President, I have only one amendment and it will go on page 4, Section 7, Information and Education Campaign on Iodized Salt. Add a second paragraph, to read: FOR A PERIOD OF THREE YEARS FROM THE EFFECTIVITY OF THIS ACT, THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SHALL PROVIDE AS MUCH FREE IODIZED SALT AS ITS BUDGET MAY ALLOW TO INDIGENTS WITH PRIORITY TO SIXTH CLASS CITIES AND MUNICIPALITIES.

The President: What does the author say?

Senator Webb: I would gladly accept it, Mr. President.

The President: Is there any objection to the Maceda amendment which has been accepted by the author? [Silence] There being none, the amendment is approved.

Senator Enrile: Mr. President.

The President: Senator Enrile is recognized.

ENRILE AMENDMENTS

Senator Enrile: Mr. President, on line 8 under Section 3, Purposes, I move to delete the word "particularly" appearing after the word "malnutrition" and before the word "iodine" and substitute instead the phrase SUCH AS; and continuing after the word "through," delete the phrase "the cost-effective preventive measure of" so that the subparagraph (a) will read: To combat micronutrient malnutrition SUCH AS iodine deficiency through salt iodization.

The President: What does the author say?

Senator Webb: It is accepted, Mr. President.

The President: Is there any objection to the Enrile amendment? [Silence] There being none, the same is approved.

Senator Enrile: On line 10, Mr. President, delete the word "mandate" after the preposition "To," and the word REQUIRE be inserted in its stead.

Under line 11, after the preposition "of" and before the word "salt," insert the word FOOD-GRADE and continuing, after the word "salt" and before the pronoun "they," delete the conjunction "that." So that the subparagraph (b) will read, "To REQUIRE all commercial producers, manufacturers, importers, traders, and distributors of FOOD-GRADE salt to iodize the salt they produce, manufacture, import, trade or distribute."

The President: What does the author say?

Senator Webb: Mr. President, that is accepted except for the fact that earlier, just for clarification, we deleted the word "producers." We also deleted "importers," "traders," and "distributors." If that is the case, Mr. President, then I accept the amendment.

Senator Enrile: Just a matter of style, Mr. President.

The President: All right. Is there any objection to the proposed amendment of Senator Enrile? [Silence] There being none, the amendment is approved, subject to refinement in style.

Senator Enrile: On subparagraph (c), line 12, to delete also the word "mandate" after the preposition "To," and in lieu thereof, insert the word REQUIRE.

Then after the preposition "to", delete the phrase "lead the implementation of the" and insert instead the word UNDERTAKE.

On line 13, after the word "and," insert the preposition "FOR."

On line 14, after the word "compliance" delete the phrase "of the" and insert "THEREOF BY FOOD-GRADE salt," et cetera. So that this subparagraph will read:

"To REQUIRE the Department of Health to UNDERTAKE salt iodization program; and FOR its Bureau of Food and Drugs (BFAD) to set and enforce standards for the iodization of salt and to monitor compliance THEREOF BY FOOD-GRADE salt," et cetera.

The President: Does the Sponsor accept the amendment?

Senator Webb: It is accepted, Mr. President, except that there is a word that was left out. This is dependent on the style — the word “manufacturers” was left out by Senator Enrile.

The President: Is there any objection to the Enrile amendment? [*Silence*] There being none, the amendment is approved, subject to style.

Senator Enrile: On subparagraph (d), Mr. President.

On line 16, again the word “mandate” to be replaced by the word REQUIRE. After the word “through” and before the word “sanitary,” delete the pronoun “its” and insert instead the pronoun THEIR to reflect the correct grammatical construction. And after the preposition “to,” delete the word “monitor” and replace it with the word CHECK.

On line 17, after the preposition “of,” delete the word “iodized” and, in lieu thereof, insert the phrase FOOD GRADE.

After the preposition “in,” delete the article “the” before the word “market,” and insert the pronoun THEIR. Add “S” to the word “market” so that it will become plural. Then add this phrase: IN ORDER TO ASCERTAIN THAT SUCH SALT IS PROPERLY IODIZED. So that the subparagraph will read:

“To REQUIRE local government units through THEIR sanitary inspectors to CHECK the quality of FOOD-GRADE salt being sold in THEIR marketS IN ORDER TO ASCERTAIN THAT SUCH SALT IS PROPERLY IODIZED.”

The President: Does the Sponsor accept the amendment?

SUSPENSION OF THE SESSION

Senator Webb: May I ask for a one-minute suspension, Mr. President?

The President: The session is suspended, if there is no objection. [*There was none.*]

It was 11:34 a.m.

RESUMPTION OF THE SESSION

At 11:35 a.m., the session was resumed.

The President: The session is resumed.

Senator Webb: Just a question before I accept the amendment, Mr. President.

Does the Gentleman feel that by using the word “check” rather than the word “monitor” it would give more teeth to the bill? Because as far as monitoring is concerned, I think it is more forceful, that is why we placed the word “monitor.”

Senator Enrile: Actually, the way I understand the word “monitor” is that, it just determines statistically or whatever the quality of the salt. What I am trying to suggest is, the responsibility must be given to the local government units to really check and determine by analysis the quality of the food grade salt being marketed in their respective markets.

Senator Sotto: May I interject, Mr. President.

The President: With the permission of the two Gentlemen on the Floor, Senator Sotto is hereby recognized.

Senator Sotto: Thank you, Mr. President, with the permission of the two Gentlemen. Would it not be better to include both words — “monitor/check”?

Senator Enrile: I have no objection to that, Mr. President, but I always believe in the economy of words. The simpler the word, the better for this Representation.

Senator Webb: If that is an amendment to the amendment which I was going to make anyway, and if Senator Enrile has accepted it, I will also accept it, Mr. President.

The President: Does Senator Enrile accept the amendment to his amendment?

Senator Enrile: I accept, Mr. President.

Senator Sotto: Mr. President.

The President: Senator Sotto is recognized.

Senator Sotto: Still on the same line, I would just like to ask the two Gentlemen again, with their permission, about the use of the words “sanitary inspectors” on line 16 — “To require the local government units through its sanitary inspectors...”

I consulted the former Secretary of Health on this aspect, and I asked whether all sanitary inspectors in the municipal and city levels are under the city or municipal health department. It is our opinion that we should rather replace the words “sanitary inspectors” with the words “health department of the city or municipality,” or something to that effect, than merely stating that the sanitary inspectors should do this, if this is agreeable to both Gentlemen since this is incorporated in the proposed amendments.

Senator Enrile: Maybe we can use the words "health officer," Mr. President. That depends upon the Chairman of the Committee sponsoring the measure.

Senator Webb: Mr. President, if we use the words "health officer," then it would not be a complete expertise to monitor and check the iodized salt. But if we talk of the sanitary inspector and give him the job of doing this, then we have the particular person involved to shoulder command responsibility here.

Senator Sotto: Then the words "health officer" would be the proper term if that is the case. Because sanitary inspectors at this point in the local government units are assigned to a different type of work.

Kung tawagin nga sa local government iyon ay sanidad. Iba po ang linya noon. Probably, the health officer can assign one of his sanitary inspectors to do this. The words "health officer" would be more acceptable.

SUSPENSION OF THE SESSION

The President: The session is suspended to enable the three Gentlemen to strike out a working compromise on this matter, if there is no objection. [*There was none.*]

It was 11:39 a.m.

RESUMPTION OF THE SESSION

At 11:42 a.m., the session was resumed.

The President: The session is resumed.

SOTTO AMENDMENT

Senator Sotto: Mr. President, may I propose an amendment to the amendment.

On the same line, line 16, to read: instead of the words "sanitary inspectors," insert the phrase ITS HEALTH OFFICER OR IN HIS ABSENCE THE SANITARY INSPECTORS TO MONITOR et cetera.

The President: Is that acceptable to Senator Enrile?

Senator Enrile: We accept, Mr. President.

The President: How about the Sponsor?

Senator Webb: We accept, Mr. President.

The President: Is there any objection to the proposed amendment of Senator Enrile as amended by Senator Sotto? [*Silence*] There being none, the same is approved.

Senator Enrile: Thank you, Mr. President.

Mr. President, on page 2, subparagraph (e). Again, replace the word "mandate" with the word "REQUIRE"; and after the word "trade" on line 1, replace the preposition "of" with the preposition IN; and on line 2, delete the phrase "in the market."

The reason I am proposing a deletion of the phrase "in the market," Mr. President, is to give this subparagraph a wider coverage. If we are going to limit the monitoring to the trading of iodized salt in the market, this could also be traded in other areas, not necessarily in the market. And so, monitoring ought to cover the other trading in iodized salt in whatever manner and wherever places this trading would occur.

So the subparagraph would now read:

"e) To REQUIRE the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) to monitor the trade IN iodized salt"

The President: Does the Sponsor accept the amendment?

Senator Webb: It is accepted, Mr. President.

The President: Is there any objection to the individual amendment of Senator Enrile on Page 2? [*Silence*] There being none, the same is hereby approved.

Senator Enrile: On line 3, subparagraph (f), Mr. President. Again, I would propose to replace the word "mandate" with the word "DIRECT." On line 4, insert between the words "initiate" and "and" a comma (,), and after the comma (,), add the word "PROMOTE." And after the word "and," delete the word "maintain" and insert instead the word "CAUSE" so the sentence would then read:

"f) To DIRECT the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) and the Technology and Livelihood Resource Center (TLRC) to initiate, PROMOTE and CAUSE the transfer of technology for salt iodization;"

The President: Does the Sponsor accept the proposed amendment?

Senator Webb: It is accepted, Mr. President.

The President: Is there any objection to this amendment?

[*Silence*] There being none, the same is hereby approved.

Senator Enrile: On line 8, Mr. President, I propose the deletion of subparagraph (h). My reason is that this subparagraph seems to commit the government and the Treasury to sustain this program even if it were a losing proposition. I do not think we should do that. It goes without saying that this program must be continued because it is mandated by law, and there is no need to put this subparagraph in the law.

The President: Does the Sponsor accept the amendment?

Senator Webb: Mr. President, what is good for the people can never be a losing proposition. The idea of the bill is that we know very well that if we iodize our salt, it will give better health to our people, both intellectually and physically.

If we delete this particular provision primarily because it is a commitment, then I beg to disagree with the Gentleman. I would request then if it is possible for him not to insist this particular deletion.

This Representation, Mr. President, believes that this bill was proposed primarily because of studies done not only here in our country but internationally. International studies were done by the UNICEF itself, which only proves that this is a very important bill.

Senator Enrile: Mr. President, the reason I am saying this is that, first of all, with due respect, the subparagraph is rather vague. Anyway, this is a program that we have adopted and it will never be changed for as long as the law exists in the statute book. There is no need to say that the nation must ensure the sustainability of Salt Iodization Program.

What is meant by "sustainability" of the Salt Iodization Program? What is the meaning of this paragraph?

The President: There is a question that has been made by Senator Enrile. Does the Sponsor care to answer?

Senator Webb: After a brief consultation with my staff, Mr. President, I accept the deletion of the said provision.

The President: Is there any objection to the amendment of Senator Enrile on page 2, line 8, of this Bill? [*Silence*] There being none, the same is hereby approved.

Can we recast now subsection (g), lines 6 and 7 so that after the word "salt," we substitute the semicolon (;) with a period (.) and delete the word "and" because it seems to be the end of the section?

Senator Webb: That is right, Mr. President.

The President: Is this acceptable to this Body? Is there any objection? [*Silence*] There being none, the amendment is approved.

Senator Enrile: Thank you, Mr. President. In the case of subparagraph (f) of Section 4 — I do not know whether this has already been amended to reflect the tonnage to define "Subsistence producer." May I know whether this has already been amended by the Committee.

Senator Webb: We have not amended this, Mr. President.

Senator Enrile: This Representation was consulted by the Author of the bill the other day and I suggested that "TWO (2) metric tons" would be sufficient instead of "ten (10) metric tons." I would like to suggest that amendment in order not to water down too much the coverage of this proposed measure.

Senator Webb: During the Committee hearing, Mr. President, I remember that, in fact, the distinguished Gentleman said one ton but I do not know why it became "ten (10) tons" here. But "TWO (2) metric tons" is certainly in order, and we accept the said amendment.

The President: Is there any objection to the proposed individual amendment by Senator Enrile on page 2, line 23, reducing the number "ten (10) metric tons" to "TWO (2) metric tons," both in words and in figures? [*Silence*] There being none, the same is approved.

Senator Enrile: Mr. President, I would like to go back to line 18 just for the record so that someday, when people will make a study of this measure, they would understand the term "fortificant." May we know the meaning of the word "fortificant"?

Senator Webb: Mr. President, it is a word that would best describe the iodine that is placed on the salt itself. It is a fortificant.

Senator Enrile: Does this mean additive?

Senator Webb: Yes, Mr. President. It is an additive.

Senator Enrile: Mr. President, I always believe that in legislation, we should use popular words that could easily be understood. Anyway, I will leave it at that so that when people will be confronted with matters of interpretation, they will know the meaning of "fortificant."

May I now go to subparagraph (e) on line 20.

I propose that the word "intended" after the word "Salt" be deleted and the comma (,) after the word "consumption" be changed to period (.); the phrase beginning from the word "excluding" all the way to "purposes" including the period (.) be totally deleted so that this definition will read:

"Food-Grade Salt - Salt for human and animal consumption."

The President: Semicolon (;), because there is a continuation.

Senator Enrile: No, it is not a semicolon (;), Mr. President. It is a period (.).

The President: Yes. Is this acceptable to the Sponsor?

Senator Webb: It is accepted, Mr. President.

Senator Enrile: Mr. President, I would suggest that a new definition be inserted and that is the definition of "industrial salt" to distinguish it from food-grade salt, so that we are now establishing a clear distinction between salt used for food products and salt used in the manufacture of nonfood products, like chlorine and other industrial or chemical products.

The President: Before we act on that, let us put to a vote the immediately preceding individual amendment. Is there any objection to the amendment of Senator Enrile on page 2, line 20, of this bill? [Silence] There being none, the same is approved.

Senator Enrile: Thank you, Mr. President. I leave it to the author, the Committee Chairman and his staff to craft the definition of "industrial salt." Thank you.

Senator Tatad: Mr. President.

The President: Senator Tatad is recognized.

Senator Tatad: Mr. President, we are now in the period of individual amendments of Senate Bill No. 1122. May I ask that we go back to page 1.

I will propose an omnibus amendment in this bill. We use the word "mandate" to mean require. My proposal is to use the word "REQUIRE" rather than "mandate." Because "mandate" is to vest authority in. We have the authority which we may not want to use. This is different from "require."

With the indulgence of the distinguished Sponsor, I would like to propose that, wherever the word "mandate" appears, to

mean require, it should be so amended to read REQUIRE.

Senator Webb: Mr. President, that was the amendment of Senator Enrile earlier. But it was not an omnibus amendment because there are portions here where, like page 2, line 3, instead of "mandate," he used the word "DIRECT," while the rest are all "require." That was an almost omnibus amendment, Mr. President.

Senator Tatad: I am sorry, Mr. President, I had to step out of the Session Hall for a very urgent engagement. I did not realize that that amendment has been covered. If that is sufficiently taken care of, I withdraw the proposed amendment. Thank you very much.

Senator Webb: Yes, Mr. President.

The President: Any further individual amendments? Again, Senator Webb is recognized.

WEBB AMENDMENT

Senator Webb: Mr. President, just for consistency, because the "ten (10) metric tons" on page 2, line 23, was reduced to "TWO (2) metric tons" on line 24, that number 11, including the word "eleven" should be changed to the word THREE and number "3."

The President: Is there any objection? [Silence] There being none, the amendment proposed by Senator Webb is hereby approved.

MANIFESTATION OF SENATOR WEBB (Senator Macapagal as Coauthor of S. No. 1122)

Senator Webb: Mr. President, Senator Macapagal would like to be a coauthor of the bill. It is a great pleasure, on my part, to have her as a coauthor of this particular bill.

The President: Let it be so recorded.

Senator Macapagal: Mr. President.

The President: Senator Macapagal is recognized.

MACAPAGAL AMENDMENT

Senator Macapagal: Mr. President, I would like to propose an amendment to a Committee amendment. This is Section 4, paragraph (K), the definition of manufacturer.

Am I right that as it stands now, the definition of "Manufacturer" is "one who fortifies salt with iodine as prescribed by BFAD"? This may include producers, importers, traders and distributors.

Is that still the definition as it stands now, Mr. President?

Senator Webb: That is right, Mr. President. In fact, I think the Lady Senator is driving at a very good point; it has to be changed. May I hear the amendment.

Senator Macapagal: Mr. President, we can just define it as "ONE WHO PRODUCES, IMPORTS, TRADES IN OR DISTRIBUTES SALT."

Senator Webb: It is accepted, Mr. President.

The President: Is there any objection to the Macapagal amendment? [*Silence*] There being none, the same is approved.

Senator Macapagal: Thank you, Mr. President. That is all.

Senator Romulo: Mr. President, may I just make it clear that in the previous amendment on the "Subsistence producer," it says: "whose total salt production does not exceed two (2) metric tons of salt per year." Would that also apply to (g) which states: "Small producer - a producer/farmer whose total production ranges from two (2) tons to three hundred (300) metric tons per year"?

Senator Webb: That is right, Mr. President, not more than two tons.

APPROVAL OF S. NO. 1122 ON SECOND READING

Senator Romulo: Mr. President, I move that we vote on Senate Bill No. 1122, as amended, on Second Reading.

The President: We shall now vote on the bill, as amended, on Second Reading.

As many as are in favor of the bill, please say *Aye*. [*Several Senators: Aye*] As many as are against, please say *Nay*. [*Silence*]

Senate Bill No. 1122, as amended, is approved on Second Reading.

MANIFESTATION OF SENATOR WEBB (Senator Shahani as Coauthor of S. No. 1122)

Senator Webb: Mr. President, just an additional coauthor. Senator Shahani has just sent word that she would like to be a coauthor of this bill.

The President: Let that be entered into the record.

SUSPENSION OF THE SESSION

Senator Romulo: May I ask for a one-minute suspension of the session, Mr. President.

The President: The session is suspended for one minute, if there is no objection. [*There was none.*]

It was 12:03 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF THE SESSION

At 12:04 p.m., the session was resumed.

The President: The session is resumed.

BILL ON SECOND READING S. No. 1157—Amending the PCIC Charter

Senator Romulo: Mr. President, I move that we consider Senate Bill No. 1157 as reported out under Committee Report No. 3.

The President: Consideration of Senate Bill No. 1157 is now in order.

With the permission of the Body, the Secretary will read only the title of the bill without prejudice to inserting into the *Record* the whole text thereof.

The Acting Secretary [Atty. Raval]: Senate Bill No. 1157, entitled

AN ACT FURTHER AMENDING PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 1467, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE CHARTER OF THE PHILIPPINE CROP INSURANCE CORPORATION (PCIC), IN ORDER TO MAKE THE CROP INSURANCE SYSTEM MORE STABLE AND MORE BENEFICIAL TO THE FARMERS COVERED THEREBY AND FOR THE NATIONAL ECONOMY.

The following is the full text of Senate Bill No. 1157:

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

SECTION 1. *Title.*— This Act shall be known as the "Revised Charter of the Philippine Crop Insurance Corporation Act of 1995,"

RECORD OF THE SENATE

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 1995

OPENING OF THE SESSION

At 4:16 p.m., the Honorable Neptali A. Gonzales, President of the Senate, called the session to order.

The President: The 18th session of the Senate in the First Regular Session of the Tenth Congress is hereby called to order.

We shall rise and be led in prayer by Senator Vicente Sotto III.

Everybody rose for the opening prayer.

PRAYER

Senator Sotto:

God, our Father, in Thy heavenly throne
Look kindly upon the 68 million Filipinos of these
7,100 islands

We recognize You as the First and Ultimate Lawmaker.
All matters on earth obey the laws of Your physics.
And in Your respect for us Your creatures,
You have given us the free will to obey Your moral laws.
Yet we know we cannot improve on Your Ten
Commandments.

We implore You, these days, Divine Master of the universe,
Pacify the infernal fire beneath our volcanoes;
Weaken the rain and wind of regularly visiting typhoons;
Calm our seas, save our forests from ourselves.

But most of all, save our people —
Save the unborn from intervenors
Save the born from malnourishment
Save the children from pedophiles
Save the youth from drugs
Save the men from unemployment
Save the women from harassment,
from assault,
from inhospitable cultures far away,
from unfair and hostile judgments.
Save the elders from worry
Save Sarah Balabagan.

Save the Philippines.

Amen.

ROLL CALL

The President: The Secretary will now call the roll.

The Secretary:

Senator Heherson T. Alvarez Present
Senator Edgardo J. Angara Present
Senator Anna Dominique M.L. Coseteng .. Present
Senator Franklin M. Drilon Present
Senator Juan Ponce Enrile Present
Senator Marcelo B. Fernan Present
Senator Juan M. Flavier Present
Senator Ernesto F. Herrera Present
Senator Gregorio B. Honasan Present
Senator Gloria M. Macapagal Present
Senator Ernesto M. Maceda Present
Senator Ramon B. Magsaysay Jr. Present
Senator Orlando S. Mercado Present
Senator Blas F. Ople Present
Senator Sergio R. Osmeña III Present*
Senator Ramon B. Revilla Present*
Senator Raul S. Roco Present
Senator Alberto G. Romulo Present
Senator Miriam Defensor-Santiago Present*
Senator Leticia R. Shahani Present
Senator Vicente C. Sotto III Present
Senator Francisco S. Tatad **
Senator Freddie N. Webb Present*
The President Present

The President: With 19 Senators present, the Chair declares the presence of a quorum.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

THE JOURNAL

Senator Romulo: Mr. President, I move that we dispense with the reading of the *Journals* of the previous sessions—Nos. 16 and 17—and consider them as approved.

The President: Is there any objection? [*Silence*] The Chair hears none; the reading of the *Journals* of the previous sessions is dispensed with and the same are considered as approved.

The Secretary will now read the Order of Business.

REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

BILLS ON FIRST READING

The Secretary: Senate Bill No. 1194, entitled

* Arrived after the roll call

** On official mission

The President Pro Tempore: The session is resumed.

Senator Romulo: Madam President, may I ask that the distinguished Senator, Senator Macapagal, be recognized.

The President Pro Tempore: Senator Macapagal is recognized.

Senator Macapagal: Madam President, in as much as we had information last night that the bill had been referred to the Committee on Finance—however, the Committee on Finance has not heard the bill—in order to prevent any questions on the propriety of the parliamentary procedures, may I therefore take this opportunity to urge the Committee on Finance to hear the said bill. This does not in anyway suspend the consideration of the bill as it will be interpellated on tomorrow.

The President Pro Tempore: Thank you. The Majority Leader is recognized.

SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION OF S. NO. 1157

Senator Romulo: Madam President, as I have stated, there is a reservation to interpellate tomorrow. So, in the meantime, I move that we suspend consideration of Senate Bill No. 1157, the Philippine Crop Insurance Act, as amended, until tomorrow.

The President Pro Tempore: Is there any objection to the proposal that we suspend the consideration of the bill before us? [*Silence*] There being none, it is therefore so decided.

Senator Romulo: Madam President, before we resume consideration of the Salt Iodization bill, may I just ask the Secretary to read the Additional Reference of Business.

The President Pro Tempore: The Secretary please do so.

ADDITIONAL REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

COMMITTEE REPORT

The Secretary: Committee Report No. 8, submitted by the Committee on Constitutional Amendments, Revision of Codes and Laws on Senate Bill No. 599, introduced by Senator Mercado, entitled

AN ACT PROHIBITING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF POLITICAL DYNASTIES,

recommending its approval with amendments.

Sponsors: Senators Maceda and Mercado

The President Pro Tempore: To the Calendar for Ordinary Business.

SPECIAL ORDERS

Senator Romulo: I move, Madam President, that we transfer Senate Bill No. 599 under Committee Report No. 8 from the Calendar for Ordinary Business to the Calendar for Special Orders.

The President Pro Tempore: Is there any objection to the proposal of the Majority Leader? [*Silence*] There being none, Senate Bill No. 599 is transferred to the Calendar for Special Orders.

MOTION OF SENATOR ROMULO (Reconsideration of Approval on Second Reading of S. No. 1122)

Senator Romulo: Madam President, upon the request of some of our Colleagues, may I now ask that we reconsider the approval on Second Reading of Senate Bill No. 1122 which is the Salt Iodization Act.

The President Pro Tempore: Is there any objection to the proposal that we reconsider the approval on Second Reading of the Salt Iodization Act? [*Silence*] There being none, the motion is approved.

Senator Romulo: Madam President, I move that we reopen the period of individual amendments and ask that the Sponsor of the bill, the Chairman of the Committee on Health and Demography, Senator Webb, be recognized.

The President Pro Tempore: Is there any objection? [*Silence*] There being none, the Chairman of the Committee on Health and Demography, Senator Webb, is recognized.

Senator Romulo: For his individual amendment, I ask that Senator Mercado be recognized.

The President Pro Tempore: Senator Mercado is recognized.

MERCADO AMENDMENTS

Senator Mercado: Madam President, I like to start my individual amendments on page 1, lines 10 to 11, Section 3 under *Purposes*.

On line 10, insert the clause, "THE MAIN PURPOSE OF

THIS ACT IS TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE ELIMINATION OF." So, we delete the words "to combat" and put that clause before "micronutrient malnutrition". After the word "malnutrition," insert the phrase "IN THE COUNTRY, PARTICULARLY IODINE DEFICIENCY through THE COST EFFECTIVE MEASURE OF salt iodization." So that paragraph (a) would read as follows:

"THE MAIN PURPOSE OF THIS ACT IS TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE ELIMINATION OF micronutrient malnutrition IN THE COUNTRY, PARTICULARLY IODINE DEFICIENCY through THE COST EFFECTIVE MEASURE OF salt iodization."

The President Pro Tempore: What is the pleasure of Senator Webb?

Senator Webb: They are accepted, Madam President.

The President Pro Tempore: Is there any objection to the amendments proposed by Senator Mercado? [Silence] There being none, the amendments are approved.

Senator Mercado: Still on Section 3, Madam President. On page 2, insert a new paragraph to be known as letter "H" after letter "g" between lines 17 and 18, to read as follows:

H). TO ENSURE THE SUSTAINABILITY OF THE SALT IODIZATION PROGRAM.

Senator Webb: Madam President.

The President Pro Tempore: Senator Webb is recognized.

Senator Webb: This was an earlier provision in the original bill. If I remember correctly, Senator Enrile asked that this particular provision be deleted primarily because he thinks that the government should never be directly committed to the success or failure of the said salt iodization program.

This Representation accepted the said deletion, and if we are to put it back, I will have to ask Senator Enrile whether or not, at this time, he has changed his mind regarding the said provision.

The President Pro Tempore: Senator Enrile is recognized.

Senator Enrile: Thank you, Madam President. I have no special reason to object to the restoration of this paragraph. I only want to caution the Chamber.

My understanding of this paragraph is that the government would, in effect, subsidize this effort in the event that manufac-

turers would not continue with it because either they are not making money or they do not have enough market for such a product.

If the understanding of the Chamber is that this is not the case, and that this phrase or paragraph must be restored, I have no special objection.

Senator Mercado: Yes, Madam President. It is, in our mind, a mere statement of purpose. It does not tie the government in the manner that has produced apprehensions on the part of Senator Enrile.

Senator Enrile: I have no objection, Madam President.

The President Pro Tempore: May the Body know the pleasure of the Sponsor.

Senator Webb: I have no objection, Madam President.

The President Pro Tempore: There is no objection to this amendment on the part of the Sponsor. Is there any other objection from the Chamber? [Silence] There being none, the amendment is approved.

Senator Mercado: Madam President, on page 3, Section 4, letter (e), we move for the deletion of the word "human" and substitute the same with the phrase TABLE AND GENERAL HOUSEHOLD USE. Further, we add the phrase EXCLUDING THOSE USED FOR INDUSTRIAL PURPOSES after the word "consumption."

The whole letter (e) would now read as follows:

"e). Food-grade salt. - salt for TABLE AND GENERAL HOUSEHOLD USE and animal consumption EXCLUDING THOSE USED FOR INDUSTRIAL PURPOSES."

Senator Enrile: Madam President, may I ask just a few questions to clarify this.

The President Pro Tempore: Senator Enrile is recognized.

Senator Enrile: Madam President, the producers of *bago-ong* and *patis* use salt, and this is ingested by human beings. Are we not going to require iodized salt for this purpose?

Senator Mercado: Madam President, we believe that the same would fall under the general household use.

Senator Enrile: Table salt, as I understand it, is used in

restaurants and in the homes where one uses a small dispenser for it to season the food. But in the case of households using salt to make *diningding*, *pinapaitan* or *nilaga*, would this not require iodized salt? If we do not use iodized salt for this purpose, then the purpose of the bill would be defeated.

Senator Mercado: Madam President, I think we would be able to solve this problem.

Senator Enrile: If I may interrupt. That was the reason this Representation made a generalized statement that as long as it is for human consumption—whether it is used while one is eating on his table or putting it as an additive to something, like *bagoong*, *tapa*, *tinapa*, or anything, then we must use iodized salt in order to preserve the very purpose and essence of this bill because it is ingested by a human being or by an animal.

Senator Mercado: Madam President, this Representation is in agreement with the points raised by Senator Enrile. Therefore, I think the retention of the phrase “salt for human and animal consumption” would be the better way of stating it, but the phrase “excluding those for industrial purposes” should be added.

Senator Enrile: The reason I precisely put this into the *Record*, Mr. President, is when I suggested that another definition of “industrial salt” should be made. But evidently that was not done. Because when we say “excluding industrial salt,” it is as if industrial salt could also be used as a table salt.

I think we should establish a clear distinction between a table salt or food-grade salt which is taken in or ingested by a human being as against a salt that is used, for instance, in making chlorine, in bleaching textiles, in making ice cream, or anything of the sort. The people who are making domestic ice cream use salt and add it to the ice. These are not ingested but they are used. There are many cases where we use industrial salt for industrial purposes, mostly in chemical plants.

And so, I suggested that in these cases, we should not even imply that there is a parity or a relationship between food-grade salt and industrial salt. That was the reason I suggested that there ought to be a separate definition of industrial salt.

Senator Webb: Madam President, may I just interject.

The President Pro Tempore: Senator Webb is recognized.

Senator Webb: If the good Gentleman would look at page 2, line 1 of the bill, we decided to put primarily commercial manufacturers different from that of industrial. That is why if the Gentleman would read page 2, lines 1 to 2, under Section 3,

it says: “To require all commercial manufacturers.” It means that, it is only the commercial manufacturers who are required to iodize their salt. So there was no reason to identify industrial salt. Meaning, if it is industrial, then one does not need to iodize the salt. But, if one is a commercial manufacturer of food-grade salt, then he must have to iodize the salt that he produces, manufactures, imports, trades or distributes.

Senator Enrile: Any salt used in any article that is going to be ingested or taken in by a human being must be considered as a food-grade salt, and therefore, is within the purview of this bill. So, this definition alone will already exclude by implication industrial salt.

Senator Mercado: Madam President, this Representation believes that in letter (e) on Food-grade salt, which is defined as salt intended for human and animal consumption it would be a better phrase to retain. At the same time, we could offer a definition of the term “industrial salt” afterwards.

Senator Enrile: Maybe, Madam President, if I may suggest, to cut short the work here—I can understand the purpose of the distinguished author of this bill—we can add here in parentheses () the phrase AS DISTINGUISHED FROM INDUSTRIAL SALT.

Senator Mercado: We accept the amendment to the amendment, Madam President.

Senator Enrile: “Food-grade salt—Salt for human and animal consumption (AS DISTINGUISHED FROM INDUSTRIAL SALT).”

The President Pro Tempore: Is the amendment, as amended acceptable to the Sponsor, Senator Webb?

Senator Webb: It is accepted, Madam President.

The President Pro Tempore: May we ask Senator Mercado to read again Subsection (e), as it is now approved?

Senator Mercado: Subsection (e) would read: “Food-grade salt—Salt for human and animal consumption (AS DISTINGUISHED FROM INDUSTRIAL SALT).”

The President Pro Tempore: Is there any objection to this amendment, as amended? [*Silence*] There being none, it is so decided.

Senator Mercado: I would like to proceed, Madam President, to page 5, Section 5, line 21. We are moving for the insertion of a new provision before line 21, after paragraph (b),

paragraph (c), the provision would read, ALL FOOD-GRADE SALT SHALL BE LABELED IN A MANNER THAT IS TRUE AND ACCURATE, NOT LIKELY TO MISLEAD AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE REQUIREMENTS PRESCRIBED BY THE BUREAU OF FOOD AND DRUGS.

Senator Webb: May I hear the amendment again, Madam President.

The President Pro Tempore: May that be read at dictation speed, please?

SUSPENSION OF THE SESSION

Senator Mercado: May I ask for a one-minute suspension of the session, Madam President.

The President Pro Tempore: The session is suspended, if there is no objection. [There was none.]

It was 6:53 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF THE SESSION

At 6:54 p.m., the session was resumed.

The President Pro Tempore: The session is resumed.

Senator Mercado: The amendment, Madam President, is actually on page 5, after line 4, letter (f), ALL FOOD-GRADE SALT SHALL BE LABELED IN A MANNER THAT IS TRUE AND ACCURATE, AND NOT LIKELY TO MISLEAD AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE REQUIREMENTS PRESCRIBED BY THE BUREAU OF FOOD AND DRUGS.

Senator Macapagal: Madam President.

The President Pro Tempore: Senator Macapagal is recognized.

Senator Macapagal: May I ask for a roll call.

ROLL CALL

The President Pro Tempore: The Secretary is requested to call the roll.

The Secretary:

- Senator Edgardo J. Angara
Senator Heherson T. Alvarez Present
Senator Anna Dominique Coseteng
Senator Franklin M. Drilon

- Senator Juan Ponce Enrile Present
Senator Marcelo B. Fernan
Senator Juan M. Flavier Present
Senator Ernesto F. Herrera
Senator Gregorio B. Honasan Present
Senator Gloria M. Macapagal Present
Senator Ernesto M. Maceda
Senator Ramon B. Magsaysay Jr. Present
Senator Orlando S. Mercado Present
Senator Blas F. Ople
Senator Sergio R. Osmeña III Present
Senator Ramon B. Revilla
Senator Raul S. Roco
Senator Alberto G. Romulo Present
Senator Miriam Defensor-Santiago
Senator Leticia R. Shahani Present
Senator Vicente C. Sotto III
Senator Francisco S. Tatad
Senator Freddie N. Webb Present
The President

Senator Alvarez: Madam President, may I know how my presence has been recorded?

The Secretary: Senator Alvarez is present.

Senator Mercado: Madam President, may I inquire as to how my presence has been recorded? I would like to make this inquiry because, earlier, when the other measure sponsored by Senator Alvarez was being discussed, which measure is principally authored by Senator Macapagal, as a courtesy, I did not raise a question of quorum. I would like to inquire now if my presence has been recorded.

The President Pro Tempore: The Chair would like to ask for a little more time just to make sure if the other Senators are still in the vicinity of the Session Hall and if they have been called in. I understand that Senator Osmeña is in the vicinity so we are trying to locate him.

ADJOURNMENT OF THE SESSION

The President Pro Tempore: Eleven Senators have responded to the roll call, thereby having no quorum for the proceedings of this evening's session.

In accordance with Rule 35, Section 98, of the Rules of the Senate, because there is no quorum, the session is adjourned, if there is no objection. [There was none.]

It was 7:03 p.m.

RECORD OF THE SENATE

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 1995

OPENING OF THE SESSION

At 3:43 p.m., the President of the Senate, Hon. Neptali A. Gonzales, called the session to order.

The President. The 19th session of the Senate in the First Regular Session of the Tenth Congress is hereby called to order.

We shall be led in prayer by Sen. Leticia R. Shahani.

Everybody rose for the opening prayer.

PRAYER

Senator Shahani.

Our most heavenly Father,

Our thoughts today are with a 16-year-old Filipina, our own sister Sarah Balabagan, who has received the death verdict by the UAE Shari'a Court.

We ask for Thy divine intercession so that the sentence which violates the fundamental rights of a minor migrant worker woman can be tempered with justice and mercy.

We implore Thee to give Sarah and her loved ones courage and dignity to withstand the buffets of this tragedy.

We beseech Thee, dear Lord, to touch the hearts and minds of the authorities of the United Arab Emirates, a country with whom we enjoy diplomatic relations, so that they may see why this young life should be spared and nurtured.

We implore Thee to give our own authorities the firmness of resolve and the delicacy of touch to negotiate a problem which touches the heart of the fundamental rights of individuals as well as the sovereignty of nations.

Before Thee, Lord, we are the same—employer and housemaid, Arab and Filipino, male and female. Let all concerned in this case who, after all are Your children, do what is right and just and what is pleasing in Your sight.

All these we ask in Jesus' name:

Amen.

ROLL CALL

The President. The Secretary will please call the roll.

The Secretary.

Senator Heherson T. Alvarez Present*
Senator Edgardo J. Angara Present*
Senator Anna Dominique M.L. Coseteng.. Present
Senator Franklin M. Drilon Present
Senator Juan Ponce Enrile Present
Senator Marcelo B. Fernan ***
Senator Juan M. Flavier Present
Senator Ernesto F. Herrera Present*
Senator Gregorio B. Honasan Present
Senator Gloria M. Macapagal Present*
Senator Ernesto M. Maceda Present
Senator Ramon B. Magsaysay Jr. Present
Senator Orlando S. Mercado Present
Senator Blas F. Ople Present*
Senator Sergio R. Osmeña III Present
Senator Ramon B. Revilla Present
Senator Raul S. Roco Present
Senator Alberto G. Romulo Present
Senator Miriam Defensor-Santiago Present*
Senator Leticia R. Shahani Present
Senator Vicente C. Sotto III Present
Senator Francisco S. Tatad **
Senator Freddie N. Webb Present*
The President Present

The President. With 15 Senators present, the Chair declares the existence of a quorum.

THE JOURNAL

Senator Romulo. Mr. President, I move that we dispense with the reading of the *Journal* of the previous session and consider the same as approved.

The President. Is there any objection? [*Silence*] The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.

OFFICIAL VISIT OF PARLIAMENTARIANS
FROM CAMBODIA, CHINA, FIJI, MONGOLIA, NEPAL,
PAKISTAN AND OTHER COUNTRIES;
PROF. BACH OF US CONGRESS LIBRARY AND
DR. FARUQUI OF MALAYSIA

Senator Romulo. Mr. President, before we proceed to the Reference of Business, we have with us distinguished visitors who are the participants to the ongoing Asia-Pacific Program in

* Arrived after the roll call

** On official mission

*** On official mission but arrived after the roll call

Senator Mercado. Yes, Madam President.

Senator Webb. If that is the case, Madam President, then I am in agreement and I accept the amendment.

The President Pro Tempore. The Sponsor accepts the amendment as proposed by Senator Mercado. Are there any objections? [*Silence*] There being none, Section 8, as amended, proved.

**MOTION OF SENATOR MERCADO
(Senators Flavier and Herrera
as Coauthors of S. No. 1122)**

Senator Mercado. That is all, Madam President, as regards my individual amendments to this measure.

I would like to thank the Sponsor of the measure. I would also like to move that Senators Flavier and Herrera be included as coauthors of this measure.

The President Pro Tempore. Senators Herrera and Flavier are coauthors of this measure. The Chair thanks Senator Mercado.

Senator Webb. Madam President.

The President Pro Tempore. Senator Webb is recognized.

Senator Webb. Madam President, for purposes of consistency as far as the bill is concerned. After it has been amended, I notice that we have to amend certain portions of the bill and this is now being made by this Representation. Since the period of individual amendments has been opened, may I propose certain amendments, Madam President.

The President Pro Tempore. Please do so.

WEBB AMENDMENTS

Senator Webb. In Section 3, paragraph (b), line 1 of page 2, delete the word "commercial" between the words "all" and "manufacturers". This proposal requires all manufacturers of salt to iodize their product whether they be commercial or noncommercial.

The President Pro Tempore. Is there any objection to this amendment? [*Silence*] There being none, the same is approved.

Senator Webb. As previously requested by Senator Enrile, may I add in Section 4, as far as the Definition of Terms is concerned, a new letter (f) which is as follows:

(f) INDUSTRIAL SALT. SALT USED IN THE TREATMENT, PROCESSING AND MANUFACTURE OF NONFOOD COMMERCIAL PRODUCTS.

Madam President, the succeeding letters shall be changed accordingly.

The President Pro Tempore. May the Chair know where this would come in?

Senator Webb. There is a new provision, Madam President. We will add a new letter (f) as far as the Definition of Terms is concerned and that is the amendment.

The President Pro Tempore. Is there any objection to this amendment? [*Silence*] There being none, the same is approved.

Senator Webb. May I also propose an omnibus amendment, Madam President, to replace the word "mandate" with the word REQUIRE, to be consistent again with the earlier amendment of Senator Enrile.

The President Pro Tempore. Is there any objection to this amendment? [*Silence*] There being none, the same is approved.

Senator Webb. In Section 4, paragraph (g), line 13 of page 3, replace the phrase "ranges from three (3) to" with the phrase IS OVER TWO (2) BUT DOES NOT EXCEED. The paragraph will read as follows: "(g) Small Producers - a producer/farmer whose total salt production IS OVER TWO (2) BUT DOES NOT EXCEED three hundred (300) metric tons per year."

The President Pro Tempore. Is there any objection to this amendment? [*Silence*] There being none, the same is approved.

Senator Webb. In the same section, paragraph (h), line 15 of page 3, replace the phrase "ranges from three hundred-one (301) to" with the phrase IS MORE THAN THREE HUNDRED (300) BUT DOES NOT EXCEED. The paragraph again shall read as follows: "(h) Medium producer - a producer/farmer whose total salt production IS MORE THAN THREE HUNDRED (300) BUT DOES NOT EXCEED two thousand (2000) metric tons per year."

The President Pro Tempore. Is there any objection to this amendment? [*Silence*] There being none, the same is approved.

Senator Webb. To be consistent again with the amendment, this time of Senator Sotto in paragraph (d) of Section 3, page 2, lines 7 to 10, may I amend Section 5, paragraph (c), page 4, lines 14 to 18, to read as follows: "All food outlets, restaurants

and stores are hereby REQUIRED to make available to customers only iodized salt in their retail establishments UPON THE EFFECTIVITY OF THIS ACT. These establishments shall be monitored with the help of the local government units through THEIR HEALTH OFFICERS OR IN THEIR ABSENCE, THE SANITARY INSPECTOR TO MONITOR/CHECK THE QUALITY OF FOOD-GRADE SALT BEING SOLD OR SERVED IN SUCH ESTABLISHMENTS.”

The President Pro Tempore. Is there any objection to this amendment? [*Silence*] There being none, the same is approved.

Senator Webb. May I also move that we transfer the last paragraph of Section 7, page 6, lines 5 to 7 to Section 5, where it becomes the new letter (f). I think it is more appropriate to place this particular provision in the Applicability and Exemptions section rather than in the Information and Education Campaign section.

The President Pro Tempore. Is there any objection to this amendment? [*Silence*] There being none, the same is approved.

Senator Webb. The last amendment, Madam President, is on Section 5, paragraph (e), line 1 of page 5. Delete the phrase “participating in salt iodization program”, so that we allow further participation of subsistence producers and all others not yet participating in this program.

The President Pro Tempore. Is there any objection to this amendment? [*Silence*] There being none, the same is approved.

SUSPENSION OF THE SESSION

Senator Romulo. May I ask for a short suspension of the session, Madam President.

The President Pro Tempore. The session is suspended for one minute, if there is no objection. [*There was none.*]

It was 4:40 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF THE SESSION

At 4:44 p.m., the session was resumed.

The President Pro Tempore. The session is resumed.

ROMULO AMENDMENT

Senator Romulo. Madam President, with the permission of the Sponsor, may I propose an individual amendment, subject to style. On page 4, between lines 13 and 14, add another

subsection (D), to read as follows:

IN AREAS ENDEMIC TO IODINE DEFICIENCY DISORDERS, IODIZED SALT SHALL BE MADE AVAILABLE. LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AT THE PROVINCIAL AND MUNICIPAL LEVELS SHOULD PROVIDE MECHANISMS TO ENSURE ENFORCEMENT OF THIS PROVISION THROUGH ORDINANCES AND PUBLIC INFORMATION CAMPAIGNS.

The President Pro Tempore. May I know the pleasure of the Sponsor?

Senator Webb. It is not only a good amendment, Madam President, but when it comes from the Majority Leader, who am I to say no?

Senator Romulo. Thank you, Madam President.

The President Pro Tempore. The Sponsor has accepted the amendment of the Majority Leader. Is there any objection? [*Silence*] There being none, the amendment is hereby approved.

Senator Romulo. Madam President, since there are no further individual amendments, may I move that we now close the period of individual amendments.

The President Pro Tempore. Is there any objection? [*Silence*] There being none, the period of individual amendments is hereby closed.

SUSPENSION OF THE SESSION

Senator Romulo. Madam President, we are now ready to vote on the bill on Second Reading. However, may I ask for a short suspension of the session.

The President Pro Tempore. The session is suspended, if there is no objection. [*There was none.*]

It was 4:46 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF THE SESSION

At 4:47 p.m., the session was resumed.

The President Pro Tempore. The session is resumed.

APPROVAL OF S. NO. 1122 ON SECOND READING

Senator Romulo. Madam President, I move that we now vote on Senate Bill No. 1122, as amended, on Second Reading.

RESOLUTIONS

The Acting Secretary [Atty. Raval]. Proposed Senate Resolution No. 142, entitled

RESOLUTION URGING THE COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE DAMAGE WROUGHT BY MINE-RELATED DISASTERS ON THE ENVIRONMENT IN THE COUNTRY AND TO RECOMMEND COMPREHENSIVE PREVENTION AND MITIGATION MEASURES

Introduced by Senator Alvarez.

The President Pro Tempore. Referred to the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources.

The Acting Secretary [Atty. Raval]. Proposed Senate Resolution No. 143, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC INFORMATION AND MASS MEDIA AND THE COMMITTEE ON MOTION PICTURE AND TELEVISION JOINTLY TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY INTO THE COMPLAINT OF THE RADIO PHILIPPINES NETWORK EMPLOYEES UNION AGAINST THE ALLEGED MISMANAGEMENT OF THE RPN NETWORK BY ITS INCUMBENT PRESIDENT AND GENERAL MANAGER WHICH HAD RESULTED TO REVENUE LOSSES AND GROSS DEMORALIZATION AMONG THE RANK AND FILE OF THE SAID TV NETWORK WITH THE END IN VIEW OF RECOMMENDING REMEDIAL AND/OR NEW LEGISLATIVE MEASURES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Maceda.

The President Pro Tempore. Referred to the Committees on Public Information and Mass Media; and Motion Picture and Television.

The Acting Secretary [Atty. Raval]. Proposed Senate Resolution No. 144, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL DEFENSE AND SECURITY TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE COMPLAINT OF SOME MEMBERS OF THE PHILIPPINE NAVY

GOLF CLUB AGAINST THE PHILIPPINE NAVY GOLF COUNCIL (PNGC) IN REGARD TO THE ALLEGED ANOMALOUS REFUSAL OF ITS CHAIRMAN TO SUBMIT THE GOLF CLUB'S FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FROM 1990 TO THE PRESENT RAISING DOUBTS AS TO HOW THE P300 MILLION ESTIMATED REVENUE FOR THE LAST FIVE (5) YEARS WAS SPENT, WITH THE END IN VIEW OF RECOMMENDING REMEDIAL AND/OR NEW LEGISLATIVE MEASURES AND FOR OTHER LEGISLATIVE PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Maceda.

The President Pro Tempore. Referred to the Committee on National Defense and Security.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

Senator Romulo. Madam President, in the Calendar for Special Orders today, we have Senate Bill No. 1122 as reported out under Committee Report No. 2, the Salt Iodization Act. We are in the period of individual amendments.

We also have Senate Bill No. 1157 as reported out under Committee Report No. 3, the amendment to the Philippine Crop Insurance Law. We are still in the period of interpellations.

Also in the Special Orders is Senate Bill No. 599 as reported out under Committee Report No. 8, the Anti-Political Dynasty bill for sponsorship.

SUSPENSION OF THE SESSION

Before we consider any of these bills, Madam President, may I ask for a one-minute suspension of the session.

The President Pro Tempore. The session is suspended for one minute, if there is no objection. [*There was none.*]

It was 3:59 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF THE SESSION

At 4:01 p.m., the session was resumed.

The President Pro Tempore. The session is resumed. The Majority Leader is recognized.

BILL ON SECOND READING

S. No. 599—Prohibiting the Establishment of Political Dynasty

Senator Romulo. Madam President, I move that we

supportive relationships and other key elements which together ensure electoral victory.

With this kind of political environment, it is unthinkable for any ordinary Filipino to even attempt to file his certificate of candidacy especially if he or she does not have the wherewithal to survive the travails of a person seeking public office, which include the risk of being declared a nuisance candidate.

Madam President, with this proposed measure, we hope to break the concentration of power across generations and attempt to level the political playing field. Tradition is no argument for retaining a social order that has effectively deprived many competent Filipinos from being elected to public office. Moreover, this bill only seeks to give life to a constitutional mandate adverted to by Senator Maceda that enjoins the State not only to put an end to political dynasties but also "to enact measures that reduce social, economic, political inequalities and remove cultural inequities by equitably diffusing wealth and political power for the common good."

It is for these reasons, Madam President, that we seek the approval of this measure.

Thank you.

The President Pro Tempore. I thank Senator Mercado for his statement.

Senator Romulo. Madam President.

The President Pro Tempore. The Majority Leader is recognized.

SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION OF S. NO. 599

Senator Romulo. Madam President, in the meantime, I move that we suspend consideration of Senate Bill No. 599.

The President Pro Tempore. Is there any objection? [Silence] There being none, the motion is approved.

BILL ON SECOND READING

S. No. 1122—Promoting National Salt Iodization
(Continuation)

Senator Romulo. Madam President, I move that we now resume consideration of Senate Bill No. 1122, as reported out under Committee Report No. 2.

The President Pro Tempore. Resumption of consideration of Senate Bill No. 1122 is now in order.

Senator Romulo. We are in the period of individual amendments. In fact, Madam President, last night, Senator Mercado was in the midst of proposing his individual amendments. So may I again ask that the Sponsor of the bill and the Chairman of the Committee on Health and Demography, Senator Webb be recognized, with Senator Mercado to continue his individual amendments.

The President Pro Tempore. Senators Mercado and Webb are recognized.

SUSPENSION OF THE SESSION

Senator Mercado. Madam President, may I ask for a one-minute suspension of the session.

The President Pro Tempore. The session is suspended for one minute, if there is no objection. [There was none.]

It was 4:17 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF THE SESSION

At 4:18 p.m., the session was resumed.

The President Pro Tempore. The session is resumed. Senator Mercado is recognized.

MERCADO AMENDMENTS

Senator Mercado. Madam President, last night we were on page 5, Section 5. Between lines 4 and 5, I move that we insert a new provision to be indicated as paragraph "(F)" which shall read as follows:

ALL FOOD-GRADE SALT SHALL BE LABELLED IN A MANNER THAT IS TRUE AND ACCURATE, NOT LIKELY TO MISLEAD PURCHASERS AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE REQUIREMENTS PRESCRIBED BY THE BUREAU OF FOOD AND DRUGS.

The President Pro Tempore. May we know the pleasure of the Sponsor.

Senator Webb. It is accepted, Madam President.

The President Pro Tempore. Are there any objections to this amendment which has been accepted by the Sponsor? [Silence] There being none, the same is hereby approved.

Senator Mercado. On page 6, Madam President, Section 7, line 1, I move that we insert the phrase THE PROVINCIAL

SCIENCE CENTERS between the words "Agency" and "and". Thus, the new provision shall read as follows: "Philippine Information Agency, THE PROVINCIAL SCIENCE CENTERS and the Department of Education, Culture and Sports".

Senator Webb. It is accepted, Madam President.

The President Pro Tempore. Are there any objections to this amendment which has been accepted by the Sponsor? [*Silence*] There being none, the same is approved.

Senator Mercado. In Section 7, line 6 of page 6, I move that we delete the phrase "as much" between the words "provide" and "free". Further on the same line, delete the phrase "as its budget may allow" between the words "salt" and "to indigents".

Senator Webb. May we hear the complete sentence, as amended, Madam President.

Senator Mercado. I will continue, Madam President, so that the whole paragraph will be amended.

In the same Section, line 7, we delete the phrase "with priorities to" between the words "indigents" and "sixth" and substitute with the phrase RESIDING IN. Still on that line, add the phrase AS MAY BE ALLOWED BY THEIR ANNUAL APPROPRIATION after the word "municipalities".

So the last paragraph of Section 7 would thus read as follows:

For a period of three (3) years from the effectivity of this Act, the DOH shall provide free iodized salt TO indigents RESIDING IN sixth class cities and municipalities AS MAY BE ALLOWED BY THEIR ANNUAL APPROPRIATION.

Senator Webb. May I make an amendment to the amendment, Madam President?

The President Pro Tempore. Yes, Senator Webb is recognized.

WEBB-MERCADO AMENDMENT

Senator Webb. It has been clearly stated here, although mistakenly inserted and placed because there is no such thing as "sixth class cities". That is why in the period of amendments, I was going to amend the word "cities" and leave the word "municipalities". I am amending it by deleting the word "cities".

Senator Mercado. We accept the amendment to the amendment, Madam President.

Senator Webb. I also accept the amendment, Madam President.

The President Pro Tempore. May we now have a reading of the new paragraph as amended by Senator Webb and Senator Mercado.

SUSPENSION OF THE SESSION

Senator Mercado. May I ask for a suspension of the session, Madam President.

The President Pro Tempore. The session is suspended, if there is no objection. [*There was none.*]

It was 4:24 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF THE SESSION

At 4:25 p.m., the session was resumed.

The President Pro Tempore. The session is resumed.

Senator Mercado. Madam President, as amended, the amendment would read:

For a period of three (3) years from the effectivity of this Act, the DOH shall provide free iodized salt TO indigents RESIDING IN sixth class municipalities AS MAY BE ALLOWED BY THEIR ANNUAL APPROPRIATION.

The President Pro Tempore. Is this amendment accepted by the Sponsor?

Senator Webb. The amendment is accepted, Mr. President.

The President Pro Tempore. Are there any objections to this amendment as accepted by the Sponsor? [*Silence*] There being none, the amendment is approved.

Senator Mercado. We would like to move on, Madam President. On page 6, Section 8, line 9, I move that we substitute the phrase "which is" between the words "Council" and "presently" with the word AS. I would like to continue so that we could see how the entire paragraph would read.

Still on the same section, lines 9 to 10, I move that we delete

the phrase "of the Secretaries or the duly authorized representatives of the DOH, DTI, DOST, DA and" and replace the same with the words INCLUDING THE MEDICAL PROFESSION, AND.

On the same section, line 12, we delete the phrase "serve as" between the words "shall" and "the" and substitute it with the word CONSTITUTE.

Still in line 12, page 6, substitute the word "function" between the words "and" and "as" with the word SERVE.

In line 14, substitute the phrase "the monitoring and evaluation of" with the new phrase THE EFFORTS OF ALL AGENCIES CONCERNED AND MONITOR.

In lines 15 to 16, substitute the phrase "program and shall periodically submit a report to the implementing agency" with the phrase PROVISIONS OF THIS ACT.

So the amended Section 8 would read as follows:

Section 8. *The Salt Iodization Advisory Board.* - The National Nutrition Council AS presently constituted INCLUDING A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE MEDICAL PROFESSION AND the salt industry, shall CONSTITUTE the Salt Iodization Board and SERVE as the overall coordinating body on salt iodization programs and activities. It shall coordinate the EFFORTS OF ALL AGENCIES CONCERNED AND MONITOR the implementation of the PROVISIONS OF THIS ACT.

That is the amendment, Madam President.

The President Pro Tempore. Thank you. May we know the pleasure of the Sponsor?

Senator Webb. May I know the reason of the Gentleman why he has taken out the composition of the Secretaries of the different departments—the Department of Health, Department of Trade and Industry, Department of Science and Technology, and the Department of Agriculture—and replace them with the said provision that he has stated?

Senator Mercado. I have been informed, Madam President, that the representatives of the National Nutrition Council change. And as such, when we enumerate those who would be members, we may be inconsistent with how the National Nutrition Council is constituted. So it would be safer if we just mention the same and delete the enumeration of representatives of the Department of Health, Department of Trade and Industry,

Department of Science and Technology, et cetera, and just mention the Council and include this time a representative from the medical profession and the salt industry to constitute the Salt Iodization Board.

It is merely adapting to the vagaries and the changes that may happen in the National Nutrition Council. It is an adjustment to the bureaucratic structure that we have.

Senator Webb. I just want to make sure for clarity, Madam President. We have no representative as far as the NGO is concerned in the distinguished Gentleman's amendment.

Senator Mercado. The NGO, the private sector, will be represented by doctors and a representative of the salt industry. What will happen here is, their representation would be more purposive and they would be able to contribute better to the body that monitors the implementation of this Act.

Senator Webb. Did the distinguished Gentleman also leave out the representative of the salt industry? I did not hear the representative of the salt industry being part of the National Nutrition Council.

Senator Mercado. The representative of the salt industry has not been deleted in the proposed amendment, Madam President. The salt industry and the medical profession will be represented. The National Nutrition Council, of course, will also be represented without the enumeration of who will constitute the Council because, as I have mentioned earlier, the composition of the Council changes.

Senator Webb. Just for the record, Madam President, I want to make sure that if there is a break away, then we have reasonable grounds to do this. May I know from the Gentleman the composition of the National Nutrition Council right now so we can vis-a-vis direct our discussion to each and every member compared to that of what we are amending right now?

Senator Mercado. The National Nutrition Council is presently being represented by 13 agencies. Among these agencies are the Department of Agriculture, Department of Health, Department of Science and Technology, Department of Trade and Industry, Department of Labor and Employment, Department of Education, Culture and Sports, Department of Budget and Management, Department of Interior and Local Governments, the NEDA and three representatives of nongovernmental organizations which change every three years.

Senator Webb. In short, Madam President, is it my understanding that the composition will be the same except for the fact that we have added two new members?

RECORD OF THE SENATE

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 1995

OPENING OF THE SESSION

At 4:14 p.m., the President of the Senate, Hon. Neptali A. Gonzales, called the session to order.

The President. The 20th session of the Senate in the First Regular Session of the Tenth Congress of the Philippines is hereby called to order.

Shall we rise and be led in prayer by Sen. Miriam D. Santiago. After which, we shall be led in the singing of the Philippine National Anthem and another song, entitled *Mahal Kong Bayan*, by the choral group of the Philippine Women's University.

Everybody rose for the opening prayer.

PRAYER

Senator Santiago.

Prayer to Achieve Inner Peace

Slow me down, Lord.
Ease the pounding of my heart
by the quieting of my mind.
Steady my hurried pace
with a vision of the eternal reach of time.
Give me, amid the confusion of the day,
the calmness of the everlasting hills.
Break the tensions of my nerves and muscles
with the soothing music of the singing streams
that live in my memory.

Help me to know
the magical, restoring power of sleep.
Teach me the art of taking minute vacations—
of slowing down to look at a flower,
to chat with a friend,
to pat a dog,
to read a few lines from a good book.

Remind me each day of the fable
of the hare and the tortoise,
that I may know
that the race is not always to the swift—
that there is more to life
than increasing its speed.
Let me look upward

into the branches of the towering oak
and know that it grew great and strong
because it grew slowly and well.
Slow me down, Lord,
and inspire me to send my roots deep
into the soil of life's enduring values
that I may grow toward the stars
of my greater destiny.

THE NATIONAL ANTHEM

Everybody remained standing for the singing of the national anthem and the song "Mahal Kong Bayan."

SUSPENSION OF THE SESSION

Senator Romulo. Mr. President, may I ask for a one-minute suspension of the session.

The President. The session is suspended for one minute, if there is no objection. [*There was none.*]

It was 4:21 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF THE SESSION

At 4:22 p.m., the session was resumed.

The President. The session is resumed. The Secretary will now call the roll.

ROLLCALL

The Secretary.

Senator Heherson T. Alvarez	Present
Senator Edgardo J. Angara	Present
Senator Anna Dominique M. L. Coseteng	Present
Senator Franklin M. Drilon	Present
Senator Juan Ponce Enrile	Present
Senator Marcelo B. Fernan	Present
Senator Juan M. Flavier	Present
Senator Ernesto F. Herrera	Present*
Senator Gregorio B. Honasan	Present
Senator Gloria M. Macapagal	Present*
Senator Ernesto M. Maceda	Present
Senator Ramon B. Magsaysay Jr.	Present
Senator Orlando S. Mercado	Present
Senator Blas F. Ople	Present

* Arrived after the roll call

The President. Referred to the Committees on Education, Arts and Culture; and Finance.

The Secretary. Senate Bill No. 1207, entitled

AN ACT TO PROMOTE AND DEVELOP THE PHILIPPINE MANGO INDUSTRY, CREATING FOR THIS PURPOSE THE PHILIPPINE MANGO INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT BOARD, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Shahani.

The President. Referred to the Committees on Agriculture and Food; Trade and Commerce; and Finance.

The Secretary. Senate Bill No. 1208, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING CERTAIN SECTIONS OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6728, KNOWN AS THE GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE TO STUDENTS AND TEACHERS IN PRIVATE EDUCATION ACT

Introduced by Senator Shahani.

The President. Referred to the Committee on Education, Arts and Culture.

The Secretary. Senate Bill No. 1209, entitled

AN ACT PROHIBITING THE NAMING OF DESTRUCTIVE FORCES OF NATURE OR UNDERTAKINGS WITH DESTRUCTIVE POTENTIALS AFTER FEMININE NAMES

Introduced by Senator Herrera.

The President. Referred to the Committees on Women and Family Relations; and Education, Arts and Culture.

RESOLUTION

The Secretary. Proposed Senate Resolution No. 147, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD TO LOOK INTO THE REPORTED DWINDLING NUMBER OF BREEDING CATTLE IN THE COUNTRY, AND

THE PROBABLE SHORTAGE OF BEEF AND DAIRY MILK AS A RESULT THEREOF

Introduced by Senator Shahani.

The President. Referred to the Committee on Agriculture and Food.

COMMUNICATION

The Secretary. Letter from Secretary Francisco L. Viray of the Department of Energy submitting to the Senate a copy of the Executive Summary of the Philippine Energy Plan covering the period 1996-2025 in lieu of the updated annual Philippine Energy Plan.

The President. Referred to the Committee on Energy.

Senator Romulo. Mr. President.

The President. The Majority Leader is recognized.

SUSPENSION OF THE SESSION

Senator Romulo. Before we approve Senate Bill No. 1122, the Salt Iodization Bill, on Third Reading, may I ask for a one-minute suspension of the session to greet our Minority Leader, Senator Angara, on the occasion of his birthday.

The President. The session is suspended, if there is no objection. [*There was none.*]

It was 4:32 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF THE SESSION

At 4:33 p.m., the session was resumed.

The President. The session is resumed.

BILL ON THIRD READING
S. No. 1122—Salt Iodization Bill

Senator Romulo. Mr. President, I move that we vote on Third Reading on Senate Bill No. 1122. Printed copies of the bill were distributed to all the Members of the Senate last Thursday, September 21, 1995.

The President. Voting on Third Reading on Senate Bill No. 1122 is now in order. The Secretary will please read only the title of the bill, if there is no objection. [*There was none.*]

The Acting Secretary [Atty. Raval]. Senate Bill No. 1122, entitled

AN ACT PROMOTING NATIONAL SALT IODIZATION AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES

The President. The Senate will now proceed to vote on the bill. The Secretary will please call the roll.

The Acting Secretary called the roll and the result of the voting was as follows:

YES - 21

- | | |
|-------------------|----------------------|
| Senator Alvarez | Senator Ople |
| Senator Angara * | Senator Osmeña |
| Senator Coseteng* | Senator Revilla |
| Senator Drilon | Senator Roco |
| Senator Enrile | Senator Romulo |
| Senator Flavier | Senator Santiago |
| Senator Herrera | Senator Shahani |
| Senator Honasan | Senator Sotto |
| Senator Maceda | Senator Tatad* |
| Senator Magsaysay | The Senate President |
| Senator Mercado | |

NO - 0

ABSTENTION - 0

RESULT OF VOTING

The President. With 21 affirmative votes, no negative vote, and no abstention, Senate Bill No. 1122 is approved on Third Reading.

EXPLANATION OF VOTE OF SENATOR ANGARA

Senator Angara. Mr. President, I am voting Yes, but I reserve the right to submit a written explanation of my vote.

The following is the written Explanation of Vote submitted by Senator Angara:

WHY THE SALT IODIZATION BILL (S. NO. 1122) MERITS A YES VOTE

Mr. President, the Act for Salt Iodization

* With explanation of vote

Nationwide (ASIN) bill or Senate Bill No. 1122 aims to contribute to the elimination of micronutrient malnutrition, particularly iodine deficiency disorders, through salt iodization. Salt iodization is the simplest, most cost-effective and efficient way to prevent iodine deficiency disorders.

Goiter is one of the most common manifestations of iodine deficiency disorders. More recently, it has been found that a lack of iodine in the body is the leading cause of preventable brain damage and mental retardation. It can also result in congenital physical defects like deaf-mutism and squint, miscarriages and stillbirths, and cretinism. In the Philippines, the prevalence rate for iodine deficiency disorders is 6.9 percent, a value considered a public health problem by WHO standards. Iodine deficiency disorders is a public health concern in 51 provinces and four districts in the National Capital Region. Surely, we do not want to be breeding more Filipinos lacking in intelligence and physical development.

The ASIN bill, Mr. President, as it presently stands, is just a little bit short of the ideal which would require all salt producers, even at the subsistence level, to iodize their salt. Instead of exempting them completely, I believe they could have just been given a longer time period for compliance. With an available supply of non-iodized salt, total elimination of iodine deficiencies would be more difficult.

However, with the Sponsor's assurance that through massive information campaigns, the subsistence salt producers will eventually be convinced to iodize their salt and with the additional provision requiring the LGUs to ensure, through ordinances and public information campaigns, that iodized salt will be available in areas endemic to iodine deficiency disorders, the bill is now worthy of support.

I vote Yes to the ASIN bill for the following reasons:

1. It is about time that the Philippines passes such a law. Countries in Europe, Central and Latin America have had salt iodization laws decades ago;
2. A law on salt iodization will facilitate the attainment of the global goals of Universal Salt Iodization and Elimination of Iodine Deficiency Disorders by the end of the decade;

3. The present bill requires food outlets and restaurants to serve iodized salt to their customers and food manufacturers to use iodized salt in their processed products, thus ensuring a demand for iodized salt and, of course, the provision of a vital nutrient; and finally,
4. When implemented, Filipinos will be assured of an adequate supply of iodine, an important micronutrient which will develop a healthy, more intelligent and productive citizenry.

EXPLANATION OF VOTE OF SENATOR TATAD

Senator Tatad. Just a short remark, Mr. President. I am fully supporting this measure on the assurance of its distinguished Sponsor that the presence of iodized salt in one's diet contributes to one's intelligence.

In the future, should there ever be a shortage of iodized salt for whatever reason, I hope that the Senate would be given priority in any rationing of salt.

Thank you very much.

EXPLANATION OF VOTE OF SENATOR COSETENG

Senator Coseteng. Mr. President, I vote in the affirmative, but I would be submitting a written explanation of my affirmative vote.

Thank you.

The following is the written Explanation of Vote submitted by Senator Coseteng:

I could have voted "No" for the approval of this bill on National Salt Iodization, for reasons which I raised during the deliberations of the subject matter bill. For one, there is no guarantee that salt iodization will really put an end to iodine deficiency disorders (IDD). It was affirmed by the proponents of this bill that in fact, it is more logical to just treat water with iodine because everybody drinks water—no exception. And we are all aware that not everybody uses salt for health reasons and, therefore, iodizing is not the best solution we can provide. Arguing my point further, Mr. President, our colleague in this august body likewise maintained that salt iodization has been endorsed in national and international fora, but cannot be mandated in this

jurisdiction for practical economic considerations. These practical economic considerations include: the viability of the program, the cost of the machine involved, and the readiness of our people on the sudden transformation/shift.

But on second thought, and if only not to vitiate the intention of this bill, Mr. President, I vote *Yes* for the approval of this bill. We all agree on the policy and principle of the State to protect and promote the health of the people, to maintain the effective food regulatory system and to provide women and children with proper nutrition. Mr. President, I fully recognize the point demonstrated by our colleague, Senator Mercado, that in nation-building, we must begin with fundamentals, otherwise, we will betray our reason for being and may not justify this institution's existence. I believe, Mr. President, that there is no hard and fast rule in approving this very basic, affordable and practical health measure. The child can no longer wait....Our mothers can no longer wait....And the time is now.

Likewise, we all conform that the bill aims to prevent iodine deficiency disorders by implementing cost-effective and doable strategies, and salt iodization is just one of the many strategies identified. It is the most viable way of preventing IDD-related diseases as identified by the World Health Organization (WHO) compared to options identified by other sectors who are opposed to the approval of this bill.

However, Mr. President, we should also take into consideration that the implementation of this bill and afterwards, this law, would entail a massive information and educational campaign to encourage the population to eat food rich in iodine and to make use of iodized salt in the table. That is why, a more intensive strategy should be put in place to ensure that the consumers will make use of this product.

Cognizant of the country's commitment of eliminating iodine deficiency disorders as enunciated in various global fora (1990 World Summit for Children; 1991 International Conference to End Hidden Hunger; and the 1992 International Conference on Nutrition), mandating the iodization of salt will simplify the attainment of the global goal of Universal Salt Iodization by 1995.

Lastly, Mr. President, I would like to raise the point that in this increasing number of population, the government does not only have to legislate laws but it should likewise act on them. We still need a multitude of men

and women who will safeguard our Mother Earth.

Mr. President, for the foregoing reasons, I vote *Yes* to Senate Bill No. 1122.

Thank you.

BILL ON SECOND READING
S. No. 1157 - Amending the PCIC Charter
(Continuation)

Senator Romulo. Mr. President, I move that we resume consideration of Senate Bill No. 1157, as reported out under Committee Report No. 3. This is the Philippine Crop Insurance bill. We are winding up the period of interpellations.

The President. Resumption of consideration of Senate Bill No. 1157 is now in order.

Senator Romulo. Mr. President, I ask that the sponsor, Senator Alvarez, be recognized with Senator Drilon, the Senator from Iloilo, to interpellate.

Senator Enrile. Mr. President.

The President. May I know the pleasure of Senator Enrile?

QUESTION OF PRIVILEGE OF SENATOR ENRILE
(On the Arithmetical Error in the
Presentation of Figures)

Senator Enrile. Mr. President, I would like to stand on a matter of personal privilege in connection precisely with this particular measure in order to straighten the facts and the record.

If the Chair will recall, Mr. President, I was among the first to interpellate the distinguished Sponsor regarding the nature and some of the salient points or elements of this bill. And in the course of that interpellation, I was made to understand, in answer to my various questions, that the Philippine Crop Insurance Corporation was receiving an annual premium receipt of approximately P1.4 billion over a period of some 10 years.

As a consequence of this information, I issued a statement to the effect that I would like to look into the financial condition of this government corporation to find out the truth of the facts that were brought out in the course of my interpellation.

To be fair, Mr. President, I would like to state for the record that evidently there was an error of arithmetic in the presentation of the figures in the course of the interpellation, such that what

was meant was that this corporation received a total of P1,366 billion of premium since 1981, when it was organized, until 1994 and not P1.4 billion yearly since then.

I was handed a summary of the premium receipts of this corporation from 1981 onwards to 1994 totaling P1,909,322,000 but that of this, P542,941,000 remains unpaid by the Philippine Government. So, this leaves a net premium receipt of the corporation of P1,366,381,000.

This summary further indicated that this corporation paid out a matured risk of P1,636,105,000 and thereby incurring a deficit of P269,724,000. So that to that extent, it is in the red today of P269,724,000.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The President. The sponsor, Senator Alvarez, is now recognized. What is the parliamentary status of this bill?

Senator Alvarez. Mr. President, the figures as read by the distinguished gentleman is accurate. These are the figures that have been reflected from the computations of the Philippine Crop Insurance Corporation. It rectifies all the previous computations.

The President. May the Chair know the parliamentary status of this bill.

Senator Romulo. Mr. President, we are in the period of interpellations. In fact, there are reservations to interpellate starting with Senator Drilon, Senator Tatad, and then Senator Herrera.

The President. Senator Drilon is recognized.

Senator Drilon. Thank you, Mr. President. Will the distinguished Gentleman from Isabela yield for a few questions?

Senator Alvarez. With pleasure to the Gentleman from Iloilo.

Senator Drilon. Mr. President, the bill under consideration provides for an increase in the authorized capital stock of the PCIC which shall be partly subscribed by the government—P1.5 billion out of the P2 billion—and that “the necessary funds shall be appropriated, programmed, and paid by the proper entity of the government as the financial needs of the corporation shall require and until the authorized capital stock is fully paid up.” My question is: Which is the proper entity of the government that will appropriate, program, and pay?

RECORD OF THE SENATE

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 1995

RESUMPTION OF THE SESSION

At 10:37 a.m., the session was resumed with the President of the Senate, Hon. Neptali A. Gonzales, presiding.

The President. The session is resumed. The Majority Leader is recognized.

Senator Romulo. There is an additional Reference of Business; Mr. President.

The President. The Secretary will read the additional Reference of Business.

ADDITIONAL REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

BILLS ON FIRST READING

The Secretary. Senate Bill No. 1270, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A SOLDIER'S MEMORIAL MONUMENT AT THE RIZAL PARK, AUTHORIZING THE APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Gonzales.

The President. Referred to the Committees on Education, Arts and Culture; National Defense and Security; and Finance.

The Secretary. Senate Bill No. 1271, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7497 ENTITLED "AN ACT AMENDING PERTINENT PROVISIONS OF THE NATIONAL INTERNAL REVENUE CODE, AS AMENDED, RELATIVE TO THE FINAL WITHHOLDING TAX ON PURELY COMPENSATION INCOMES"

Introduced by Senator Romulo.

The President. Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

RESOLUTION

The Secretary. Senate Resolution No. 217, entitled
RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE

COMMITTEES TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE ANOMALOUS DEATH OF ENSIGN PHILIP ANDREW AZARCON PESTAÑO

Introduced by Senator Macapagal.

The President. Referred to the Committees on Justice and Human Rights; and National Defense and Security.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

The Secretary. Committee Report No. 26, submitted by the Committee on Constitutional Amendments, Revision of Codes and Laws, on Senate Bill No. 78, introduced by Senators Sotillo III and Romulo, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING ARTICLE ELEVEN HUNDRED FIFTY-FIVE OF REPUBLIC ACT NUMBERED THREE HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-SIX, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE CIVIL CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES.

recommending its approval with amendments.

Sponsors: Senators Sotillo III and Maceda

The President. To the Calendar for Ordinary Business.

The Secretary. Committee Report No. 27, submitted by the Committee on Foreign Relations, on Proposed Senate Resolution No. 40, introduced by Senator Ople, entitled

RESOLUTION GIVING CONSENT TO THE HONORABLE DOMINGO L. SIAZON JR., SECRETARY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, TO ACCEPT THE GRAND CORDON OF THE ORDER OF THE RISING SUN AWARDED TO HIM BY THE GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN.

recommending its adoption without amendment.

Sponsor: Senator Maceda

The President. To the Calendar for Ordinary Business.

The Secretary. Committee Report No. 28, submitted by the Committee on Foreign Relations, on Proposed Senate Resolution No. 41, introduced by Senator Ople, entitled

RESOLUTION GIVING CONSENT TO THE HONORABLE FRANCISCO L. BENEDICTO

Senator Romulo. Mr. President, I ask that we now consider the committee amendments on the Oil Deregulation Act of 1995.

Senator Tatad. Mr. President.

The President. Senator Tatad is recognized.

Senator Tatad. My understanding is that the committee amendments are incorporated in the committee report and submitted with the report. At this time, the amendments can only come from the individual members pursuant to our Rules.

If we have to waive this particular rule, it will need the unanimous consent of the Body.

SUSPENSION OF THE SESSION

Senator Romulo. Mr. President, may I ask for a one-minute suspension of the session.

The President. The session is suspended for one minute, if there is no objection. [*There was none.*]

It was 11:27 a.m.

RESUMPTION OF THE SESSION

At 11:29 a.m., the session was resumed.

The President. The session is resumed.

Senator Romulo. Mr. President, I am informed by the Secretary that this bill that we have considered is already the substitute bill. Therefore, because we have already taken up the substitute bill, in the period of amendments it will be the individual amendments.

But since many of our Colleagues are not here, I move that we consider the individual amendments on Monday when those who have expressed their desire to propose individual amendments shall have been around.

SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION OF S. NO. 1253

Mr. President, I move that in the meantime we suspend consideration of Senate Bill No. 1253 until Monday.

The President. Is there any objection to the motion? [*Silence*] There being none, consideration of Senate Bill No. 1253 is hereby suspended until the session on Monday.

Senator Romulo. Mr. President, the Conference Commit-

tee Report on the disagreeing provisions of Senate Bill No. 1122, entitled

AN ACT PROMOTING NATIONAL SALT IODIZATION, AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES

and House Bill No. 45, entitled

AN ACT TO PROMOTE SALT IODIZATION NATIONWIDE, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

has been filed with the Office of the Secretary. Likewise, the copies of the Conference Committee Report have been distributed to each Senator and are now on their desks.

SUSPENSION OF THE SESSION

Before I ask that we recognize the chairman of the Senate panel on the Bicameral Conference Committee Report, may I ask for a one-minute suspension of the session, Mr. President.

The President. The session is suspended, if there is no objection. [*There was none.*]

It was 11:31 a.m.

RESUMPTION OF THE SESSION

At 11:34 a.m., the session was resumed.

The President. The session is resumed. The Majority Leader is recognized.

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT ON S. NO. 1122/H. NO. 45 (Promoting National Salt Iodization)

Senator Romulo. Mr. President, as I have said, the Conference Committee Report on the disagreeing provisions of the Senate Bill and the House Bill on the Salt Iodization Act signed by all the members of the Senate panel, headed by the chairman, Senator Webb, and the members, Senators Mercado, Flavio, Enrile and Macapagal, and signed as well by the House panel headed by the chairman, Congressman Ty, and the members, Congressman Claudio, Congresswomen Aquino-Oreta and Soon-Ruiz and Congressman Cerilles, has been filed.

May I ask now, Mr. President, that the chairman of the Senate panel, Senator Webb, be recognized.

The President. Senator Webb is recognized.

Senator Webb. Thank you, Mr. President.

I am honored to bring to this august Chamber the result of the discussions, the agreements that were reached, with the joint explanations, coming from both houses. As mentioned by our Majority Leader, the Senators and the House members present during the conference committee held on November 13, 1995 at the Manila Hotel resolved the disagreeing provisions of the two versions.

Briefly, Mr. President, there were some disagreeing provisions which we have to put on record; and if I may, I will discuss them now. The title accepted is that of the Senate version.

Section 2, Declaration of Policy, is the House version.

Section 3 is a consolidation of Section 3 of both the Senate and House versions. The following modifications were accepted. These are all in Section 3 of the House version: 3.1; 3.2; 3.3, 3.4; 3.5; 3.6; 3.7 and 3.8. Paragraph (h) of the Senate version was adopted as paragraph (i) of the reconciled version.

Section 4, (Definition of Terms), is a consolidation of Section 4 of both the Senate and House versions, with the following modifications: Paragraph (a) of the Senate version was adopted as paragraph (a) of the reconciled version.

The following are the House versions: 4.2, as paragraph (b); 4.3, paragraph (c); 4.4, or paragraph (d) of the House version, was adopted as paragraph (d) of the reconciled version. On 4.5, it was the Senate version that was adopted as paragraph (e) of the reconciled version; 4.6, paragraph (f); 4.7, paragraph (g); 4.8, paragraph (h) are all House versions, including 4.9 paragraph (i).

These are reconciled versions, to put on record, and that they are identical with those of the Senate version. It was basically the House version that was agreed upon to be used as the working draft.

On 4.11, paragraph (k) of the Senate version was adopted; 4.12, paragraph (j), again of the Senate version, was adopted as paragraph (l).

On Section 5, as far as applicability and exemptions are concerned, there were modifications: 5.1 paragraph (a), both versions were identical.

On 5.2, paragraph (b) of the House version was adopted as paragraph (b) of the reconciled version, with the amendments proposed by the members of the Senate panel, which include the incorporation of the phrase "within two (2) years after the effectivity of this Act only." The word "however" between the

words "Provided" and "That" was deleted. The word and symbol "four (4)" between the words "and" and "years" was replaced with the word and symbol "five (5)". The phrase "who must comply with all the provisions of this Act" was deleted.

On 5.3, paragraph (c) of the House version was adopted as paragraph (c) of the reconciled version. On 5.4, paragraph (d) of the Senate version was adopted as paragraph (d) of the reconciled version. On 5.5, paragraph (e) of the Senate version was adopted as paragraph (e) of the reconciled version with the amendments that the word "however" on the first proviso was deleted and the word "further" on the second proviso was changed to **HOWEVER**; and inserted the word **FOOD** between the words "said" and "manufacturer/processor."

On 5.6, paragraphs (f), (g) and (h) of the Senate version were adopted as paragraphs (f), (g) and (h), respectively, of the reconciled version.

The Senate and House versions on Section 6 (Support to the Salt Industry) are similar. However, the House version was adopted with the following amendments:

6.1. Paragraph (a) of the House version was adopted as the paragraph (a) of the reconciled version;

6.2. Paragraph (b) of the House version was adopted as the paragraph (b) of the reconciled version;

6.3. Paragraph (c) of the House version was adopted as paragraph (c) of the reconciled version with the amendment that the words **AND SUBSISTENCE** between the words "small" and "local" were inserted;

6.4. Paragraph (d) of the House version was adopted as paragraph (d) of the reconciled version;

The Senate and House versions on Section 7 (Public Information) are similar. However, the House version was adopted as Section 7 of the reconciled version;

The Senate and House versions on Section 8 (The Salt Iodization Board) are similar. However, the House version was adopted as Section 8 of the reconciled version with the amendment that the word "President" in the last sentence was deleted and replaced with the phrase "Congress of the Philippines"

Section 9 (Registry of Manufacturers) of the House version was deleted.

Section 9 (Sanctions) of the Senate version and Section 10 of the House version are similar. However, the House version

was adopted as Section 9 of the reconciled version;

On Appropriations, Mr. President, Section 10 of the Senate version and Section 11 of the House version are the same. However, the House version as a working sheet was again adopted.

Section 11 (Implementing Rules and Regulations) of the Senate version and Section 12 of the House version are similar. Again, the House version was adopted as the working sheet.

Sections 12 and 13 of the reconciled version are standard Separability and Effectivity Clauses, respectively;

An omnibus amendment was introduced that whenever the word "purchaser" is used, it shall be changed to "producer/manufacturer".

Those are the disagreeing provisions tackled during the bicameral conference. I am happy to report that finally an agreement has been reached.

Thank you very much, Mr. President.

The President. The Majority Leader is recognized.

**APPROVAL OF CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT
ON S. NO. 1122/H. NO. 45
(Promoting National Salt Iodization)**

Senator Romulo. Mr. President, I move that we approve the Conference Committee Report as explained by the chairman of the Senate panel, Senator Webb.

The President. Is there any objection? [*Silence*] There being none, the Conference Committee Report adopted by the Conference Committee on the disagreeing provisions of Senate Bill No. 1122, entitled

**AN ACT PROMOTING NATIONAL SALT
IODIZATION, AND FOR OTHER RELATED
PURPOSES**

and House Bill No. 45, entitled

**AN ACT TO PROMOTE SALT IODIZATION
NATIONWIDE, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES,**

is approved.

The following is the full text of the Conference Committee Report:

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT

The Conference Committee on the disagreeing provision of Senate Bill No. 1122, entitled

**AN ACT PROMOTING NATIONAL SALT
IODIZATION, AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES**

and House Bill No. 45, entitled

**AN ACT TO PROMOTE SALT IODIZATION
NATIONWIDE, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES,**

has agreed to recommend and does hereby recommend to their respective Houses that Senate Bill No. 1122, in consolidation with House Bill No. 45, be approved in accordance with the attached copy of the bill as reconciled and approved by the conferees.

Approved.

**CONFEREES ON THE PART OF THE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

(Sgd.) HON. MARIO S. TY
Chairman

(Sgd.) HON. JOVITO O. CLAUDIO

(Sgd.) HON. TERESA AQUINO-ORETA

(Sgd.) HON. NERISSA CORAZON SOON-RUIZ

(Sgd.) HON. ANTONIO H. CERILLES

**CONFEREES ON THE PART OF THE
SENATE**

(Sgd.) HON. FREDDIE N. WEBB
Chairman

(Sgd.) HON. ORLANDO S. MERCADO

(Sgd.) HON. JUAN M. FLAVIER

(Sgd.) HON. JUAN PONCE ENRILE

(Sgd.) HON. GLORIA M. MACAPAGAL

**AN ACT PROMOTING SALT IODIZATION
NATIONWIDE, AND FOR RELATED
PURPOSES**

Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

SECTION 1. *Title.*- This Act shall be known as "An Act for Salt Iodization Nationwide (ASIN)."

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.*- It is hereby declared the policy of the State to protect and promote the health of the people, to maintain an effective food regulatory system, and to provide the entire population especially women and children with proper nutrition. For this purpose, the State shall promote the nutritional fortification of food to combat micronutrient malnutrition as a priority health program for the nation.

SEC. 3. *Purposes.* - The purposes of this Act are to:

(a) Contribute to the elimination of micronutrient malnutrition in the country, particularly iodine deficiency disorders, through the cost-effective preventive measure of salt iodization;

(b) Require all manufacturers/producers of food-grade salt to iodize the salt that they produce, manufacture, import, trade or distribute;

(c) Require the Department of Health (DOH) to undertake the salt iodization program and for its Bureau of Food and Drugs (BFAD), to set and enforce standards for food-grade iodized salt and to monitor compliance thereof by the food-grade salt manufacturers;

(d) Require the local government units (LGUs), through their health officers and nutritionists/dietitians, or in their absence through their sanitary inspectors, to check and monitor the quality of food-grade salt being sold in their market in order to ascertain that such salt is properly iodized;

(e) Require the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) to regulate and monitor trading of iodized salt;

(f) Direct the Department of Science and Technology (DOST), in collaboration with the Technology and Livelihood Resource Center (TLRC), to initiate, promote, and cause the transfer of technology for salt iodization;

(g) Authorize the National Nutrition Council (NNC), the policymaking and coordinating body on nutrition, to serve as the advisory board on salt iodization;

(h) Provide mechanisms and incentives for the local salt industry in the production, marketing, and distribution of iodized salt; and

(i) Ensure the sustainability of the salt iodization program.

SEC. 4. *Definition of Terms.*- For purposes of this Act, the following terms shall mean:

(a) "*Micronutrient malnutrition*" - a disorder resulting from deficiencies in Vitamin A, iron, iodine and other micronutrients which the body needs in minute quantities everyday.

(b) "*Iodine deficiency disorders*" - a broad spectrum of deficiencies resulting from lack of iodine in the diet which leads to the reduction of intellectual and physical capacity affecting everyone who is iodine-deficient and may manifest as goiter, mental retardation, physical and mental defects, and cretinism.

(c) "*Food fortification*" - the addition of nutrients to processed foods at levels above the natural state.

(d) "*Salt iodization*" - the addition of iodine to salt intended for human or animal consumption in accordance with specifications as to form, fortificant, method, manner and composition as may be prescribed by the Bureau of Food and Drugs (BFAD).

(e) "*Food-grade salt*" - salt for human and animal consumption as distinguished from industrial salt.

(f) "*Regulatory requirements*" - the provisions of all applicable laws, regulations, executive orders, and other enactments related to food quality and safety, purity, nutritional composition, and other aspects of food regulation or control.

(g) "*Industrial salt*" - salt used in the treatment, processing, and/or manufacture of nonfood commercial products.

(h) "*Manufacturer*" - one who produces, imports, trades in, and distributes salt.

(i) "*Subsistence producer/manufacturer*" - one who produces, trades in or distributes salt not exceeding two metric tons (2 m.t.) of salt per year.

(j) "*Small producer/manufacturer*" - one who

produces, imports, trades in, or distributes salt ranging from more than two metric tons (2 m.t.) to three hundred metric tons (300 m.t.) per year.

(k) "Medium producer/manufacturer" - one who produces, imports, trades in, or distributes salt ranging from more than three hundred metric tons (300 m.t.) to two thousand metric tons (2,000 m.t.) per year.

(l) "Large producer/manufacturer" - one who produces, imports, trades in, or distributes salt exceeding two thousand metric tons (2,000 m.t.) per year.

SEC. 5. *Applicability.* - (a) This Act shall apply to the entire salt industry, including salt producers/manufacturers, importers, traders, and distributors, as well as government and nongovernment agencies involved in salt iodization activities.

(b) Iodized salt that conforms to the standards set by the Bureau of Food and Drugs (BFAD) to meet national nutritional needs shall be made available to consumers; *Provided*, That the implementation of this Act shall be enforced over a staggered period of one (1) year for large and medium producers/manufacturers; two (2) years for small producers/manufacturers; and five (5) years for subsistence producers/manufacturers.

(c) All food outlets, restaurants and stores are hereby required to make available to customers only iodized salt in their establishment upon effectivity of this Act. These establishments shall be monitored with the help of the local government units through its health officers and nutritionists/dietitians, or in their absence, the sanitary inspectors to check and monitor the quality of food-grade salt being sold or served in such establishments.

(d) In areas endemic to iodine deficiency disorders, iodized salt shall be made available. Local government officials at the provincial and municipal levels shall provide mechanisms to ensure enforcement of this provision through ordinances and public information campaigns.

(e) All food manufacturers/processors using food grade salt are also required to use iodized salt in the processing of their products and must comply with the provisions of this Act not later than one (1) year from its effectivity; *Provided*, That the use of iodized salt shall not prejudice the quality and safety of their food products: *Provided, however*, That the burden of proof

and testing for any prejudicial effects due to iodized salt fortification lies on the said food manufacturer/processor.

(f) Salt producers/manufacturers shall register with the BFAD, which shall maintain an updated registry of salt producers/manufacturers and shall monitor compliance with the salt iodization program.

(g) All food-grade salt shall be labeled in a manner that is true and accurate, not likely to mislead purchasers and in accordance with the requirements prescribed by the Bureau of Food and Drugs.

(h) For a period of three (3) years from the effectivity of this Act, the DOH shall provide free iodized salt to indigents residing in sixth class municipalities as may be allowed by their annual appropriations.

SEC. 6. *Support to the Salt Industry.* - The following agencies and institutions shall support the salt iodization program through their respective internal programs:

(a) The Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) is hereby required to assist and support local salt producers/manufacturers in upgrading their production technologies to include iodization by helping them obtain soft loans and financial assistance for the procurement of salt iodization machines, packaging equipment and technology and fortificant; and by ensuring the systematic distribution of the iodized salt in the market;

(b) The Cooperative Development Authority (CDA) shall assist the formation of cooperatives of local salt producers/manufacturers in order that they can economically engage in salt iodization and distribution of iodized salt;

(c) The Department of Science and Technology (DOST), in collaboration with the Technology and Livelihood Resource Center (TLRC), shall develop and implement comprehensive programs for the acquisition of, design and manufacture of salt iodization machines and transfer of salt iodization technology to small and subsistence local salt producers/manufacturers; and

(d) The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and other appropriate government agencies shall identify areas that are suitable for use as

salt farms with the purpose of protecting such areas from environmental risks to ensure sustainability of iodized salt production.

SEC. 7. Public Information.- The benefits and rationale of the use of iodized salt shall be adequately disseminated and promoted through organized, systematic and nationwide information campaign which shall involve major sectors of society to be spearheaded by the Department of Health (DOH), in cooperation and coordination with the local government units and other agencies concerned, particularly the Department of Education, Culture and Sports (DECS), the Philippine Information Agency (PIA), provincial science centers, private sector, and students.

The implementing agency, in coordination with the Philippine Information Agency (PIA), shall seek the cooperation of the media sector to assist in public information dissemination. Salt iodization and its benefits shall also be included and given emphasis in all levels of health subjects in both public and private schools.

SEC. 8. The Salt Iodization Advisory Board.- The National Nutrition Council (NNC), as presently composed, including representatives of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), the medical profession and the salt manufacturers, shall serve as the salt iodization advisory board and shall function as the policy and coordinating body on salt iodization programs and activities. It shall coordinate the efforts of all agencies concerned and monitor the implementation of the provisions of this Act. It shall also submit an annual report to the Congress of the Philippines on the progress of the salt iodization program and offer recommendations for its improvement.

SEC. 9. Sanctions. - The procedures for imposing sanctions under this Act and for inspecting and investigating the premises where any salt is received, held, manufactured, labeled, stored, displayed, delivered, distributed, sold, or located, or where it is reasonably believed these activities are being carried out or where salt is located, shall be in accordance with the provisions of Republic Act No. 3720, otherwise known as the Food, Drugs and Cosmetics Act, as amended: *Provided*, That any person, whether natural or juridical, who violates any of the provisions of this Act or any of the rules and regulations promulgated for its effective implementation shall be punished by a fine of not less than One Thousand Pesos (P1,000.00) nor

more than One Hundred Thousand Pesos (P100,000.00): *Provided, however*, That if the violation is committed by any officer, director or member of a business and a juridical entity acting beyond the scope of his authority, such officer, director or member responsible therefor shall be personally liable for the fine: *Provided, further*, That such violator shall suffer a revocation of its business permit and/or a ban of its product from the market: *Provided, finally*, That the BFAD, in coordination with the local government units concerned, shall be authorized to impose and collect the fines from the violators, and such collections shall accrue to the BFAD for its use in the implementation of this Act.

SEC. 10. Appropriations.- The amount necessary for the implementation of this Act shall initially be charged to the appropriations of the agencies concerned, as may be appropriated, under the current General Appropriations Act. Thereafter, such amount as may be necessary for its implementation shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 11. Implementing Rules and Regulations. - The Department of Health (DOH), in cooperation with the agencies concerned, shall formulate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act within sixty (60) days from its approval.

SEC. 12. Separability Clause.- If any portion of this Act is declared invalid, the remainder of this Act shall not be affected by such declaration and shall remain valid and enforceable.

SEC. 13. Effectivity Clause.- This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in two (2) national newspapers of general circulation, whichever is earlier.

Approved.

Senator Webb. Mr. President.

The President. The Chairman of the Committee on Health is recognized.

Senator Webb. I would like to apologize to the Majority Leader. May I ask that the explanation as well as the sponsorship speech be inserted into the *Record*. This is a written sponsorship speech, Mr. President.

Thank you.